

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

56675



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Dickey, Dr. James L., House
Other name/site number: Dickey Museum
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 500 Burkett Road
City or town: Taylor State: Texas County: Williamson
Not for publication: Vicinity: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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title Date 1/2/17
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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2/21/2017

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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	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Domestic: Single Dwelling; Health care: Clinic

Current Functions: WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman

Principal Exterior Materials: Wood, Asphalt

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets x)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input type="checkbox"/>	C	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"/>	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: B (Moved Properties)

Areas of Significance: Social History, Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance: 1926-1959

Significant Dates: 1926

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): Dr. James Lee Dickey

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

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets xx)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet xx)

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 (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- 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: 0.15 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 30.572181° Longitude: -97.405074°

Verbal Boundary Description: TAYLOR CITY OF, BLOCK 53, LOT 10, ACRES 0.15 (Williamson Central Appraisal District)

Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes the city lot upon which the building stands, and is one block east of the building's original location.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Dr. Elizabeth I. Louden, with Jennifer Ross
Organization: Cultural and Architectural Resources Management Associates, LLC
Street & number: 3310 41st Street
City or Town: Lubbock State: TX Zip Code: 79416
Email: carma.intl@gmail.com
Telephone: 806-252-3026
Date: February 24, 2016

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets xx)

Additional items (see continuation sheets xx)

Photographs (see continuation sheets xx)

Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photograph Log

Dr. James L. Dickey House
Taylor, Williamson County, Texas
Photographed by Elizabeth Louden, March 24, 2016

Photo 1
View of west and north façades
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2
South Elevation
Camera facing north

Photo 3
SE Facades Oblique
Camera facing northwest

Photo 4
NE Facades Oblique
Camera facing southwest

Photo 5
North Elevation
Camera facing south

Photo 6
West Porch Oblique
Camera facing northeast

Photo 7
Original Newel Post and Banisters
Camera facing southeast

Photo 8
Living Room looking toward Dining Room Entry
Camera facing southeast

Photo 9
Dining room corner and entry
Camera facing northwest

Photo 10
View from the kitchen looking toward the breakfast area to the west
Camera facing west

Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 11
Kitchen Cabinets
Camera facing north

Photo 12
Kitchen Pantry, Ironing Board and Back Porch doors
Camera facing east-southeast

Photo 13
1st Fl Bathroom, Pink Pedestal Sink and Tub
Camera facing east

Photo 14
Original wood flooring in the southeast room
Camera facing east

Photo 15
2nd Floor South Bedroom
Camera facing south

Photo 16
2nd Floor Bathroom
Camera facing northwest

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.

Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Description

The 1926 Dr. James Lee Dickey House, at 500 Burkett Street in Taylor, Williamson County, Texas, is a two-story Craftsman Style dwelling in a residential neighborhood. Originally located one block to the west at 502 Elliot Street, the building was relocated in 1999, one block east to a comparable corner lot. The building retains the same orientation and general setting on a comparable corner one block east of the initial building site. Although the materials have deteriorated, the building retains a good degree of integrity and is undergoing rehabilitation. Significant features that retain the historic character of the building are the porches, gable roof, exterior siding, windows, interior and exterior original doors, finishes and fixtures that embody the craftsman style of the early 20th Century. The house retains historic wood trim, door and window frames, baseboards and unique features such as the arched doorway between the kitchen and the small dining room. The majority of the original spaces are intact.

The Dickey House is on the east side of downtown Taylor, in a neighborhood with a predominantly African-American population. A few blocks further to the east, the land steeply slopes away to undeveloped land and a cemetery. The house contains 2,716 square feet on a 0.15-acre corner lot, and is one of the largest houses in the neighborhood. Originally located at The house was an impressive two-story residential building at the original location of 502 Elliot Street, the house was moved one block to the east to a comparable lot in 1999.

The house's dominant visual characteristics are its roof and porches. The roof plan forms a double t-shape with the two major gables intersecting at the same ridge height. The major north-south gable that covers the two west rooms has a 15:12 slope while the major intersecting east-west gable that covers the rest of the house has a 12:12 slope. The ridgeline of the two major gables is at the same height, but the span is shorter for the north-south roof resulting in a steeper roof pitch presented from the entrance to the street. Two north-south minor gables intersect the east-west gable roof near the center of the building. The minor gables, with a shallow 4:12, slope cover the second story bedrooms and project over first floor porch areas on north and south elevations.

The two minor gabled spaces accommodate three original wood windows on each side of the upstairs. These original windows are one-over-one single-hung wood windows. Vandals destroyed numerous windowpanes, however, the wood frames appear to be in good condition. The entire building rests atop concrete masonry units that act as temporary piers.

