

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Autrey-Williams House  
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 717 North Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Newton  
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Newton  
 NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
 VICINITY  
CODE: 351 ZIP CODE: 75966

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer  
Signature of certifying official / Title Date 12/6/12  
Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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:

|  | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.              | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.  | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.            | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, explain<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.                                | _____                   | _____          |

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY**

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - Local   |
| <input 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 |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1            | 1               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
|              |                 |            |
| 1            | 1               | total      |

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** N/A

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling = House

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling = House

**7. DESCRIPTION**

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL: Classical Revival  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION Brick  
WALLS Wood  
ROOF Asphalt  
OTHER

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-9)

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

Property:

- A** is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X **C** 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.
- D** has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Architecture

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1912

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1912

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT / BUILDER:** Parker, W.M.  
McCree, W.A.

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-10 through 8-13)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-14 through 9-14)

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- 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 Texas Historical Commission, Austin
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** 1.133 Acres

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES**

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

Latitude: 30.852645

Longitude: -93.753545

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** The 1.133 acres comprised of Tract 37 in the W.C. Gibbs Survey, Newton. Abstract 606.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Nomination includes property historically associated with the building.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME / TITLE:** David Holmes

**ORGANIZATION:**

**DATE:** 30 Mar 2012

**STREET & NUMBER:** 3130 Chisholm Trl

**TELEPHONE:** 409-659-3825

**CITY OR TOWN:** Austin

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 78734

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheet Map-15 through Map-17)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-22)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets Figure-18 through Figure-21)

**PROPERTY OWNER**

**NAME:** David Holmes

**STREET & NUMBER:** 3130 Chisholm Trl

**TELEPHONE:** 409-659-3825

**CITY OR TOWN:** Austin

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 78734

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Autrey-Williams House in Newton, Newton County, Texas is a two-story wood frame residence with exceptional integrity. It exhibits Neoclassical-style detailing, but with the form and massing of the American movement styles popular in the first decades of the twentieth century. The house has a symmetrical composition and features a large front wrap-around porch with 14 original wooden tapered ionic columns, with original scamozzi capitals, and a dentil band set above wide trim. The front elevation features a prominent pediment at the porch entry and a central hipped dormer. The roof is composed of a series of intersecting hips and emphasizes horizontality. Also distinguishing the home are original leaded glass transoms above each door and sidelight, as well as leaded glass windows. Interior details include an ornate carved entry from the parlor to the sitting room with two ionic columns echoing those on the exterior of the home. The home contains four interior fireplaces featuring original wooden mantles and beveled mirrors. The home is built of old growth Longleaf Pine, with baseboards, moldings, trim, doors, and original hardwood floors of heart pine. The home sits on a hill on a lot of over one acre just a half mile north of the county courthouse. The lot includes mature trees, a driveway to one side, and a noncontributing carport. The home was restored in the mid-1970s and is currently undergoing a second rehabilitation to maintain the home's historical integrity and status.

## Setting

Newton County is located in southeast Texas. It was demarcated from Jasper County in 1846; the Sabine River forms the eastern border with Louisiana directly to the east. Newton County is noted as receiving the highest average annual rainfall of all counties in Texas<sup>1</sup>, resulting in a lush landscape consisting of Pine Forest, Hardwood dominated Bottomlands, and is noted for supporting populations of *Azalea canescens*, the endangered *Magnolia pyramidata*, and the endemic *Yucca cernua*. Newton is the county seat, with the town dominated by a central square featuring a historic courthouse. Court Street (Loop 505 or Old Hwy 87) and Texas Hwy 190 are the main arteries through town, intersecting at the courthouse square. The Autrey-Williams House is at the intersection of North Street and Court Street, one half mile northeast of the courthouse square. The house is surrounded by a residential area—part of the original 40 acres deeded with the home.<sup>2</sup> When originally constructed, the 40 acre site was wooded; no evidence of agricultural use is noted. While under the ownership of Thomas Williams, beginning in the 1940s as the town of Newton grew, land was sold off from the original tract, and homes were built of varying styles, ranging from wooden siding clad bungalows to brick ranch style homes. Thomas Williams gave one lot bordering the house on the east to daughter, Dorothy (Williams) Bishop and her husband, and

<sup>1</sup> Robert Wooster, "Newton County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcn03>, accessed March 20, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>2</sup> Newton County Texas Deed Records, Vol. 10, Pg. 172.

