

RECEIVED
MAR 29 1963

APPLICATION

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLION

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY
COMMITTEE

County Harrison Town Marshall Date of Application: March 28, 1963

Address: (If the Building is not in town indicate number of miles and direction from center of town and number or name of highway or road.)

2 miles N-W on Hyson Springs Rd.

Present Owner: Mr. & Mrs D.H. Gregg

General Designation: Residence

Date Built: unknown

Present Condition: Poor, owner expects to restore in the future

Interest: Architectural Excellent lines & details

Historical Sam Houston visited in this house

Organization or Individual Assuming Responsibility of Building: _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

Date Received: _____

Date Approved, Rejected: _____

Committee Ruling: _____

4/9/63. OK JBR

4/10/63 R.H.R.

SHR

Area Representatives: _____

Committee Members: _____

No. Assigned 675

Date Mailed 4-19-63

Additional Remarks: originally of log construction. Early owner Judge J.B. Williamson did extensive remodeling - logs covered with boards & batts, & paneling & plaster on interior

Sources of Information: deed records & information from living descendants of Williamson

[Signature]
Signature — Owner or Authorized Representative

10 Waverley Court, Houston 5, Tex
Address

UNLESS THE FOLLOWING IS SUPPLIED, THE BUILDING MEDALLION COMMITTEE CANNOT ACT UPON THIS APPLICATION:

1. Complete information asked for above
2. Kodak picture of building attached to application
3. Check for \$14.75 made payable to TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

I hereby certify the above application has been approved by the Harrison County Historical Survey Committee:

Mrs Elizabeth Patterson
County Chairman

200 Riggs Circle
Address

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

George W. Hill, Executive Director

112 East 18th Street

Austin, Texas

16" x 12" medallion plate
Harrison County

JUDGE**J.B.WILLIAMSON*HOUSE***.

ANTE-BELLUM PLANTATION.BUILT IN
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS,ON HEADRIGHT
SURVEYED 1838.SQUARED LOG CABINS
(STILL WITHIN WALLS)AND 12-FOOT
HALL FORMED ORIGINAL HOUSE.GREEK
REVIVAL CROSSHALL STRUCTURE IS
ATTRIBUTED TO AUGUSTUS PHELPS,
NOTED ARCHITECT OF THE REPUBLIC.

BY TRADITION,SAM HOUSTON OFTEN
STOPPED HERE ON WAY TO MARSHALL
TO PAY COURT TO MISS ANNA RAGUET.**

1963-65 RESTORATION BY MR.AND MRS.***
DICK HOSKINS GREGG.***
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK,1964.***

*1/2" condensed lettering
**3/8" lettering,one word of title and
all of the text proper.
***1/4" lettering in the three bottom lines.

FILE COPY-DO NOT REMOVE

9/4/64
NKS

COUNTY Harrison

TOWN Marshall

MEDALLION PLATE
APPLICATION

MEDALLION PLATES

These plates are designed for use with the Historical Building Medallion and can be displayed with the Medallion to give the name, date built and other information depending on the size chosen.



MEDALLION PLATE FOR Judge J. B. Williamson House

☒ MEDALLION PLATE 16 " x 12 " Size

INSCRIPTION FOR PLATE: (please type or print)

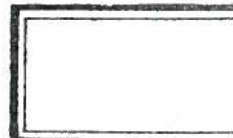
WILLIAMSON HOUSE
ENLARGED 1867--,
RESTORATION 1963-5
BY DICK H. GREGG

PEASE
MANSION

9" x 3" 2 Lines \$11.00



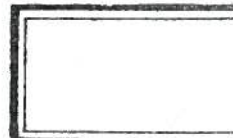
12" x 6" ☒ 4 Lines \$27.50



AUTHORITY FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE INSCRIPTION:

Legal abstract to property

14" x 9" 7 Lines \$33.00



WHO PREPARED THE INSCRIPTION? owner

(name) Dick H. Gregg (address) 10 Waverly Ct.

DICK H. GREGG

Signature of owner

Houston 5, Texas 77001

Address

I hereby certify the above application has been approved by the _____

Harrison

County Historical Survey Committee:

Elizabeth Patterson

(county chairman)

200 Riggs Circle

(address)

May 5, 1964

September 17, 1964

Mr. Bill Southwell, Jr.
The Southwell Company
P. O. Drawer 299
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Southwell:

Enclosed please find application and inscription for^a
16" x 12" Medallion plate for Judge J. B. Williamson House
in Marshall, Harrison County, Texas.

