

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received JUN 8 1983

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Weisman-Hirsch House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 313 S. Washington

N/A not for publication

city, town Marshall

N/A vicinity of

state Texas

code 048

county Harrison

code 203

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. Greg Beil

street & number 313 S. Washington

city, town Marshall

N/A vicinity of

state Texas

75670

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harrison County Court House, County Clerk's Office

street & number 200 W. Houston

city, town Marshall

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory;
Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin

state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Weisman-Hirsch House is located two blocks south of the courthouse square in Marshall, Texas, on a one-acre site fronting South Washington Street. The two-and-a-half-story frame structure is essentially a rectangular building with bays projecting a few feet from the main mass on the north, south, and east elevations. The house faces east. A one-story attached porch, with a pediment over the main entrance, dominates the east elevation. A bedroom and a one-story kitchen wing are attached to the west (rear) of the house. The decoratively gabled dormers, varying window treatment, and slightly asymmetrical massing bespeak the Queen Anne architectural style with some classical detailing. Elements indicative of the Colonial Revival style are the proportionally balanced, grand central hall, and the building's near box-like appearance. In addition to the main structure, the original servants' house remains on the site. It is a one-story, two-room structure with board-and-batten siding.

The Weisman-Hirsch House is framed with cypress and pine, and rests on a brick foundation that is stuccoed and scored to suggest stone blocks. The horizontal lines of the exterior walls are accentuated by four features: (1) a water table positioned above the foundation wall, (2) a continuous string course that runs beneath the first-story window sill, (3) a bell-cast shingle course between the first and second-story windows, and (4) a frieze panel below the boxed eaves. Bays with chamfered corners project from the north and south facades on the first floor. Corner brackets with hanging pendants are attached below the projecting entablatures at the corners of these bays.

The steeply pitched, hipped roof is extended by gables on the side bays and rear additions, and by three dormers on the front elevation. The central front dormer is quite intricate. This five-sided projection is faced with three windows and covered by a turret roof. The window of the middle opening is double hung, and there are closely spaced brackets beneath the dormer's eaves.

Set within a deeply recessed gable and supported by a delicate, central Ionic column, the south dormer of the front facade is faced with art glass. Two smaller gables with bracketed supports project at the sides of its triangular base. The northern dormer of the front is distinguished by cornice returns over twin art-glass windows with a large, double-hung opening in the center. The upper sash of this window contains a panel with a leaded glass design. The projecting base of the dormer is supported by brackets attached to the second-story eaves below. Tin cresting stretches across the ridgeline, and terminates at a corbeled brick chimney at each end.

Fluted Ionic columns with turned balusters between them rise atop panelled bases and support the front porch roof. The double-door entrance is flanked by similarly detailed columns. The gabled pediment over the entrance has a tympanum with scrollwork and dentils. Concrete steps and an iron railing, both apparently later additions, lead up to the porch from the walkway.

The fenestration consists of double-hung, wooden sash windows of varying dimensions and groupings, usually with one-over-one lights. The upper sash in the front parlor

(see continuation sheet)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
			Builder- Mr. Brink	
Specific dates	1900-1901	Builder/Architect	Architect- C. G. Lancaster	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Weisman-Hirsch House just south of the courthouse square in Marshall, Texas, commands an imposing view of the county seat. The residence was built with elements from the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, and was designed for Joe Weisman, a native of Syracuse, New York, by Architect C.G. Lancaster. A resourceful and successful merchant, Weisman held various civic posts during his lifetime and enjoyed a large measure of influence in the city's thriving Jewish community. Weisman's son-in-law Joe Nathan Hirsch, a wealthy businessman in his own right, lived in the house from 1910 to 1966. The handsomely proportioned, two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame structure contains 12 rooms. Its interior woodwork and art glass are impeccably executed. Of the many houses designed by Lancaster, the Weisman-Hirsch House is probably his most distinguished. It is also one of the major structures that is linked to the city's era of Jewish pre-eminence.

Joe and Lena Young Weisman, leaders in Marshall's Jewish community, commissioned architect C.G. Lancaster and a builder remembered only as "Brink" to construct the present residence in 1900, after their first home burned in 1898. Lancaster also designed the city's landmark Gnocchio Hotel (1893-96), and supervised the construction of the Harrison County courthouse (1900) which was designed by J. Riely Gordon. The Marshall Morning Star is filled with accolades for the patriarch of the Weisman family. "The brilliant career of J. Weisman, who has led the way in the introduction of many important business methods, has built up a merchantile business that would be a credit to any of the larger cities of the Union," reads a clipping from an undated, May 1894 issue of the Morning Star.