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Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

another lot to the south (across Court Street) to daughter Lera (Williams) Sartain and her husband, who built the first brick home in home in Newton in 1948.<sup>3</sup>

### Exterior

The Autrey-Williams House, addressed 717 North Street, occupies tract 37 of the WC Gibbs survey, at the intersection of North Street and Court Streets. The lot comprises 1.133 acres, creating a large site for the house. The house, which faces south towards North Street, sits south of the center of its lot, with a footprint of approximately 61 feet wide by 76 feet deep, including the porches, and is surrounded by a flat lawn. A driveway from North Street runs east of the home to the noncontributing carport. A concrete walkway leads from North Street to the front porch. Another non-paved walkway leads from the carport to the back porch. The lot features mature Red Oak, Pin Oak, Magnolia, and Crepe Myrtle trees, as well as immature Longleaf pine. Also present on the lot are established colonies of heirloom daffodil, lycoris, and gladiolus dating back to the original owners of the home.

The house is oriented around a central hall and is of old growth Longleaf Pine frame construction clad in Longleaf Pine lap siding. Sixty-nine original, locally-sourced, red brick piers approximately four feet high support the home. The tall, hipped roof is punctuated by the lesser grade of the porch roof and the hipped dormers to the front and rear of the house. The roof, originally cedar shake, is now clad in dark asphalt shingles, accentuating the two symmetrical corbelled red brick chimneys. The wood sash, single light, single-hung windows throughout the house on the first and second floors consistently feature the top half constructed with leaded glass in an elongated diamond pattern. The windows on the second floor are tripartite. Many of the windows are original and have never been replaced, however several have been replaced with new glass in matching treatment. All interior window hardware, including transom hardware, is original.

With its classical columns and pedimented entry, the Neoclassical stylistic influence is clearly evident on the primary elevation. The overall form and massing of the house, however, is not traditionally classical as it is composed of intersecting volumes and sheltered under multiple hipped roofs. This layering of roof lines, and their slightly exaggerated overhang, give a low-slung impression that subtly emphasizes horizontality. In addition, the pitch of the roof edges has been slightly flattened, giving the house an almost pagoda-like effect. Taken all together, the form suggests the influence of the early American movements, such as the Prairie or bungalow, which were also popular in the 1910s.

<sup>3</sup> Newton County Texas Deed Records, vol. 19, pg. 235.

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Autrey-Williams House  
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## South (main) elevation

The symmetrical front façade (south) strikes a classical pose and is dominated by the triangular pediment above the entry to the U-shaped front porch. Paired columns support the pediment, which projects slightly from the porch. Twelve additional tapered Ionic columns with scamozzi capitals surround the porch and support a dentil band entablature. Above the triangular pediment of the entrance is a dormer with three leaded glass windows of elongated, diamond-ended rectangles and triangles. The porch floor, being constructed of cedar planks, is the only part of the house not constructed of Longleaf Pine. The ceiling of the porch is of painted beadboard, restored to a historically accurate color of light blue discovered during restoration.

The entrance ornate consists of the original carved door of pine. It is comprised of an original large oval beveled glass window encased in a panel featuring carved floral scrollwork. The original sidelights also feature oval beveled glass framed by floral scrollwork carvings. Above the main door and each sidelight is an original leaded glass transom. The entire entrance is surrounded by an architrave capped with dentils and heavy cornice. Also facing south on the recessed east and west sides of the porch (the "ends" of the U-shape), are doors identical to the main door, with similar leaded glass transoms, but lacking the sidelights and ornate encasement.

## East and West elevations (minor)

The east and west elevations of the home are practically identical and are without significant architectural detail with the exception of the tripartite leaded glass windows and a flat detail board separating the lap siding at the level of the first floor ceiling which runs at that level around the building.

## North elevation

The north elevation of the house in many ways mirrors the south (main) elevation, with a smaller porch featuring identical ionic columns on the east side of the north façade which has been enclosed by screen, but maintains its outward projection. The current owner plans to restore the open air configuration of the back porch by the close of 2012 by removing the screen and panel siding. The original rear entrance, along with approximately one-third of the original back porch, has been enclosed as a bathroom, although care was taken in the addition so the architectural integrity of the exterior has been maintained. The north elevation features a dormer identical to that in the front, with three leaded glass windows.

## **Interior**

The interior of the Autrey-Williams House features many period details with exceptional integrity. Stained pine floors are found throughout, with all doors and moldings also of pine, sourced from the

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Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

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historical old growth Longleaf Pine forest of Newton County. Ten-inch pine baseboards topped with molding line each room. Door and window moldings are scalloped pine with a large flat panel atop each door and capped by a crown molding. The windows are tall, with sills 15" from the floor, and terminating 15" below the 14' ceilings. All exterior doors have original, operable leaded glass transoms with original bronze hardware. The original doorknobs throughout the interior of the home are round cast brass with matching simple plates. The original window hardware is of matching minimalist design.