The west-facing façade of the house contains the two primary entrances, a covered wood porch spanning across the southwestern two-thirds of the house, with windows opening into the two west-facing rooms. The house fronts toward Burkett Street (spelled "Burkitt" on earlier Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps). Three steep gabled roofs that punctuate the west elevation. The original wood siding on the exterior is 1x6" wood lapped siding. The original west elevation windows were replaced during the 1986 alterations to the building. While occupied by the May-Crenshaw Mortuary, the owner covered the front façade with a brick and replaced the porch. The original front windows were also replaced with small two-over-two horizontal pane single-hung aluminum windows common to the period. An original wood front door has three vertical 6x18" lites located near the top of the door. The original front door opens into a central hallway where the original staircase and railings lead to the second floor. A metal-framed screen door precedes a second wood entrance door that opens into the northwest front room. The door has vertical grooved exterior wood with a one-foot-square window divided into four smaller squares within the top third of the door. The brick façade was removed during the relocation to corner lot at 500 Burkett. Four concrete steps, brick columns, the brick facing added to the front and the side porches are no longer extant. These were also removed during the move. The wood front porch with an original bead board ceiling has temporary 4x4" wood columns supporting the major gable on the southwest corner of the roof. The original roof was covered by a wood shake and later re-roofed using asphalt shingle. Both roofing materials and substrate are in a seriously deteriorated condition. The plywood arched entry shape appears to have been added during the alterations for the mortuary adaptive use.

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The south elevation's most prominent features are the gable roof ends and the recessed porches that separate the north and south elevation massing into two primary volumes at the first floor level. Although the south porch floor will need to be rebuilt, the exterior door from the southwest room opens to this porch providing additional ventilation and fire egress. The upper gable inserts a distinctive component within the overall roof form with three original windows aligned together forming a unit. The windows on the first floor are replacement windows. The second floor windows are good examples for reconstructed windows to replace the non-period windows. Original wood siding remains beneath the upper gable fascia on the upper exterior walls. A rectangular attic vent with wood louvers is in situ beneath the north-south gable. The first floor exterior walls have wood paneling and are painted white. The paneling covers the original wood siding. There are two exterior doors leading outdoors from the two south rooms. The original exterior doors are intact and will be restored. The exterior door has a 24x24" single pane glass in the upper half of the door and three recessed rectangular panels in the lower half of the door. The bead board ceiling of the porch area is extant and will be restored.

The rear of the house is the east elevation with a single large gable end, original wood siding under the eave and a rectangular attic ventilation opening. The lower eight feet of the south elevation walls were covered with wood paneling and painted white. There is an exterior door that provides an exit from the southeast room. Centered in the wall is a small original bathroom window. An exterior electrical box is on the wall. There are four small windows that are arranged adjacent to one another and are used for day lighting and ventilation for the enclosed back porch. These windows appear original or at least early in the history of the building. The rear of the house is approximately two feet above grade since the lot slopes to the east.

The north elevation is essentially a mirror of the south elevation, with two exceptions. The rear porch to the east appears to have been enclosed and the exterior door leads to steps descending to the ground at the northeast corner of the house. The recessed porch area in the middle of the north elevation, beneath the second floor north room windows, has been altered over the years to a dilapidated condition that is difficult to discern as to its former use.

There is also a secondary north-south gable roof attached approximately one foot below the upper north-south gable ridge. The west slope blends with the upper roof. This additional section of the roof extends approximately 5 feet further to the north. There are no original drawings or photos to explain this anomaly. Investigation in the attic may reveal evidence of the original construction addition or prove it to be part of the original roof. The original slope to the west is matched although the ridgeline is lower on the north end of the gable.

Interior

The building retains its massing and floor plan with a central hall and staircase as the major organizing feature. Although altered for another use, the building retains its feeling and association with Dr. Dickey at the time of his most important work in the region. The materials used on the building are primarily wood, siding, floors, doors, windows and trim that retain a substantial amount of evidence to support repair or replication as deemed necessary by the rehabilitation consultants.

The interior first floor contains two front (west) rooms that are connected to the central entry hall. The stairs retain their distinctive original rails, balustrade and newel post. The design uses a direct ascent to the second floor without a landing interruption. There is a full bathroom at the east end of the central hall and one doorway separating the back of the house from the front entry hallway. A storage closet is located in the eastern end of the hallway. On the north side of the house, the northwest room was likely used as a living room. There is a double doorway into the dining room, and then a single doorway connecting to a smaller room, likely used as a breakfast or informal dining room. An arched doorway connects the smaller room to the kitchen. The trim is extant. The northeast room is the kitchen and then the enclosed back porch. The water heater is located in a small closet on the back porch. The kitchen cabinets, sinks, fixtures and ironing board

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attached to the wall are extant. The hidden ironing board could be unlatched from within a cabinet for use. A pantry in the kitchen provided a spacious room to prepare meals for the family and guests. On the southwest side of the house, the room has an entry from the central hall and the room includes a small closet as well as a door that opens out to the south porch. The west wall of this room contains major changes due to the renovation of the west elevation for the brick facade that was added in 1985. The other larger room on the southeast corner of the house has windows on two walls and a sink perhaps used as a laundry room sink. The deteriorated floor is in an unsafe due to unstable floor support, such as deteriorated floor joists. The rest of the first floor has original wood flooring in a condition that will be restored. The baseboards and door trim is a simple 6-inch or 8-inch board. Most of the interior doors remain and will be restored. The ceilings are deteriorated from the leaking roof. It constructed with 10" wood planks nailed to the structural supports. The interior has been evaluated for asbestos and lead paint. The building is scheduled for abatement treatment prior to any restoration work. The existing drywall and linoleum floors will be removed and the building made safe for occupation as required by code.

