

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received 4 SEP 1979

date entered NOV 7 1979

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

1. Name

historic James Turner House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 406 S. Washington Avenue not for publication

city, town Marshall vicinity of 1st congressional district

state Texas 75670 code 048 county Harrison code 203

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input 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 Mrs. Eugene Gillespie

street & number 406 S. Wahington Avenue

city, town Marshall vicinity of state Texas 75670

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Harrison County Courthouse

city, town Marshall state Texas 75670

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historical Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas 78711

7. Description

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | date <u>1928</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Turner House at 406 S. Washington Avenue was originally located on Lot 1, Block 4 of the Original Townsite of Marshall, Texas where it faced north on Crockett Street. It remained on Lot 1 until 1928 when it was moved to the adjoining lot and its present location, Lot 2, Block 4.

Constructed between 1850 and 1854, the one-story frame house had a Greek Revival floor plan consisting of a central hall with two identical or square rooms on either side. It had a gable roof with two chimneys and a fireplace in each of the four rooms. The house is supported by brick pillars on which rest the original wooden beams, measuring twelve inches wide and thirty feet long.

The Greek Revival style appeared in Texas in the 1840's and remained the major architectural style until 1870. Blake Alexander states in his book The Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century (p. 85-87): "Adaptability and ease of simplification were the great advantages of the Greek Revival style. It brought a harmony and a dignity to the simplest farm house... The Early Texas house, which was a simple frame structure with a porch across the front, was transformed with very little effort into a simple Greek Revival house."

The Turner House, when originally constructed, was embellished with a front stoop in place of the usual extended front porch. Two columns supported a classic pediment which was a Greek Revival feature. The stoop was an attempt to represent the Greek Revival central portico which framed and sheltered the front door, but did not extend the full width of the house. The stoop or portico of the Turner House protected the characteristic single door opening into a central hall.

The Turner House underwent several modifications during the years. In 1890, the stoop or central portico was incorporated into a porch which extended across the front of the house. The porch, a major feature of the facade, exhibited characteristics of the popular Victorian style which first appeared in Texas in the 1870's. Slender turned columns supported the shed roof and pedimented gable. The verticality of the Victorian style was further introduced by the use of four slender lights in the top sash of the double-hung windows.

As the family grew, Mr. and Mrs. Turner built a separate frame structure to the rear of the main house. It served as a dormitory for their nine children. When the house was moved to its present location in 1928, a shed addition containing a bathroom, a kitchen and one other room was attached to the rear of the house. It was constructed out of lumber salvaged from the demolished dormitory building.

Mrs. Eugene Gillespie, the granddaughter of James Turner, began restoring the house in 1977. The composition roof was replaced by a wood shingle roof. During restoration, the original shingle roof laid over a primitive log slab decking was exposed. The decking was supported by rough-cut four-by-six rafters instead of the two-by-four rafters used today. The shed addition was removed and a modern bathroom was installed at the rear of the central hallway. The relocation of the bathroom is the only significant modification of the original interior design. The original plaster walls and ceilings were repaired. The front porch was restored to the 1890 period and the pedimented gable covering the original stoop was removed and a new shed roof was constructed.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input 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) |

Specific dates 1850-1854 **Builder/Architect** Builder-G.G. Gregg

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Turner House, one of the oldest structures standing in Marshall, contains characteristic elements of the Early Greek Revival style and its transition into the Victorian. The Early Texas house, usually a simple frame structure with a porch, lent itself to being adapted to the classic forms of the Greek Revival style which appeared in Texas in the late 1840's. The style was well suited to the conditions of mid-nineteenth century Texas. Due to transportation problems, the builder often manufactured the parts of the house on the site and the boldly scaled details of the Greek Revival could be reproduced easily with a minimum expenditure of time and materials. The Turner House is representative of the movement toward a more dignified home and away from the crude cabin. The House is historically important because of its association with two prominent Marshall families. It has been owned and occupied for 125 years by the G.G. Gregg and the James Turner families whose members were active in local and state affairs. Although the structure has been removed from its original site, the original design of the house has remained essentially unaltered. The Turner House deserves recognition not only for being one of the oldest structures in Marshall, but for retaining its architectural integrity, as well as, for its historical association with important people who helped to shape the development of East Texas.

