

WILCOX HOUSE  
Cameron vicinity  
Milam County  
Texas

HABS No. TX-3496

HABS  
TEX  
166-CAM.V,  
2-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### WILCOX HOUSE

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TEX  
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**Location:** The Wilcox House is located in the vicinity of Port Sullivan, now Cameron, in Milam County, Texas. No street address is available.

Port Sullivan was located on the west bank of the Brazos River in southeastern Milam County, Texas, approximately opposite Hearne in Robertson County. Settlement of this vicinity began in 1835, when one Augustus Sullivan established a trading post at a crossroads. On the frontier of settlement, this post was called Fort Sullivan and served as a defensive point. Close by, Port Sullivan began to develop. Situated below the falls of the Brazos, it came to be a head of navigation for river steam-boats and the Brazos Valley prospered as Southern cotton-plantation culture flourished between Annexation and Secession. The ante-bellum years were a time of great building activity. After the Civil War the resumption of railroad construction brought an expanding pattern of new and existing lines, precipitating the rapid decline of Port Sullivan. The Methodist College for Women in Port Sullivan closed in 1877; in 1940, moreover, Port Sullivan had a population of twenty persons.

**Date:** The Wilcox House was built about 1850

**Description:** Constructed in a classical revival mode, the front block of the house is symmetrical, with the roof ridge parallel to the front wall. The dominant element of the front being the wide portico with four box columns, so spaced that the central bay is narrower than the other two. The portico was particularly wide in relation to the width of the house, spanning over the entrance, composed of double doors flanked by sidelights and transom lights, and two windows of the front wall, thereby leaving only two windows in the front wall that did not look onto the portico. The columns and cornices were more lightly membered than those of typical Greek Revival dwellings. In fact, there was nothing specifically Hellenic about the house, which gave evidence in the spaciousness of the portico and the relative lightness of its membering, of the lingering influence of the earlier Federal style. Adding to this impression was the opening with a semi-elliptical head and fan-shaped louvers in the tympanum of the pediment. The exterior walls of the house were finished with clapboards running straight across the front without interruption for the portico. This house was covered with cedar shingles, and its underpinnings were cedar blocks.

**Condition:** The house was abandoned and in ruinous condition when it was measured and drawn by Ernest A. Connally in 1942.

**Prepared By:** Ernest Allen Connally, July 1998.

Principal informant in 1942 was Miss Mae Foster of Calvert, Texas, an acknowledged authority on local history.

ADDENDUM TO:  
WILCOX HOUSE  
Cameron vicinity  
Milam County  
Texas

HABS TX-3496  
*HABS TEX, 166-CAM. V, 2-*

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FIELD RECORDS

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1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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**WILCOX HOUSE**

This data page is an addendum to the one-page historical report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

Below is a copy of a field photograph taken by Ernest Allen Connally in 1942.

