

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form****1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Eisenhower Birthplace

Other name/site number: Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**2. Location**

Street &amp; number: 720 S. Lamar

City or town: Denison

State: Texas

County: Grayson

Not for publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this

☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:

☐ national ☒ statewide ☐ localApplicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official / Title State Historic Preservation Officer\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register☐ determined eligible for the National Register☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.☐ removed from the National Register☐ other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

### Category of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions:** DOMESTIC/single dwelling/house

**Current Functions:** RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Carpenter Gothic

**Principal Exterior Materials:** WOOD/weatherboard

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7 through 9)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** C (birthplace)

**Areas of Significance:** Conservation

**Period of Significance:** 1942-1958

**Significant Dates:** 1942, 1944, 1946, 1953, 1958

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): NA

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): NA

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 10 through 18)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheets 19 through 22)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office (Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site, Denison; *Texas Historical Commission*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): NA

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** Approximately 0.35 acres

### Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 33.748414° Longitude: -96.533738°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The nominated property is a portion of the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site on Block 7 (blocks 9 and 10) of the J P Dumas Addition, Denison, Texas. The boundary of the nominated property is drawn to include the house and its immediate surroundings within a fenced area, including the fence, and is bounded by Day Street to the south, Lamar Street to the west, a line drawn five feet north of, and parallel to, the north fence line extending west to Lamar Street, and a line drawn five feet east from, and parallel to, the east fence line extending south to Day Street.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary includes the property most closely associated with the house during the 1942-1958 period of significance, and includes the house and one outbuilding. Adjacent property that is now part of the State Historic Site was purchased for the purpose of creating a park during the period of significance, but does not retain sufficient integrity to merit inclusion in this nomination.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Kristen Brown and Anna Mod, SCWA, and Gregory Smith, THC National Register Coordinator  
Organization: SWCA Environmental Consultants  
Address: 4407 Monterey Oaks Blvd., Building 1, Suite 110  
City or Town: Austin State: Texas Zip Code: 78749  
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Date: September 25, 2015

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheet 23 through 25)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets 26 through 42)

**Photographs** (see continuation sheet 5-6, and 43 through 57)



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**Photographs**

Eisenhower Birthplace  
Denison, Grayson County, Texas  
Photographed by Kristen Brown for SWCA Environmental Consultants  
October 2014

Photograph Number 1:  
West (front) façade; view east

Photograph Number 2:  
West (front) and south elevations, oblique, with interpretive  
rail road track; view northeast

Photograph Number 3:  
North and west (front) elevations, oblique; view southeast

Photograph Number 4:  
North elevation and profile of west (front) porch; view south

Photograph Number 5:  
East (rear) elevation of rear ell, and north elevation; view  
southwest

Photograph Number 6:  
East (rear) elevation of rear ell, profile of southern porch of  
rear ell; view west

Photograph Number 7:  
South elevation (gable end) and east elevations of main  
house, south and east elevations of rear ell; view northwest

Photograph Number 8:  
South elevation (gable end) of main house, south elevation  
of rear ell; view south

Photograph Number 9:  
Entry door of west façade; view east

Photograph Number 10:  
Detail of two of the three roof gables on the west façade:  
window on left and door on right; view east

Photograph Number 11:  
South downstairs room, bedroom where Eisenhower was  
born; view southeast

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Photograph Number 12:

South downstairs room, bedroom where Eisenhower was born; view east

Photograph Number 13:

Interior, first floor, view from rear ell toward front of house; view west

Photograph Number 14:

Dining room; view northeast

Photograph Number 15:

South elevation of non-contributing outbuilding; view north

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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## **Narrative Description**

The Eisenhower Birthplace at 720 S. Lamar Avenue in Denison, Texas, is a Carpenter Gothic house which was built circa 1877 and occupied by the Eisenhower family from 1888 to 1892. The one-and-a-half-story L-plan frame dwelling features a full-façade porch, and three projecting cross-gables on the front elevation. Situated on a corner lot with mature trees and a non-historic outbuilding, the nominated 0.35 acre property is part of the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site, owned by the State of Texas and managed by the Texas Historical Commission. The house is in excellent condition and retains a good degree of integrity.

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### *Location and Setting*

The Eisenhower Birthplace is located in central Denison, Texas, in a former residential neighborhood containing numerous houses from the late 1800s and early 1900s. The house is less than half a mile southeast of downtown Denison, on the other side of a wide swath of train tracks that divides the neighborhood from the central business district. The house sits at the northeast corner of South Lamar Avenue and East Day Street on a quarter-acre lot that is part of the 8-acre Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site. The house faces west toward Lamar and is situated within a 0.23-acre yard. At the yard's southwest corner, South Lamar curves to the east and becomes East Day Street. Across from this curve is a railroad bed that runs past the house on a northwest/southeast axis. The tracks are no longer extant but a short section of old track has been set up as an interpretive tool. Approximately 100 feet north of the house is a statue of Eisenhower by sculptor Robert Dean. North and northwest of the house along South Lamar are the other components of the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site, including a historic house used as a visitor's center, a historic store used as meeting space, a non-historic picnic pavilion, parking lots, wide grassy lawns, and numerous oak, elm, and hackberry trees. The street was originally lined with other residences. The nominated property includes the house and the immediate surroundings that were historically associated with the building.

### *Description*

The Eisenhower Birthplace is a one-and-a-half-story five-by-one bay Carpenter Gothic Style house with a rear ell, set near the center of a grassy fenced yard. The house faces west toward South Lamar Avenue. In the northeast corner of the yard is a small non-historic outbuilding (currently visitor restrooms) whose footprint corresponds to a historic outbuilding depicted on the 1930 Sanborn map. Near the outbuilding is a vegetable garden. A large post oak tree shades the southeast corner of the house, and a big hackberry tree is located near the house's north elevation. Box hedges line the front porch, and smaller bushes and flowers are found near the house foundations and along the fence line at the front of the property. A non-historic rail fence surrounds the yard and has flat boards in an X-brace pattern between square posts; the rails and posts are topped with horizontal trim pieces. The fence is in poor condition and is scheduled to be replaced by a period-appropriate picket fence. An opening in the fence along the front (west) edge of the yard provides access to a concrete walkway that leads to the steps of the house's front porch and continues around the entire house. A Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) plaque is affixed to the left side of the fence opening. A second, larger fence opening on the south side provides access to a non-historic wheelchair ramp that leads to the house's south side porch. A wedge-shaped concrete marker placed at the house's southwest corner has a bronze plaque commemorating the Eisenhower Birthplace Foundation's gift of the house to the people of Texas.

The house has an L-plan with steeply-pitched, intersecting gabled roofs clad in wood shingles. The roof has a slight overhang and an enclosed soffit. Flat fascia boards are located in all gable ends just underneath the raking cornices. The main, front volume is one and a half stories in height and has a side-gabled roof and a rear one-story ell that extends perpendicularly from its northeast corner. The house is wood-framed with beveled wood siding, wood corner boards, and sits on a pier and beam foundation. The foundation level is enclosed with solid skirting material punctuated by small vents. Most of the house's windows are tall 2/2 wood windows with double hung sash, and all windows openings are

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trimmed in flat wood pieces with an extra cornice-like projection on the head casings. The house has three internal brick chimneys; two located near the center of the front house, and one near the center of the rear ell.

The symmetrical front facade measures approximately 32 feet across and has a full-width porch and a central entry. The single entry door has two panels in its lower portion, two vertical lights in its upper portion, with a two-light transom. The door has flat wood trim and has a handle and lock with heart-shaped escutcheon plates. On either side of the entry are two tall 2/2-light windows. The porch has two broad wood steps, wood decking, and a beadboard ceiling. It also has unadorned square wood posts and a simple balustrade with square wood balusters. Along the upper edge of the porch is a simple cornice, and atop that is a second short balustrade that encircles the edge of the porch roof to create an upper balcony. The roofline has three large, forward-facing steep gables. The center gable has a single door that leads onto the upper balcony. The door has two lower panels with four lights above. The two flanking gables each contain a single tall window.

The north elevation is composed of the gable-end and the three bay rear ell. The front volume is approximately 16 feet wide with a single window in the center of each floor. The rear ell is set back slightly from the front house volume and extends east for approximately 26 feet. The ell's north elevation has a single entry door with two lower panels and four light upper, a set of wooden stairs, and two, 2/2 light windows. The gabled east elevation of the ell has a grouped pair of short, 2/2 light windows and a single door. The door type is the same lower two paneled with four light upper as seen elsewhere on the house. There is a modest landing and railing and a small set of steps that falls to the north. The south elevation of the ell is set back over sixteen feet and has a six foot deep, shed-roofed porch along its entire length. The porch has square wood posts, a wood floor, and no balustrade. A long non-historic ADA ramp is set perpendicular to the porch. The south elevation of the ell, under the porch, has one 2/2 light window flanked by two single entry doors, each of which has two lower panels and four upper lights.

A third, fully-paneled door is located under the porch of the ell on the east (rear) elevation of the front building volume. The east elevation of the front volume also has a tall window near the south end of its first floor, and two smaller 2/2 windows upstairs, one at either end of its length. The single bay south elevation of the main volume is a mirror image of the north gable end.

The interior of the house has a simple arrangement. The front door opens into a small entry hall. Along the north side of the hall is an under-stair storage area. There is a single door to the rear porch on the east end of the hall. The hall is flanked by rooms of equal size accessed by single openings near the front door. The south room functioned as a bedroom, and is the room in which Eisenhower was born. The north room was the parlor. Both rooms would have historically had wood stoves, but today only the living room contains a period stove (not original to the house). A paneled door in the rear wall of the parlor leads into the ell, which contains a dining room and kitchen arranged shotgun-style. The kitchen contains a large cast-iron stove (also period, but not original to the house). In the dining room, a narrow, single run set of stairs ascends to the upper-floor landing of the front building volume. The plan here mirrors that found downstairs, with two rooms of equal size located on either side of the central landing. The rooms, which are smaller due to the encroaching, angled walls of the roof gable, historically served as bedrooms. The floors throughout the interior of the house are stained pine. Simple floorboards are located along each wall and the door and window openings are trimmed with flat wood pieces.

#### *Ticket Booth*

In the northeast corner of the yard is an outbuilding whose footprint measures approximately 25 by 10 feet. The building was built in 1957 to serve as a ticket booth and public restrooms and is wood-framed with board and batten siding, and a shed roof with exposed rafter tails. Its south elevation has an inset porch that shelters doors that lead to its interior rooms, which are now used solely as storage space.

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*Integrity*

In 1957 the house underwent extensive restoration.<sup>1</sup> The exterior siding was replaced, the 4/1 windows present during the 1940s and 1950s were replaced with 2/2 windows, and interior plaster walls were replaced with gypsum board. The front porch and upper balcony was rebuilt and a door reintroduced into the central upper floor gable to more closely align with recollections of its historic appearance. War Department photographs from 1944 show the house with a shed-roofed porch with square posts and a solid framed wall instead of a balustrade. The written recollections of Mrs. Jake C. (Montie) Martin, who lived in the house as a child, state “The upper story was not as it is in the [1944 War Department] picture. The middle gable had a door leading out onto the up-stairs porch. It had railings around it and I’d say like a fence.”<sup>2</sup> The current porch configuration, with its roof doubling as a second-floor balcony, is therefore a more historically accurate interpretation.