The interior second floor is generally in sound condition structurally, except where there is fire damage to the rafters on the north side. The large room to the north was used as a recreational room, based on interviews with James Dickey Jr. He also recalled all of the neighborhood children would join Dr. Dickey in that room to watch television. The second room is to the south of the hallway. The floors and windows are in fair condition but in need of restoration, in particular the window glass and ceilings. Two closets are arranged in corners under the gable roof. This room served as a guest bedroom. A bathroom is located above the first floor bathroom at the east end of the second floor hallway. The original fixtures and pink wall tile are extant.

The Historic Structures Report (HSR) was completed in 2011 and has provided the basis of planning the rehabilitation work. Grant funding has provided the owners with access to research and planning. An architect has completed the architectural drawings and is in progress with the project manual descriptions of the standards, guidelines and materials to be used on the building during the rehabilitation process. The Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings will be followed and documented. The Texas State Rehabilitation Tax Credit application is also underway. Part A has been submitted, and upon consultation with National Register staff at the NPS, THC staff determined that the building was eligible for listing in the National Register. Rehabilitation work outlined in Part B of the tax credit application will be based on the architects' project manual that will be submitted with the bid documents for construction. Numerous grants have supported the project to this point. The National Trust Grant funded the HSR. Preservation Texas, a non-profit advocacy group, listed the Dr. James L. Dickey House on their 2008 Texas Most Endangered List.

Assessment of Historic Materials and Historic Integrity

In December 2015, THC staff submitted documentation to the National Register staff at the NPS with a request to evaluate the building's integrity. NPS staff determined that the building retains sufficient integrity in its size, scale, overall design, and plan to be eligible under Criterion B for its association with Dr. James L. Dickey. NPS staff also determined that the building meets Criteria Consideration B as a moved building, as the current setting is close in proximity to – and is comparable with – the building's historic setting.

The exterior 6-inch wood lap siding, pine wood floors, entry doors, windows, bead board porch ceiling and trim retain an adequate amount of evidence to support restoration, repair or replication as necessary. The majority of the interior wood doors are either in place or in storage to be reused; windows and baseboard trim is extant. The wood cabinets in the kitchen, bathroom storage and the wall-attached ironing board cabinet are extant and will be restored. Wood flooring exists throughout the house on first and second floors. One room on the southeast corner of the house will need extensive floor repairs and replacement in kind. The kitchen and bathroom floors where there will be asbestos abatement will be replaced in-kind based on photographic evidence of the floor prior to abatement.

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The damaged areas of the roof will be removed and replaced with new sound decking and roofing that maintains the historic character of the house. Cedar shingles appear to have been the original roofing material, however, due to fire risk, roofing that is compatible with the historic character of the house will be evaluated for potential use.

There is substantial evidence of original roof materials, although the state of repair is poor, and rehabilitation is required as soon as possible. Deferred maintenance due to lack of funding and a small fire, prompted the owner to abandon the building in 1995 due to business failure. Vandalism has taken a heavy toll during the past 20 years of vacancy, despite efforts to mothball and stabilize the building. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is in the process of providing a rural development grant that will cover the rehabilitation costs for this important building.

Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Dr. James Lee Dickey House, at 500 Burkett Street in Taylor, Texas, is the lone surviving property directly associated with an outstanding African-American doctor who advocated for public health issues, particularly for those with limited access to medical care. The home-based office and clinic were open to all needing medical assistance. Dr. Dickey also established specialty clinics for children, new mothers, and for those suffering with venereal disease. His residence is rare as one of the very few remaining buildings that highlight the achievements of this doctor in the African American communities of central Texas during the Jim Crow Era. Dr. Dickey worked with all who needed medical assistance, access to education and community recreation. He specifically taught residents about the spread of typhoid fever associated with unclean water and opened water sources to the community at large. He worked not only with Taylor residents, but also assisted neighboring communities with their health needs. Known as a civil rights leader, Dr. Dickey believed that peaceful activism, gaining the ability to vote, and ending segregation, achieved long-term positive change. The house is therefore nominated under Criterion B in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Black for its association with the life of Dr. James L. Dickey. The building has been relocated, but it meets Criteria Consideration B as its current setting is on a comparable lot one block from its original location, and the house derives its primary significance from its close association with a significant person, for whom no other property survives.

Taylor, Texas

Founded in 1876, Taylor, Texas is located in southeastern Williamson County, at the intersection of the Missouri Pacific and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas lines, and the intersection of State Highway 95 and U.S. Highway 79.¹ By the late 1860s, cattle and sheep ranching had emerged as significant agricultural enterprises within the area. In 1876, the region's fortunes were buoyed with the International-Great Northern (IGN) Railroad Company's extension of a line from Austin through Williamson County. As a result, several rail stops, including the community of Taylor Station, were established within the county along the IGN's route. Named after IGN railroad executive Edward Moses Taylor, Taylor Station was later renamed Taylorsville, shortened in 1892 to "Taylor."²

