PEALE PLANTATION HOUSE
Cameron vicinity
Milam County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3495

HABS
TEX
166-CAM.
1-

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

HABS
TEX
166-CAM.V,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PEALE PLANTATION HOUSE

HABS No. TX-3495

Location: The Peale Plantation House is in the vicinity of Port Sullivan, now Cameron, in Milam County, Texas. No street address or specifics are 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 Augustus Sullivan established a trading post at a crossroads. On the frontier of settlement, this post was called Fort Sullivan and served as a point of defense. Adjacent to this nucleus 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 prospered as Southern cotton-plantation culture flourished in the Brazos Valley in the interval between Annexation (1845) and Secession (1861). The ante-bellum years were a period of great building activity. After the Civil War the resumption of railroad construction and the expansion of a pattern of new and existing lines precipitated the rapid decline of Port Sullivan. The Methodist College for Women closed in 1877. In 1940 Port Sullivan had a population of twenty.

Date: This house was built about 1857.

Description: The Peale Plantation house is a good example of the type of dwelling commonly called the raised cottage; that is, the house is symmetrical in composition with a hipped roof (ridge parallel to the front wall) and a veranda, usually called a gallery, extending the full breadth of the main block. (The term cottage is somewhat misleading, for houses of this type attained impressive dimensions, especially in the late 1850s). It has box columns across the front and large windows. The openings are fitted with six-over-six lights in double-hung sash. The panes of glass being larger than usual and so indicate a date late in the 1850s, as does the four-panel front door with the two upper panels arched at the top. Lacking decoration or fine detail, the house is notable for its roominess. Such a building could be termed country classic. The roof, doubtless originally shingled, had been covered with corrugated metal. The underpinnings are brick piers.

Occupants & Condition: Occupied by Negro tenants, the house was in fairly sound, though neglected, condition in 1942 when it was measured and drawn by Ernest A. Connally.

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:
PEALE PLANTATION HOUSE
Cameron vicinity
Milam County
Texas

HABS TX-3495
HABS TEX,166-CAM.V,1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

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Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PEALE PLANTATION 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.