### First Floor

The main entry opens into a long rectangular parlor measuring 14' wide by 36' long and is divided at 20' long by a large pocket door. The first half of the room features the first of four large fireplaces in the home, with a square pillared mantelpiece of Longleaf Pine and a beveled mirror above a heavy mantel shelf. To the east of the parlor is a large and ornate entry passage into the sitting room featuring two ionic columns of carved pine, a carved acanthus frieze, and various other wood detailing. The sitting room is 18' by 20' in the southeast corner of the house and holds one of two original four-bulb light fixtures remaining in the home. Large paneled pocket doors lead to the dining room to the north. The 17.5' by 19' dining room is located in the center of the eastern side of the house. It features the second of the four fireplaces, with an identical pine mantelpiece on a wall angled to accommodate the large chimney structure, and the second of the two remaining original light fixtures. From the dining room, a door on the western wall leads back into the entry parlor on the north side of the fireplace. Additionally, an exterior door opens south onto the front porch, and a door leading north enters the large 19.5' by 19.5' kitchen. The kitchen originally held a fifth fireplace, which has since been walled in and the chimney is now used to vent the natural gas appliances. An exterior door on the north side of the kitchen leads onto the back porch, and a door leading west leads into the north half of the parlor. All floors are of original Longleaf Pine, tongue and groove planking. The walls of the home are constructed of tongue and groove planks at an oblique angle to the floor and ceiling, and were originally covered in wallpaper underplayed with burlap. The interior walls were covered with sheetrock during the renovation by the Hilliards in the late 1970s.

The first half of the entry parlor also contains two doors opening into two bedrooms on the western side of the house, each featuring the third and fourth fireplaces in the home. The first on the southwest corner of the home is 16.5' by 17', with an additional door leading north into the center bedroom. The center bedroom measures 20' by 20' and has a door leading south onto the front porch. A fourth door in this bedroom leads north into one of the two bathrooms on the main floor of the house. This bathroom is composed of two rooms totaling 11' by 17', divided by an open wall. A door leading east opens into the north portion of the parlor, which contains the staircase. A large open staircase with a 90-degree turn begins in the north side of the parlor. The staircase is carved pine, with a tapered first flight and a single bullnose bottom step. The newel post is paneled and features dentil molding like the one found on the exterior of the main entrance. The balustrade features turned, square-top balusters. Floors are of the

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Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

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same Longleaf Pine planking as the rest of the home, and walls are again constructed of pine boards at an oblique angle to the floor, originally covered with wallpaper, and covered with sheetrock during the 1970s renovation.

The original back exit now leads north onto part of the original back porch that has been enclosed and is now a bathroom. The bathroom maintains the original beadboard ceiling and original exterior clapboard of the house, as well as the original sidelights mirroring those of the front entrance. The exterior of the addition carefully mimics the original exterior so as not to be a detriment to the architectural integrity of the structure.

### Second Floor

The second floor features 8' ceilings and pine floors, with moldings identical to those used on the main floor of the house. At the landing of the stairs on the second floor is an 18' by 10' library; a railed balcony looks north onto the stairway. The three leaded glass windows of the front dormer look south from the library. To the north of the stairway lies a 10' by 10' bedroom looking north through three leaded glass windows in the north dormer. On the east and west sides of the second floor lie two identical 14' by 18' bedrooms, each with three leaded glass windows. Each of the upstairs bedrooms has access to the full height, unfinished attic on the second floor, with a built in ladder in each room's attic access leading to more attic space above the library, in the peak of the house. From the east and west bedroom attics, the enormous chimneys can be seen descending to the ground below. The floors and walls of the second floor are of identical construction to the main floor. The ceilings of the second floor are pine tongue and groove boards, covered with sheetrock in the 1970s.

### **Non-Contributing Carport**

The non-contributing carport to the east of the home, constructed during the 1970s renovation, has space for three vehicles and is approximately 15' by 35'. The open carport is constructed of wood, with siding sourced to match the home facing the street and a roof of tin. The carport is approximately twelve feet from the home, but a covered walkway connects the carport to the east side of the back porch.

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Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Autrey-Williams House is a two-story wood frame residence constructed in 1912. Located in Newton, Texas, the house is one of the most architecturally significant residences in the community. The house's prominent porch has rich architectural detail, featuring the symmetry, dentil bands, Ionic columns, central dormer, and triangular pediment typical of the Neoclassical style. The main volume of the house, meanwhile, demonstrates the influence of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century American movements. It is notable for its high degree of architectural integrity, including integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. It is also significant due to its construction of old growth Longleaf Pine, which was historically the most economically important resource of the region, and its fine craftsmanship. The home is locally significant because of its architecture, and as an illustration of the early economy of Newton County, as several early owners were prominent businessmen in industries related to the pine forests. The home was the first in the county to feature indoor plumbing and electricity and was heralded as "one of the finest country homes in all of East Texas" in the local newspaper upon its construction.<sup>4</sup> It was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1980 and currently is the only residence in Newton County designated as such. It is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance.

