

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CW), 5/22/79

Official Texas Historical Building Marker to attach to wood
Harrison County (Order #5190)

Location: 406 S. Washington Ave., Marshall

THE TURNER HOUSE*

GEORGE GAMMON GREGG, A LEADING
MERCHANT, BUILT THIS FRAME HOUSE
DURING THE EARLY 1850s. ACCORDING
TO FAMILY TRADITION, CONFEDERATE
VETERAN JAMES TURNER^{*** **}(d. 1913) ACQUIRED
TITLE TO THE PROPERTY AFTER A
POKER GAME IN 1866. TURNER WAS
A NOTED LAWYER AND SERVED FOUR
YEARS AS MAYOR OF MARSHALL. HIS
SON ROBERT^{*** **}(1868-1927) ADDED THE FRONT
PORCH, WITH ITS VICTORIAN COLUMNS,
IN 1890. MEMBERS OF THE TURNER
FAMILY OWNED THE RESIDENCE FOR
OVER 100 YEARS. **
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1979***

*1/2 inch lettering
**3/8 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

APPROVED
Truett Latimer

Lyndine B. and 6-14-79

MARKER NAME The Turner House JOB# 5190

TOWN Marshall COUNTY Harrison DATE 12/21/77

Medallion with 16"x 12" Plate \$125.00

MARKER SIZE PRICE

PROCEDURE FOR MARKER APPLICATION

INITIAL DATE

INITIAL	DATE	
KM	12/21/77	1. Application checked and dated
KM	12/21/77	2. Check deposited
KM	12/21/77	2a. Receipt of application acknowledged
DP	5-5-78 5-22-78	3. Folder checked and approved
		4. Additional information sent for
CS	5-26-79 5-28-79	4a. Sent to SMC for subject matter approval
HW	5-15-79	5. Letter of approval sent, permanent record and DSA recording, labeling, listed & filed in current marker work
cw	5-21-79	6. Checkout to inscription writer
CS	5-31-79	7. Sent for State Marker Committee approval
yp	6-6-79	8. Inscription submitted for County approval
		9. Highway permission secured (if necessary)
AK	6/15/79	10. Order sent to Southwell
cw Lmc	7-20-79	11. Rubbing checked
		12. Stencil cut
MW	8-2-79	13. Recorded for Marker Guide
YLLK	8/7/79	14. News release sent, w/copy to THC President (Recorded Landmark Certificate sent, if necessary)
imm	8-20-79	15. Notice of shipment sent
		16. Extraneous material deleted, folder given to architectural historian
		17. Folder placed in completed marker file

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P. O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

A written history, signed by the author, must accompany this form before it will be accepted.

5190

Harrison

December 16, 1977

County

Date

The Turner House

1. Title of marker

The Turner House

2. Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, archeological site, etc., where marker is to be placed

406 South Washington Avenue, Marshall, Texas

3. Marker site (street address or highway number)

same

RECEIVED
DEC 20 1977

FIELD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

4. City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles south-east of Angleton on FM 523."

same

5. Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site."

Mrs. Eugene Gillespie, 406 South Washington Avenue, Marshall, Texas

6. Owner of marker site

Address

City

same

7. Sponsor of marker

Address

City

8. Max S. Loe 3704 Fitzgerald

Marshall

County chairman

Address

City

"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy."

9. Mrs. Eugene Gillespie, 406 South Washington Avenue, Marshall, Texas

Person to whom marker is to be shipped

Street Address

City

Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.

Wood

10. Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post.

ORDER FORM

Please consult page 7 for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history, together with a check made payable to the Texas Historical Foundation, to the address above. No applications will be accepted unless payment is included.

If marker application is cancelled after the inscription is written, the Texas Historical Foundation will deduct the cost of writing the inscription from the refund.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

- | | | | |
|--|-------|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post | \$475 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post | \$435 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post | \$250 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post | \$220 | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register plaque | \$ 25 |

REPLACEMENT MARKERS

- | | | | |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze plate | \$300 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building plaque only | \$ 75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze seal | \$245 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14" medallion only | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze wreath | \$115 | | |

HIGHWAY DIRECTIONAL SIGN

Please indicate quantity desired and location:

24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 50

Black and white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)

Green and white (for interstate highways)

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months from completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.

3" x 4" plastic paperweight with replica of marker inside. . \$ 50

THE TURNER HOUSE

By Max S. Lale
3704 Fitzgerald, Marshall, Texas

James Turner was a native of Sumner County, Tennessee, who in 1858 moved to Marshall, Texas, and for the next 55 years, including an extended period of field service during the Civil War, was one of the city's leading citizens.¹ In 1866 he acquired title to a residence situated on the west half of Block 4, Original Townsite (OTS) of Marshall, now designated as 406 South Washington Avenue, which has remained in the possession of family members to the present.² A granddaughter, Mrs. Eugene (Eleanor Turner) Gillespie, 608 West Rusk Street, Marshall, acquired the undivided interests of three other heirs to the property on May 31, 1977,³ and in November 1977 began repair and restoration of the house as her future residence. It is this house -- built not later than 1854 and perhaps as early as 1850 or 1851, making it one of the oldest structures now surviving in the city -- for which a building marker and the accompanying designation as a recorded historic Texas landmark are sought.⁴

The west half of Block 4, OTS, faces west on South Washington Avenue between Crockett Street and Travis Street (originally one of the four Border Streets which bounded the Original Townsite) and consists of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, numbered north to south. Prior to its acquisition by James Turner the land had been owned, among others, by two notable figures in Texas history, Isaac VanZandt and George Gammon Gregg.⁵ The original owner was David Hill, who acquired all of Block 4 from Harrison County on October 28, 1844, under a \$125 bond for title and sold the west half of the block to Robert Ralston on May 10, 1845.⁶ Ralston sold the property several months later to Isaac VanZandt, who in

turn sold it to W. P. Hill on January 28, 1846. Gregg bought the half-block from Hill on August 28, 1846, and on it built the dwelling now known as the Turner House. Gregg was married in 1851 to Miss Mary Ann Wilson, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas B. Wilson, who moved to Marshall in 1850 on the Rev. Mr. Wilson's election as president of the Masonic Female Institute. Whether ^{Gregg} he may have occupied the house prior to his marriage is unclear from present evidence, but it seems certain that it was standing at least as early as his marriage and that it was to this home that he took his bride. Three years later, in 1854, he built a larger and more elaborate home.⁷ The occasion of his move into this latter home would seem to be the reason for his sale of the house at 406 South Washington Avenue to his brother, Endymion B. (Dick) Gregg, in the same year.⁸

