

Angeline Townsend House
1802 West Avenue
Austin, Travis County
Texas

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Angeline Townsend House
Austin, Travis County, Texas

ADDRESS: 1802 West Avenue

USE: House razed in 1962.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Townsend House was a representative example of the post Civil War Greek Revival House as it was modified by Victorian influences.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

Nathaniel Townsend arrived in Texas in 1834. He participated in the 1836 Revolution and afterward was appointed as the Texas Counsel to New Orleans. At a later date he made his home in Austin where he established a mercantile business. It was there in 1843 that his first wife died. Four years later Townsend met and married Angeline Townsend, a cousin from Massachusetts.

Nathaniel and Angeline returned to Austin 1851 and purchased the property upon which the later Angeline Townsend house was to stand. They built a frame house on the property and lived there until 1860. Nathaniel's health was failing and the Civil War was eminent so the family moved to Massachusetts. He died shortly thereafter.

Angeline returned to Austin in 1868 and found that the Townsend property had been confiscated by the Confederacy and sold. She regained possession through legal action and shortly thereafter replaced the original frame cottage with the large stone residence known as the Angeline Townsend House. She occupied the house until her death in 1889.

The building changed hands rapidly thereafter. One famous personage, Wm. Jennings Bryan, was said to have resided there in 1898-1899.

The house was razed in 1962.

SOURCES:

- 1) Annie Doom Pickrell, Pioneer Women in Texas, (Austin, E. L. Steck Co. 1929), page 346.
- 2) Frances Taylor Love, My Home Is Austin, Texas, (Lafayette, Louisiana, Tribune Printing Plant, 1958) Page 65.
- 3) Margaret Robinson, "Report", manuscript, Austin, Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.
- 4) Student Measured Drawings Archives, The School of Architecture, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas.
- 5) Published Map: "Partial View of Austin Texas", Filleau, Interstate Publishing Company, Kansas City; (c. 1891) Austin Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Architectural Description: 2½ story rectangular block; later two story wing at north rear. Double slope roof with flat center area surrounded by balustrade, gabled dormers. One story gallery extended across front facade; shed porch on rear. Bay window on south facade.

Condition Of Fabric: Razed, 1962.

Overall Dimensions: Main block was 37'-6" wide and 48'-4" long, rear wing was 16'-4" wide and 32'6" long.

Foundations: Continious native limestone.

Wall Construction: Coursed ashlar, native limestone.

Structual System: Mass masonry; sills, joists, plates and rafters timber.

Porches: One story front gallery; covered by flat deck forming second story balcony protected by balustrade of turned balusters and square paneled newels. Deck was supported by six round, fluted columns of altered Ionic style. Balustrade of turned balusters between columns. Porch floor is 1" x 4" T & G plank.

Rear porch was covered by shed roof supported by square columns with chamfered edges and Victorian jigsaw brackets.

Chimneys: Three brick interior chimneys in the main block and one in the rear wing.

Doorways and Doors: Double door with one square lower panel and an upper panel of fixed glass. The transom bar was moulded and deeply recessed. There was a two light transom of fixed glass above. Moulded wooden architrave and cut stone lintel of classical derivation.

Windows: 6 x 9 light, double hung wood sash at first story; 6 x 6 D.H. at second story and in dormers. Three panel adjustable louvered wood shutters.

Roof: Double slope with approximate slope of 45 degree; originally cedar shingles, later, asphalt.

Classic wooden architrave had a two band fascia with elongated dentils and a moulded cornice.

Dormers: Wood frame and sheathing; hipped roof.

Bay Windows: Wood framed and sheathed; classic detail with pilasters and panels. Bay had octagonal plan and was surmounted by balustrade of turned balusters. Plain architrave; moulded cornice.

INTERIOR

Floor Plan: Central hall flanked by double rooms. Added wing at right angles to main block axis was kitchen with pantry room. Second story similar except two bedrooms over kitchen and pantry wing. Third floor was finished attic, no partitions.

Stairway: Open stair to second floor, closed to third. Turned newels and balusters and scroll pattern on outer stringer.

Floor: 1" x 2" T & G hardwood.

Wall and Ceiling Finish: Assume plaster.

Doors: Four panel door with paneled transom above. Moulded architrave.

Trim: 1" x 4" moulded.

Heating: Fireplace and stoves. Fireplace mantel wood, classic detail.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

Orientation and General Setting: Sited in middle of full block area, faced east onto West Avenue. Brick walk from front to street.

Prepared by,

John C. Garner, Jr.

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October, 1965

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