The 1944 photographs also show a narrow addition along the north side of the rear ell. Architectural drawings completed in 1955 (drawn by Frank H. Sherwood of Joseph R. Pelich, Architect) show the addition contained two narrow rooms. Mrs. Martin, however, states “I have not forgotten how the side of the dining room and kitchen looked, so I know there were no small long rooms on the side of them on the north.”<sup>3</sup> This is confirmed by the 1903 Sanborn map, which shows no such addition on the house’s north side. The addition was removed during the house’s restoration.

The set of existing-condition architectural drawings from 1955 show the staircase beginning in the entry hall and ascending upward from the western end of the hall. However, it is believed that the stairs originally began in the kitchen (located to the west of the hall) and ascended upward in an easterly direction as they do now. This substantiated by a small anomaly in the roof configuration where the ell meets the main house volume. Above the rear porch, at the place where those two building volumes connect, is a small section of roof that is angled differently than the surrounding roof plane of the ell. The angle and location of this section perfectly aligns with the interior headroom space of the stair if it began in the kitchen (the current configuration). Furthermore, the small anomalous section of roof is visible in a 1944 War Department photograph of the house, so it was there before the 1955 architectural drawings. Because of this, it is believed that the current staircase configuration is historically accurate.

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<sup>1</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, Timeline of events, notes, and photograph, Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site vertical files.

<sup>2</sup> Personal correspondence, Mrs. Jake C. Martin to Mr. Fred Coner, December 27, 1954.

<sup>3</sup> Personal correspondence, Mrs. Jake C. Martin to Mr. Fred Coner, January 4, 1955.

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## Statement of Significance

The Eisenhower Birthplace at 720 South Lamar Street in Denison, Texas, is the house in which Dwight D. Eisenhower was born in 1890. In 1942, General Eisenhower first became a national figure for his role as Commander of U.S. forces in Europe, spurring Denison residents to identify the precise location of his birth. Local citizens, most notably members of women's groups including the Denison Garden Club, and Gold Star Mothers, soon began efforts to preserve the home as a historic site. The City of Denison purchased the property in 1945, and efforts to furnish, beautify, and interpret the significance of the house were underway when Eisenhower visited the property in 1946. Public interest in the birthplace surged upon Eisenhower's election as President in 1952, and in 1953 a statewide foundation formed to raise funds for the building's restoration, and the transformation of the surrounding residential neighborhood into a park. In 1955, the city deeded the property to the Eisenhower Birthplace Foundation, which completed restoration and transferred the property to the State Parks Board in 1958. Today the birthplace is part of the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site, operated and maintained by the Texas Historical Commission. The property is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A, in the area of Conservation, at the state level of significance in recognition of the successful efforts led by the citizens of Denison to purchase and restore the house, establish a museum, and host President Eisenhower during his visits to the place he was born. The period of significance is 1942 to 1958. The property meets Criteria Consideration C (Birthplace) because it derives its primary significance for its later discovery, preservation, and transformation into a state-owned historic site.

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### *The Katy Railroad and Denison, Texas*

After the Civil War, the American railroad system began a tremendous expansion in the western United States. In 1865, the State of Kansas chartered the Union Pacific Railway Company, Southern Branch, to begin a line southward from Fort Riley, to the state's southern boundary with the Indian Territory (later, Oklahoma). The federal government promised land grants to the first railroad company to reach the Territory, and exclusive rights to build there.<sup>4</sup> Renamed the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway (also known as the "Katy") in 1870, the railroad line reached Denison in 1872. The new town site, named in honor of the railroad's Vice president George Denison, was surrounded by rich and productive agricultural land. In March 1873, Denison became the location of the rail link between the Katy and the Houston and Texas Central railroad line, which was built northward from the Gulf Coast.<sup>5</sup> Denison's population grew rapidly as men flocked to the new town for work, while bars, canteens, and new houses were quickly built for the workers in the vicinity of the railroad lines.<sup>6</sup>

### *The Eisenhower Family in Denison, 1888-1892*

President Eisenhower's father David J. moved to Denison from Hope, Kansas, to begin work as a railroad wiper for the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad in 1888.<sup>7</sup> The job involved long shifts cleaning train engines as they sat in the roundhouse for repairs. The work was hot, sooty and exhausting and paid about \$40.00 per month. His wife Ida (Stover) and young sons Arthur and Edgar joined him in 1889. The family rented the one-and-a-half story house on South Lamar because of its proximity to the railroad roundhouse where David worked. A track located a mere 60 feet from the house served 15-20 trains a day on their way to and from the rail yard.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, "Katy Railroad/Researched Material," Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site vertical files.

<sup>5</sup> Red River Railroad Museum, home page, accessed February 25, 2015, [www.redriverrailmuseum.org](http://www.redriverrailmuseum.org).

<sup>6</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, "Katy Railroad/Researched Material."

<sup>7</sup> "Brief History," Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site website, accessed February 25, 2015, <http://www.visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com/index.aspx?page=449>.

<sup>8</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, "Narrative – April 20, 1946 Anniversary Tour," Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site vertical files.

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Dwight D. Eisenhower was born on October 14, 1890, in the first-floor bedroom at the house's southwest corner.<sup>9</sup> James Redmon, a railroad engineer who rented a room in the house's upper floor at the time recounted the story years later:

Several women had gathered in to do what they could as they did in those days. [...] I was the only available man on the place with the exception of the husband, and so I hustled out of my apartment and went for the physician. [...] It was a cold night in October, the fourteenth, when the birth took place. He was the only baby in the locality for a while and many of the neighbors came in and nursed the little fellow and kept 'company' for Mrs. Eisenhower.<sup>10</sup>

Initially Eisenhower was named David Dwight, but his mother reversed his name to Dwight David in order to avoid confusion with his father and another David in the family.<sup>11</sup> Numerous sources identify his nickname "Ike" as one that was applied other male family members at various times.

*Life after Denison*

David Eisenhower secured a better job at the Belle Springs Creamery in Abilene, Kansas, and the family moved there in 1892 when Dwight was 18 months old. During his years in Abilene, Dwight excelled at sports, particularly in baseball and football. He also tried boxing and went fishing, hunting, and camping. He was an avid reader, and had a great interest in history; in fact, he spent so much time studying the past that he often neglected his chores and his mother once removed his history books as punishment. High school classmates predicted that he would become a professor of history at Yale. Interestingly, they predicted that his brother Edgar would become President.<sup>12</sup>

After he graduated from high school in 1909, Dwight worked alongside his father and uncle at the creamery. Dwight and his brother Edgar made a deal to take turns alternately attending school and working two years to pay the other's tuition since family funds were not available. In 1911, however, Dwight received a tuition-free appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.<sup>13</sup> Dwight was a popular student at West Point, but not overly-dedicated. He had a promising career playing football, but incurred several knee injuries and was forced to stop playing. He coached the freshman team instead. One superior predicted Dwight's future when he proclaimed him "born to command." A different officer indicated he should receive his first assignment upon graduation under a strict disciplinarian. Eisenhower graduated from West Point in 1915, commissioned as a second lieutenant.<sup>14</sup>

*Eisenhower's Military Career*

Following graduation from West Point, Eisenhower spent the summer of 1915 at home in Abilene while he waited for orders to his first military post.<sup>15</sup> He was assigned to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio in September of that year.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> History Behind the Scenes, *Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site Interpretive and Architectural Master Plan*. Philadelphia, PA, 2012: pg. 2-5.

<sup>10</sup> Miller, Francis T. *Eisenhower, Man and Soldier*. Philadelphia: John Weston Co., 1944: 49-50.

<sup>11</sup> Ambrose, Stephen E. *Eisenhower: Soldier, General of the Army, President-Elect, 1890-1952*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1983: 18.

<sup>12</sup> "Abilene Years: 1892 to 1911; 1913; 1915; 1969," Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home website, accessed February 25, 2015, [http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/all\\_about\\_ike/abilene\\_years.html](http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/all_about_ike/abilene_years.html).

<sup>13</sup> Eisenhower, John S.D., "EISENHOWER, DWIGHT DAVID," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fei01>), accessed February 25, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> "Abilene Years: 1892 to 1911; 1913; 1915; 1969," Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home website.

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While in San Antonio, Dwight met and fell in love with Mamie Geneva Doud of Boone, Iowa, who had been staying at the family's winter home in Texas after her education at finishing school.<sup>17</sup> They married on July 1, 1916 (the same day he was promoted to first lieutenant)<sup>18</sup> and later had two sons, Doud Dwight (1917-1922) and John Sheldon Doud (1922-2013).<sup>19</sup> Ike's early years in the military included participation in the 1919 Transcontinental Motor Convoy, the Tank Corps, coaching football, and training recruits for World War I.<sup>20</sup> He served in Panama from 1922-1924, and later entered the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, graduating first in the 1926 class of 245 officers. In the late 1920s, he served as executive officer of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He also served in Washington, D.C., graduated from Army War College in Washington, D.C., in 1928. In the 1930s he served as executive officer to General George V. Moseley, Assistant Secretary of War, and as chief military aide to Douglas MacArthur, Army Chief of Staff. Eisenhower was an assistant military advisor to General Douglas MacArthur in the Philippines, helping MacArthur and staff to develop a Filipino Army. During this time he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Eisenhower returned to the U.S. in 1940 and served as Chief of Staff for various Generals in 1941. He was promoted to Colonel on March 11, 1941, and to Brigadier General on September 29, 1941.<sup>21</sup>

In 1941, following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Eisenhower was called to the War Department and placed in charge of plans for the war in the Pacific. He was promoted to chief of the War Plans Division shortly thereafter, and received his second general's star. In 1942, Army Chief of Staff General George Marshall sent Eisenhower to England as the Commanding General, U.S. Army, European Theater. His initial mission was to build cooperation among the Allies, but he would soon do much more.<sup>22</sup> Eisenhower rose through the ranks quickly, became a Lieutenant General in July 1942, a General in February 1943, and a Brigadier General and Major General on the same date in August 1943.<sup>23</sup> Only months later, he became supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, he led Allied Forces in the invasion of Normandy. He received his fifth General's star in December of that year. After the war, Eisenhower remained in the U.S. Army, serving as Chief of Staff, from November 1945 until February 1948. He resigned to serve as the president of Columbia University.<sup>24</sup> In 1950, Eisenhower once again joined the military at the request of President Truman to command the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.<sup>25</sup> While working with NATO in Paris, emissaries there encouraged him to run for U.S. President.<sup>26</sup>

*President Eisenhower*

Eisenhower announced his candidacy for the Republican Party nomination in Abilene, Kansas, on June 4, 1952, and campaigned under the slogan "I Like Ike."<sup>27</sup> He won the nomination over Ohio Senator Robert Taft at the Republican National Convention the following month, and was elected with 55% of the popular vote and 83% of the electoral vote in November 1952. Eisenhower entered the presidency as a well-regarded American military hero, and utilized an executive management style that often kept him above the political fray by working behind-the-scenes with a team of close

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<sup>16</sup> Eisenhower, John S.D., "EISENHOWER, DWIGHT DAVID," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

<sup>17</sup> "Mamie Eisenhower," <http://www.biography.com/people/mamie-eisenhower-9285497>, accessed February 25, 2015.

<sup>18</sup> "Dwight D. Eisenhower," <http://www.biography.com/people/dwight-d-eisenhower-9285482>.

<sup>19</sup> "Mamie Eisenhower," <http://www.biography.com/people/mamie-eisenhower-9285497>.