The Turner House originally stood on Lot 1, facing north on Crockett Street at the southeast corner of the Washington Avenue-Crockett Street intersection,⁹ and remained in this location well into the Twentieth Century, when it was moved onto Lot 2 and turned to face west on South Washington Avenue. This short move onto Lot 2 was made to clear Lot 1 for construction of a brick building housing a dry-cleaning establishment.

As designed by its builder, the house was the typical four-room dwelling of the period: two essentially square rooms on each side of a central hallway extending from front to back of the structure. Each room was provided with a fireplace. The only uncharacteristic feature of the house appears to have been the "stoop" which ornamented its front facade, rather than the front porch, or gallery, which typically occupied all or the larger portion of the front of houses built in Marshall in this period. The present front porch, which incor-

porates the "stoop" and gives a characteristic appearance to the front facade, was added in 1890, when Mrs. Gillespie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Turner, moved into the house following their marriage on April 19 of that year.¹⁰

E. B. Gregg, who in 1854 bought the house for \$3,500 from his brother, G. G. Gregg, sold it eight years later, on September 15, 1862, for \$3,000,¹¹ an indication of the effect of the Civil War on the local economy. The new owners were W. C. Thompkins and Henry R. Alsobrook, merchants and partners doing business in New Orleans under the firm name of Thompkins & Co. They continued to own the property until its acquisition in 1866 by James Turner for a consideration shown in deed records as \$2,250.¹² Although the local economy was suffering severe depression in this first year after the close of the Civil War, this consideration may or may not have reflected the true market value of the house at that time, owing to the unusual manner in which title to the property changed hands.

James Turner, in whose family members possession has remained to the present, was the son of John G. Turner, himself the son of a native of "the valley of Virginia," also James Turner, and an early settler in Sumner County, Tennessee. John Turner married Mary Parker, daughter of the Rev. Nathaniel Parker, likewise an early settler in Sumner County. In addition to James Turner, John G. and Mary Turner were the parents of nine other children, two of whom died in infancy.¹³

James Turner was educated in the family home in Sumner County and read law in the office of a brother-in-law, William S. Munday, described as "a distinguished lawyer" in Tennessee. Turner was admitted to the Tennessee bar by the supreme court of that state but shortly emigrated to Texas, in 1858, and entered the practice of law in Marshall.

On March 7, 1860, as sectional divisions were becoming ever more exacerbated by the upcoming presidential election, James Turner was married to Eudora A. Knox,

daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ormond Knox, owners of a cotton plantation in the eastern portion of Harrison County.¹⁴ Dr. Knox was a native of North Carolina but lived in Tennessee prior to moving to Texas, and was of the same family to which President James Knox Polk belonged maternally.¹⁵ Mrs. Knox, the former Susannah Mandana Adams of Montgomery County, Tennessee, is identified in a vertical file on the Turner family in the Harrison County Historical Museum archives as being a niece of President John Quincy Adams. If this is correct, then descendants of James and Eudora Turner were and are distantly related to two presidents of the United States.

*Re Adams family tree:
 This needs to be checked out. Adams genealogy is probably available. Will try to find a gate on Jan 21 or 25
 DP*

Apparently in 1862, Turner enlisted as a private in a regiment commanded by Col. Walter P. Lane of Marshall and subsequently was elected a lieutenant in his cavalry company.¹⁶ Available records indicate that he served "in this capacity" throughout the remainder of the war, in the campaigns in Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana, "and enjoyed such robust health that he was in all the battles in which his regiment participated."¹⁷

Mrs. Turner lived with her parents on the Knox plantation during her husband's absence on this extended period of field service.¹⁸

Returning to Harrison County at the close of the war, and wishing to return to his law practice in Marshall, Turner set about providing a home for himself and his family. A daughter, May, had been born April 5, 1862, and a second daughter, Ethel, was born March 18, 1866. The manner in which Turner acquired the former Gregg home, then still facing north on Crockett Street, constitutes an amusing highlight in the history of this pioneer structure.

Mrs. Gillespie, who was born in the house, recounts that her grandfather won it in a one-hour Sunday morning poker game at the Adkins House, renamed the Cap-

itol Hotel after the Civil War because it had been the site of several Trans-
Mississippi governors' conferences during the war.¹⁹ Mrs. Gillespie originally
placed this incident as occurring in 1859, believing that it had happened while
her grandfather was yet single and living in the Adkins House. However, Mr. and
Mrs. Turner were not married until 1860, and her grandfather did not gain title
to the property until 1866, as shown by deed records, so it seems clear that the
poker game occurred as James Turner was seeking to reestablish himself in Mar-
shall and to provide a home for his wife and two daughters after several years
during which Mrs. Turner lived with her parents.

