

Cutrer-Key House
East side of State Route 59,
1.7 miles south of Jefferson
Jefferson Vicinity
Marion County
Texas

HABS No. TEX-116

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TEX
158 JEFF.
2-

An addendum to
Cockell House
Jefferson
Marion County
Texas
in HABS Catalog (1941)

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

Cutrer Key House
(Old Cockell Home)
W. Jefferson, Marion County, Texas

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Owner J. B. Hussey

Date of Erection 1845

Architect Unknown

Builder Unknown

Number of Stories One

Present Condition Good

Materials of Construction Frame

Other Existing Records None

Additional Data Originally built by Cutrer. Came into the possession of the present family several years later. The usual classic porch of its time. The columns are rectangular as they are in several places in this area. The double-hung windows that extend to the floor are unusual in Texas. In this feature they show the influence of the French influence in New Orleans and in Charleston.

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CUTRER-KEY HOUSE

An addendum to
Cockell House
Jefferson, Texas
in HABS Catalog (1941)

Location: East side of State Route 59, 1.7 miles south of
Jefferson, Jefferson Vicinity, Marion County,
Texas

Present Owner
and Occupant: David Key

Present Use: Residence

Statement of
Significance: This house typifies the Classical Revival spirit
in this region. The nearly square plan and central
hall arrangement of the main building, a modest
portico and attenuated detail are characteristic
features of numerous single-story houses in the
Jefferson vicinity.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Land Certificate from Republic of Texas to James Cooksey, January 3, 1839 (Marion County Deed Book Vol. 2, p. 162). Deed from A. B. Bayliss to Jane T. Cutrer, 1861 (Marion County Deed Book Vol. 9, p. 123). Deed from A. H. Kibbee et ux to Janie T. Bass, January 25, 1909 (Marion County Deed Book Vol. I-1/419). Deed from Wm. Gross et ux to J. B. Hussey, January 11, 1927 (Marion County Deed Book Vol. Z-1/55). Deed from Louise Hussey et al to Dolly Bell Key, June 24, 1939 (Marion County Deed Book Vol. 112/556). David R. Key is the present owner. (Information furnished by present owner.)
2. Date of erection: According to the present owner, the south wing was built in the late 1840's. The main part of house was erected by Jane Cutrer in 1869 (Bracken and Redway, p. 104).
3. Architect: Unknown.

4. Alterations and additions: On the main floor, closets have been added on the hall side of each of the two interior fireplaces; bathrooms have been added on the other sides. A stairway to the lower level has been installed in the southwest room of the 1869 section.

Supported one story above the ground on brick piers, the south wing was originally open at ground level. After 1936, this level was enclosed and kitchen and living room spaces were created.

An exterior stairway from the south door of the main section down to the lower level has been removed and cast-iron railings replace the original wooden railings on the south porch.

Cast-iron work and a small porch have also been added on the west side.

B. Sources of Information:

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

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

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This house typifies the Classical Revival spirit in this region. The nearly square plan and central hall arrangement of the main building, a modest portico and attenuated detail are characteristic features of numerous single-story houses in the Jefferson vicinity.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main section of the house is 48'-4" (five-bay front) x 40'-5". A wing, separated from the main building by a breezeway, extends 43'-7" to the south and is 20' wide.
2. Foundations: Originally the foundations consisted of brick piers only. The spaces between these have been

filled in recent years to enclose the space under the main section of the house. The space beneath the south wing was bricked in and finished to form two rooms in c. 1936.

3. Wall construction, finish: Walls are sawn-timber frame. They are finished with $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6" clapboards with $4\frac{1}{2}$ " to the weather everywhere except at the portico where flush-boards, 6- $\frac{3}{4}$ " high are used. Sill plates and floor beams are hand-hewn. The framing material is pine.
4. Porticoes and porches: The portico, situated on the north side of the house, is tetrastyle with four rectangular columns. A porch extends across the south side of the main section of the house and continues down the east side of the south wing. It has been screened in along the south wing. A cast-iron railing replaces the original wooden balusters. A straight run stair runs along the south wall of the main section from the porch to the ground level. A breezeway separates the south wing from the main house and is a part of the porch. A doorway at the west end of the breezeway is sheltered by a recent canopy and is reached from ground level by a straight run of stairs.
5. Chimneys: There are two interior brick chimneys in the main structure. They are finished on the interior with plaster. The south wing has one brick chimney of comparatively recent date.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: At each end of the central hall are double doors. These are 2'-6" x 7'-5" x 1- $\frac{3}{8}$ " and have four panels. These doorways have narrow four-pane sidelights and nine-pane transoms.