<sup>20</sup> "Army Years," Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home website, accessed February 25, 2015, [http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/all\\_about\\_ike/army\\_years.html](http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/all_about_ike/army_years.html).

<sup>21</sup> "Dwight David Eisenhower Chronology," Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home website, accessed February 25, 2015, [http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/all\\_about\\_ike/chronologies.html#dde](http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/all_about_ike/chronologies.html#dde).

<sup>22</sup> "Army Years," Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home website.

<sup>23</sup> "Dwight David Eisenhower Chronology," Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home website.

<sup>24</sup> "Army Years," Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home website.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> "Dwight D. Eisenhower," <http://www.biography.com/people/dwight-d-eisenhower-9285482>.

<sup>27</sup> "Dwight David Eisenhower Chronology," Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home website.



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advisors. Presidential decisions were often policy-driven, rather than political in nature. During his two terms in office, Eisenhower brought about a truce in Korea and worked to ease Cold War tensions. Eisenhower also continued most of the remaining New Deal and Fair Deal programs during his presidency. Eisenhower was instrumental in the desegregation of schools when he sent troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, to uphold the orders of a Federal court. He recommended desegregation of the armed forces and promoted a bill providing voting registration protection. In 1957 he signed the Civil Rights Act and set up a permanent Civil Rights Commission. He supported the creation of the Interstate Highway System in 1956 and signed the bill to form the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).<sup>28</sup>

In January 1961, Eisenhower retired to his farm in Gettysburg with Mamie.<sup>29</sup> At his retirement, he spoke about the need to maintain adequate military strength while cautioning against vast expenditures of the “Military-Industrial Complex.” His commission as General, resigned during his presidency, was reactivated and he maintained an office at Gettysburg College.<sup>30</sup> Eisenhower died at age 78 from a heart-related illness at Walter Reed Army Hospital on March 28, 1969. A full military funeral was held in Abilene, Kansas.<sup>31</sup>

*Wartime Interest in Eisenhower’s Texas Roots*

Eisenhower’s wartime accomplishments in the early 1940s raised public interest in his personal background. Reporters investigating his story found conflicting information about where he was born. The War Department had his birthplace listed as Tyler, Texas, while records at West Point listed Denison. In 1942, General Eisenhower first became a national figure for his role as Commander of U.S. forces in Europe, spurring Denison residents to identify the precise location of his birth. Jennie Jackson, the principal of Lamar Elementary School, recalled that an Eisenhower family once lived in Denison, and asked the General’s mother, Ida, about his birthplace. Ida confirmed that he was born in a two-story house at the corner of Lamar and Day streets.<sup>32</sup> By 1942, the issue of his birthplace was publicly settled, evidenced by an article in the *Dallas Morning News* published on June 27, followed by a brief biographical sketch of Eisenhower in the *New York Times* noting that he had been born in Denison.<sup>33</sup>

As the general’s public stature grew during the war and afterwards, Eisenhower found himself having to distinguish between his birthplace in Denison and what he considered to be his home town of Abilene, Kansas. Texans were all-too-ready to claim the national hero as a native son. In 1944, a *Dallas Morning News* editorial proudly proclaimed “He is Texas-Born” in response to an unnamed broadcaster’s reference to Eisenhower’s birthplace as *Kansas*:

Even a featured newscaster on a nation-wide hookup pulls a boner occasionally. One of the topnotchers recently referred to the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in Europe as “the Kansas-born General.” For many of his hearers, this was gross misinformation. Eisenhower grew up in Kansas. He claims the state as his home, and Kansas claims him. The claims are valid and all dependable records reveal that Kansas Ike was born in Texas, with Denison accorded the distinction of having been his birthplace. The matter isn’t so important, yet it is always important to correct erroneous statements.

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<sup>28</sup> “Dwight D. Eisenhower,” <http://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/presidents/dwightdeisenhower>. Accessed February 25, 2015.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> “Dwight D. Eisenhower,” <http://www.biography.com/people/dwight-d-eisenhower-9285482>.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Park Management Plan (draft, 1993): 8. When Eisenhower was born, Jennie Jackson visited the home and held the infant, an event that became one her defining moments by the time of her death in 1948. “First Person to Hold Ike in Arms Dies,” *Dallas Morning News*, August 29, 1948.

<sup>33</sup> “Generals Well Known to Texas Direct Second-Front Strategy,” *Dallas Morning News*, June 27, 1942. “Other Fronts,” *New York Times*, July 12, 1942 (ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times pg. E1). As late as 1956, the question of his birth location surfaced again when four Texas cities (Denison, Tyler, Commerce, and Bug Tussle) all claimed the President had been born there. An article in the *New York Times* in 1956 once again awarded the birthplace to Denison.

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Texas shouldn't be deprived of its claim by any man's lapse of memory or slip of the tongue. General Eisenhower is one but of many great soldiers this state has mothered, but he is a native son to whom we point with greatest pride. He must have enough Texas in his blood to have been thrilled by the fighting spirit of the sons of Texas on many fields of combat.<sup>34</sup>

In 1956, *Dallas Morning News* columnist Frank X. Tolbert recalled an answer that Eisenhower once gave to a question regarding his identity as a Texas native: "He replied that he could be called a Texan if a kitten born in an oven could be called a biscuit. He softened this somewhat, though, with a closing remark: 'I am very proud to have been born in Texas.'"<sup>35</sup>

*History of the Birthplace House, c.1876-1946*

The Eisenhower Birthplace is located on Block 7, Lots 9 and 10 in Denison's Dumas Addition, an early addition southeast of downtown that James P. Dumas platted in 1872. The first owner of the lots was W.H.H. Schuck (also spelled Shuck), who purchased them from Mrs. Dumas in 1876 for \$40 each.<sup>36</sup> William Henry Harrison Schuck was a Civil War veteran from Iowa who moved to Denison in 1876 and worked as an engineer at the Lone Star Mill.<sup>37</sup> The next year, in 1877, tax records show that the value of the property jumped significantly to \$450, which indicates that construction of the house was completed or near completion that year. Although the lots in the Dumas Addition were oriented vertically north to south, Mr. Schuck placed the house facing west toward Lamar Avenue instead of south toward Day Street. In 1877 he also purchased the two additional lots to the east in order to give the house a larger backyard.<sup>38</sup>

Records indicate that Mr. Schuck and his family lived several blocks away on Crawford Street, so the house at Lamar and Day was likely a rental property. In 1880 Mr. Schuck sold the house and its four lots to Mrs. Evaline Welker for \$650. The Welkers then sold the house and lots to Mrs. Frances Lindsay in 1883. When Mrs. Lindsay died the following year, her heirs maintained ownership of the house and lots for three more years. They sold it to Mr. A.B. Person, a Denison lawyer, in 1887 for \$1,250. Mr. Person rented the property to the Eisenhower family in 1889. The property changed hands again in 1891 when Dr. W.S. Savage purchased the house and its two original lots. He continued renting it to the Eisenhowers until they moved back to Kansas in the spring of 1892. After Dr. Savage died, his heirs sold the house to B.W. Merrill in 1898.<sup>39</sup>

The house operated as a rental property until approximately 1915. From 1889 to 1899, just after B.W. Merrill purchased the property, W.M. and Arrahneil Desmukes were living in the house.<sup>40</sup> There are no tenancy records for the early 1900s. In 1906, the executors of Merrill's estate sold the house and its two lots to W.C. Green for \$1,450.<sup>41</sup> Records show that a Hunter Davidson and his wife Virgie were living at 201 East Day Street in 1910, the same year that W.C. Green sold the house to T.J. Mayfield. In 1912, Mayfield sold it to F.M. Wood, and city directories indicate that a Dossy Vick resided in the house in 1913.<sup>42</sup> It is not known exactly when the Mullen family purchased the home. City directory information

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<sup>34</sup> "He is Texas-Born," *Dallas Morning News*, May 25, 1944, p. 2.

<sup>35</sup> "Ike Says, Firmly, That It's Denison," *Dallas Morning News*, September 11, 1956.

<sup>36</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, "Documentary Citations on the Ownership of the Home at Day and Lamar in which Dwight D. Eisenhower was Born," June 2, 2012. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site vertical files.

<sup>37</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, "Fact Sheet: W.H.H. Schuck/W.H.H. Shuck/William Henry Harrison Schuck," n.d. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site vertical files.

<sup>38</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, "Documentary Citations on the Ownership."

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, city directory research, Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site vertical files.

<sup>41</sup> John Akers, "RE: another question - ownership," e-mail message to Kristen Brown, February 18, 2015.

<sup>42</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, city directory research. Also, John Akers, "RE: another question - ownership," e-mail message.

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shows that Mrs. F.A. Mullen was living there in 1915, so the sale likely occurred in 1914 or 1915.<sup>43</sup> The Mullen family owned the house and lived in it for over three decades. Mrs. F.A. Mullen remarried and took the name Wertz, while her son kept the name Mullen, so directories show various Mullen and Wertz names residing in the house.<sup>44</sup> They would live there until 1946.

*Efforts to Preserve the Birthplace*

In the early 1940s, local citizens--most notably members of the Denison Garden Club--began efforts to preserve the home as a historic site. In 1944, a committee of the club began work to secure the birthplace.<sup>45</sup> Miss Jennie Jackson, a retired Denison school teacher and principal who lived across the street from the Eisenhower family in 1890, led the committee to establish what the *Dallas Morning News* termed an "Eisenhower shrine."<sup>46</sup> In June 1945, after the victory of U.S. forces in Europe (but before Japanese surrender), Denison Mayor W.L. Ashburn led a delegation of citizens to meet with General Eisenhower in Abilene, Kansas, to invite him to visit his birthplace.<sup>47</sup>

A committee composed of Fred Conn, E.J. Lilley, and Mayor W.L. Ashburn worked on behalf of the city to purchase the home from E.H. Mullen, with the intention of landscaping the grounds but not changing the house's design.<sup>48</sup> A call went out to the citizens of Denison to donate c.1890 furniture for display in the birthplace house.<sup>49</sup> On January 21, 1946, the City of Denison acquired the property.<sup>50</sup> Efforts to furnish, beautify, and interpret the significance of the house (led by Mrs. Monte B. Jones) were underway when Eisenhower visited the property the following year.<sup>51</sup> In December 1945, Speaker of the House (and resident of nearby Bonham) Sam Rayburn indicated that he would accompany Eisenhower to Denison the following April.<sup>52</sup> Accompanied by Rayburn and seven additional congressmen, Eisenhower came to Denison on the morning of April 20, 1946, and visited the birthplace. Guest of honor Jennie Jackson waited in the hallway and greeted the general:

There he stepped inside the door to find Miss Jennie Jackson with her arms outstretched. 'So this is Miss Jennie,' the Army Chief of Staff [Eisenhower] said. 'It's certainly nice to see you.' 'It's nice to see you too, Dwight,' Miss Jackson answered. Then the General gave her a big hug.<sup>53</sup>

Miss Jackson hosted "The Big Texas Breakfast" in the house's dining room, where Eisenhower and the other guests were served southern-style ham, eggs, biscuits and toast, flapjacks and relish, strawberries, and coffee.<sup>54</sup> Following breakfast and a parade through town, Eisenhower spoke to a crowd estimated at 10,000.<sup>55</sup> The general returned to the birthplace for

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<sup>43</sup> John Akers, "RE: another question - ownership," e-mail message.