Due to its location along the rail corridor, Taylor quickly distinguished itself as a primary center of trade and as a shipping hub for the agricultural products grown within the county's rich backland soils. Additionally, Taylor's strategic location along the Chisholm Trail guaranteed its role as a significant rail center for the cattle trade. As the town's fortunes improved, its population grew apace, reaching nearly 1,000 by 1878. The majority of the community's earliest residents were Anglo-American settlers that had migrated to the area from the Midwestern and Southern states. In 1882, Taylor's role as a regionally significant commercial and shipping center was further augmented with the extension of the Taylor, Bastrop and Houston Railway (later renamed the Missouri, Kansas and Texas) through the town.³ The 1880s also witnessed an expansion of agricultural enterprises throughout the county, with cotton emerging as the region's primary cash crop and the continuing growth of the cattle and sheep industries.⁴ Historic-age Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that a relatively dense central business/commercial district had been established directly north of the IGN railroad yard, primarily along Main and Talbot Streets, by the 1880s. The buildings within the downtown during this period were of masonry or brick construction and were typically one or two stories in height.⁵

¹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, Ruth Mantor, "Taylor, TX," accessed August 04, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/het01>.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Handbook of Texas Online*, Mark Odintz, "Williamson County," accessed August 04, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcw11>.

⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. 1885, 1889.

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By 1890 Williamson County's booming agricultural sector fueled population growth within its commercial centers. Within Taylor, for example, the population reached 3500 by 1893 and 5000 by 1904.⁶ During this period, Taylor's ethnic diversity increased with the arrival of immigrants from Czechoslovakia and other Slavic states, Germany and Austria. A small number of Hispanics and African-Americans also resided within the town in the first decade of the early 20th century.⁷

Due in large part to de jure and de facto conventions which required separate public facilities for blacks and whites, the town's newly arrived African-American residents either settled south of the IGN railroad tracks or in a small residential enclave northeast of the downtown Taylor.⁸ An historic map from 1916 indicated that the northeastern neighborhood was bounded by Elliot Street and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad tracks public and was anchored by a "Negro Christian Church" and an African Methodist Episcopal Church.⁹

One of this neighborhood's highest-profile former residents is Dr. James Lee Dickey, an African-American medical doctor, although born in Waco, Texas, returned from Nashville, Tennessee to the community with his wife Magnolia in 1921.

Dr. James L. Dickey in Taylor, Texas

By 1920, Williamson County boasted a population of 42,934.¹⁰ Taylor, with a population of 7,463, had distinguished itself as the county's largest urban area and as well as its most prosperous communities, having declared itself the 'largest inland cotton market in the world'.¹¹ Historic maps from the period indicated that Taylor was home to a number of community amenities as a result of its prosperity, including an opera house, fire department, and several lumber mills and newspapers.¹² Additionally, four hospitals had been established within Taylor's city limits. Dr. Edmund Doak established the community's first hospital in 1907. Four years later, in 1911, Dr. H. R. Floecking opened a new medical facility on west 6th Street. By 1919, the Wedermeyer Hospital, a two-story masonry edifice on 7th Street, and the Doak, Stromber, and Vought Hospital, located on Main Street, had been founded.¹³ Taylor was also home to Dr. J. R. Moore, the only African-American medical professional in Williamson County prior to 1920. Taylor City directories from this period noted that Dr. Moore maintained an office in downtown Taylor, at 109½ Main Street.¹⁴

Despite the numerous medical facilities within the community, Williamson County's African-American residents were typically subjected to sub-standard emergency care during this period as they were routinely forced to "wait in the halls until doctors saw their white patients" in white hospitals. For example, the Doak, Stromber, and Vought Hospital dedicated only two rooms for its African-American patients and "they weren't connected to the regular hospital...only two patients could be taken care of at one time, and in the event of an emergency, one had to be moved or the emergency patient operated on and taken directly home." It was also noted that during this period, it was not an uncommon in an emergency situation that an African-American patient would "die for want of proper nursing and

⁶ Ibid. 1893, 1904.

⁷ Odintz, Mark. *Handbook of Texas Online*. 2010.

⁸ Dickey Jr., James. Telephone Interview, 2010.

⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. 1916.

¹⁰ *Dallas Morning News*. Texas Population.1940:98.

¹¹ Odintz, Mark. *Handbook of Texas Online*. 2010.

¹² Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. 1916.

¹³ Holman, Alma Lee. "Changing Face of the City," *Taylor Daily Press*.

¹⁴ Piedmont Directory Company Inc. 1913.

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hospital facilities.”¹⁵

James Lee Dickey was born near Waco in 1893, the oldest of nine children of John S. and Linnie A. (Sears) Dickey. After completing public high school in Waco, Dickey attended Tillotson College (now Huston-Tillotson) in Austin, between 1912 and 1916. After graduation, Dickey entered Meherry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. On the verge of Dickey’s graduation from medical school, his father died, leaving his mother as the sole caretaker of his eight younger siblings. Rather than establishing his practice in a larger urban center in the northern or eastern US as he had originally planned, Dr. Dickey determined that he would remain in the central Texas area in order to provide support to his family. Dr. Dickey therefore traveled to Taylor to seek advice from friend and fellow African-American medical practitioner Dr. J. R. Moore. However, upon his arrival in Taylor in 1921, Dr. Dickey found that Dr. Moore had moved to San Antonio, leaving the community without black doctor to serve its minority patients.¹⁶