We would appreciate a rubbing on this inscription. 10/30/64

Thank you.

Sincerely,

George W. Hill
Executive Director

by: Mrs. Thomas M. Keefe
Research Assistant

BK/sl
Enclosures

HUMBLE OIL & REFINING COMPANY

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001

June 1, 1964

D. H. GREGG

ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

RECEIVED
JUN 4 1964

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY
COMMITTEE

Mrs. D. M. Parmelee
Director of Research
Texas State Historical
Survey Committee
P. O. Box 2276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas


Dear Mrs. Parmelee:

Your letter of May 22 is quite surprising to me. I was not applying for a medallion as one was awarded to the house which I own approximately one year ago. You may refer to a letter from your committee to me under date of March 29, 1963, acknowledging my application at that time for a medallion, which was applied for at the suggestion of the Harrison County Historical Society. A medallion was awarded shortly thereafter, and I have it in my possession. As soon as the restoration work on the house is completed, I shall affix it in an appropriate place.

My recent application, also at the suggestion of the Harrison County Historical Society, was made for a plate to accompany the medallion as I was given to understand that your committee was anxious for this to be done. The material enclosed with your letter confirms this. The application was made on a form which I understand was furnished by your committee for this purpose. I would like to have a plate not only to carry out the committee's ideas, but in my opinion the plate serves a useful purpose in stating the significance of the structure and why it has a medallion.

I do not know personally and of my own knowledge of course the ancient history of the house, but I have gathered knowledge from such sources as are available, and from a study of the structure itself and its history as reflected in the abstract of title and in the historical facts given me by local residents and descendants of a former owner. This family owned the place from 1867 to 1944. I shall set out below a summary of this information.

June 1, 1964

The house is said by some to be the oldest frame dwelling still standing in Harrison County. It is located on a hilltop northwest of Marshall in Harrison County approximately four miles from the courthouse on the Hynson Springs Road, which is now Farm Road 449. I believe that this was formerly the Gilmer Road and was the road over which the original group comprising the Third Texas Cavalry, which had its beginning in Marshall, marched to enter the Civil War. My grandfather, who lived in Marshall, served in this unit. 

The house is located on property surveyed for a Henry Morgan in 1838 and granted to him by the Republic in 1841. There were two log cabins erected on the property prior to 1840. These stood side by side with approximately 12 feet separating them. They constitute the two front rooms of the present house, and the logs of hand-hewn pine and cedar were enclosed with sheathing. They are visible now although the present ceilings of the two rooms are higher than the ceiling of the cabins. That is, the logs do not reach to the ceiling of the present rooms.

The house is a fine example of Greek revival architecture and was built in the early 1840's. It gives every indication of having been the work of the architect, Augustus Phelps, who did the Cartwright house in San Augustine. This is supported by the fact also that Cartwright was the second owner of the property. He sold the property in 1844, evidently to move to San Augustine. The front door is a duplicate of the front door of the Barry house on West Austin Street in Marshall, and the house itself is quite similar in feeling to the Barry house. It is similar also in feeling to the French Legation house in Austin. If a porch were projected across the front of the Mathis house in Rockport, as pictured in E. M. Schiwetz' "Texas", page 44, the picture would approximate very closely this house.

The house has a broad hall from front to back, approximately 12 feet wide and 62 feet long. There is a similar cross hall from side to side, making the halls form approximately a plus sign, dividing the main structure of the house into four equal sized rooms. The ceilings are 14 feet high. The construction is frame with wide hand-planed boards in the finished portion. It is of what is called board and batten type. The moldings, which are quite handsome and include dentill moldings around the front door and front windows

June 1, 1964

are hand planed or made, and the house is put together with square iron nails and hand-cut wooden or tree nails. The framing in the attic is put together by mortise and tenon joints.

By tradition Sam Houston is said to have been a frequent visitor in the house during the time of his courtship of Anna Raguet, a then resident of Marshall. My father was in business in Marshall for many years with a member of the Raguet family. According to one story, Houston became so incensed in an evening argument in the house that he saddled his horse and rode into town refusing to spend that particular night in the house. ←

The house was purchased in 1867 by a lawyer named J. B. Williamson. He was a Republican and County Judge of Harrison County. The abstract contains mechanic lien affidavits by two artisans dated in 1873 to the effect that they claimed liens for a considerable amount of work in "remodeling the old house" for which they had not been paid. I believe that they added the two back rooms to the house at that time. The construction of these rooms is of the lean-to type, and they are smaller and lower ceillinged than the others. They have dado height paneling while the others do not. Each room has a chimney and fireplace.