<sup>44</sup> John Akers, "RE: another question - Mullen-Wertz, etc. - Date," e-mail message to Kristen Brown, February 18, 2015.

<sup>45</sup> John Akers, "RE: another question - Mullen-Wertz, etc.-Date," email message.

<sup>46</sup> "Denison Proposes To Name Street For Eisenhower," *Dallas Morning News*, June 6, 1944, p.4.

<sup>47</sup> "Denison Group to Ask Gen. Ike to Visit Texas," *Dallas Morning News*, June 19, 1945.

<sup>48</sup> "Denison Buys Birthplace of Eisenhower," *Dallas Morning News*, December 16, 1945.

<sup>49</sup> "Ike's Home Needs 1890 Furnishings," *Dallas Morning News*, December 25, 1945.

<sup>50</sup> John Akers, "RE: another question - Mullen-Wertz, etc.-Date," email message.

<sup>51</sup> Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Park Management Plan (draft, 1993): 8.

<sup>52</sup> "Eisenhower expected to Visit Denison," *Dallas Morning News*, December 23, 1945.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, "Dwight D. Eisenhower - A Denison Son!" Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site vertical files. Some sources reported parade attendance at 20,000. Rives, William T., "Ike Invades Place of His Birth, Surrenders to Texas Welcome," *Dallas Morning News*, April 21, 1946.

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an afternoon tour with Speaker Rayburn, members of his staff, Mayor Ashburn, and members of the Eisenhower committee who had helped organize the event.<sup>56</sup>

Beautification efforts continued through 1946, including the construction of two flagstone walks.<sup>57</sup> The house was furnished, and it soon hosted events and tours. In 1948, a Denison chapter of the Gold Star Mothers, a national organization for women who have lost a son or daughter in service to the United States, was formed, and many Denison women joined. The Denison chapter group members served as hostesses at the house and assisted with its care.<sup>58</sup> Public interest in the birthplace surged upon Eisenhower's entry into the presidential election in 1952. Eisenhower visited Denison again on June 21, 1952 on the invitation of the Gold Star Mothers while campaigning for the presidency. Again, the city organized a parade, and Eisenhower gave a speech, signed autographs, and greeted well-wishers. As the campaign continued into the fall, Mamie Eisenhower made her first visit to Denison on behalf of her husband. Accompanied by her mother, the future First Lady toured the birthplace, greeted members of the local Gold Star Mothers association, and signed the guest register.<sup>59</sup>

In December 1952, a local foundation formed to raise funds for the building's restoration, and the transformation of the surrounding residential neighborhood into a park. In January 1953, the Denison City Council officially endorsed the newly-formed Eisenhower Foundation, chaired by Fred Conn, editor of the *Denison Herald*. The first action of the committee was to "grant John Hooper of Wichita Falls the exclusive right to manufacture and sell Eisenhower birthplace souvenirs."<sup>60</sup> Meanwhile, the city continued to make improvements to the property, announcing plans to install running water in the house for the first time.<sup>61</sup> The foundation formally announced its intentions of becoming a statewide organization on Ike's birthday in October 1953:

A group of Texans announced today – President Eisenhower's birthday – that they would set up a state-wide nonprofit organization to preserve his birthplace in Denison. Fred Conn, publisher of The Denison Herald, said an application for a charter of the Eisenhower Birthplace Foundation, Inc., would be filed in Austin. Mr. Conn said the organization would put on a state-wide fund raising campaign to finance the purchase of additional ground and improvement of the birthplace as a park and tourist attraction.<sup>62</sup>

Web Maddox of Fort Worth chaired the statewide group; other noteworthy members included honorary cochairmen Sid Richardson and Amon Carter. The foundation announced its intentions for improvements to the setting, with the ultimate goal of purchasing of adjacent property and converting the immediate neighborhood into a park. The *Dallas Morning News* painted a picture of the bustling railroad-oriented neighborhood, describing how "passing autos now stir up the dust of the red clay street...switch engines clang by across the street."<sup>63</sup> In 1954, several neighboring houses were moved to other parts of Denison, and an entire city block was prepped for park development, in consultation with architects from the National Park Service and State Park Board. The house was only open to the public on Sunday afternoons, but by October 1954, more than 11,000 visitors had made their way to the site.<sup>64</sup> By early 1955, sixteen the foundation had

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<sup>56</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, "Narrative – April 20, 1946 Anniversary Tour."

<sup>57</sup> "Eisenhower Home Being Beautified," *Dallas Morning News*, November 24, 1946.

<sup>58</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace staff, Timeline of events, Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site vertical files.

<sup>59</sup> "Mamie Proves Campaigner on Visit to Ike's Birthplace," *Dallas Morning News*, October 16, 1952.

<sup>60</sup> "Denison Sets Up Ike Foundation," *Dallas Morning News*, January 4, 1953. Hooper guaranteed a share of at least \$600 in profits in the first year of the arrangement.

<sup>61</sup> "Inside Job Ordered for Ike Shrine," *Dallas Morning News*, July 5, 1953.

<sup>62</sup> Texans Honor President: Group Plans Fund to Preserve His Birthplace. *New York Times*, Oct 15, 1953, p. 30.

<sup>63</sup> "State-Wide Group Chartered to Preserve Ike Birthplace," *Dallas Morning News*, October 15, 1953.

<sup>64</sup> "Work Begins on Ike Shrine," *Dallas Morning News*, May 23, 1954. "Ike Project Land Bought at Denison," *Dallas Morning News*, September 10, 1954. "Ike's Birthplace Visited by 11,000," *Dallas Morning News*, October 18, 1954.

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acquired sixteen parcels around the house and requested that the City of Denison transfer the house to the statewide organization. The foundation's plan for the park included:

Restore house; use Jacobs Well area for parking space; Building a combination concession house, rest rooms, and keepers quarters; Beautify the entire park with native shrubbery and flowers; Provide picnic facilities; Bust of Pres. Eisenhower; raise foundation fund for endowing birthplace. Revenue to go to State Parks Board for maintenance of the park only. Tentative goal of \$150,000 to \$200,000; continued sponsorship of a local organization such as the Gold Star Mothers. This, of course, would be worked through cooperation with city council.<sup>65</sup>

*Restoration of the House by Joseph R. Pelich, Architect*

In 1954, architect Jesseph Pelich began work on restoring the house to its appearance at the time of Eisenhower's birth, a project continued by the Eisenhower Birthplace Foundation, Inc. when it took ownership in 1955. The foundation stated its intention of restoring the building and then transferring it to the state. The project scope included an assessment of the building's condition and integrity (foundation chairman Web Maddox described it as "about ready to fall down"), and appeals to members of the public to furnish information about the building as they remembered it.<sup>66</sup> One such gentleman, William Clifford Darby, reported that he was born in the house in 1882, and lived in the same neighborhood for 28 years. He recalled—in contrast to others who spoke up at the time, including Pelich—that the house was largely unchanged:

Some dude from Fort Worth was up here the other day and saying a lot of changes would have to be made when the restoration is completed...I've been looking at that house all my life. And I say that except for the paint and minor repairs it's just like it was in October 1890.<sup>67</sup>

Joseph R. Pelich (1894-1968) immigrated to the United States from Prague as a young boy at the turn of the century. The family settled in Cleveland, Ohio and he graduated from Cornell University with a degree in architecture in 1916. Following service in World War I, he settled in Ft. Worth where he practiced as an architect from 1920 and his death. He was well-versed in popular revival and early modern architectural styles and designed houses, commercial buildings, as well as public parks, schools and universities. During the Depression and World War II, Pelich joined forces with other prominent Ft. Worth architects and pursued federal public housing and military contracts. Pelich served as associate architect for Philip Johnson's Amon Carter Museum that opened in 1961 in Ft. Worth.<sup>68</sup> In 1967, Pelich became the first architect to receive the Texas Restoration Award from the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (now the Texas Historical Commission), an honor bestowed to him in recognition of his work on the Eisenhower Birthplace.<sup>69</sup>

Pelich determined that at least three additions had been made to the house, but could not determine conclusively which changes had occurred before or after the Eisenhower family's tenancy.<sup>70</sup> Pelich and his draftsman Frank H. Sherwood, produced five sheets of drawings entitled the "Existing Conditions, Birthplace of President Dwight Eisenhower." The

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<sup>65</sup> Eisenhower Birthplace Foundation report, February 1955. Cited in: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Park Management Plan (draft, 1993): 9.

<sup>66</sup> "Some Notes on Ike Birthplace," *Dallas Morning News*, April 11, 1955.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Kline, Susan Ann. National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Van Zandt Cottage, Ft. Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, 2012.

<sup>69</sup> Kline, Susan Ann. National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Van Zandt Cottage, Ft. Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, 2012.

<sup>70</sup> "'Detective' On Trail of Ike's Home," *Dallas Morning News*, December 13, 1954.

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drawings are dated May 20, 1955 and include a roof plan, first and second floor plans and exterior elevations.<sup>71</sup> Differences from these drawings and the house today indicate the removal of the narrow addition along the rear ell, the reorientation of the staircase (it now begins in the ell and traverses up in a westerly direction), the replacement of the windows from 4/1 to 2/2 wooden sash, changes to the front balustrade and porch, changes to the south and east elevations of the rear ell. Research in support of the changes included an interview with Mrs. Jake C. Martin who had lived in the house.<sup>72</sup> Work on the house and the adjoining park commenced in 1956, with local architect Donald Mayes serving as supervising architect, and Mickey Guise as contractor. The work included the removal of two shed additions on the north side, reconstruction of the front porch, application of wallpaper over new sheetrock, construction of a staircase in its original location, and installation of new wiring and a fire alarm system.<sup>73</sup> Construction was completed by October 1956, but the introduction of period furnishings continued through early 1957.

Governor Price Daniel recommended that the State Park Board acquire the homestead and park. The board voted to accept the property on August 22, 1957. Lacking the funds to operate it, members of the board suggested that admission fees should be charged to visitors, to the concern of Sid Richardson, who expressed that admission to a public shrine should be free. The transfer of the property was delayed until the following year, due in part to the receipt of letters from members of the public who objected to President Eisenhower's decision to employ the National Guard in the desegregation of the Little Rock High School in September 1957. In the spring of 1958, the foundation formally transferred the property to the State Parks Board (now Texas Parks and Wildlife). The house officially reopened to visitors in 1958 without an official ceremony. The board and the foundation agreed to a 50-cent admission fee, and by the fall of 1958, the State of Texas operated the birthplace as a state park.<sup>74</sup>

President Eisenhower made his third and final visit to the birthplace in 1965. After his death in 1969, he was buried in Abilene Kansas, near his boyhood home, which has also been open to the public as a historic site since 1946.<sup>75</sup> In 1969, a fund drive commenced for the purchase a statue of Eisenhower for the park. Sculptor Robert Dean's 9-foot-tall statue was placed on a plaza north of the house, and dedicated on July 9, 1973. In 1990, the City of Denison transferred additional property to the state. In 2008 the birthplace and park were transferred to the Texas Historical Commission, which continues to operate and maintain it today as the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site.

The Eisenhower Birthplace is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A, in the area of Conservation, at the state level of significance in recognition of the successful efforts led by the citizens of Denison and a statewide foundation to purchase and restore the house, establish a museum, and host President Eisenhower during his visits to the place he was born. The period of significance is 1942 to 1958, beginning from the building's first identification as a house associated with the early life of a nationally-significant figure, continuing through the development of the park and restoration of the house, and ending in the year when the state took ownership of the property. The property meets Criteria Consideration C (Birthplace) because it derives its primary significance for its later discovery, preservation, and transformation into a state-owned historic site.

