

Wm. L. Freeman House
Marion County, Texas.
Near Jefferson (2 miles N.W.)

HABS No. 35-D-3

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WILLIAMSON FREEMAN

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 33

Historic American Buildings Survey
Marvin Eichenrodt, District Officer
San Antonio, Texas.

WILLIAM M. FREEMAN HOUSE
NEAR JEFFERSON, MARION COUNTY, TEXAS

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The present owner is C. A. Deware, Jefferson, Texas and the house is being occupied by Mr. Deware. It is impossible to ascertain the identity and dates of intermediate occupancies.

A deed recorded March 15, 1850 shows that the property was bought by William^{SON} M. Freeman for his minor children, Mary B., Virginia C., Lucy C., and Martha E. C. Freeman. The house was in all probability erected between 1850 and 1855.

There is no evidence of any alterations or remodeling of consequence since the original construction. The house is now in a bad state of repair.

No record of an Architect for the house is available, but it is known that the house was built entirely by negro slaves. All brick was made and all lumber was cut on the property.

In the 1850's Jefferson was an important shipping center with a population of 50,000 people. Cypress Bayou on which it is located, was then navigable. This is evidence that the house was built during an era of prosperity. The population of Jefferson has dwindled to 1,800 people today.

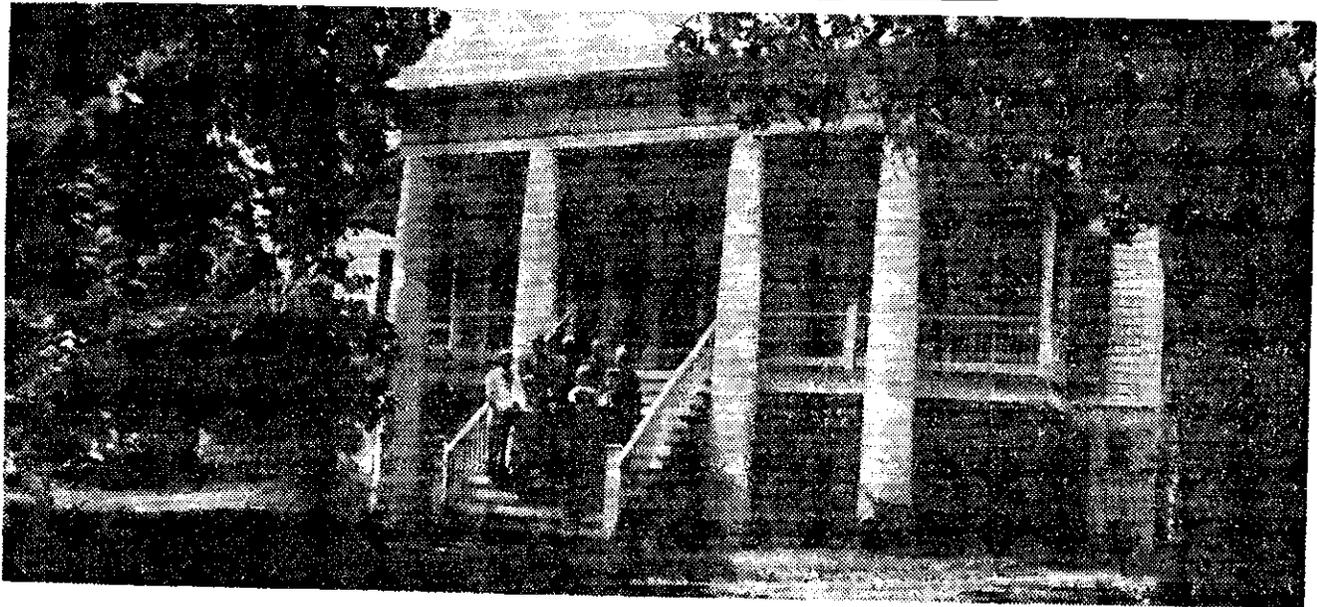
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PURCHASED 1937 BY LAWRENCE S. FLANNERY

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.

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FREEMAN PLANTATION HOME IN JEFFERSON
... new purchase of Texas Society of the DAR

Texas DAR Obtains Freeman Plantation

The Texas Society, Daughters of the American Revolution has purchased an antebellum house, the Freeman Plantation, in Jefferson, Tex. Past records of the society will be kept here and a display of DAR projects will be maintained.

The home is one of many on the Jefferson Pilgrimage held each May and is set on 16 acres of wooded property with a natural stream running through. Constructed in 1850, the home has hand-hewn beams 14 x 14 inches that extend the length of the building.

The first floor is of old brick with ground-to-eaves pillars. Four columns that

support the roof of the suspended porch are built of handmade brick. Each of the eight original rooms has a large open fireplace.

Most of the original antique furniture has also been purchased by the DAR. A large wing has recently been added to the rear of the original home to provide facilities for modern living with central air conditioning and heating.

Even though the kitchen has been modernized, it still has its open fireplace and iron kettles.

The Freeman Plantation home has been awarded the plaque of the Historic American Building Committee and the Texas Historical Society

Committee marker. The house has been sketched by architects of the National Park Service and filed in the Congressional Library as an example of French-Colonial

architecture generally called "Louisiana Raised Cottage." Mrs. Ford Hubbard, state regent, chose the location of the house as her special project.

This print may be filed if you wish with the sketch.
Jessie T. Allen
Nov. 12, 1971