Judge Williamson was an inveterate collector. We found in the attic several baskets full of newspapers and legal publications ranging in date from 1869 to 1880. The Judge died in 1883.

The Judge is remembered in Harrison County for his actions during the Reconstruction Period and particularly for his efforts to suppress Ku Klux activities on the part of the grandparents of some of the local citizens. The property remained in the Judge's family until his descendants, the Atteberys, sold it in 1944 to the people from whom we purchased it.

My wife and I are engaged in as careful a restoration of the property to as near its original condition as it is possible for us to accomplish. For example, the mortar in one of the chimneys was so bad that it was taken down brick by brick and rebuilt. The work has been in progress off and on for over a year, and I am enclosing a copy of an excerpt from the Marshall newspaper about the work. The artisans who are

Mrs. D. M. Parmelee

-4-

June 1, 1964

doing the work also did the restoration of the Blocker house east of Marshall between Scottsville and Karnack. This house has a medallion also, but I believe that our restoration will be more faithful in character than the Blocker house. The newspaper story on our place appeared also in the Longview paper and in the Houston Chronicle.

To repeat I would like to have the plate to go with the medallion, which I have already, but if the foregoing is not sufficient to entitle me to a plate in the opinion of your committee, I shall appreciate a return of my check. If your committee is willing to approve a plate (and I am at a loss to understand why the committee "vetoes" the plate and grants a medallion), I shall be glad to consider any suggestions which you may have for the wording of the plate.

Yours sincerely,



D. H. Gregg

DHG:mgj
Encl.

cc: Mr. John Ben Shepherd
President Texas State Historical Survey
P. O. Box 2276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas

Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson
200 Riggs Circle
Marshall, Texas

112 East 18th Street
Austin, Texas
November 2, 1964

Mr. Pat Taggart
Waco News Tribune
Waco, Texas

Dear Mr. Taggart:

Please find enclosed two checks in the amounts of \$27.50 and \$30.00 totaling \$57.50 in payment for a 16 x 12 Medallion Plate for the Judge J. B. Williamson House (D. H. Gregg Residence) in Marshall, Harrison County, Texas.

This was sponsored by Dick Gregg.

