

Andrews-Taylor House
Three miles southwest of Karnack on
State Route 43, east of intersection
with Farm Road 2862
Karnack Vicinity
Harrison County
Texas

HABS No. TEX-147

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. TEX-147

ANDREWS-TAYLOR HOUSE

Location: Three miles southwest of Karnack on State Highway 43, east of the intersection of Farm Road 2862 and State Highway 43, Karnack Vicinity, Harrison County, Texas

Present Owner and Occupant: Ruth Taylor

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: The Andrews-Taylor House is a fine example of Classic Revival plantation architecture in northeast Texas.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1843 (Historical Hallmarks of Harrison County).
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The original owner was Cephas K. Andrews (Historical Hallmarks of Harrison County). In 1902, T. J. Taylor purchased the property (Harrison County Historical Herald). After his death in 1960, his wife, Ruth Taylor, inherited the property (interview with present owner, September 2, 1966).
4. Builder: George W. Taloo (Harrison County Historical Herald).
5. Alterations and additions: In the early 1900's, a one-story section was added on the east. A garage and bedroom were added in a wing on the north, c. 1950.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

This house was the birthplace and childhood home of Lady Bird (Claudia Alta Taylor) Johnson, wife of Lyndon Baines Johnson, President of the United States of America.

C. Sources of Information:

Bracken, Dorothy Kendall, and Redway, Maurine Whorton.
Early Texas Homes. Dallas, Texas: Southern Methodist
University Press, 1956.

Hackney, V. H. Historical Hallmark of Harrison County.
Marshall, Texas: 1964.

Patterson, Elizabeth. "Early Architecture in Harrison
County," Harrison County Historical Herald, September,
1964.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This Classic Revival house is one of the finest 19th century buildings in northeast Texas. Constructed from brick made by slaves, it has a pedimented portico, handsomely detailed doorways and fine balconies on the west, north, and east sides.

The influence of the warm climate is readily apparent in the design of this building. The main section of the house and the east wing are only one room wide, allowing for efficient cross-ventilation. Access to all second-story rooms is from the exterior stairway and back balcony. There is no interior stairway.

2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The front, or main, section of the house is 56'-3" (five-bay front) by 22'-3" (two bays). The east wing, separated from the main section by the exterior stair, is 20'-4" by 28'-5". On the east and north sides, the ell-shaped porch is approximately 10' wide and the balcony under this porch is approximately 5' wide.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction: Brick. On the first floor the walls are 1'-9" thick. They are 1'-2" thick on the second floor.

4. Portico and porches:

- a. Portico: The two-story, one-bay portico above the main (west) entrance has a classical pediment supported by two square brick columns. There are pilasters corresponding to the columns on the face of the building. Under the portico is a small cantilevered balcony with access from the second floor. It has turned balusters and corner posts.
- b. Porch: A wide two-story rear porch is created on the inside of the ell by the projection of the main roofs. The roof projects about 10' from the main walls and is supported by five wooden, freestanding columns. Beneath the porch there is a 5'-wide cantilevered balcony which provides access to all the second floor rooms. Its balusters, posts, and corner posts are turned. The soffit of the roof projection and the underside of the balcony are paneled.

5. Chimneys: The house has three brick chimneys. There is a chimney at each end of the main block and one at the end of the east wing. They are situated inside the walls.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Four double doors open into the central hall, one at either end on the first and second floors. Each leaf has two wooden panels. The first floor doors are framed on the exterior with pilasters and have classical entablatures. They have 18-light side lights and a straight transom composed of 11 narrow vertical lights. The second floor doors have a simpler enframing with corner blocks and plinths. They have similar 18-light side lights and straight transoms with eight small horizontal lights.

A double door on the south elevation with two-panel leaves and straight transom opens into the exterior stair passage.

Doors on the second floor of the east wing are four panel and have transoms.

- b. Windows: Window openings are rectangular, spanned with flat arches. The arches are stuccoed.

Windows have wooden two-over-two light, double hung sash with 7-1/2"-wide wooden trim on the sides and top. Sills are wooden.

7. Exterior stairway: The stairway is located between the main section of the house and the east wing and is approached from the porch. The east wing, main section and south wall, which is common with east wing and main section, form an enclosure for the stairway, but it is completely open to the north. This stairway arrangement is unique in the northeast Texas vicinity.

The stairway has a round handrail, turned newel and balusters, and wide, heavily-molded wall-stringers. The underside of the stairway is paneled.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Hipped roofs with wooden shingles cover the original building. Later additions have gable roofs with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice: Wooden cornice construction with crown and bed molds. On the portico and porch, a thick molding articulates the architrave and frieze.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The original plan of this two-story house is a central-hall type with a wing to the east. On each side of the first and second floor halls of the main section, there is a single room, approximately 19' by 19'.

The first floor of the east wing is a single room, approximately 17' by 25', used as a dining room. On the second floor, this same amount of area is divided between two rooms.

Originally the kitchen was in a detached building. This was a common practice in the South.

2. Stairways: There are no interior stairways.
3. Flooring: All floors are now covered with carpet. Originally, the wooden flooring was exposed.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls are painted plaster. The ceilings are finished with wood. Wide boards of apparently two thicknesses were applied in an alternating rhythm across the ceiling, creating a series of long, narrow panels. The joints between the boards were then finished with beveled moldings. This is an unusual method of finishing ceilings for the northeast Texas region.

5. Interior doors: All the original doors are four-panel and have transoms. Since the interior walls are brick, 1'-4" thick, the door jambs are paneled.
6. Trim: The floor base is 2" thick by 13-1/2" high with a molded top. Windows have wide casings, corner blocks, and plinths. The area under the windows is paneled. The interior trim on the exterior doors consists of corner blocks, plinths and molded casings.
7. Hardware: Iron hinges, iron rim locks with metal knobs.
8. Lighting: Electrical fixtures throughout.
9. Heating: Small, unit gas-heaters are used throughout. The fireplaces, of which there were six, are all closed. However, the wooden mantels and other wooden trim remain.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces west and is situated on a site which slopes down gently to the west.

There are numerous landscape features. Prominent among these are cedar trees, catalpa trees and crape myrtle.

There are no outbuildings.

2. Walks and enclosures: On the north, west, and south sides, there is a wrought-iron fence which creates a spacious yard.

Walks and drives are concrete. A walk approached the main entrance from the west. A drive connects the garage and street on the north.

Prepared by Willard B. Robinson, AIA
Supervisory Architect, HABS
National Park Service
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made in 1966 during a summer project financed by the National Park Service to record 16 structures in Jefferson and the near-by area. The summer recording team received the cooperation of numerous citizens and organizations who provided office space, lodgings,

board, and research assistance. Among the cooperators were the Dan Lester Drilling Company, the Excelsior Hotel, Mrs. A. K. Payne, the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club, and the Marion County Chamber of Commerce.

The project was under the direction of A. Lewis Koue of the Historic American Buildings Survey's Western Office in San Francisco. Supervisor of the recording team was Willard B. Robinson, AIA, of Texas Technological College. The team was composed of student architects David L. Bouse of the University of Nebraska, Bob J. Fong of the University of Idaho, Donald Quackenbush of Washington State University, and Robert M. Swanson of the University of Texas. Photographs were made by National Park Service Photographer, Jack E. Boucher.