Dr. Dickey remained in Taylor to provide his expertise to an underserved community.¹⁷ Throughout the 1920s, Dr. Dickey set about to establish his practice and to “understand the health problems among the Negro population of Williamson County”.¹⁸ During this period Dr. Dickey not only served as the only African-American doctor in Williamson County, but he also rendered service to minority patients in nearby Bell, Bastrop, Lee, Travis, and Milam Counties.¹⁹ Through hard work and dedication to his patients, Dr. Dickey emerged as a respected, much beloved and sought-after figure in the community, overcoming commonly held stereotypical ideas that by nature of his race he had received an inferior medical education. His first office was located on the second story of 109½ Main Street, the same building from which his friend Dr. Moore had practiced.²⁰ Dr. Dickey’s professional successes afforded him and his wife Magnolia the ability to purchase lot and build a home at 502 Elliot Street in 1926.²¹

During the Great Depression, Williamson County farmers diversified their agricultural output by increasing their focus on livestock production, rather than primarily depending upon staple crops. Due to soil depletion, overproduction, and boll weevil infestation, cotton’s significance began to wane and was eventually supplanted by corn production as the county’s most important cash crop.²² In addition, oats, grain sorghums, wheat, and onions as well as wool and mohair were produced within the county.²³ The Great Depression hit the county’s African-American population especially hard. For example, in 1933, of the 944 families within the county on relief, nearly half were black although African-American comprised only 16 percent of the population.²⁴

Through the Depression, poverty in Taylor led to the disconnection of water service for many homes within the town’s African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods. As a result, many families were forced to use a filthy, highly-contaminated draw known as Bull Branch that was part of the city’s sewage disposal system as well as their primary water source. In 1933, Taylor’s minority communities were suddenly hit with a raging typhoid fever epidemic and seemingly overnight, Dr. Dickey’s Main Street office was overwhelmed with sick and dying patients. He therefore convinced the city government to provide funding so that he could rent a former boarding house at 401 Bland Street, which he quickly renovated for use as an emergency hospital to treat the community’s minority typhoid victims.²⁵The

¹⁵ Perry, George Sessions. *The Saturday Evening Post*, October 24, 1953: 75).

¹⁶ Brown, Dan. Telephone Interview. 2010.

¹⁷ Brown, Olive Durdin. *Handbook of Texas Online*. "Dickey, James Lee". 1941.

¹⁸ *Ibid*.

¹⁹ Shanks, Dave. “Negro Doctor in Taylor Wins Rotary Man-of-Year Plaque,” *Taylor Daily Press*. 1952.

²⁰ Taylor City Directory, Piedmont Directory Company. 1929.

²¹ Williamson County Deed Records. 1926.

²² Odintz, Mark. *Handbook of Texas Online*. 2010.

²³ *Dallas Morning News*. Texas Population.1940.

²⁴ Odintz, Mark. *Handbook of Texas Online*. 2010.

²⁵ Perry, George Sessions. *The Saturday Evening Post*. 1953:37.

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city also paid the salaries for the hospital's nursing staff, while Dr. Dickey provided his services at no cost.²⁶ Dickey quickly determined that the water from Bull Creek was the cause of the epidemic. Taking these findings to the city commissioners, Dr. Dickey pressed the city to open a fire hydrant in each poor neighborhood so that residents could have free access to clean water.

Dickey then spearheaded an education campaign to teach the town's residents how typhoid fever was contracted and spread. Working with the State Department of Health, Dickey also gave free typhoid vaccinations to over 3000 of the community's residents. As a result, Dr. Dickey's tireless efforts, the epidemic was brought to an end in 60 days.²⁷ In 1935-1936, Dr. Dickey arranged for the demolition of the old Bland Street boarding house and built the new Dickey Clinic, with the primary mission to provide quality, low cost emergency care to central Texas' African-American populace. When compared to his former Main Street office and the former boarding house, the new clinic was a more expansive facility. The three-bed clinic was touted as a modern hospital that was equipped with a lab, sterilizing space, operating room, delivery room, and x-ray equipment. The clinic also permanently employed two nurses. From his new medical facility, Dr. Dickey targeted the main causes of illness and death within the area's African-American community, including diarrhea, tuberculosis, inadequate prenatal care, and complication during childbirth, nutritional disease, and venereal disease.²⁸ The clinic eventually grew to include 15 beds and nine nurses which supported 24-hour on-call care.²⁹ As Dr. Dickey's practice flourished in the 1930s, so too did his family with the birth of his son, James Lee Dickey Jr., in 1937.³⁰

Dickey significantly contributed to improve the health of newborns by educating their mothers of best practices in care and feeding. Financial status did not limit the care for children and their mothers. Campaigning for health education as the most effective way to improve conditions, he established a prenatal clinic open to all. He also established a venereal disease clinic while continuing to lobby city officials for improved sewer connections and the installation of indoor plumbing. Dr. Dickey continued to successfully open treatment for African-Americans suffering from tuberculosis.³¹

In addition to noting and targeting the diseases that caused a significant number of deaths within central Texas' African-American community, Dr. Dickey's concerns extended to problems of segregation and emotional suppression of blacks. During much of the early and mid-20th century, violence was identified as the cause of numerous African-American deaths in Taylor. Specifically, Dr. Dickey noted that segregation limited African-American's access to public recreational amenities, leaving the community's youth without any decent outlets for positive self-expression. Working with his wife and the Welfare Workers Club, the women's auxiliary to the Taylor Negro Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Dickey as the President of the Taylor Negro Chamber of Commerce led a campaign to raise money to fund the construction of a "park for Taylor's Negro citizens." In addition to park equipment, the facility included a community center that was erected at a cost of \$2,000.00.³² In 1955, the park was named after Fannie Robinson, then Taylor's oldest living African-American resident.