In addition to his business, Weisman also found time to devote to the construction and support of the Moses Montefiore Temple, Marshall's first synagogue. Mrs. Weisman was an equally devoted and strong advocate for the temple, and organized the Jewish Fair to raise funds to build the edifice. Known locally as "Dr. Lena," Mrs. Weisman enjoyed a thriving career as the neighborhood homeopathic practitioner. A student of a Dr. Peterman, she performed diagnostic examinations and dispensed pharmaceuticals to all segments of the community from her first floor bathroom. A number of apothecary bottles used by "the doctor" have been located.

Valerie Weisman (1890-1963), remembered by her family as an extremely generous philanthropist, attended the University of Texas, Austin, from 1908 to 1910. Like her mother, she was a community activist and served as president of the Sisterhood of Moses Montefiore for many years. In 1910, she married Joe Nathan Hirsch (1883-1966), a native of Campti, Louisiana. Hirsch was an orphan when he came to Marshall in 1895. Valerie's father hired Hirsch as his stockboy and allowed him to take his lodgings in the store's loft. A favored employee, Hirsch recieved a number of promotions over the years, and upon Weisman's death, was named general manager of Weisman's business. He was active

9. Major Bibliographical References

Print Sources

Abstract of Property, Moseley Abstract Co., Marshall. (Includes Harrison County Deed and Probate Records). (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Marshall East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

115	371600	3601200
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lots 3,4,5,6, southern half of lots 2 and 7 of Block 62 of Original Town Site, Marshall, Texas.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. R. Greg Beil and Gail Kimes Beil

organization _____ date January 18, 1980

street & number 313 S. Washington telephone (214) 938-5504

city or town Marshall state Texas 75670

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 26 May 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 7/7/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date _____

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

window has detailed tracery, and a fixed transom with stained glass occurs above it. The dormer windows have small squares of colored glass surrounding a larger central pane.

The spacious interior is laid out with a central hall plan, and includes 12 rooms, two baths (one of which is original), and a rear sleeping porch. A kitchen, butler's pantry, enclosed rear porch, parlor, dining room, and bathroom occupy the first floor. The wooden double doors of the main entrance are adorned with festoons, pediments, and beveled glass, and exemplify the sumptuous architectural details found in the house. Oak wainscotting, built-in seats and bookcases, a double-landing staircase with bronze candelabra atop the newel posts, and a marble mosaic floor add textural variety to the entrance hall. The richness is evident throughout the downstairs where oak floors, woodwork, carved mantels above four of the fireplaces, and dining room wainscotting remain intact. Each mantel is different, and has surrounds of glazed ceramic tile that originally contained Baltimore wood heaters (one remains). The walls and 14-foot ceilings are plastered, with special attention given to the mouldings in the front parlor.

All but one of the original pocket doors installed throughout the house were removed in the 1920s, and replaced with hinged wooden doors which feature glass panels. All four of the bedrooms, one bathroom, and the trunk room occupy the second floor. The upstairs woodwork was carved from curly pine: the flooring is unadorned pine. Built-in storage drawers and cedar closets survive in the trunk room. An unfinished floored attic is used for storage.

Exterior modifications of the Weisman-Hirsch House include (1) the extension of the second story to the west about 1912 to create a sleeping porch, (2) the enclosure of the cistern porch on the south side of the rear kitchen extension, and (3) the addition of the second story bath above the enclosed porch. Other minor changes have occurred over the years, such as repainting with different colors, reroofing with different materials, and installing front porch handrails. None of them is irreversible.

Other structures that were once a part of the Weisman-Hirsch complex (a laundry, well house, barn, woodhouse) are no longer extant, but a small, four-bay, board-and-batten servants' house remains. This rectangular structure has a simple gabled roof, and an attached porch with shed roof shading two central doors. Windows are double hung with four-over-four lights.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

in several civic organizations, most notably the Chamber of Commerce and the Marshall Board of Education.

Toward the end of the 1940s, younger Jewish families began to move from Marshall to Longview, the new economic center, causing the local Jewish population to decline. The Moses Montefiore Temple was finally demolished to make room for a municipal complex. Today, only three architecturally significant residences from Marshall's age of Jewry remain.

A family caretaker occupied the house from 1966 to 1971, when the Greg Beils purchased the structure from the Hirsch's children. Since 1971, The Weisman-Hirsch House has undergone considerable renovation. Ceilings which the Hirsches lowered at some unspecified date were raised to their original height. All of the walls of the house have been provided with wallpapers with late Victorian patterns. And several light fixtures found in the attic and believed to be original to the house were reinstalled. Finally, the exterior of the structure has been repainted in recent years.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

The Marshall Morning Star, May 1894.