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## Newton County, Texas

The 940 square miles of land known as Newton County, Texas, is a long slender patch of land running west of the Sabine River. The Alabama Coushatta and other native tribes historically inhabited the area. First being part of Spain's claim in the new world, then part of Mexican territory, the area was first known as the Bevil Municipality, part of Lorenzo De Zavala's Empresario Grant. Newton County was created by an act of the Texas Legislature in 1846, when Jasper county was split in half, with the eastern half becoming Newton County and almost a mirror image of its sister county.<sup>5</sup> The first Chief Justice of the county was Thomas Holmes, an early participant in activities that led to Texas independence,<sup>6</sup> and a descendent of the current property owner.

The first non-native settlers of present day Newton County, Texas began to arrive when Texas was part of the Mexican state of Coahuilla y Texas, in the early 1800s. One of the first settlers of the area, John Bevil, is noted as stating he "cut his way through a heavy cane-brake,"<sup>7</sup> which is indicative of the type of vegetation found throughout the region. The entire area of present day Newton County was covered with

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<sup>4</sup> *Newton County News*, 31 October 1913.

<sup>5</sup> Robert Wooster, "Newton County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcn03>, accessed March 20, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>6</sup> Robert Wooster, "Holmes, Thomas," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hjn05>, accessed March 30, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>7</sup> T.C. Richardson, *East Texas: Its History and Its Makers*, Vol. 3, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1940).

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Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

a thick forest ranging from swampy bottomlands and hardwood dominated valleys, to sandy hills covered with old growth forests of 500 year-old Longleaf Pine. So vast was this forest that early settlers deemed it "inexhaustible." The government of Mexico eased its citizenship requirements in the early part of the nineteenth century, resulting in a large influx of American settlers from the Carolinas and other Southeastern states<sup>2</sup>.

The population of Newton County grew slowly but consistently from that point and in 1900 was noted by the U.S. Census as 7,282.<sup>8</sup> Prior to the arrival of the railroad in the last decade of the nineteenth century, the primary assets of the county were cotton, cattle, hogs, and to a limited extent, lumber. After the arrival of the railroads, the economic engine shifted to the pine forests of Newton County. In 1904, two of the larger sawmills reported an output of 150,000 and 104,000 feet of lumber per day. The pine forests were not only a source of lumber, but also of turpentine spirits, gum, or "naval stores," and in the early part of the twentieth century, Newton and Jasper counties became the most productive turpentine centers in all of Texas.<sup>9</sup>

## Newton

Quicksand Creek and Burkeville each served as the Newton county seats prior to 1853, but by 1856, after a series of disputes, Newton was finally confirmed as the county seat. The population remained small, reaching only 200 people in the 1890s. In 1906 the Orange and Northwestern Railway was completed, linking the rural town to Orange, Texas. The new railroad ushered in a period of great economic growth, especially of forestry-related industries. By 1913 Newton had a population of 1,000 residents and fifteen mercantile establishments, including a turpentine plant with 200 employees. The timber-fueled economic engine, however, lost steam quickly. By the late 1930s, thanks to declining prices, significantly reduced natural resources, and the Great Depression, there was a noticeable decline in the timber industries.<sup>10</sup> It was during this brief but prosperous era of timber-related wealth that the Autrey-Williams House came to be constructed.

<sup>8</sup> Bureau of the Census, Population Census Records 1900, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov), accessed 10Mar2012.

<sup>9</sup> T.C. Richardson, *East Texas: Its History and Its Makers, Vol. 3*, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1940).

<sup>10</sup> Robert Wooster, "Holmes, Thomas," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hjn05>, accessed March 30, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

## History of the Autrey-Williams House

The home was built in 1912 for Latta Malette "L.M." and Lelia E. Autrey. The Autreys moved to the area from Mobile, Alabama, due to Latta's executive position in the turpentine industry for the Western Naval Stores Company.<sup>11</sup> Autrey purchased the land from W.W. Hardy on April 13, 1912.<sup>12</sup> A local builder, W.M. Parker, built the home of virgin Longleaf Pine for a cost of \$6,500. The home was the first in Newton County to feature indoor plumbing and electricity.<sup>13</sup> A fire in 1912 badly damaged the home, but it was quickly rebuilt by W.A. McCree. McCree worked for the original builder, W.M. Parker, prior to becoming construction manager for L.M. Autrey and the Western Naval Stores Company.<sup>14</sup>