In any case, Mrs. Gillespie's account is that her grandfather was about to
leave the Adkins House for services at the First Methodist Church, one block east,
when he was invited to take a seat at the poker table.²⁰ He protested that he
could not, that he was on his way to church, but was persuaded to sit in, anyway.
The upshot was that Turner won the house, whether in fact or as settlement of a
gambling loss is not clear, after one hour.²¹ The loser must have been either
Thompkins or Alsobrook, partners in the New Orleans mercantile firm, for the
partnership was grantor in the deed which the partners executed in New Orleans
and which Turner filed for record in Harrison County. One or the other of the
partners, or both, as owners of property in Marshall and perhaps doing business
with Marshall merchants, could very well have been in the city and have par-
ticipated in the poker game as described. In this case they reasonably would
have been guests in the Adkins House, the best hotel in the city at that time.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner ultimately were the parents of nine children, the third
of whom, Robert Knox Turner, born April 19, 1868, became the father of Mrs. Gil-
lespie, present owner of the Turner House.²² Turner, who came to be called

Major Turner under the automatic promotion system which applied to old soldiers of the Confederacy during their lifetime, was "ever a Democrat" who took the liveliest interest in politics, both federal and state, but never sought office except for the four years he served as mayor of Marshall. He was one of the directors and stockholders of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and continued as such after the line was sold to the Texas and Pacific. For a number of years he served as one of the T&P's principal attorneys, and it was written of him that

In his early professional career, strict attention to his duties and laborious study brought him their rewards in business and high rank at the bar . . . Few of his age have taken a more prominent part in the most intricate and important questions, civil and criminal, which have been before the courts of the state. He is a close and logical reasoner, a forcible speaker, a fine tactician, and always has his case well prepared and "well in hand" . . . He was one of the active organizers of the Harrison County Fair Association, and aided other enterprising gentlemen in rendering it a grand success and a credit to eastern Texas. 23

Major Turner outlived his wife, who died July 6, 1908, at the age of 65, by almost five years. He himself died May 7, 1913, at the age of 75 or 77, depending upon which of two versions of his birth date is accepted.²⁴

As the Turner family grew with the birth of additional children, Mr. and Mrs. Turner built a separate frame structure at the rear of their home which served as a "dormitory" and remained standing until the family home was moved following the sale of the corner lot on which it stood.²⁵ At this time the supplemental structure was razed, and the wood salvaged from it was used to construct a shed-type addition at the rear of the house which provided space for a bathroom, ^{a kitchen} and one other additional room.²⁶

Prior to Mrs. Gillespie's purchase of the other undivided interests in the house in May 1977, it had been occupied for several years as the office of Harrison County Charities, a local agency supported by the Harrison County United

Fund, and had been unoccupied prior to this occupancy. During the periods of its vacancy the house had suffered neglect and was in a poor state of repair when Mrs. Gillespie purchased it. Leaks in the roof had damaged the plaster ceilings, a portion of which had fallen.

Nevertheless, the house still was fundamentally sound when Mrs. Gillespie undertook repairs to the structure in November 1977. Her first effort was to install a sound roof as the first step in making it habitable. The roofer whom she engaged for this task first removed three layers of composition roofing which had been put in place over the years. This exposed a shingle roof over decking of an unusual and primitive sort. This decking was assembled from longitudinal slabs of lumber, some with bark still attached, which varied in widths conforming with the taper of the tree logs from which the slabs were cut. These slabs were placed in an alternate fashion, so that the wider portion of one lay alongside the narrower portions of those beside it. Supporting these slabs were rough-cut 4 x 6 rafters rather than the 2 x 4 rafters in use today. Unfortunately neither the slab decking nor the wood shingles were sound enough to be retained.²⁷

The wood laths to which the plaster of the interior walls and ceiling was attached, some of them exposed where the leak-damaged plaster had given way, are rough-cut and of slightly random width, indicating that they may be original to the house.

The house is supported by brick pillars, on which rest the original beams with which the house was constructed. Mrs. Gillespie engaged a carpenter, in assembling cost estimates for the necessary repair work on the house, who discovered that these beams measure 12 inches square and 30 feet long, all one

solid piece of timber. In the words of this workman, "you could run a train across this foundation."

It is Mrs. Gillespie's intention to restore her grandparents' home as faithfully as possible to its original design, preserving the original elements of its construction as their condition permits. After the roof repair, she will install a small bathroom at the rear of the central hallway, connecting it with the two rear rooms of the house, and then will remove the shed addition which houses the present bathroom. The addition of this small bathroom will be the only significant alteration to the original design of the interior.

It is Mrs. Gillespie's intention also to remove the front gallery added at the time her parents acquired the property and to reconstruct the "stoop" which was the feature of the original front facade.

With a new roof in place, Mrs. Gillespie moved into the home on Wednesday, December 14, 1977, and will continue its restoration as an ongoing undertaking while she lives in the house.

A marker is sought for the Turner House because of its age (at least 126 years); because of its association both with G. G. Gregg, one of Marshall's most notable early citizens, and with James Turner, a citizen equally prominent in Marshall affairs during the half-century after the Civil War; and because its present owner is linked by family ties to at least one and perhaps to two presidents of the United States.

December 16, 1977

FOOTNOTES

1. In a biography published in THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE NEW WEST, Jennings Bros., Marshall, 1881, his birth date is given as January 8, 1838. A great granddaughter, Mrs. J. H. (Margaret Knox Gillespie) Hudson, who has done extensive research into the Turner family history, including investigation of public records in Tennessee, gives the date as January 8, 1836.
2. Book U, page 244, Deed Records of Harrison County, Texas.
3. Interview November 10, 1977, with Royce Brown, attorney and Certified Public Accountant who handled the transactions for Mrs. Gillespie.
4. G. G. Gregg bought Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 4 of the Original Townsite from W. P. Hill for \$500 on August 28, 1846. Book E, page 359, Deed Records of Harrison County. On September 11, 1854, G. G. Gregg sold the same four lots to his brother, Endymion Baker (Dick) Gregg, for \$3,500, indicating that the house was built during this span of years. Book T, page 386, Deed Records of Harrison County. G. G. Gregg was the grandfather of Dick Hoskins Gregg, Houston, the present owner of Pine Hill Plantation, the J. B. Williamson House northwest of Marshall, for which a building marker was awarded in 1967.
5. VanZandt served two terms as a member of the Congress of the Republic of Texas from Harrison County, and, with J. Pinckney Henderson, represented Texas in the negotiations which led to its annexation. He was a leading candidate to succeed Henderson as the state's second governor when he died during the political campaign of 1847. Gregg, in the 23 years of his residence in Marshall, became the city's leading merchant and principal financier. He was appointed a captain in the Confederate army in May 1863 and assigned to Marshall as an assistant commissary of subsistence with instructions from the Commissary General to procure all the supplies available in "this section of the country . . ."
Max S. Lale, MARSHALL CEMETERY, MARSHALL, TEXAS, Marshall Cemetery Association in cooperation with Port Caddo Press, Marshall, 1975, page 9.
6. For the complete chain of ownership see Appendix A attached.
7. See the Texas Historical Commission files on the Gregg-Elder House, awarded a subject marker in 1973.
8. See Note 4 above.
9. Mrs. Eugene Gillespie in one of several interviews during October, November and December 1977.
10. Ibid. Mrs. Gillespie recalls that her mother was "a great front porch sitter, and she insisted on the addition."
11. Book T, page 386, Deed Records of Harrison County.
12. Book U, page 244, Deed Records of Harrison County.