The exterior doors to the south wing are 2'-8" x 7'-0" and have two vertical panels.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows are 3'-0" x 9'-0", wooden, six-over-six light double-hung sash in the main section of the house. The sills for these windows are flush with the floor, with sills similar to door thresholds. Exterior shutters are three-panel and swing on iron pintles.

In the south wing, the windows on the upper level are wooden, six-over-six light double-hung sash. Shutters on this section of the house match the main section. Windows on the lower level are modern steel casements of recent installation.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Hipped roof, pitch approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ " to 12". The roof over the portico is flat. The hipped roof is covered with a standing-seam, sheet-metal roofing. A built-up roof covers the flat section.
- b. Framing: 2" x 6" rafters and ceiling joists at 24" on center.
- c. Cornice: The cornice is 6" high and overhangs approximately 1'-6". It has a large crown and bed molding. There is a division for frieze and architrave.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The main part of the house has a central hall plan with two rooms on either side of the hall. Completing the upper level is the two-room south wing which is separated by a breezeway. The lower level, under the south wing only, is now divided between a living room and kitchen.
2. Stairways: There is one exterior stair located at the south porch. It has a steep straight run with iron railings. The interior stair is a recent addition. It is located in the southwest room of the main block. It is ell-shaped with winders at the angle of the ell. Stringers are enclosed. The stairwell is open from the top only and has a molded handrail with turned balusters around this opening.
3. Flooring: Vertical-grain, tongue-and-groove pine was used throughout. Board sizes vary between 4" and 6" and are approximately 15' in length. Flooring on the upper level is original and is in fine condition.

The lower level has a concrete floor of recent origin.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: On the upper level, interior walls are $5\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, frame covered with $\frac{3}{4}$ " pine boards. The boards are covered with wallpaper. In the main hall, there is a wooden wainscot 3'-9" high. The ceiling is finished with 7" wide tongue-and-groove pine boards.

The walls in the south wing are finished with wood-veneered paneling. The lower level has brick walls and pine paneling of comparatively recent date. The ceiling is wood accented by exposed beams.

5. Doors: Interior doors are 3'-0" x 7'-0", 1-3/8" thick, four-panel with three-light transoms and wooden thresholds, 3/4" x 7".

Doors on the lower level are constructed from 3/4" boards.

6. Trim: The cove is identical to the cornice crown-molding. The base is plain, 8" high and has a quarter-round shoe molding. Door and window casing is 1" x 7" with a 3/4" molded edge. The head casing over the transoms is 2" thick and tapered from an 8" height at the center, on the hall side of the walls only.
7. Hardware: Iron latch hardware with rim locks on the exterior and throughout the interior. The latch sets have porcelain knobs.
8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Lighting: Modern electrical fixtures.

- b. Heating: In the main section of the house, there is a fireplace in each room except the hall. Fireplaces are back-to-back and have wooden mantles and trim. Gas heaters have been installed in the hearths of these fireplaces.

On the lower level, there is one large fireplace of recent date.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The front door faces northwest.

The site slopes down to the south making ground level access to both the upper and lower floors possible.

Several large trees form prominent landscape features.

The driveway, to the east of the house, the patio and walkway from the driveway are all brick. On the north, there is a concrete walk.

2. Outbuildings: The farm buildings are all located away from the house and cannot readily be seen.

Prepared by Willard B. Robinson, AIA
Supervisory Architect
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 which 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 Bob J. Fong of the University of Idaho, David L. Bouse of the University of Nebraska, 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.