Not only did Dr. Dickey enjoy a reputation as an excellent medical practitioner, but he was also widely respected as a leader in advancing the cause of civil rights for African-Americans, as well as improving race relations within the

²⁶ *Taylor Daily Press*. 1956.

²⁷ Perry, George Sessions. *The Saturday Evening Post*. 1953:37.

²⁸ *Ibid.* 1953:74.

²⁹ Mills, Lin. *Taylor Daily Press*, n.d. May 1960.

³⁰ Dickey Jr., James. Telephone Interview. 2010.

³¹ *Austin American*. "Death Takes Negro Honored by Taylor." 1959.

³² *Taylor Press*. "Local Negro Physician J.L. Dickey Has Accomplished a Great Deal for Taylor's Negros in Past 20 Years." 1941.

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community. Dr. Dickey believed that positive race relationships were best built at a “local and personal level” and that the most direct route to African-American advancement was a restoration of the “right to vote in local affairs.”³³ Dr. Dickey’s tone/approach to the “race problem” leaned more moderate than militant, as best represented in his statement that

after the Reconstruction period, our people’s plight was dark as midnight. Even so, they began to light candles all over the Southland. During those dark days, I think it was the purpose of every Negro family head to convince one white family that he was trustworthy and worthwhile. These efforts paid dividends. More and more Southern whites were willing to say that lynching was wrong, that the Negro should have the protection of the law and the advantages of school and education.³⁴

During his lifetime, Dr. Dickey garnered numerous awards and accolades for his service to the community. For example, in 1952 Taylor’s Chamber of Commerce named him the year’s most outstanding citizen, the first time a black man had been so honored in the community. This story made national news, landing Dr. Dickey a seven-page article in the *Saturday Evening Post*:

A few years ago we were ignorant slaves with nothing. Not even the rags on our backs were our own. Today we are educated citizens owning thousands of homes and farms and businesses. Our sons are officers and soldiers in the Army. We have thousands of doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses and other professional people. Our workers have been accepted in the unions and work side by side with other Americans. The progress of the American Negro in so short a time is unmatched in recorded history. But I don’t think we could have made these rapid gains if our fathers had not tried so hard to make friends with the whites, or if the whites had not appreciated their efforts to become good citizens.³⁵

At the time, Dr. Dickey was the only African-American doctor in Williamson County and one of only 30 black physicians in the state of Texas.³⁶ In 1953 The Lone Star Medical Association named Dr. Dickey “General Practitioner of the Year.” That same year his alma mater, Tillotson College, awarded him an honorary Doctorate in Humanities and named him the alumnus of the year.³⁷

The Dickey Clinic remained in operation until Dr. Dickey’s death from a heart attack on May 18, 1959.³⁸ His obituary enumerates his accomplishments and legacy:

Dr. Dickey was the living personification of the Hippocratic oath, ministering to the sick and relieving the suffering of mankind always without regard to the financial ability of the recipient. He was past president of both the Southwest District and the Lone Star State Medical Associations, and a member of the National Medical Association. He was a staunch member of Allen Chapel A. M. E. (African Methodist) Church, and at the time of his death was chairman of the Board of Trustees.

He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Texas, and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Taylor Negro Chamber of Commerce for 27 years. The

³³ Perry, George Sessions. *The Saturday Evening Post*. 1941: 78.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Ibid.* Statement by Dr. James Dickey. 1953:80.

³⁶ Shanks, Dave. “Negro Doctor in Taylor Wins Rotary Man-of-Year Plaque,” *Taylor Daily Press*. 1952.

³⁷ Odintz, Mark. *Handbook of Texas Online*. 2010.

³⁸ Mills, Lin. *Taylor Daily Press*, n.d. May 1960.

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citizens of Taylor bestowed upon him the honor of Most Outstanding Citizen for the year 1952, a "first" in the history of America that a Negro was so honored by his fellow townsmen.

He was awarded the Doctor of Humanities degree by Huston-Tillotson College, and Doctor of Laws degree by Paul Quinn College, Waco, Texas. Dr. Dickey is survived by his wife, one son, three sisters, three brothers, one grandson, one aunt, a devoted mother-in-law, and many thousands of friends who deeply mourn his death.³⁹

Less than a month after his death, on June 3, 1956 the First Called Session of the Senate of the 56th Legislature Texas Senate passed resolution that honored Dr. Dickey's lifetime of achievement and service. Later that year, the city of Taylor also honored his memory by passing a proclamation to change the name of Bland Street, which was the location of his clinic, to Dickey Street.⁴⁰ More recently, the Taylor City government declared June 16, 2007 to be "Dr. James Dickey Sr. Day."