The Autrey and the McCree families moved to Orlando, Florida, in 1918 when the Western Naval Stores Company was sold and the business relocated. The January 15, 1918, issue of the *Lumber Trade Journal* mentions Autrey traveling to New Orleans to meet with the owners of the Gillican-Chipley Company, which controlled the Western Naval Stores Company. While the details of this meeting are not documented, less than two months later the Western Naval Stores Company pulled out of the turpentine industry in Southeast Texas and relocated to Florida. Autrey sold the home to N.A Dawson on March 1, 1918.<sup>15</sup> He continued his work in the turpentine industry and served as mayor of Orlando from 1925-1928.<sup>16</sup> McCree built the Autrey's home in Orlando, as well. McCree founded a construction company, still in business today as McCree General Contractors and Architects.

The second owner of the home, N.A Dawson, was a successful contractor, notable for constructing the Sabine County Courthouse in Hemphill, Texas, as well as the first graded road in the county, connecting Burkeville to Newton.<sup>17</sup> He sold the house to Thomas Williams on December 12, 1923.<sup>18</sup>

Thomas Williams owned the Johnson Creek Lumber Company, located in nearby Jamestown, Texas. Williams had amassed one of the largest timberland holdings in the county, and was a well-known figure in the community. In addition to his sawmill and timberland holdings, Thomas Williams owned three cotton gins in Newton, Tenaha, TX, and San Augustine, TX. Mr. Williams only possessed a fifth grade education, but after obtaining success became a local advocate for education and served as president of the Newton School Board of Education, in addition to other civic leadership activities.<sup>19</sup> The home

<sup>11</sup> *Newton County News*, 31 October 1913.

<sup>12</sup> Newton County Texas Deed Records, vol. 10, pg. 172.

<sup>13</sup> *Newton County News*, 31 October 1913.

<sup>14</sup> Application for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, Autrey-Williams House, 1980. On file at the Texas Historical Commission, Austin; W.A. McCree, Jr., unpublished family history manuscripts.

<sup>15</sup> Newton County Texas Deed Records, vol. 19, pg 235.

<sup>16</sup> *Orlando Sentinel*, 12 November 1995.

<sup>17</sup> Supplementary Specifications and Supplementary Agreement in "Mechanics and Liens," Records of Sabine County, TX.

<sup>18</sup> Newton County Texas Deed Records, vol. 27, pg. 106.

<sup>19</sup> Application for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, Autrey-Williams House, 1980. On file at the Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

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Autrey-Williams House  
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remained in the Williams family until 1973. The Hilliard family undertook restoration activities in the late 1970s.

The home has recently undergone exterior restoration and is currently undergoing interior restoration. There have been no architectural changes to the home since its construction with the exception of the bathroom addition enclosing the original back entrance to the home, and few interior changes. The home remains today much as it did upon its completion in 1912.

### Summary of Significance

While not the oldest home remaining in Newton, no home of similar age in the county can rival the Autrey-Williams House in scale, and the history of the home is uniquely tied to the economic forces that shaped the early growth of Newton County. Not only is it constructed of local Longleaf Pine, the very resource that allowed for the initial economic growth of the community, it was constructed by a prominent business man in that same industry. It is architecturally significant in the locale, as well. The characteristic Neoclassical features include the dominant central porch entry topped with a classical pediment and gabled roof and supported by classical columns. The front façade shows symmetrically balanced windows around a central door and a prominent central dormer. The boxed eaves have a wide frieze and a dentil band beneath the cornice. Other details are characteristic of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century American movements—namely the intersecting hipped roof lines, hipped dormers, and top-sash leaded glass windows. This mixing of styles was common in vernacular architecture and reflected the tastes and preferences of the owners and builders.

The home is in very good overall condition and exhibits a high degree of integrity, especially integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Further, it retains integrity of location, association, and feeling. Only integrity of setting is compromised, and only in a minor way. Once located on 40 uninhabited acres, the house is now surrounded by residences. This aspect of integrity is of very minor importance, however, to the significance of the nominated property. Overall, integrity is high. The Autrey-Williams House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria C for Architecture.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 15

Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

Map 1 (left): Newton County, Texas, shaded.

Map 2 (right): Newton is located within the center of the county. Map from the *Texas Almanac*.