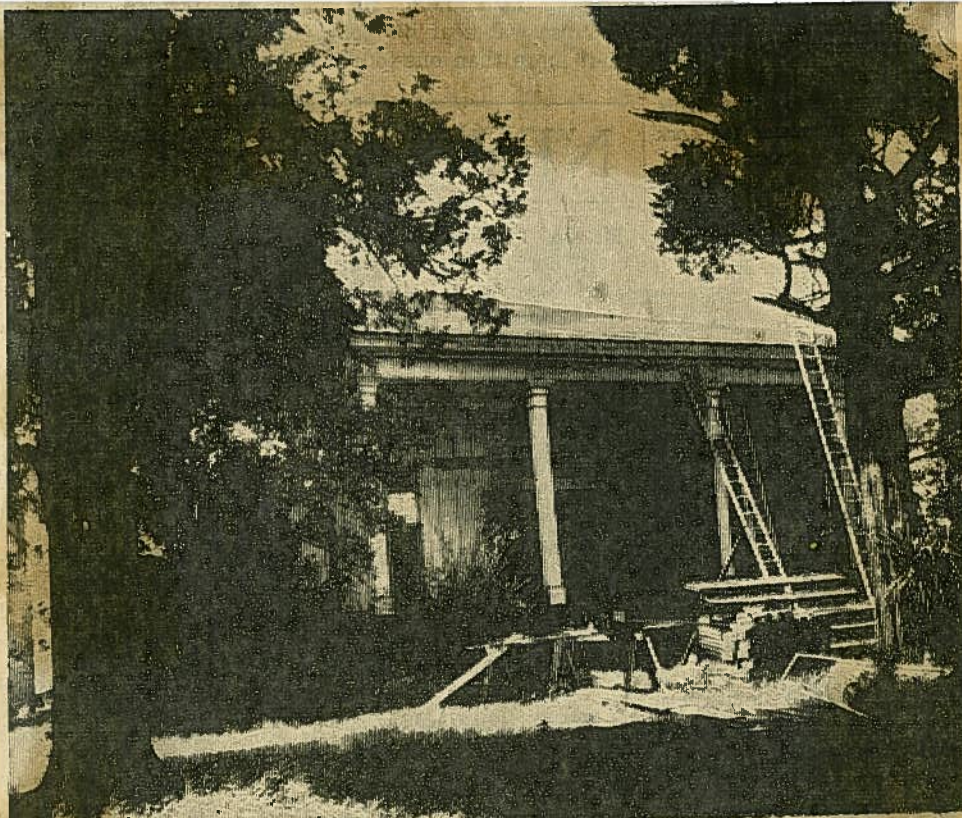
Sincerely,

Allen Searight
Executive Director

AS:bkc

Enclosure

CC: Mr. John Ben Shepperd



BEING RENOVATED — Work on the renovation of the old Williamson home located about one mile west on the Hynson Springs Road, is currently in pro-

gress. The house is being restored to its original structure by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gregg of Houston. Gregg is an attorney for the Humble Oil and Refining Co.

PRE-CIVIL WAR RESIDENCE

Old Williamson Home Renovated

Renovation of the 100-year-old Williamson house here is currently in progress by a Houston attorney and native of Marshall who plans to retire in the future and reside here.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gregg, who are part-time historians, are restoring the house located about a mile west of Marshall on the Hynson Springs Road.

Gregg is general counselor for the Humble Oil and Refining Co. in Houston and a close friend of County Judge John Furrh. He was born in Marshall.

RETIRE HERE

He indicated that when he retires from the Humble Co. he plans to reside in the house.

A portion of the house which the couple are renovating was constructed in the early 1830s or 1840s, Gregg said. It was made of logs and many of these logs are still visible.

Additional rooms were constructed shortly after the Civil War when the house was owned by J. B. Williamson who was county judge here.

LAND GRANT

The house is located on a 70-acre tract of land which was granted to a Henry Morgan by the Republic of Texas in 1841.

Matthew Cartwright later purchased the property and house.

It was then purchased by Williamson. Latest owner of the house and property was Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Jackson who owned it when the Greggs purchased it.

Gregg noted that he discovered the house by accident one day as he and Mrs. Gregg were driving in the area. The two immediately decided to purchase the property. It was not until a year later, how-

See HOME Page 2

HOME

Continued From Page 1

ever, that the Jacksons decided to sell.

FIRE PLACES

The house contains six rooms and all have individual fireplaces. Gregg said he plans, if possible, to keep all of the fireplaces.

The large house contains a large hall in the shape of a plus sign and exceptionally high ceilings.

Gregg anticipates it will take several months to completely restore the house to its original form.

Daily News
 Longview, Texas

OCT 3 - 1967



AT MEDALLION—Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hoskins Gregg of Houston and Marshall show visitors the medallion and information plate which has been placed on the front lawn of the old J. B. Williamson home on Hynson Springs Road,

just outside Marshall. They received the Texas Restoration Award Sunday for the work they have done since 1963 in restoring the historic landmark home where Sam Houston often visited.

Ceremony Held At Plantation

MARSHALL —A special Texas Restoration Award program, the first such ever held in Harrison County, was presented at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Pine Hill Plantation on FM 449 about three miles from downtown Marshall.

Recipients of the award, 10th of its kind to be made in Texas, are Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hoskins Gregg of Marshall and Houston.

Charles R. Woodburn, president of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson, chairman of the Harrison County TSHSC, reported that Mrs. Dan Lester of Jefferson, regional director and member of the

TSHSC spoke on the significance of the award and Howard Coglan of Longview, a member of TSHSC, presented the award.

Col. Chesley M. Adams of Marshall, past president of the Harrison Historical Society, presided and the Rev. Lawrence Malloy, minister of the First Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation.

County Judge John Furrh will made the welcoming remarks and Colonel Adams introduced guests. Mr. Gregg accepted the award. Open house at Phine Hill followed.

The ante-bellum plantation home restored by the Greggs has been extensively remodeled and enlarged over the years. It was constructed in the 1840's. The Greek Revival cross hall structure is attributed to Augustus Phelps, builder of the Cartwright home in San Augustine. Judge J. B. Williamson purchased the house in 1867 and it remained in his family until 1944.

Sam Houston was a frequent visitor in the house during the time of his courtship of Anna Raguet, then a resident of Marshall.