George Gammon Gregg purchased lot 2, Block 4 in 1846 and built the residence now known as the Turner House about 1850 or 1851 for his bride, Mary Ann Wilson. He and his wife lived in the house until 1854 when he built a larger, more elaborate home and sold the house at 406 S. Washington Avenue to his brother. Gregg was a merchant, financier and Confederate procurement officer. His wife was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Wilson, a President of the Masonic Female Institute.

In 1866, James Turner purchased the house at 406 S. Washington Avenue and it has remained in the Turner family since that date. Turner, a native of Sumner County, Tennessee, moved to Marshall in 1858 where he became one of the leading citizens. Turner was a self-educated man and studied law in the office of a brother-in-law in Tennessee. He was admitted to the Tennessee Bar, but emigrated to Marshall, Texas where he began practicing law.

Turner married Eudora A. Knox, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Knox who owned a cotton plantation in the eastern portion of Harrison County. Turner served in a regiment during the Civil War commanded by Col. Walter P. Lane of Marshall and was elected lieutenant of his cavalry company. Records indicate he served in this capacity for the remainder of the War and "enjoyed such robust health that he was in all the battles in which his regiment participated" (Encyclopedia of the New West, p. 441).

At the close of the War, Turner returned to Marshall. Family records indicate that Turner won the title to the house at 406 S. Washington Avenue in a one hour Sunday morning poker game. He moved his family into the house

9. Major Bibliographical References

Archives. Harrison County Historical Museum, Marshall, Texas
 Genealogical Records of the James Turner Family. In Possession of Mrs. J.H. Hudson, Marshall, Texas.
 Harrison County Deed Records, Harrison County Courthouse, Marshall, Texas.

10. Geographical Data

(Con't)

Acreeage of nominated property One city lot

Quadrangle name Marshall East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 5 3 7 1 6 4 1 3 6 0 1 1 4 2
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 2, Block 4, Original Townsite of Marshall, Texas as defined in the town plat

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Max S. Lale, Chairman; Lynn Osborne Bobbitt, Consultant

December 17, 1977

organization Harrison County Historical Commis- date Revised August 1, 1979
sion

street & number 3704 Fitzgerald; 410 King William telephone 214-938-2579; 512-227-7801

city or town Marshall 75670; San Antonio 78204 state Texas

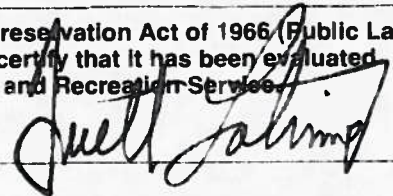
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 24, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

Carol D. Skell
 Keoper of the National Register

date 11-7-79

Attest: *Beth Grosvenor*
 Chief of Registration

date 11/7/79

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

| |
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and he lived there until his death in 1913.

Turner was a Democrat who was interested in federal and state politics, but never ran for an office other than that for mayor of Marshall which he was elected to and served for four years. He was also one of the directors and stockholders of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and he held those positions after the line was sold to the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company. He served as the T&P's principal attorney for many years. It was stated that "few of his age have taken a more prominent part in the intricate and important questions, civil and criminal, which have been before the courts of the State" (Encyclopedia of the New West, p.441).