After Dr. Dickey's death, several members from Taylor's African-American community expressed a desire that the clinic re-open with a new doctor, as there were no other black doctors within the area. The clinic had 11 employees, including nine nurses, at the time of the doctor's death resulting in significant professional job loss to the community. All hope for the clinic's re-opening were abandoned with the death of Dr. Dickey's wife Magnolia on October 18, 1959.⁴¹ By the 1980s, the other clinic sites had been torn down.

History of Ownership

Williamson County deed records indicate that James Lee Dickey Jr. purchased lots 9 and 10, block 44 from C.O. Dalet on March 4, 1926 for \$2,000.00.⁴² The amount paid for the property hints at the likelihood that there was a building on the property when Dickey purchased the lot. However, information provided by Dr. Dickey's son indicated that to his knowledge, his father had a new house built on the lot soon after his purchase of the property.⁴³

The house that Dr. Dickey had built on his Elliot Street property is a three-bedroom, two-bathroom bungalow-central hall plan residence that was typical of those owned by middle-class families throughout the US prior to World War II. At the time of Dr. Dickey's ownership of 502 Elliot, the property included the two-story, wood-frame primary dwelling, with the front elevation facing Elliot Street. It also had a wood-frame single car garage located to the rear of the lot. The house has a central hallway and staircase leading to the second floor. The northwest room is to the right of the front entry and served several purposes for Dr. Dickey. The front room is on the primary façade toward Burkett Street. The kitchen is located at the northeast corner of the house and leads into an enclosed back porch. Mrs. Dickey also maintained a small vegetable garden on the property and a coop to house chickens and squabs. There is a door from the kitchen leading into the central hallway and a bedroom on the southeast corner of the first floor and another room on the southwest corner of the house that has windows toward Burkett Street with an exterior door leading out to the small south central porch. The second floor has two bedrooms and a bathroom with the original toilet, bathtub and pedestal sink.

During a short period of time in the 1940s, Dr. Dickey also used one room in the house to see patients and maintained a home office separate from the clinic. This room, located in the building's northwest corner, was equipped with a desk

³⁹ "James Lee Dickey," funeral program.

⁴⁰ *Taylor Daily Press*, 1992: 10.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² Williamson County Clerk's Office. Deed Records. 1926.

⁴³ Dickey Jr., James. Telephone Interview, 2010.

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and table. Sometime during the 1940s, the Dickeys renovated the room and changed its use from a home office to a guestroom.⁴⁴ Dr. Dickey's son, James Dickey, Jr., also indicated that the front porch was refurbished sometime in the 1940s.⁴⁵

Upon Magnolia Dickey's death in 1959, ownership of the 502 Elliot property was passed to her son James Dickey Jr. who, having married and relocated to Austin, Texas, retained ownership of the home until 1965, when he sold it to G.R. Owens.⁴⁶ Owens, who also lived in Austin, used the property as a rental until he sold the property to Lois Jones and his wife Bernice for \$9,250.00.⁴⁷ Soon after this sale, in July The L.E. Crenshaw acquired ownership of the property and converted it from domestic to commercial use. Specifically, Taylor City Directories from this period indicate that the property was then used as a mortuary known as the "May-Jones Funeral Home." The property was later renamed the "May-Crenshaw Mortuary."

Alterations and Relocation

Building alterations converted the west façade and front rooms to function as a funerary (1966-1995). Apparently a secondary front entry to the living room was added and the living room windows were altered. A significant amount of exterior wood siding, bead board surface materials, wood windows and trim remain to provide examples of the original finish materials. A brick facing (now removed), covered the west elevation.

The front porch plywood arch form over the steps leading to the main entry was likely added during the period of the funerary usage of the house. The original wood stile and rail front door with three vertical panes near the top of the door is intact. A second exterior door may have been added that leads into the northwest room. These alterations also likely happened during the conversion to a funerary business. Information from neighborhood sources indicated that the home's interior first floor public spaces were altered to support its new commercial use. For example, the west elevation addition/front porch enclosure functioned as the building's funeral parlor space for casket displays and a chapel.⁴⁸ In 1986, Seguin, Texas resident Don Napier purchased the property from Crenshaw for \$37,000 and continued to operate it as the May-Crenshaw Funeral Home.⁴⁹ It is likely during Napier's ownership that the exterior walls of the partial front porch enclosure/addition were clad with brick and new metal sash windows added.

During the 1995 mortuary business operations, the building suffered fire damage. Recent investigations indicate that the fire most likely originated on the building's first story, in the central hall closet east wall that is shared with the kitchen stove gas piping and electricity. However, soon after the fire, Napier shut down the business without making repairs and abandoned the property. The building rapidly deteriorated and fell victim to frequent vandalism. Dr. Dickey's house remained vacant until it was sold to St. Mary's Catholic Church at a tax sale for \$14,772.38 on April 7, 1998. Hearing that St. Mary's had plans to raze the building a local group of citizens headed by Don Hill approached the church and offered to raise money to move the house. The group, known as the Blackshear/O. L. Price Ex-Student Association, initially planned to move the building to the Fannie Robertson Park. However, after raising necessary funds, the Blackshear/O. L. Price Ex-Student Association along with assistance from the church, moved the building to an empty lot at 500 Burkett Street, one block east of its original location, in 1999.⁵⁰

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Williamson County Clerk's Office. Deed Records, 1965.