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<sup>71</sup> Joseph R. Pelich, architectural drawings, Existing Conditions, Birthplace of President Dwight Eisenhower, courtesy Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.

<sup>72</sup> Personal correspondence, Mrs. Jake C. Martin to Mr. Fred Coner, December 27, 1954.

<sup>73</sup> Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Park Management Plan (draft, 1993): 9.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., 10.

<sup>75</sup> Like the Eisenhower Birthplace, the Eisenhower Boyhood Home in Abilene is also in its original location, but every building in the surrounding neighborhood was moved or demolished for the construction of a park. This method of isolating historic buildings and elevating them to "shrines" through the removal of the original neighborhood setting is less common today.

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Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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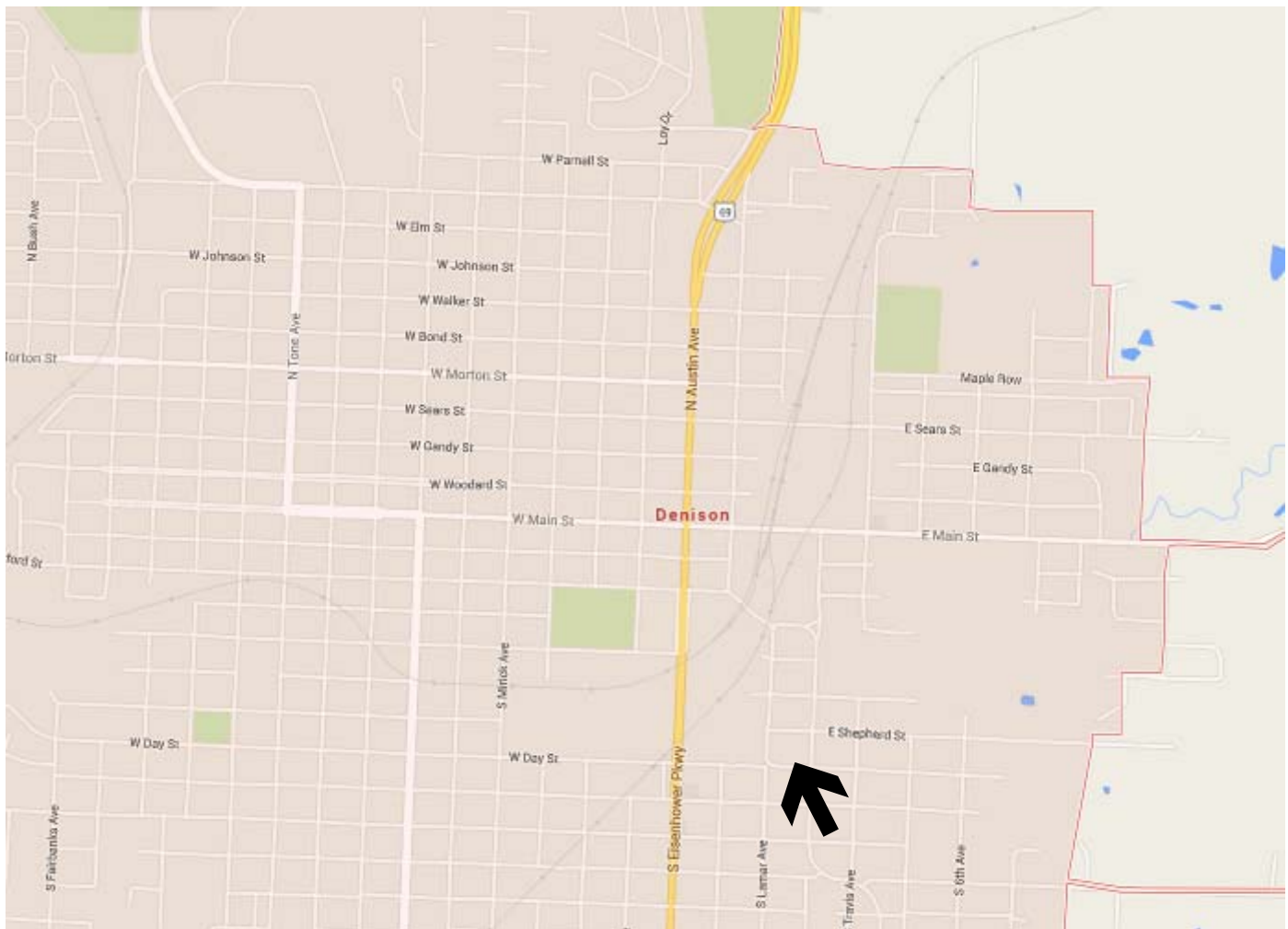
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Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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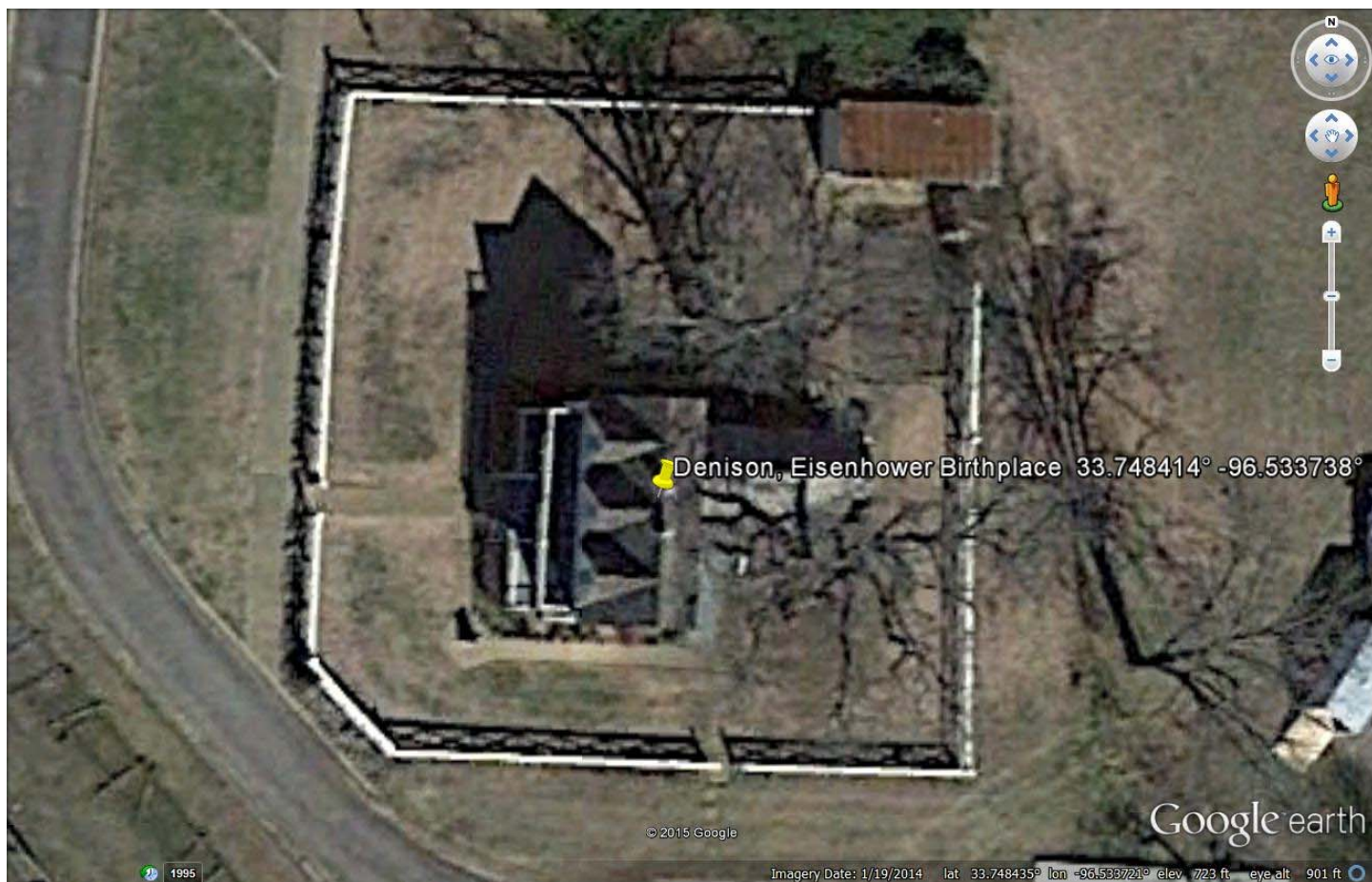
Location of nominated property indicated by arrow, southeast of downtown Denison.  
Source: Google Map, accessed November 4, 2015.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

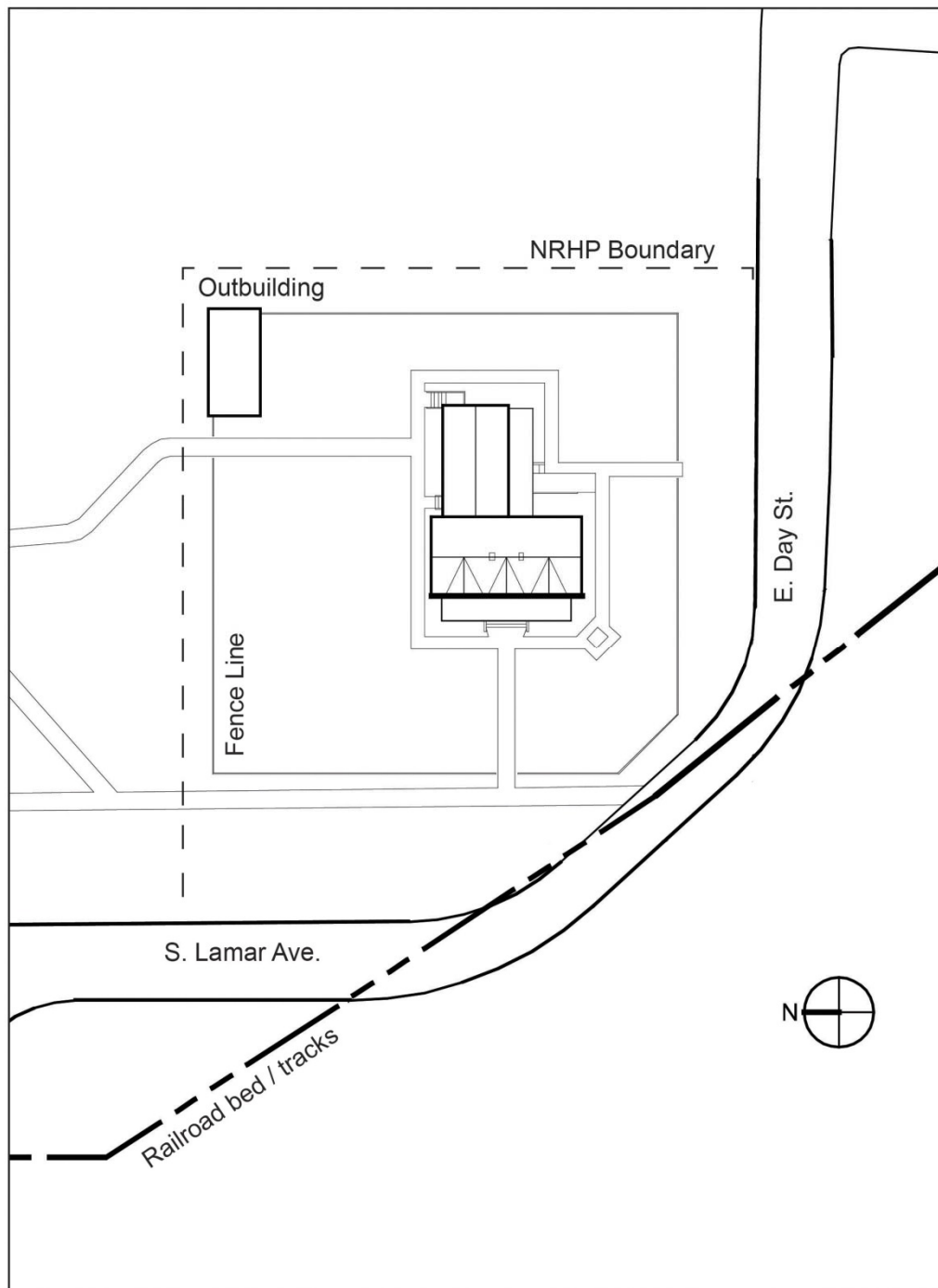
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Google Map, accessed November 4, 2015.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