Mrs. Eugene Gillespie, Turner's granddaughter, purchased the undivided interests in the house in 1977. Several years prior to this, the Office of the Harrison County Charities occupied the house. Mrs. Gillespie has completed the restoration of the house.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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|-------------------|-------------|
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CONTINUATION SHEET

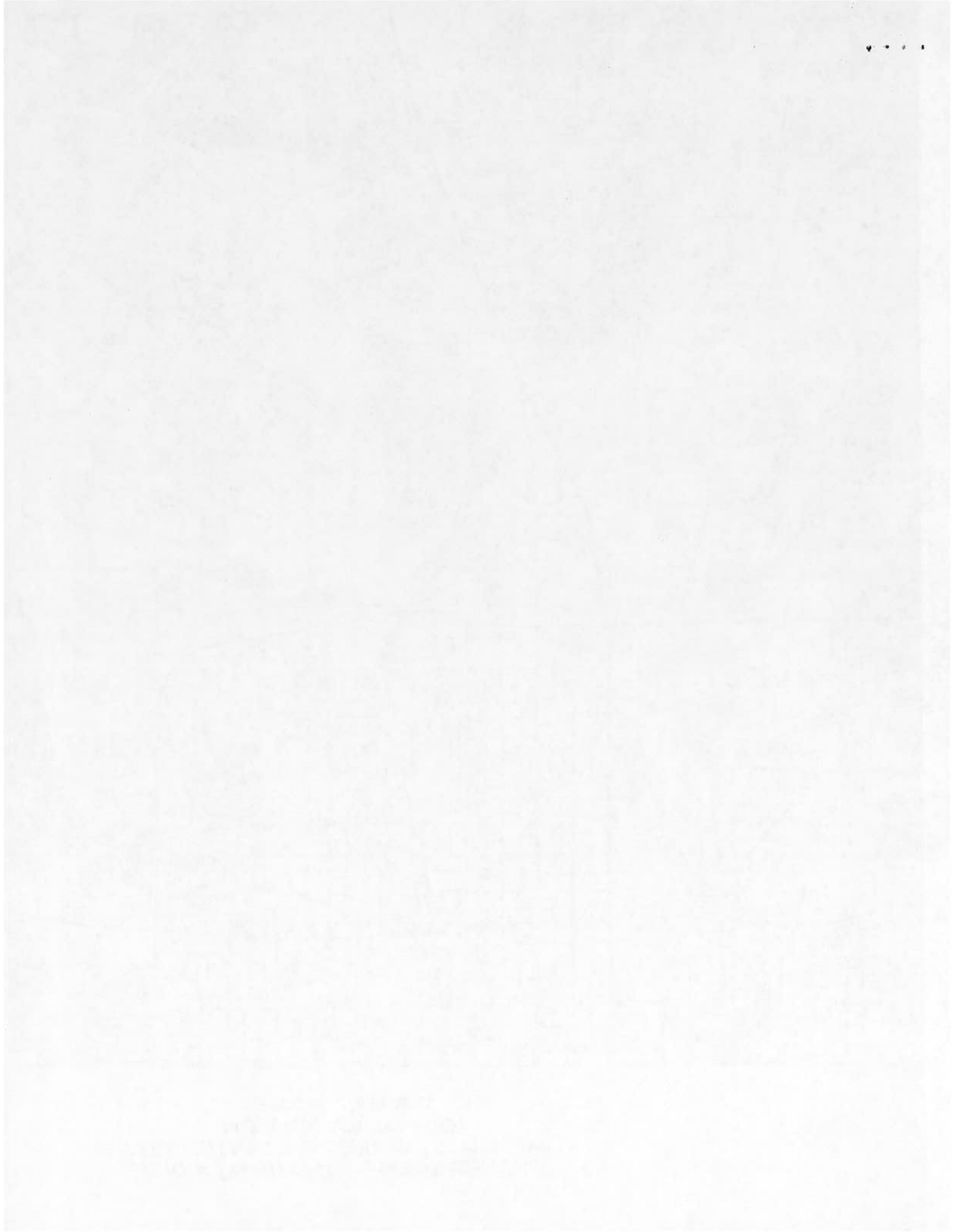
ITEM NUMBER 9