"Married," Scrapbook of Ida Kate Holmes, 1881-1900, Harrison County Museum Archives.

Interviews Conducted by Dr. and Mrs. Beil:

1. Misses Della and Mae Marcus, Dallas, Texas
2. Mr. Hobart Key, Marshall
3. The Joe N. Hirsch Children:
Mrs. Mary Stern, Ontario, California
Mrs. Frances Rosengarten, Los Angeles, California
Mr. Joe Hirsch, Marshall
4. Mrs. Audrey Kariel, Marshall
5. Mr. Gene Ford, Jefferson, Texas

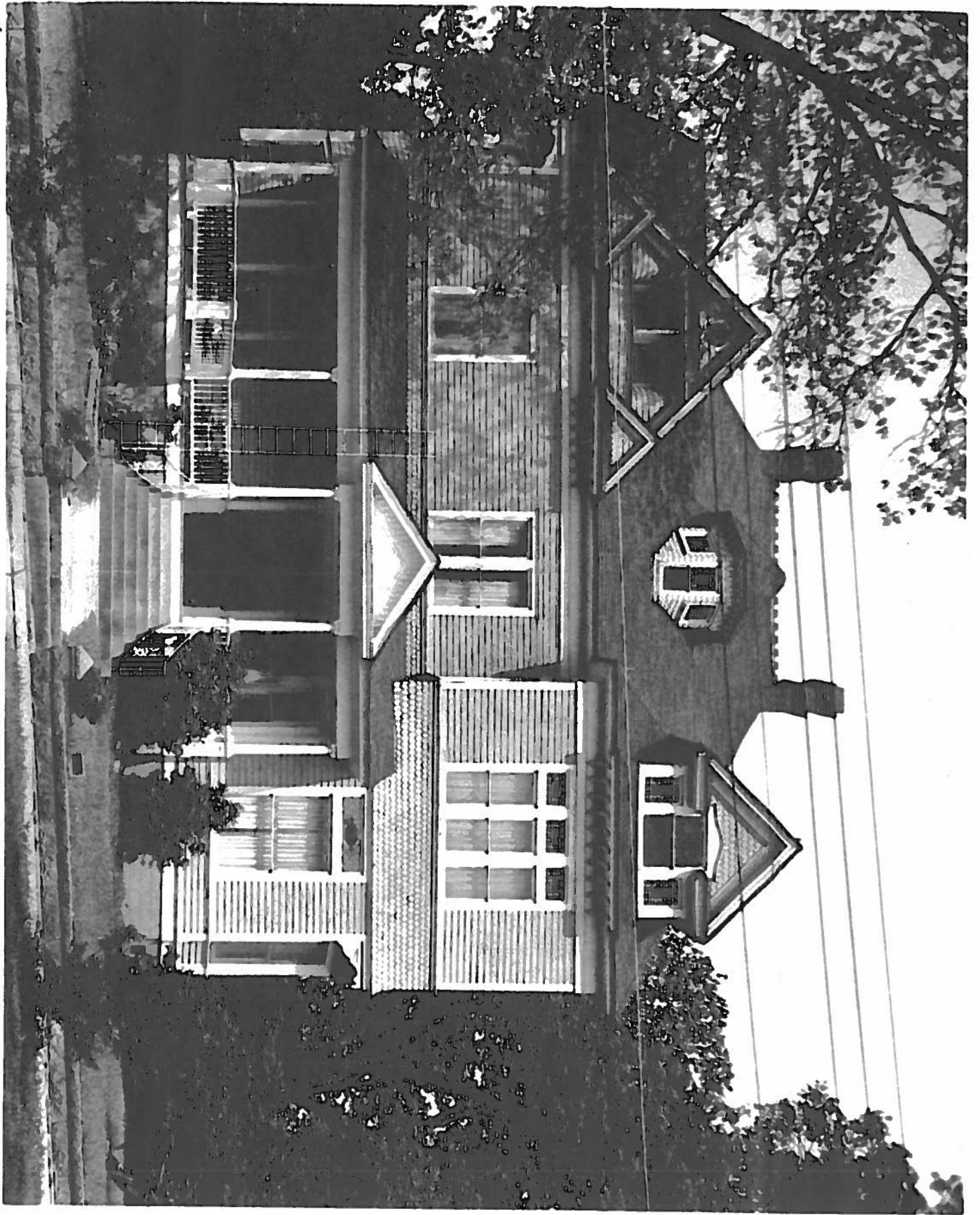


Welsman-Hirsch House
313 S. Washington, Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by Peter Plagg Maxson, December 1982, negative
on file with the Texas Historical Commission,
Austin