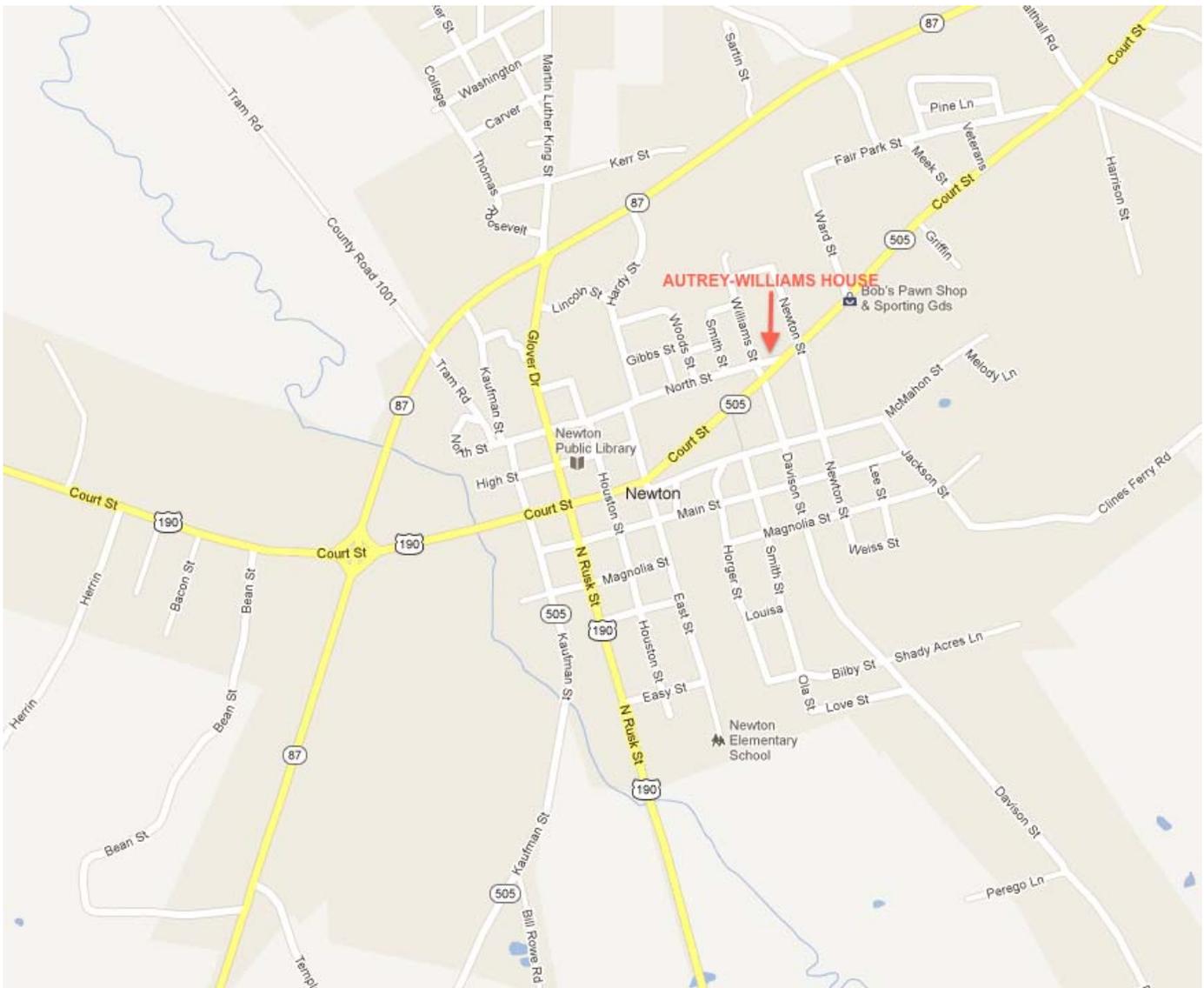
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 16

Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

Map 3: Autrey-Williams House within the city of Newton, Texas. Source: maps.google.com accessed 18 Mar 2012.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 17

Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

Map 4. Google Map depicting (approximate) property/boundary lines and latitude and longitude coordinates. Map accessed December 4, 2012.