13. ENCYCLOPEDIA, op. cit., page 441. Additional biographical information which follows is from this source and from a vertical file on the Turner family in the archives of the Harrison County Historical Museum as well as from genealogical research done by Mrs. J. H. Hudson, op. cit.

14. ENCYCLOPEDIA, op. cit., incorrectly identifies James Turner's wife as Endora, obviously a typographical or editorial error.

15. Ibid.

16. Lane initially was a lieutenant colonel and second in command of the 3rd Texas Cavalry, commanded by Elkanah Greer of Marshall, but there is no evidence to indicate that Turner was a member of this regiment, which was dismounted after the battle of Pea Ridge. Lane resigned his commission in the 3rd Texas in 1862, declining to stand for election to the vacant position of colonel of the regiment, and returned to Marshall to recruit another cavalry regiment, hoping thereby to continue serving in the mounted arm. This regiment was known as Lane's Partisan Rangers. This is the unit in which Turner apparently enlisted. Lane was seriously wounded in the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana, in 1864, where the Union's final Red River campaign was turned back. Investigation has not revealed in which of the companies of Lane's regiment Turner served.

17. ENCYCLOPEDIA, op. cit.

18. Mrs. Gillespie, op. cit.

19. The site of the Capitol Hotel, since razed, is marked by a subject marker awarded in 1974.

20. Interestingly, ENCYCLOPEDIA, op. cit., commented of Turner that though he was a member of a family which "for generations" had been Methodists, and though Mrs. Turner was a member of the Methodist Church, he himself, in 1881, "is a member of no church."

21. Mrs. Gillespie recalls hearing her grandfather repeat this story "many times," as late as her 12th or 13th year. She was 17 years old when her grandfather died, and it is possible she was even older than 12 or 13 when she last heard the story. Despite her error in placing the poker game before her grandparents' marriage, excusable in light of her grandfather's absence during war service, there is no reason to believe that the story is not substantially correct.

22. The other children were May (April 5, 1862-November 18, 1881); Ethel (March 18, 1866-October 11, 1934); Kate (February 16, 1870-October 12, 1871); Shirley (July 4, 1871-June 15, 1881); James (September 2, 1874-August 17, 1875); Nathaniel Parker (October 31, 1875-October 31, 1941); Lorraine (October 21, 1878-); and Paul (February 5, 1884-February 11, 1884). Robert Knox Turner, Mrs. Gillespie's father, died July 14, 1927. Mrs. Gillespie was born September 24, 1896, and was married to Eugene Gillespie on June 23, 1920.

23. ENCYCLOPEDIA, op. cit.

24. See Note 1 above.

25. This sale occurred February 3, 1928, to A. L. Elliot, et al, as recorded in Book 155, page 294, Deed Records of Harrison County.

26. Mrs. Gillespie, op. cit. She was seven months past her 31st birthday when this addition was made, and her memory is quite clear about the circumstances.

27. The author examined these roof features with the roofer on November 18, 1977. The other construction details which follow also were observed at first hand on several inspection visits to the house.

Appendix A
OWNERSHIP CHAIN

Note: All of the Original Townsite of Marshall, Texas, is on the Peter Whetstone land grant. As an inducement to the commissioners court of Harrison County, which was organized prior to Marshall's settlement, Whetstone offered to give a number of blocks in the proposed town plat if the court would locate the county's third county seat on his land. Block 4 of the Original Townsite apparently was one of these blocks.

- October 28, 1844 Harrison County, Texas, to David Hill, \$125 bond for title, Book F, page 248, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- May 10, 1845 David Hill to Robert Ralston, general warrant, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 4, OTS, Book D, page 229, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- * Ralston sold the same four lots to Isaac VanZandt between May 10, 1845, and January 28, 1846, when VanZandt sold the property. There is no deed record on this transaction, however. It is the experience of Marshall abstractors that VanZandt was excessively careless in recording property transactions, particularly in cases in which he was the grantee. For example, there is no deed record of his purchase of the property known as VanZandt Hill, now the campus of East Texas Baptist College, where he built his home in Marshall. Interview with H. W. Moseley III, Moseley Abstract Co., Marshall, November 9, 1977.
- January 28, 1846 Isaac VanZandt to W. P. Hill, general warrant, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 4, OTS, Book E, page 360, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- August 28, 1846 W. P. Hill to George G. Gregg, general warrant, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 4, OTS, consideration \$500, Book E, page 359, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- * A deed in fee simple was issued by Harrison County to David Hill on January 22, 1851, for Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, page 291, Book J, Deed Records of Harrison County, releasing Hill from his bond for title.
- September 11, 1854 G. G. Gregg to E. B. Gregg, fee simple title, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 4, OTS, consideration \$3,500, Book N, page 364, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- September 15, 1862 E. B. Gregg to W. C. Thompkins and Henry R. Alsobrook, general warrant, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 4, OTS, consider-

ation \$3,000, Book T, page 386, Deed Records of Harrison County.