View of northeast corner of house, looking southwest

Photo 1 of 4

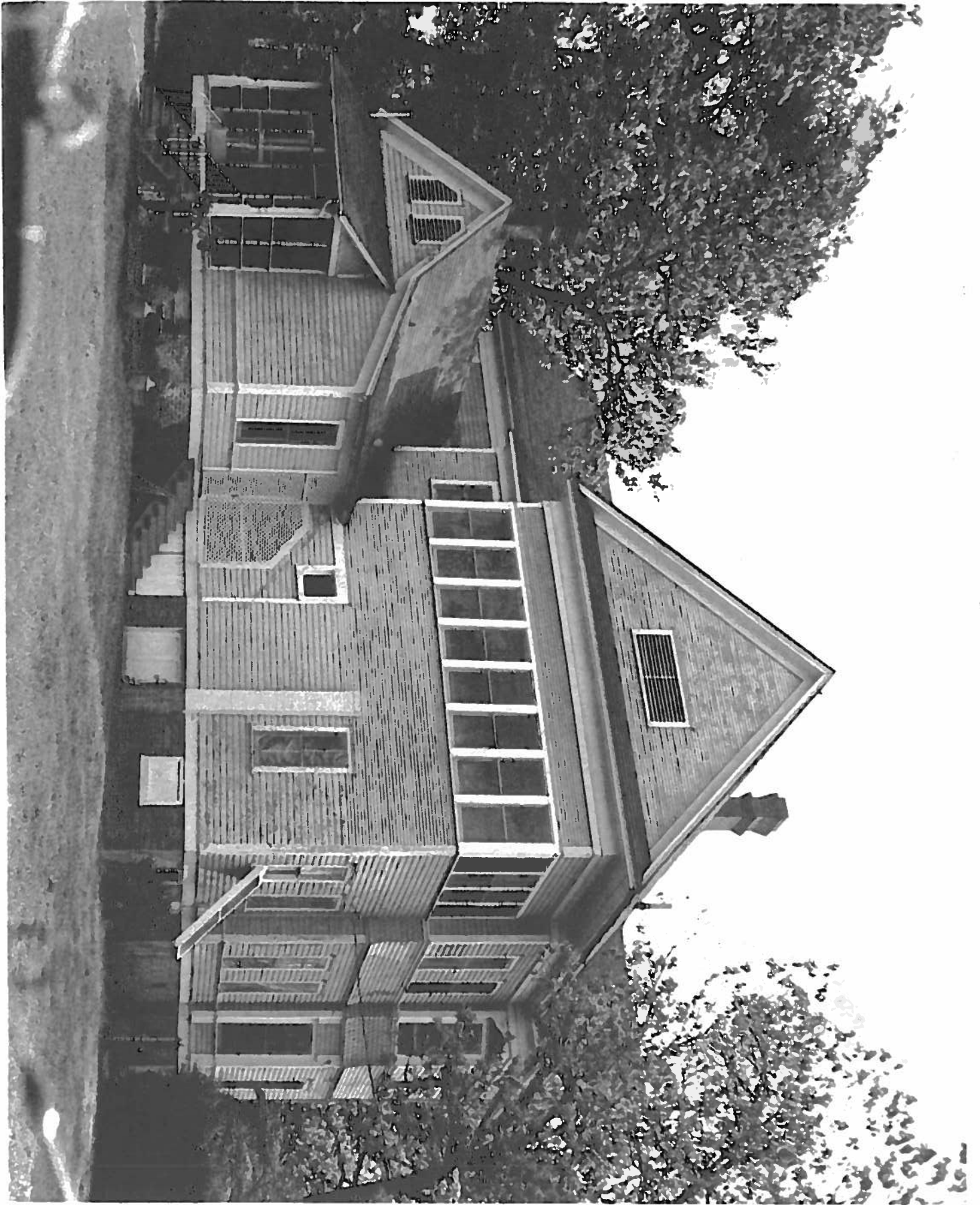


Welsman-Hirsch House
313 S. Washington, Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by D. Hardy, May 1974, negative on file with
the Texas Historical Commission, Austin