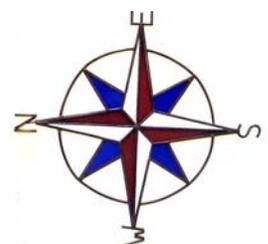
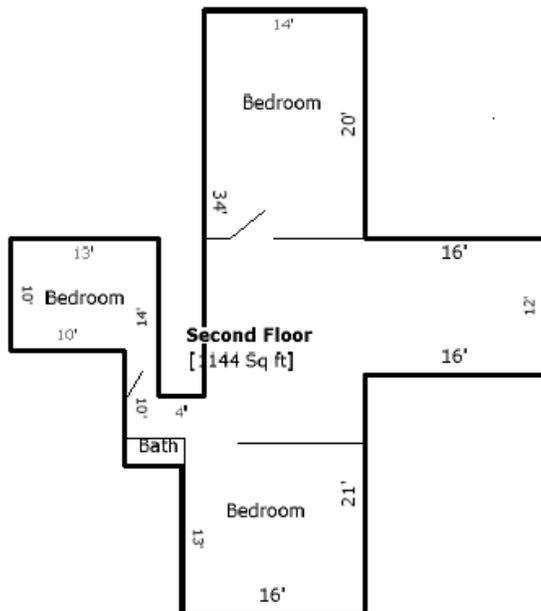
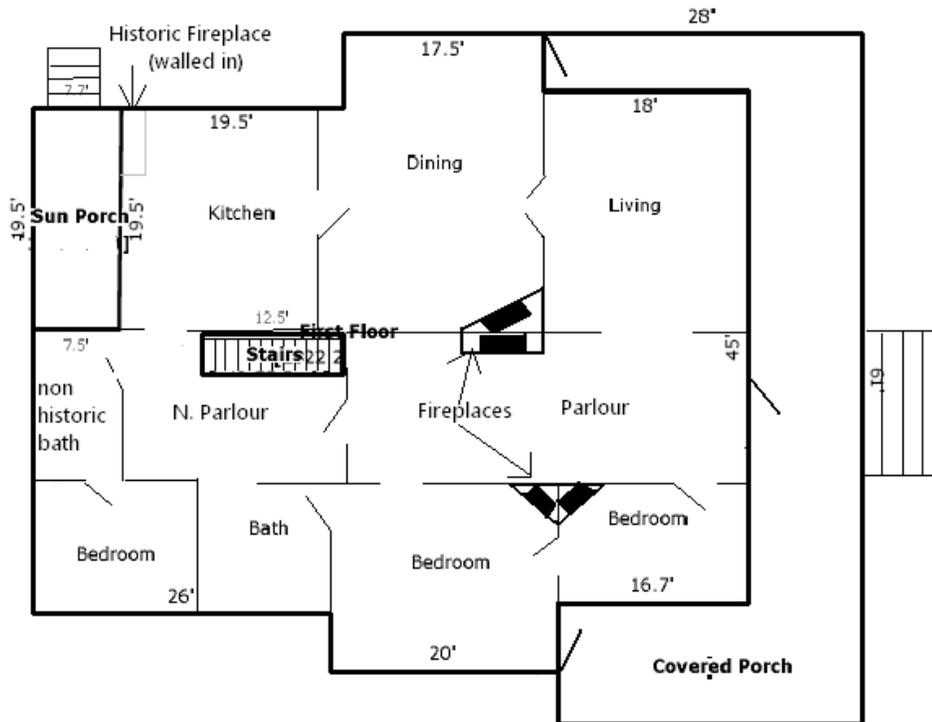
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 18

Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

Figures 1 and 2: First (top) and second floors (bottom) of Autrey-Williams House. Drawn by David Holmes, 2012.