June 28, 1866

W. C. Thompkins and Henry R. Alsobrook to James Turner, general warrant, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 4, OTS, consideration \$2,250, Book U, page 244, Deed Records of Harrison County.

May 10, 1913

James Turner to R. K. Turner, partition deed, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 4, OTS, Book 84, page 140, Deed Records of Harrison County.

December 31, 1926

R. K. Turner and wife to C. J. Cocke and N. P. Turner, general warrant, Lot 1 and part of Lot 2, Block 4, OTS, Book 143, page 386, Deed Records of Harrison County.

Note: In May 1977, Mrs. Eugene Gillespie, daughter of Robert Knox Turner, acquired the remaining undivided interests held by four children, Eleanor Rice, Myrtle V. Clark, Robert T. Van Norman and Mary V. Padgett, of a deceased sister and two deceased brothers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Deed Records of Harrison County, Texas.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE NEW WEST, Jennings Bros., Marshall, 1881.

Interviews with Mrs. Eugene Gillespie during October, November and December 1977.

Interview with Royce Brown on November 10, 1977.

Interview with H. W. Moseley III on November 9, 1977.

Max S. Lale, MARSHALL CEMETERY, MARSHALL, TEXAS, Marshall Cemetery Association in cooperation with Port Caddo Press, Marshall, 1975.

Genealogical records of the James Turner family assembled by Mrs. J. H. Hudson.

Verticle file on the James Turner family in the archives of the Harrison County Historical Museum.

Retained copies of Marker applications for the Gregg-Elder House in Marshall, Pine Hill Plantation northwest of Marshall, and the Capitol Hotel in Marshall.

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MARSHALL, TEXAS

RECEIVED
JUN 13 1978

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

3704 Fitzgerald
Marshall, Texas 75670

RECEIVED
JUN 13 1978

FIELD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

June 11, 1978

RECEIVED
JUN 13 1978

FIELD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

NOTABLE CITIZENS

ALBERT AGNOR
WORLD CHILI CHAMPION
BAILEY ANDERSON
REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN
MYRON BLALOCK
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER
EDWARD CLARK
GOVERNOR, CONFEDERATE GENERAL
MILLARD COPE
PUBLISHER, AP DIRECTOR
W.C. CRAWFORD
SIGNER, TEXAS DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE
T. WHITFIELD DAVIDSON
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
FEDERAL JURIST
WILLIAM DELAFIELD
REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN
MATTHEW D. ECTOR
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
LEMUEL D. EVANS
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE,
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
GEORGE FOREMAN
WORLD BOXING CHAMPION
JOSEPH C. GOULDEN
AUTHOR
ELKANAH GREER
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
SAM B. HALL, JR.
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
A.T. HAWTHORNE
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
FRANCES COX HENDERSON
LINGUIST CHURCH LEADER,
WIFE OF J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON
J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON
GOVERNOR, MEXICAN WAR GENERAL,
U. S. SENATOR
JAMES HOGG
GOVERNOR
BENJAMIN HUGER
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
CLAUDIA TAYLOR JOHNSON
WIFE OF U.S. PRESIDENT
WALTER P. LANE
SAN JACINTO VETERAN,
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
HUDDIE (LEAD BELLY) LEDBETTER
FOLK SINGER, COMPOSER
R.W. LOUGHERY
EDITOR, TEXAS REPUBLICAN
BILL MOYERS
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR,
PUBLISHER, AUTHOR
PENDLETON MURRAH
GOVERNOR
WILLIAM B. OCHILTREE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL, SUPREME
COURT JUSTICE
LUCY HOLCOMB PICKENS
WIFE OF AMBASSADOR (RUSSIA),
GOVERNOR (SOUTH CAROLINA)
ROBERT POTTER
SIGNER, TEXAS DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE, SECRETARY
OF NAVY, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
GEORGE P. RAINS
GENERAL, TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD
HORACE RANDAL
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
THOMAS J. REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR (MISSOURI)
W.T. SCOTT
PLANTER, TEXAS SENATOR,
T&P PRESIDENT
JAMES HARPER STARR
TREASURER, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
LOUIS T. WIGFALL
U.S. SENATOR, CONFEDERATE
GENERAL, CONFEDERATE SENATOR
ASA WILLIE
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
ISAAC VAN ZANDT
AMBASSADOR, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Ms. Anice Read
Texas Historical Commission
Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Anice:

I realize, of course, that the decision was not yours. Still, I must deplore the judgment of the marker committee in rejecting The Turner House (none of the committee having seen it, as far as I know), especially in view of the following facts:

1. Mrs. Gillespie has to date spent \$3,000 in reroofing the house and in making other repairs to it;
2. She is now occupying it as her home after selling the residence where she formerly lived; and
3. The house has been nominated to the National Register after visits to it by three of the architects on Joe Williams' staff, on one occasion by Joe Opperman and Barry Wagner, on a second by Barry and Stan Klein. I heard from none of the three any comment that the house was not in a "state of repair" to permit its use as a home for an 83-year-old lady.

Perhaps the fault is mine. I may have left an inaccurate impression in the house history which was submitted with the marker application. If so then I must apologize to Mrs. Gillespie for my dereliction.

However, it is my judgment that the house does qualify for a marker at the present time in terms of its state of repair.

I do not know who the members of the marker committee are, but it seems to me that one or another of them, or at last resort another member of the commission in this part of the state,

might take a look at the house for an informed judgment about the matter.

Please believe me, Anice, I do not mean to sound waspish with you, but I cannot understand a system under which a negative decision can be reached at long range, as in this case.

Best regards and all good wishes.

Sincerely

Max

Max S. Lale
Chairman

cc: Mrs. Gillespie

TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

BOX 12242 • CAPITOL STATION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 • PHONE 475-3258

June 14, 1979

Mr. Bill Southwell, Jr.
The Southwell Company
P.O. Drawer 299
San Antonio, Texas 78266

NO. 5190

#1820

RE: Medallion 16" x 12" building marker
without post (to be attached to wood)
The Turner House

Harrison County

Dear Mr. Southwell:

Enclosed is an application for Medallion 16" x 12" building marker without
post, The Turner House, Marshall, Harrison County, Texas.