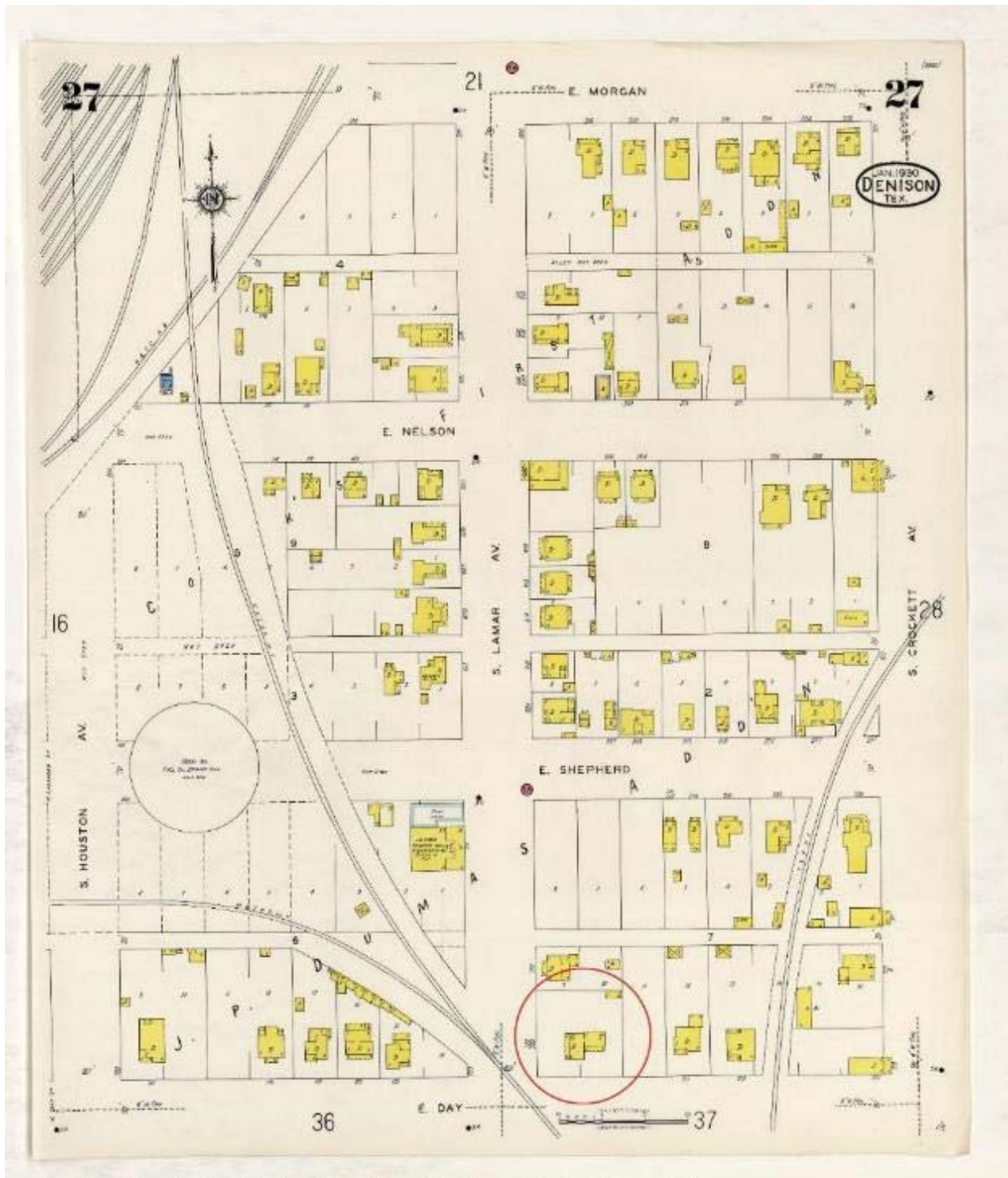
Current Site Plan. No scale.





Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

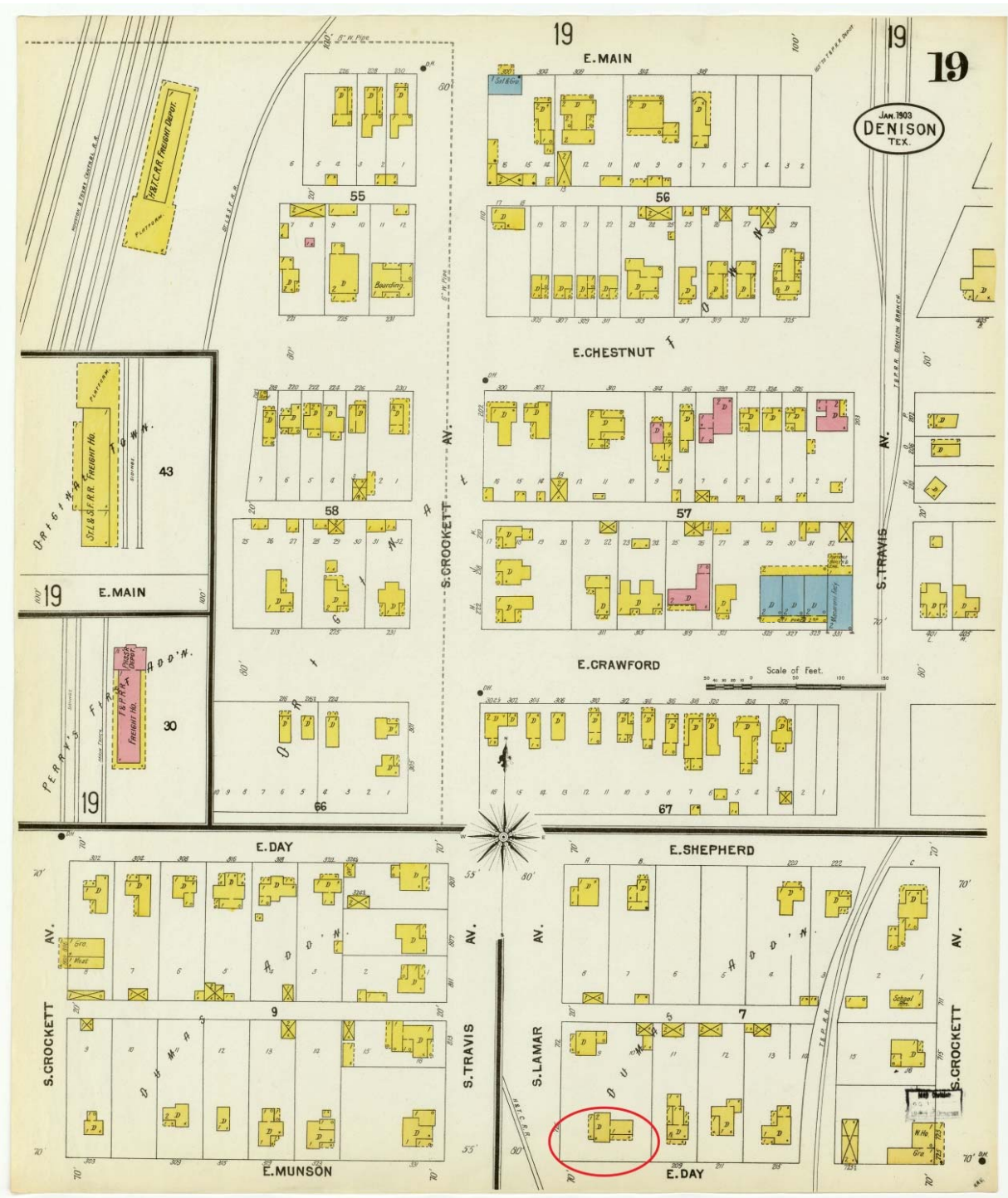
Sanborn Map, 1930, sheet 27. Courtesy: University of Texas Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection,  
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Original located at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

Sanborn Map, 1903, sheet 19. Courtesy: University of Texas Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection,  
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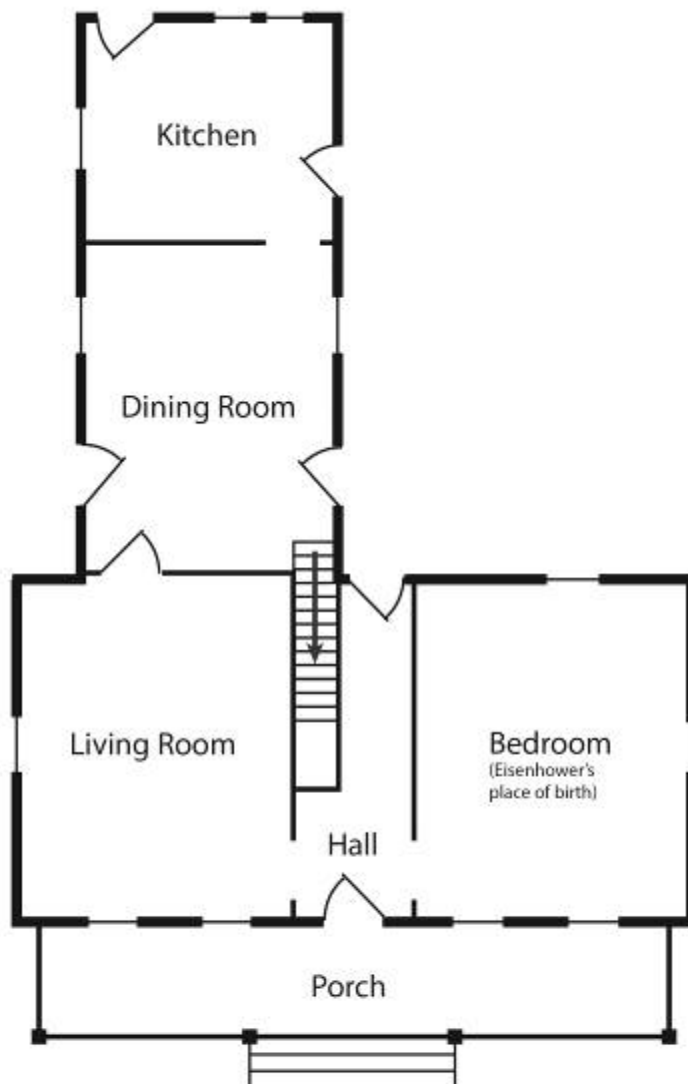


Original located at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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First Floor Plan, 2015.



