

Abernathy-Singleton House  
204 North Soda Street, west corner of  
Soda and Orleans Streets  
Jefferson  
Marion County  
Texas

HABS No. TEX-146

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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

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. TEX-146

ABERNATHY-SINGLETON HOUSE

Location: 204 North Soda Street, west corner of Soda and Orleans Streets, Jefferson, Marion County, Texas

Present Owner and Occupant: Mr. J. B. and Ellie Singleton Moseley

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: A fine example of mid-nineteenth century classical architecture of the northeast Texas region.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1870 (based on changes in property values).
2. Original and subsequent owners: Buckner Abernathy purchased the property for the house in March 1870 (interview with the present owner). In December 1870, Mary Russell purchased the property (interview with present owner). Several years later S. J. Wilson bought the property. MacFarland, an engineer on the East Line Railroad, purchased the property in December 1882 (Marion County Deed Book P, p. 415). In 1885, MacFarland sold the house to W. E. Singleton, an early sheriff in Harrison County (Marion County Deed Book R, p. 24). In 1926, J. B. Moseley and his wife, who is the granddaughter of W. E. Singleton, acquired the house (interview with the present owner).
3. Builder: Buckner Abernathy (information from the Jefferson Historical Society).
4. Alterations and additions: A large room has been added to the northwest side of the house. All of the bedrooms have had closets added.

B. Sources of Information:

Marion County Deed Books, Marion County Courthouse, Jefferson, Texas.

Interview with present owners, August 8, 1966.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The central-hall plan type is typical for the Jefferson vicinity. The small, tiered porch and the outside chimneys appear on other houses but are not common features; this is the only known example in Jefferson where the porch has a pediment.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 48'-4" (five-bay front) by 48'-4", originally a two-story main block, one room deep, with a one-story L-shaped rear addition which extended the north-west side to 30'-1" and the southeast side to 48'-4". The space between the ell was filled by a one-story addition in c. 1957, making the plan square.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction: Walls are timber frame finished on the exterior with 1/2" by 6" clapboards, 4-1/2" to the weather.
4. Porches: The house has a distyle portico with a pediment and second-story balcony. The columns are rectangular with molded capitals and plinths. A concrete slab now replaces the original wooden floor.
5. Chimneys: Chimneys are constructed from brick and are located outside the walls on the two main gable ends of the house.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are identical doors at the first and second floor levels beneath the portico. The third original exterior door was at the opposite end of the first floor hall: it is now enclosed by the rear addition. All three have four-panel double doors with three-light sidelights and nine-light straight transoms.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Windows have six-over-six light wooden double-hung sash in rectangular openings. The louvered shutters are two-panel and swing on iron pintles.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The two-story section of the house, the portion of the original ell addition extending to the southwest, and the portico have gabled roofs. The remainder of the original addition and the 1957 addition have shed roofs. Half of the gabled addition and the original shed addition have sheet metal roofing. The rest of the roof surfaces are covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice: The cornice is constructed from wood with beveled crown and bed moldings.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Two-story central-hall arrangement with rooms on either side of the hall.
2. Stairways: One single-run stair, open on first floor. It has turned newels, square, 1" by 1" balusters and a molded handrail.
3. Flooring: Vertical-grain, tongue-and-groove pine boards, 5" wide. The new section of the house has quarry-tile flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior walls of the original section were covered with rough-sawn boards of varying widths. These were covered with wallpaper. The ceiling is likewise finished with boards and wallpaper. The addition on the northwest is finished with pine paneling.
5. Doors: Four-panel, 3'-0" by 7'-6". Each door in the original house has a wooden threshold.
6. Trim: There is a large wood ceiling cove. The baseboard is 11" high and has a molded top. Door casings are 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ " and have a molded inside edge.
7. Hardware: Original hardware is iron. Latches are the rim type and have porcelain knobs.
8. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.
9. Heating: The fireplaces have all been sealed. In several of these gas heaters have been built in.

D. Site and Surroundings:

The main doorway faces northeast. Walks, drives and site

improvements all date from recent years. A well was formerly located near the center of the 1957 addition. It was enclosed by latticework and an L-shaped porch, extending approximately 10' from the house.

Prepared by Willard B. Robinson, AIA  
Supervisory Architect, HABS  
National Park Service  
August 1966

### 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.