We would appreciate a rubbing of this inscription.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Ann Goldman
ag

SHIP TO: Mrs. Eugene Gillespie
406 South Washington Ave.
Marshall, Tx. 75670

LM



Texas Historical Commission

Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer
Executive Director

June 6, 1979

Mr. Max S. Lale
3704 Fitzgerald
Marshall, Texas 75670

RE: The Turbar House
16" X 12" plate

Dear Mr. Lale:

Before we order casting of the enclosed marker inscription, we would like for you to please review and verify the history set forth in the text, as approved by the State Marker Committee.

Will you please signify your approval of the inscription as submitted by signing and returning the enclosed card at your earliest convenience. You may retain the marker copy for your files.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer
Executive Director

By:

Anice Read
Anice Read
Director of Programs

AR:yc
encl.

cc: Mr. Eugene Gillespie
406 South Washington Ave.
Marshall, Texas 75670

5190

MARKER TITLE The Turner House [An Official Texas Historical Building Marker is applied for] JOB# 5190
CITY Marshall COUNTY Harrison
DATE 12/21/77

EVALUATION OF
APPLICATION FOR COMMEMORATIVE MARKER
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE MARKER COMMITTEE:

Your appraisal of the attached dossier is hereby requested. To assist you in your deliberations, the comments and recommendations of the staff are included. If your own comments are extensive, you may attach other sheets, or write on the back of this one.

Please retain in your file all but this evaluation sheet, which we request that you return to the state office at your earliest convenience. If the majority of the State Marker Committee recommends acceptance, the inscription will be written and sent to you for your approval. At that time you may wish to refer to the history previously submitted.

Truett Latimer
Executive Director

Architectural Evaluation [See attachment]

Substantive Evaluation:

Because of its age and other qualifications this property would without much doubt qualify today for a subject marker. However, the requirement instituted over a decade ago at the insistence of Dr. Rupert N. Richardson (who loves history better than most of us and is ready to honor it in any proper fashion), that "in no case will the application be approved unless the structure is in a good state of repair" (in the case of an historic building marker; see Policy #11), seems to preclude an Official Texas Historical Building Marker at this time. The County Chairman, Max LaLe, seems to be in a spot on this, and says that the Harrison County Historical Commission wishes THC to process this application in spite of the fact that the restoration may not be completed for some years yet. He states that the structure may be the oldest in Marshall, and is due much honor for that reason. We sympathize. See the architectural team's dis-
~~section attached, however. The "road to Hell is paved with good intentions"~~
it is said, and after all nobody can evaluate an "intended" restoration. *J.P. 5-27.*

Administrative Evaluation:

Recommend disapproval until the restoration is done. A Read 5-22-78

RECOMMENDATION OF SMC MEMBER:

Signature, SMC Member

Date

Re the TURNER BUILDING, Marshall, Harrison County

Although this building has been visited by the National Register team and has been approved for submission to the National Register of Historic Places, the field team that screened it states that it is ineligible for an historical marker as of the month of May 1978 because it does not conform to the requirement of Marker Policy #11b that the "structure is in a good state of repair". The National Register screeners state that consideration for the National Register was based on the age and associational qualities, and it was presumed that the good state of repair would probably be attained by the time the Department of the Interior could pass judgment.

D. Parmelee, 5/1/78

PLEASE HOLD IN PENDING. Thanks.

MARKER TITLE The Turner House [An Official Texas Historical Building Marker is applied for] JOB# **5190**
 CITY Marshall COUNTY Harrison
 DATE 12/21/77

EVALUATION OF
 APPLICATION FOR COMMEMORATIVE MARKER
 TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

RECEIVED
 JUN 02 1978

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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RECEIVED
 Truett Latimer
 Executive Director
 JUN 2 1978

Architectural Evaluation [See attachment]

Substantive Evaluation:

FIELD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Because of its age and other qualifications this property would without much doubt qualify today for a subject marker. However, the requirement instituted over a decade ago at the insistence of Dr. Rupert N. Richardson (who loves history better than most of us and is ready to honor it in any proper fashion), that "in no case will the application be approved unless the structure is in a good state of repair" (in the case of an historic building marker; see Policy #11), seems to preclude an Official Texas Historical Building Marker at this time. The County Chairman, Max Lale, seems to be in a spot on this, and says that the Harrison County Historical Commission wishes THC to process this application in spite of the fact that the restoration may not be completed for some years yet. He states that the structure may be the oldest in Marshall, and is due much honor for that reason. We sympathize. See the architectural team's dissection attached, however. The "road to Hell is paved with good intentions" it is said, and after all nobody can evaluate an "intended" restoration. ^{J.P.} 5-22

Administrative Evaluation:

Recommend disapproval until the restoration is done. A Read 5-22-78

RECOMMENDATION OF SMC MEMBER:

Recommend approval be withheld until restoration and repairs are at least underway.

Mrs. Kenneth Dankly
 Signature, SMC Member

6-1-78
 Date

MARKER TITLE The Turner House [An Official Texas Historical Building Marker is applied for] JOB# **5190**
CITY Marshall COUNTY Harrison

DATE 12/21/77

EVALUATION OF
APPLICATION FOR COMMEMORATIVE MARKER
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

RECEIVED
JUN 06 1978

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE MARKER COMMITTEE:

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Truett Latimer
Executive Director

Architectural Evaluation [See attachment]

Substantive Evaluation:

Because of its age and other qualifications this property would without much doubt qualify today for a subject marker. However, the requirement instituted over a decade ago at the insistence of Dr. Rupert N. Richardson (who loves history better than most of us and is ready to honor it in any proper fashion), that "in no case will the application be approved unless the structure is in a good state of repair" (in the case of an historic building marker; see Policy #11), seems to preclude an Official Texas Historical Building Marker at this time. The County Chairman, Max Lale, seems to be in a spot on this, and says that the Harrison County Historical Commission wishes THC to process this application in spite of the fact that the restoration may not be completed for some years yet. He states that the structure may be the oldest in Marshall, and is due much honor for that reason. We sympathize. See the architectural team's dissection attached, however. The "road to Hell is paved with good intentions" it is said, and after all nobody can evaluate an "intended" restoration. *D.P. 5-22.*

Administrative Evaluation:

Recommend disapproval until the restoration is done. A Read 5-22-78

RECOMMENDATION OF SMC MEMBER:

Definitely not until work is done.