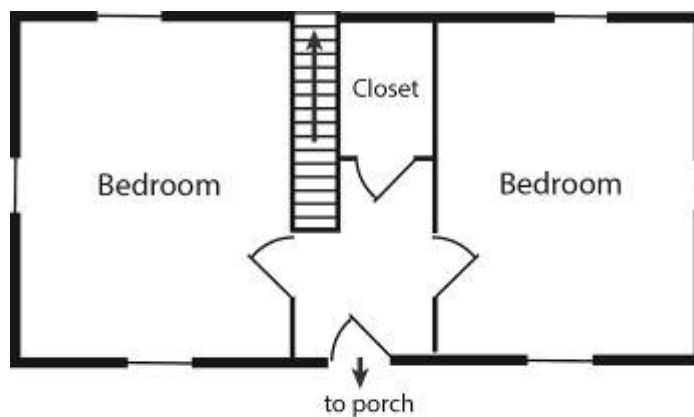
Eisenhower Birthplace  
*First Floor Plan*



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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Upper Floor Plan, 2015



Eisenhower Birthplace  
*Upper Floor Plan*

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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Eisenhower Birthplace, before 1945.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Park Management Plan (draft). 1993.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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Eisenhower Birthplace, c.1950.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historical Park Management Plan (draft). 1993.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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General Eisenhower visits Dennison, 1946, parade in downtown Denison. Courtesy: Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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Parade in downtown Denison, 1946, General Eisenhower visits Denison. Courtesy: Red River Railroad Museum Archives, Dorothy Wilson collection, Denison, Texas





Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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General Eisenhower visits his birthplace house in Denison, 1946.  
Courtesy: Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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General Eisenhower visits his birthplace house in Denison, 1946, tour of garden. Courtesy: Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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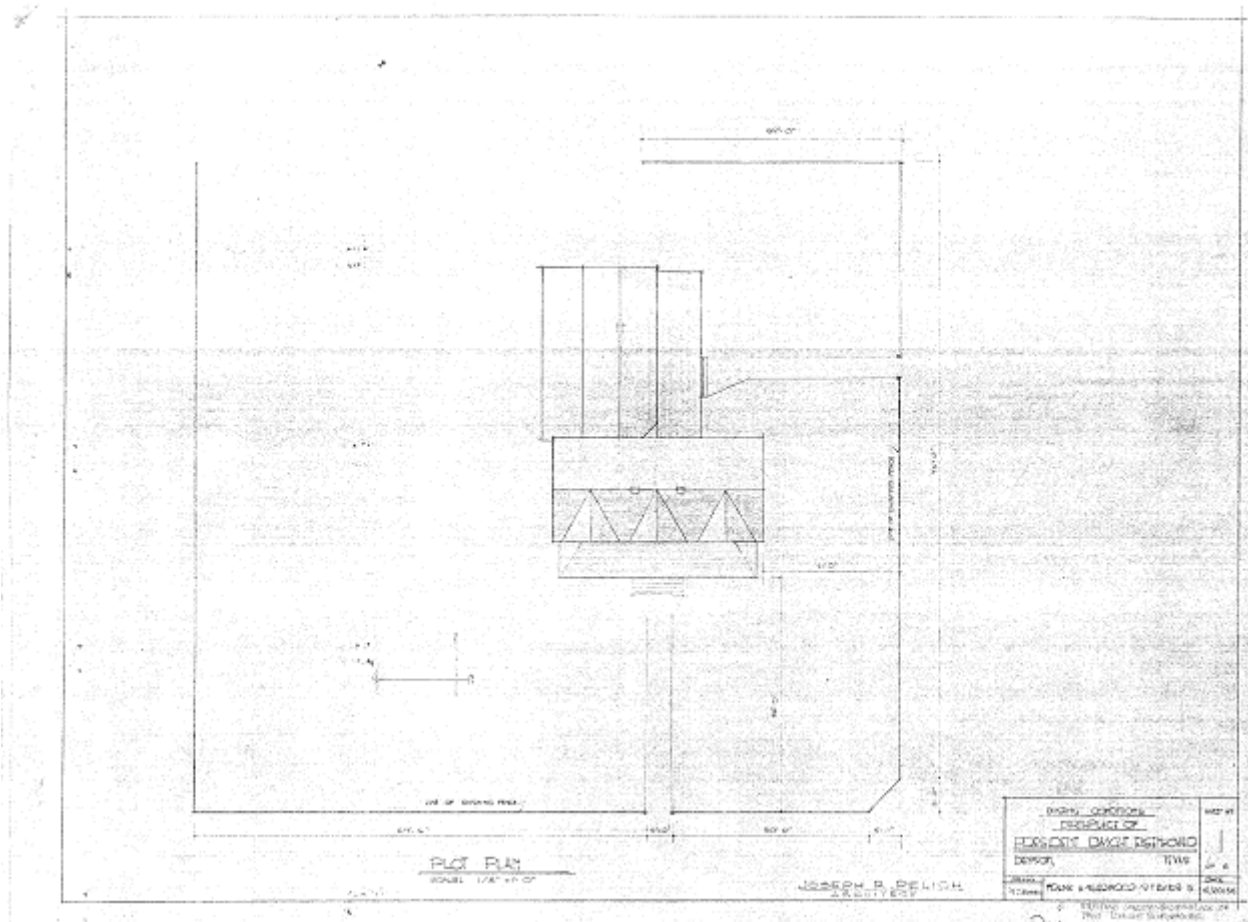
General Eisenhower has breakfast in the house, 1946, with Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, members of his staff, Denison Mayor W. L. Ashburn, and members of the Eisenhower committee, the local organizers of the event. Courtesy: Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.





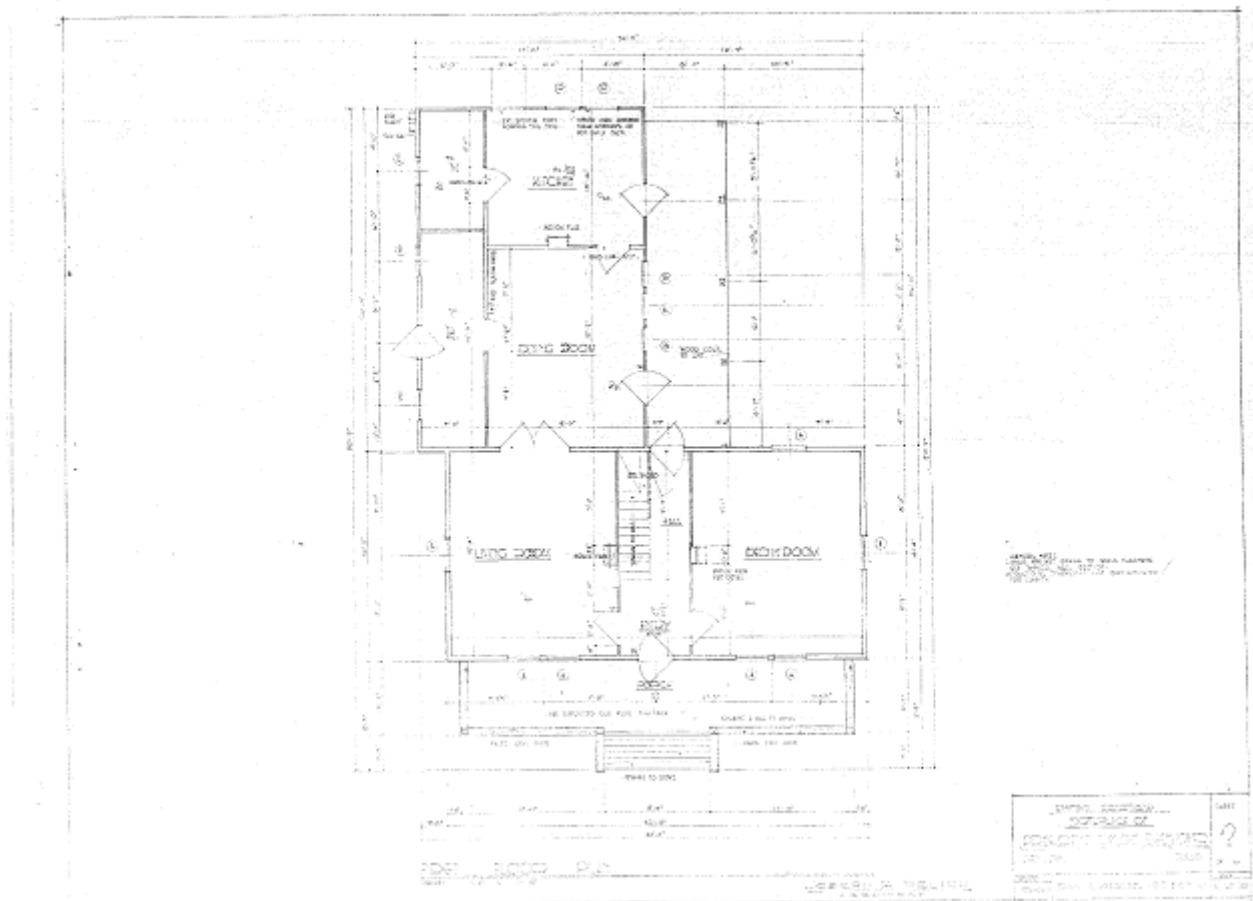
Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

Roof Plan, Existing Conditions, Birthplace of President Eisenhower, 1955, Joseph R. Pelich, Architect. Courtesy: Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.