View of east (front) elevation, looking west

Photo 2 of 4

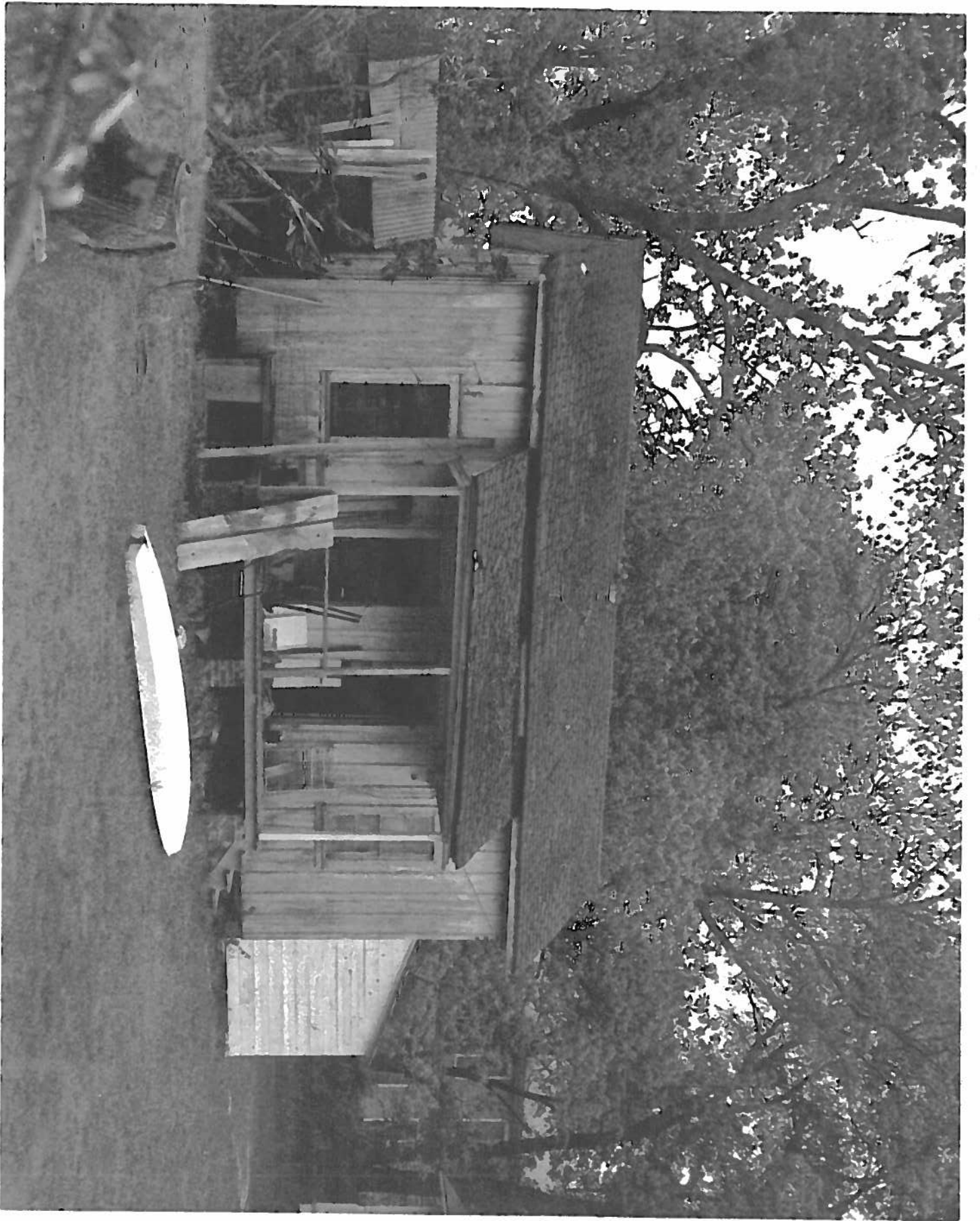


Welsman-Hirsch House
313 S. Washington, Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by D. Hardy, May 1974, negative on file with
the Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Oblique view of rear (west) elevation, looking
northeast

Photo 3 of 4



Welsman-Hirsch House
313 S. Washington, Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by D. Hardy, May 1974, negative on file with
the Texas Historical Commission, Austin

View of front of servants' quarters, looking west

Photo 4 of 4

WEISMAN-HIRSCH HOUSE
313 SOUTH WASHINGTON
MARSHALL, HARRISON CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/371600/3601200

4 MI. TO INTERSTATE 20

LONGVIEW 23 MI.
HALLSVILLE 13 MI.

7149 11 SW
(MARSHALL WEST)