Caldwell
Signature, SMC Member

5/31
Date

June 27, 1978

Mr. Max S. Lale
3704 Fitzgerald
Marshall, TX 75670

Dear Max:

Your letter came in too late to take to the Marker Committee, but I called Kathi and she dictated it over the phone, and it was read to the Committee members.

Two of the members of the Marker Committee agreed to visit the site, one will be Clifton Caldwell, and the other Betty Danklefs. We are sending a memo to all four members of the committee in their regular mailing next Thursday, on how to reach you when they plan a trip to Marshall. I plan several trips in East Texas in the fall, and will visit the house then. Truett will be sent a carbon of this letter, because I'm sure his concerns are the same as yours.

We know this is of no consolation, but when we got back from Abilene, a letter from a gentleman in Brownsville whose house had been turned down for an historical marker last year. He is still irate, but has decided to remove all the dreadful alterations he made to the house, and restore it to its original beautiful state in order to get a medallion and plate for the house. Sometimes good does come of the strong restrictions the Marker Committee has placed on the value of a medallion and plate.

Please tell all the members of your Commission that the Marker Committee will meet again in October, and we hope by that time three of us will have visited Marshall and seen both the Hockwald and the Turner House.

Sincerely,

Anice Read
Director of Programs

AR:km

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MARSHALL, TEXAS

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1978
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NOTABLE CITIZENS

ALBERT AGNOR
WORLD CHILI CHAMPION
BAILEY ANDERSON
REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN
MYRON BLALOCK
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER
EDWARD CLARK
GOVERNOR, CONFEDERATE GENERAL
MILLARD COPE
PUBLISHER, AP DIRECTOR
W.C. CRAWFORD
SIGNER, TEXAS DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE
T. WHITFIELD DAVIDSON
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
FEDERAL JURIST
WILLIAM DELAFIELD
REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN
MATTHEW D. ECTOR
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
LEMUEL D. EVANS
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE,
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
GEORGE FOREMAN
WORLD BOXING CHAMPION
JOSEPH C. GOULDEN
AUTHOR
ELKANAH GREER
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
SAM B. HALL, JR.
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
A.T. HAWTHORNE
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
FRANCES COX HENDERSON
LINGUIST CHURCH LEADER,
WIFE OF J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON
J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON
GOVERNOR, MEXICAN WAR GENERAL,
U. S. SENATOR
JAMES HOGG
GOVERNOR
BENJAMIN HUGER
CONFEDERATE GENERAL
CLAUDIA TAYLOR JOHNSON
WIFE OF U.S. PRESIDENT
WALTER P. LANE
SAN JACINTO VETERAN,
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GENERAL, CONFEDERATE SENATOR
ASA WILLIE
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
ISAAC VAN ZANDT
AMBASSADOR, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

3704 Fitzgerald
Marshall, Texas 75670

June 18, 1978

Ms. Anice Read
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1978

Dear Anice:

FIELD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Are we being too rigid on marker applications?

Obviously I may be looking at the question from the wrong end of the telescope, but my vibes tell me the answer is yes.

My chief concern is the potential for inequity implicit in Policy 11. The phrase "good state of repair" has all the subjective latitude of that other famous phrase, "all deliberate speed."

Certainly I would not advocate that a marker be awarded a structure at the point of collapse. However, it seems to me that a rigid interpretation of "good state of repair" tends to reward restoration at the expense of recognition and preservation, which I understood to be the objective of the marker program.

My reading of Article 7150i, Title 122 of the Civil Statutes, leaves me with the same impression. As you know, it offers the possibility of tax relief to certain properties. These are defined as structures which are 1) designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, or 2) need tax relief as an encouragement to preservation.

In neither provision do I read any implication of restoration as a pre-condition of tax relief.

Curiously, neither do the guidelines for nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

As a matter of fact, Policy 11 establishes only three criteria for approval of building markers: architecture, historical

associations and age. It stretches the imagination to suppose there are not many, many buildings in Texas which qualify for age and one or the other criteria, thus deserving markers, but which are not in a "good state of repair."

If we wait for all these buildings to be restored before approving markers, many of them inevitably will be lost, thus defeating the purpose of preservation.

In none of the above do I mean to denigrate restoration. Still, I have the feeling we may have put the cart in front of the horse.

My second concern about Policy 11 is that it tends to produce inequities because of timing. I think all of us will admit that many buildings were marked in the early days of the program which might not qualify now, while equally worthy or superior structures elsewhere may or may not qualify now under more rigid application of the rules.

Not concerned per se with the preservation/restoration argument, another interpretation of Policy 11 concerns me. This has to do with architecture.

As I read the policy, a structure is eligible for marking on the basis of its age and historical associations alone ("Distinction in two of the three criteria will render a structure eligible . . ."). I fear, however, that judgments of eligibility are being made on the basis of architecture and the other two criteria.

Again, I have the utmost respect for architecture as a factor in the judgment process. However, there are many buildings in Texas which have been marked, and many others which deserve to be marked, for reasons of age and historical associations, but which fall short of being architectural models.

Obviously, the thoughts I have expressed come to mind because of difficulties I have experienced with the latest two applications submitted from Harrison County. These are for The Hochwald House and The Turner House, both in Marshall. Concern for architectural factors and restoration apparently have caused the first to be held up and the second to be rejected, although both would seem to me to be eligible under Policy 11 as written. In the case of The Turner House, we have the curious anomaly that it was nominated for listing on the National Register while it was being rejected for a marker.