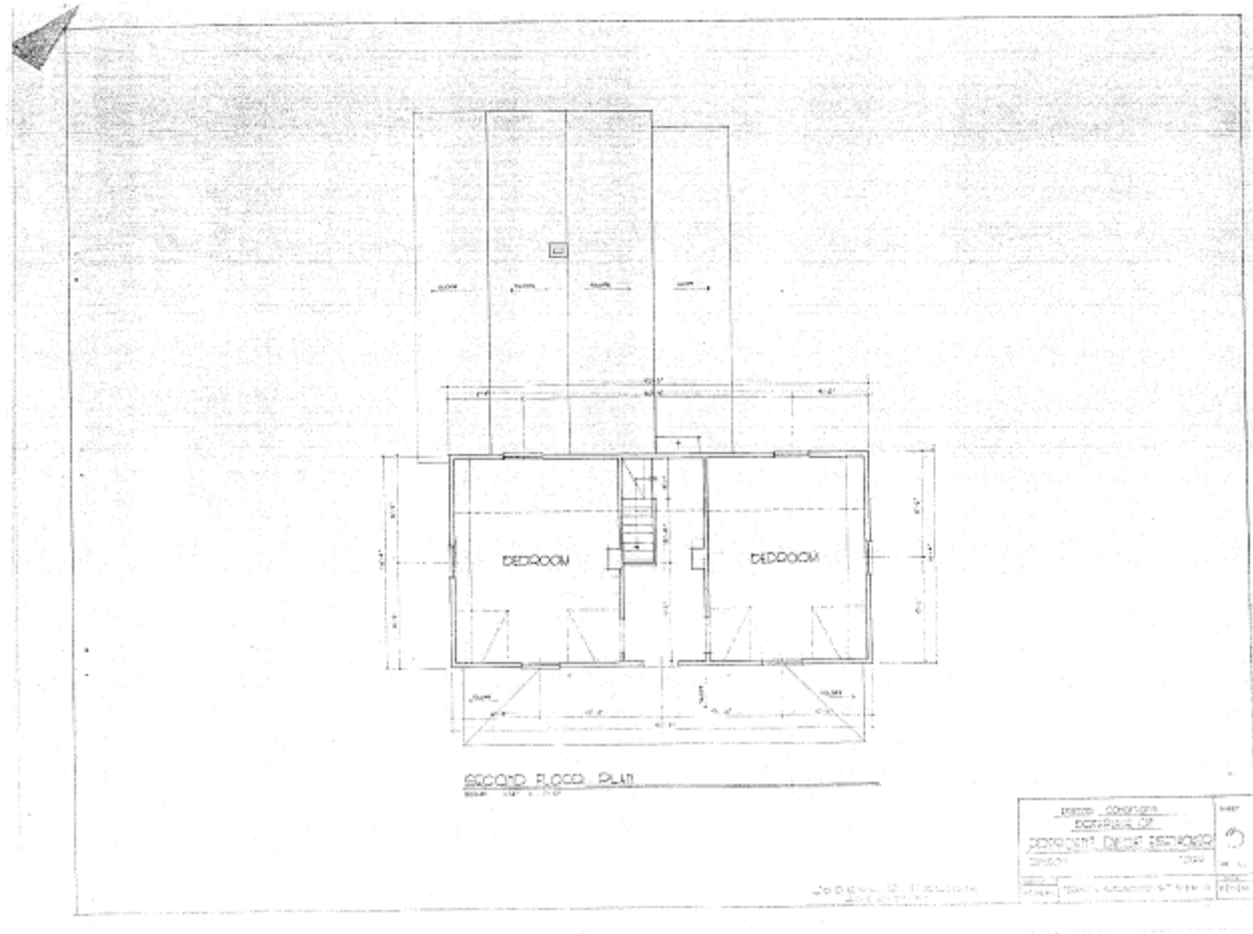
Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

Floor Plan, Existing Conditions, Birthplace of President Eisenhower, 1955, Joseph R. Pelich, Architect. Courtesy: Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

Second Floor Plan, Existing Conditions, Birthplace of President Eisenhower, 1955, Joseph R. Pelich, Architect. Courtesy: Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

West and South elevations, Existing Conditions, Birthplace of President Eisenhower, 1955, Joseph R. Pelich, Architect.  
Courtesy: Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site, Denison, Texas.



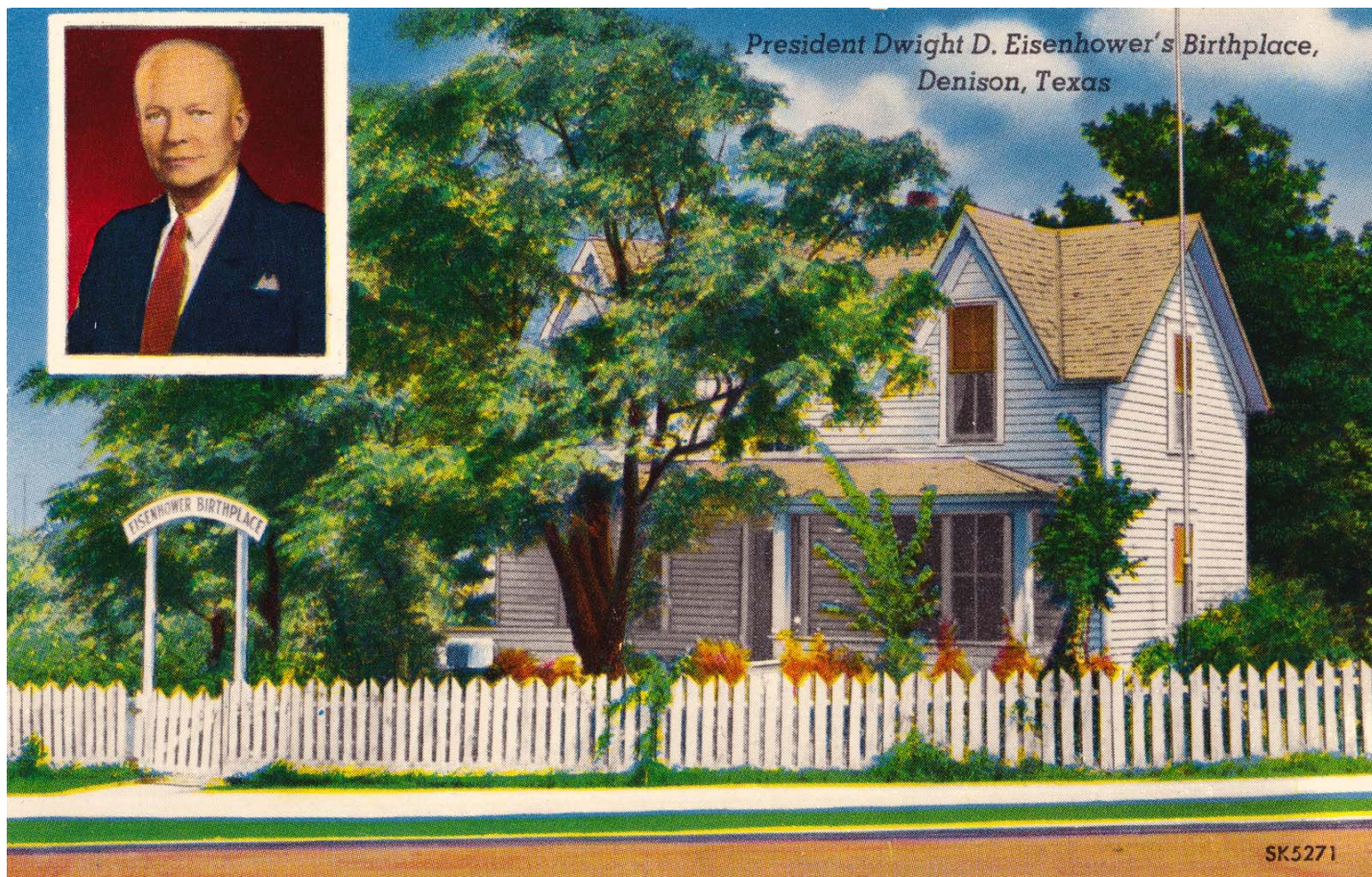
[illegible]



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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Postcard, no date. Source: Postcard Roundup, <http://www.postcardroundup.com/eisenhower-birthplace>





Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0001  
West (front) façade; view east



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0002

West (front) and south elevations, oblique, with interpretive rail road track; view northeast



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0003  
North and west (front) elevations, oblique; view southeast



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0004

North elevation and profile of west (front) porch; view south



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0005  
East (rear) elevation of rear ell, and north elevation; view southwest



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0006  
East (rear) elevation of rear ell, profile of southern porch of rear ell; view west



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0007

South elevation (gable end) and east elevations of main house, south and east elevations of rear ell; view northwest



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0008  
South elevation (gable end) of main house, south elevation of rear ell; view south



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0009  
Entry door of west façade; view east

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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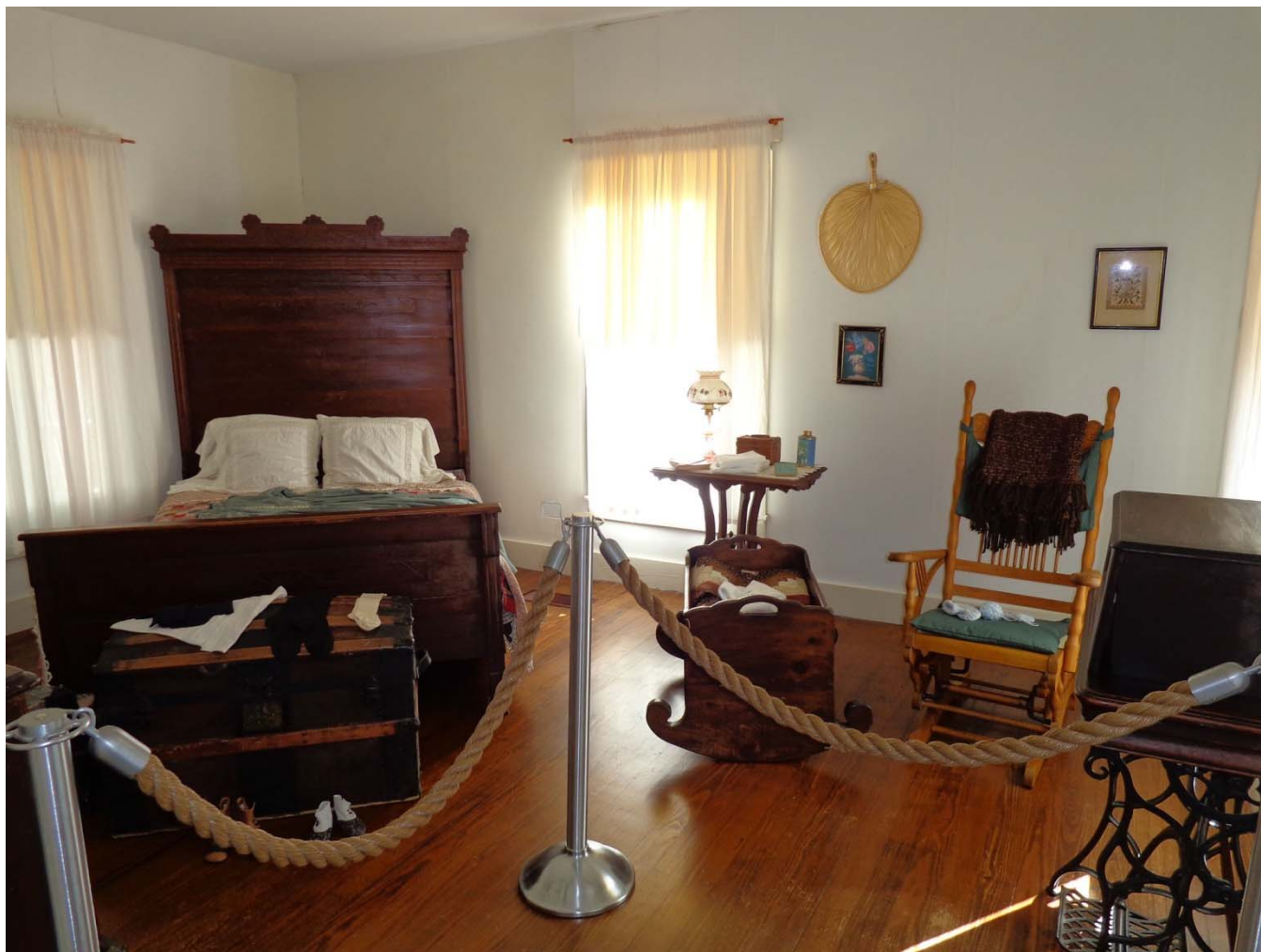


TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0010

Detail of two of the three roof gables on the west façade: window on left and door on right; view east

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0011  
South downstairs room, bedroom where Eisenhower was born; view southeast



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0012  
South downstairs room, bedroom where Eisenhower was born; view east

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0013  
Interior, first floor, view from rear ell toward front of house; view west

Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0014  
Dining room; view northeast



Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison, Grayson County, Texas

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TX\_Grayson County\_Eisenhower Birthplace\_0015  
South elevation of outbuilding; view north