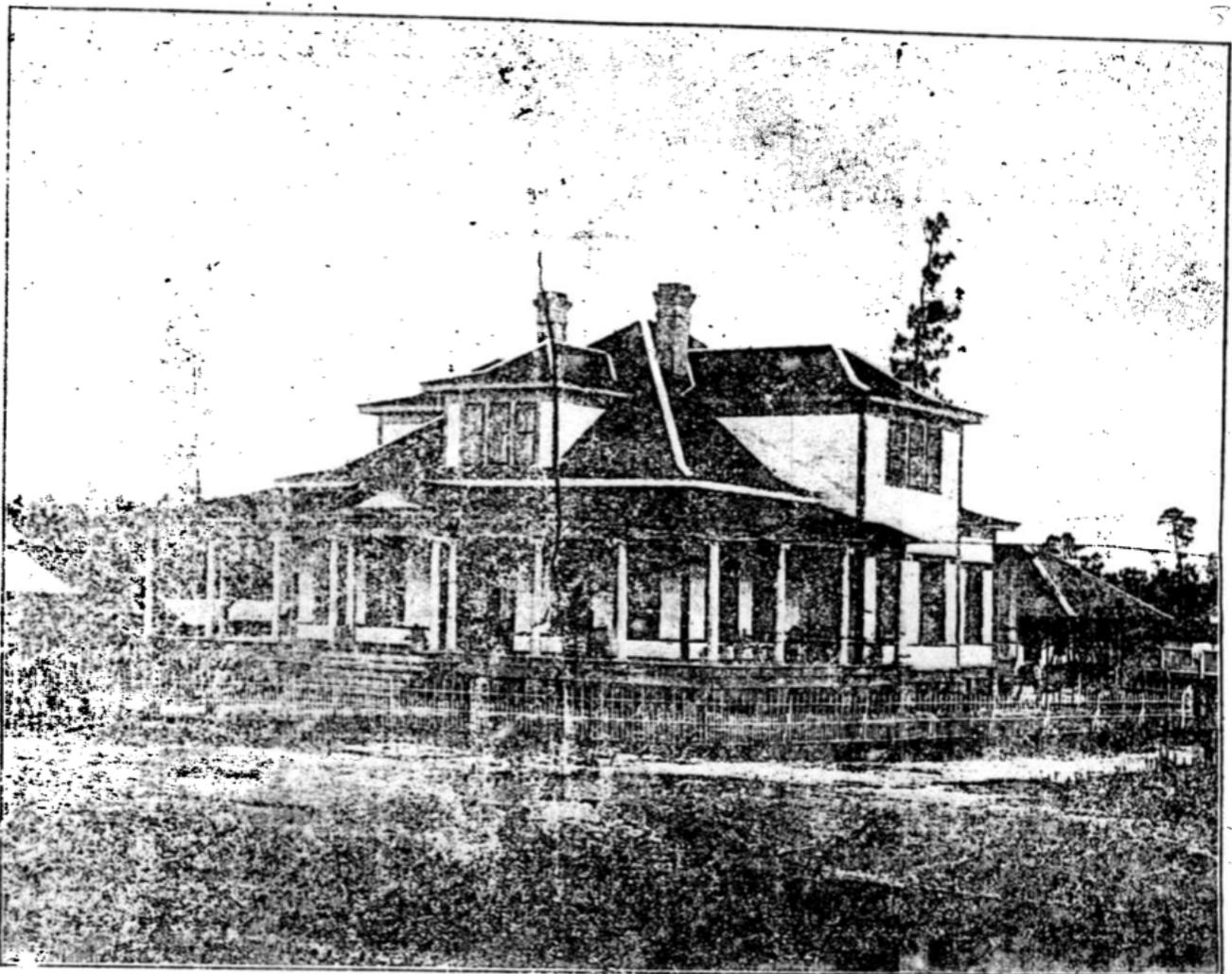
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 19

Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

Figure 3: Historic photo of the Autrey-Williams House from *Newton County News*, 31 October 1913.



Home of L. M. Autrey, erected 1912 at a cost of \$6,500.00 by Contractor W. M. Parker. -The house contains nine large rooms, front porch 118 feet long, 12 wide. Has private electric plant, water works and sewerage system. Northeast part of town. One of the finest country homes in Southeast Texas.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 20

Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

Figure 4: Latta M. Autrey and his son in what was reported to be the first Cadillac in Newton County. From the collection of Gill Autrey and Gill Autrey, Jr.



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Section FIGURE Page 21

Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

Figure 5: Undated newspaper clipping showing the Thomas Williams family in front of the nominated property.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 22

Autrey-Williams House  
Newton, Newton County, Texas

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## PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All photographs are credited as follows:

|                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Name of Property:          | Autrey-Williams House               |
| City:                      | Newton                              |
| County:                    | Newton County                       |
| State:                     | Texas                               |
| Photographer:              | David Holmes                        |
| Date:                      | November 26, 2012                   |
| Location of digital files: | Texas Historical Commission, Austin |

Printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper with HP Vivera ink.

Photo 1: TX\_Newton County\_Autrey Williams House\_0001.tif  
South (primary) elevation. Camera facing north. A portion of the noncontributing carport is seen on the far right.

Photo 2: TX\_Newton County\_Autrey Williams House\_0002.tif  
North (rear) elevation. Camera facing roughly southeast.

Photo 3: TX\_Newton County\_Autrey Williams House\_0003.tif  
Southeast oblique. Camera facing roughly northwest. A portion of the noncontributing carport is seen on the far right.

Photo 4: TX\_Newton County\_Autrey Williams House\_0004.tif  
West elevation. Camera facing east.

Photo 5: TX\_Newton County\_Autrey Williams House\_0005.tif  
Front porch details. Camera facing roughly northeast.

Photo 6: TX\_Newton County\_Autrey Williams House\_0006.tif  
Close-up of the central front entry (south elevation). Camera facing north.

Photo 7: TX\_Newton County\_Autrey Williams House\_0007.tif  
Interior of the formal sitting room (front, southeast corner of house). Camera facing roughly southwest.

Photo 8: TX\_Newton County\_Autrey Williams House\_0008.tif  
Interior of the central entry hall. Camera facing south.