Perhaps other county chairmen might be queried about the points I have raised.

As always, you have my best regards and all good wishes. You are doing a great job, and for this you have my gratitude as well.

Sincerely



Max S. Lale
Chairman

TEXAS HISTORICAL



TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 12276
AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

What date?

M E M O R A N D U M

TO : State Marker Committee
FROM: Anice Read, Director of Programs

During the Marker Committee meeting and the subsequent discussion of the rejection of the Turner House because of the present condition of the house, both Clifton Caldwell and Betty Danklefs offered to visit Marshall, and make an on site inspection. A letter has been sent to Mr. Max Lae, 3704 Fitzgerald, Marshall, TX 75670, phone: 214-938-2579, concerning your proposed visit. Please let Max know when you are planning to come, as he would also like for you to inspect the Hochwald House, which is also under consideration. We are enclosing the letter that arrived at the Commission on June 23, 1978, after the staff has left for Abilene.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

TEXAS HISTORICAL



TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 12276
AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

May 22, 1978

MEMORANDUM

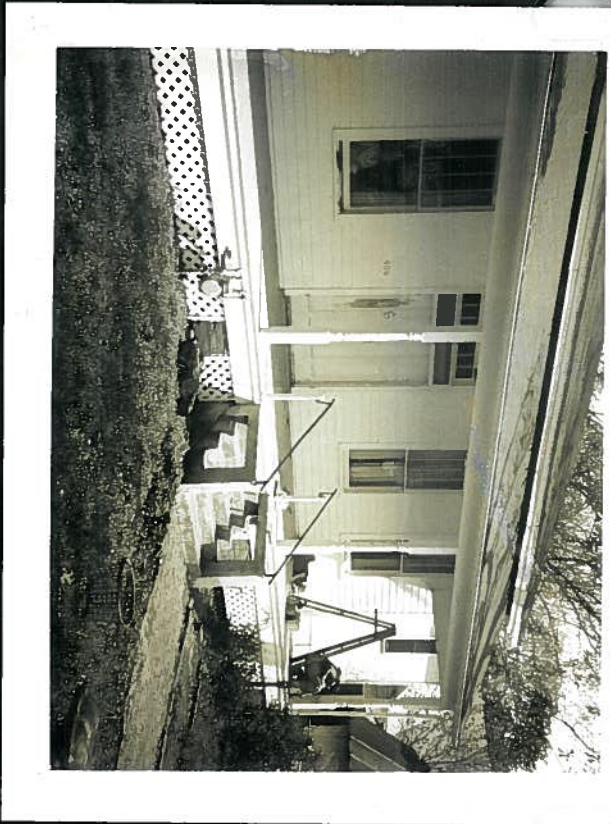
TO: Anice Read
FROM: Barry Wagner
SUBJECT: The Turner House

Architectural evaluation: Site was visited by National Register staff on 3/15/78. Investigation of the building fabric of this single-story wood frame structure indicates that the building could have been built in c. 1850. However, the structure has undergone architectural changes that have altered important historical features. In my opinion the structure is not in a good state of repair.

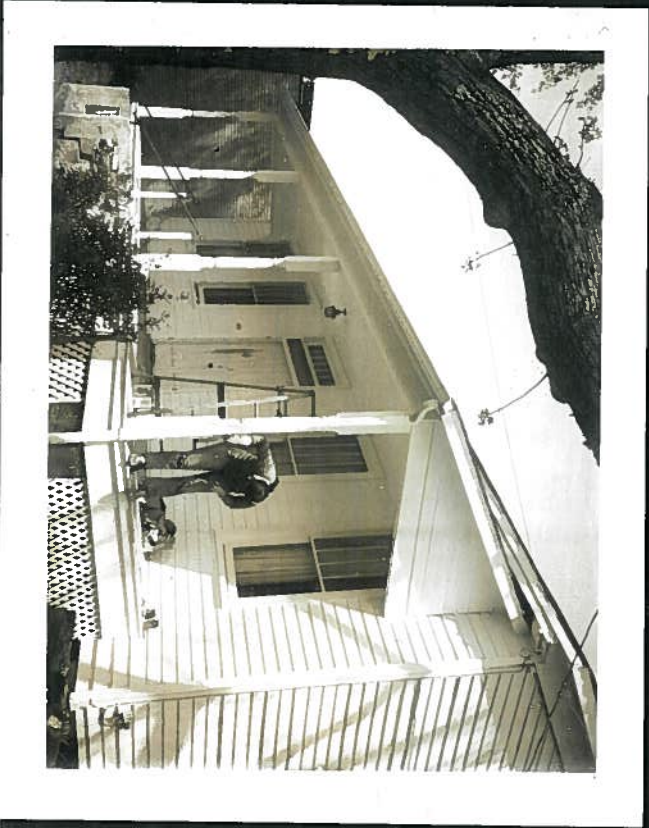
I have been informed that the owner intends to restore the building to its original design. If this is achieved, I feel the structure would then qualify for a historical marker.

Barry C. Wagner

BW:m1



The Turner House, Marshall, as of April 1979



Harrison County

I approve of the inscription for:

The Turner House

as sent to me on June 6, 1979

RECEIVED
JUN 14 1979

Clemon T. Gillispie
signed

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 12, 1979
dated

Harrison County

I approve of the inscription for:

The Turner House

as sent to me on June 6, 1979

RECEIVED
JUN 14 1979

Max S. Lale
signed

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

6-12-79
dated



THE TURNER HOUSE -- This photograph shows the basic, square construction of the house as well as the brick pillars on which it is supported.



THE TURNER HOUSE -- Here is shown the shed-type rear addition built in 1928, which is to be removed.



THE TURNER HOUSE -- This photograph illustrates the central hallway, two-and-two room design of the house. Evidence of the front "stoop," later incorporated into a front gallery, also is apparent.