Welcome to the Starr Family Home State Historic Site. Part of the Marshall community for more than a century, this property consists of seven buildings including the main house, Maplecroft, Rosemont Cottage, and the Blake House. Experience the rich history and elegant lifestyle of four Starr family generations, from family portraits and hand-carved late-19th-century furnishings to delicate collections of glassware and china. Explore each room of this real place filled with memories and real stories from the past. Visitors can expect the same warm hospitality today that the Starr family extended to travelers passing through East Texas more than 100 years ago.

Plan your next trip at texashistoricsites.com
The parlor was a place for adults to chat and relax. This was the bedroom of Frank and Clara Starr.

Dr. James Harper Starr (1809–1890) was a successful physician, secretary of the treasury for the Republic of Texas, and president of the board of land commissioners for Nacogdoches County. It is this last position that in 1841 caused him to change careers and become a land agent for those who exchanged property for Republic of Texas debts. During the Civil War, he served as an official in the Postal Service of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederacy. He was also a banker and considered an expert on Texas real estate law.

Dr. Starr bought land on the edge of Marshall in 1870 to relocate the family's land agency business. They chose Marshall because of the town's amenities such as location and telegraph service. After the Starrs opened their land agency in Marshall, business grew quickly. They loaned money out of their land agency and, as a result, operated the first bank in Marshall.

The state was awarding land grants to encourage railroad construction, and the Starrs acquired many tracts of land as payment for surveying and mapping these properties.

Dr. Starr and his wife Harriet raised their five children, as well as two of their grandchildren. Dr. Starr and his oldest son, James Franklin “Frank” Starr, moved with the extended family from Nacogdoches to Marshall in 1870 to relocate the family's profitable land agent’s office. They chose Marshall because of the town's amenities such as location and telegraph service. After the Starrs opened their land agency in Marshall, business grew quickly. They loaned money out of their land agency and, as a result, operated the first bank in Marshall.

The state was awarding land grants to encourage railroad construction, and the Starrs acquired many tracts of land as payment for surveying and mapping these properties.

Dr. Starr bought land on the edge of Marshall in 1870, establishing this site as the family's home and residing in the original main house, Rosemont, with his wife Harriet and their grandchildren. A fire in the late 19th century destroyed the main house and a single wing remains today.

Legacy
Frank and Clara's widowed daughter, Ruth Starr Blake, moved from her home to Maplecroft to care for her aging widowed mother. Upon Clara's death in 1925, Ruth inherited Maplecroft and its environs. Ruth chose her beloved niece, Clara Pope Willoughby, as her heir. Willoughby granted the property and its contents to the State of Texas upon her death in 1985. The site opened to the public as a museum in 1986.

In 2010, the Texas Historical Commission closed the site for extensive repairs and to write an interpretative plan focusing on the 19th century, a time period that illustrates the Starr's greatest influence on Texas history. Maplecroft's interior received a complete renovation with new floor coverings and freshly painted walls. Victorian era family heirlooms and family portraits, believed to have been painted in the 1880s, complete the house's new look.