

John M. Brown Home  
Old Washington, Washington County, Texas

HABS NO. Tex-213

HABS  
TEX  
229-WASH.V.  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District # 6 Tex 2

Historical American Buildings Survey  
Birdsell P. Briscoe, District Officer  
4301 Main Street, Dallas, Texas.

BROWN HOUSE  
Old Washington, Washington County, Texas.

HABS  
TEX.  
239-WASH. U.

Owner William Gossler

OWNER 1970  
MRS. CHARLES BYBEE

Date of Erection 1855

Architect Unknown

Builder J. M. Brown

Present Condition Good

RESTORED (1970)

Number of Stories Two

Materials of Construction Frame. Cedar floors, <sup>Doric</sup> ~~dark~~ columns, hip roof, Spiral stairs with ornamented stringers, plaster walls inside.

Other Existing Records Unknown

Additional Data Mr. J. M. Brown a planter from South Carolina came to Texas about 1850 and established a plantation on the Brazos River land that had been originally part of the Moses Austin colony. Upon the death of his wife, he moved to Old Washington and built the present house about 1855. He was a man of considerable wealth, a planter and merchant. He took an active part in public affairs and was a trustee of Washington University at Old Washington.

The Brown House shows its South Carolina heritage. The long windows reaching to the floor, the modillioned cornice, the low metal roof and the delicacy of detail are all reminiscent of Charleston. Inside and outside the materials are handled with grace and charm. The fenestration is in especially good scale and the front facade has both dignity and simplicity. It is said that all finishing materials such as doors and windows, stairwork and interior finish came from New York by ship to Galveston, trans shipped to Harrisburg and hauled overland by wagon to the present site.

ARCHITECT. JOHN WATSON

Rev. Dec. 1. 36 TFW