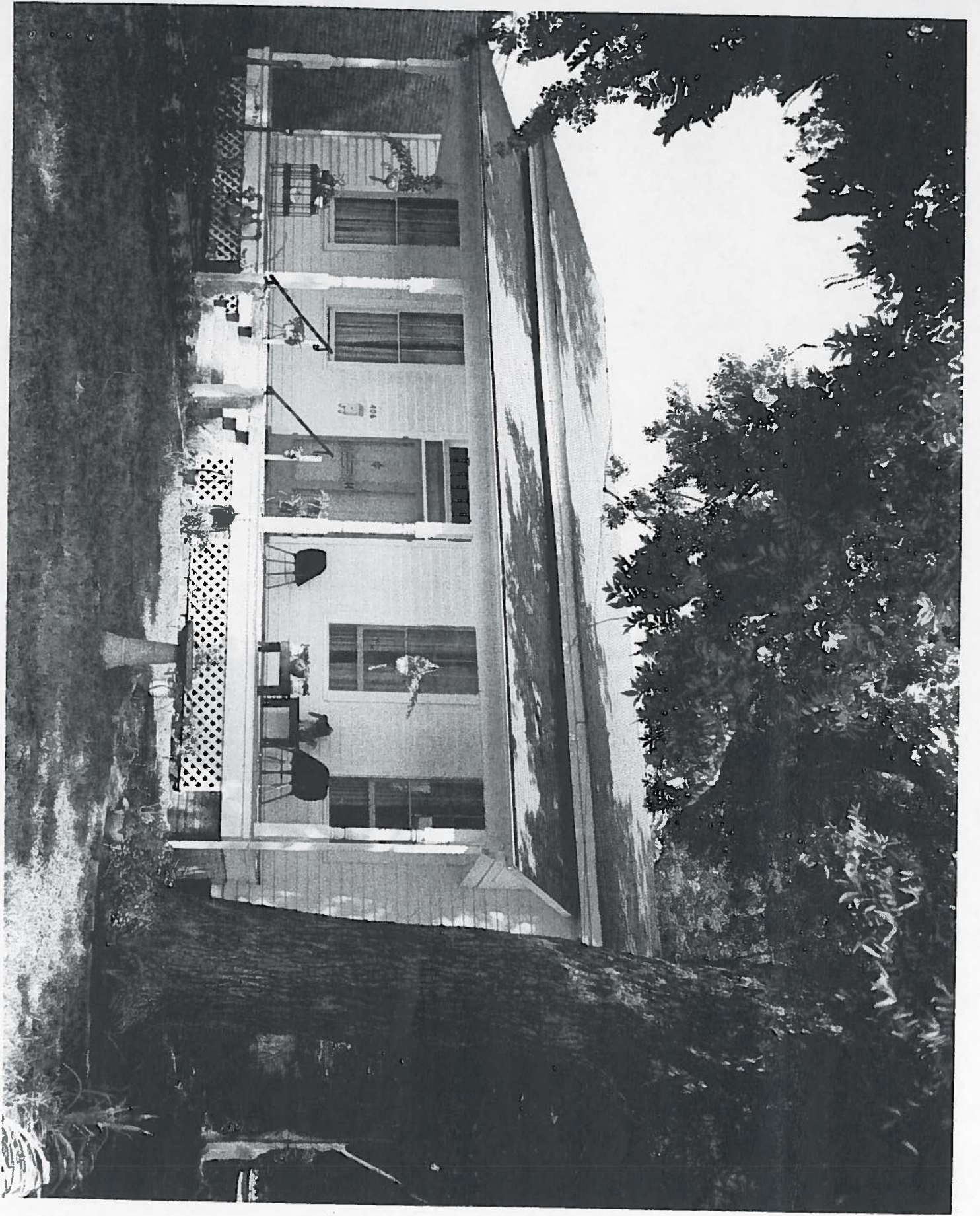
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The Encyclopedia of the New West. Marshall: Jennings Bros., 1881.



TURNER HOUSE
406 S. WASHINGTON
MARSHALL, HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/371641/3601142





James Turner House
406 S. Washington
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas
Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas
Historical Commission, 1979
West facade
Photo #1 7/1

POC
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