⁴⁷ Williamson County Clerk's Office. Deed Records, 1966.

⁴⁸ Hill, Donald R. Telephone Interview. 2010).

⁴⁹ Williamson County Clerk's Office. Deed Records, 1986.

⁵⁰ Raesz, Jan. *Taylor Daily Press*. 18 January 1999.

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A house-moving company accomplished the move in a standard way by using cranes to lift the building onto a flatbed truck for the one block move. Porches and the west brick facing was removed prior to the one block eastward move. The house otherwise remained intact. Upon its relocation, the house was placed upon a new concrete block pier foundation and oriented in the same direction (west-facing) as its original location and on a corner lot. Sometime during this period, the face brick was removed from porch enclosure/addition. Mrs. Jennifer Harris, as president of the Blackshear/O.L. Slaton Alumni Association began to seek grants and funding to restore the Dickey House. Between 2000 and 2010, as financial resources permitted, several stabilization efforts were undertaken, including the addition of plywood covers to protect the windows, some roof repairs, the addition of porch supports, and a construction-fencing barrier to discourage vandalism. In 2006, an official Texas Historical Marker entitled "Dr. James Lee Dickey" was erected at the 500 Burkett, Street, on the western edge of the property. By 2012, a Historic Structures Report was commissioned and a plan for future restorations began.

The current state of building repair is poor due to the deteriorated roofing materials, a fire in a hall closet that damaged a relatively small area, lack of maintenance and vandalism. As is typical with wood that has not had regular maintenance and paint to protect it, the surfaces are intact, but the paint is peeling badly on most surfaces. Since lead paint abatement is necessary, all surfaces will be handled according to the SOI Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings. For asbestos abatement, the first floor drywall will be removed and the linoleum floor in the kitchen and bathrooms that have tested positive for asbestos. Since many places are cracked and exposed leaving the asbestos friable, there is little opportunity to retain the linoleum. However, the remaining original wood floors are intact. The front door is extant as are many of the original wood double-hung windows on the bedrooms, kitchen, back porch and bathrooms. As seen in the photos, the ceilings have suffered extensive damage on the north side rooms of the residence due to roof damage from the fire and lack of roof repairs over time. All surfaces will be replaced and certified according to the SOI Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings as required by the State of Texas Preservation Tax Credits.

Criterion B Justification

The James L. Dickey residence is worthy of listing in the National Register under Criterion B in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Black, at the local level of significance. The building is significant for its association with Dr. James L. Dickey, an influential African American physician who began practicing in Taylor in 1921 and continued his practice until his death in 1956. Dr. Dickey aggressively worked to provide greater access to prenatal care and to eradicate then-rampant typhoid fever epidemics. He supported the African American community beyond his career as a doctor, and was at the forefront of efforts to improve water and wastewater facilities, housing standards, educational opportunities, and recreational offerings for African American families in the area. The house is the single surviving property that is most importantly associated with Dr. James Lee Dickey during his lifetime as a humanitarian, philanthropist and community activist.

Dr. Dickey's first office was on Main Street, on the second floor of one of the commercial buildings within the existing National Register district at the intersection of Talbot and West 2nd. From 1933-35, Dickey also practiced from a previously residential building that was altered into a clinic on Bland Street. That building was torn down when he built a brand new clinic/hospital in 1936. He operated this clinic and office at 502 Elliot Street until his death in 1959. The Bland Street clinic was demolished in the 1980s.

Dr. Dickey was a well-known advocate for public health and the general welfare of not only Taylor's African American residents but the city's Mexican-American residents as well. He was at the forefront of efforts to improve water and wastewater facilities, housing standards, educational opportunities, and recreational offerings. His influence and advocacy for community planning and design were rare for central Texas during the height of the Jim Crow Era. The State of Texas recognized Dr. Dickey for his contributions to general welfare of citizens and numerous

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accomplishments during his lifetime. The state flag was flown over the Texas capital building in Austin on his birthday, November 12, 2013, in recognition of his profound role of working for better education, health and welfare for the African American communities of Texas.

The period of significance for the house (1926-1959) spans the years when Dr. Dickey lived and worked in the building during his highly productive professional years. The period of significance for this property spans from the acquisition of the land and the building of his home to the time of his death. This building has prominent visibility and is a viable property associated with an important aspect of his life as a physician and philanthropist. It is the single surviving property that is most significantly associated with Dr. James L. Dickey during his life as a humanitarian and community activist. Dr. Dickey treated patients in this house and worked from his home office.

Conclusion

The Dr. James Lee Dickey House is the last surviving building directly associated with the doctor's productive life as an outstanding doctor, local and regional representative who advocated for public health issues particularly for all those with very limited access to quality medical care.

The building's location is one block east of the original site. The house retains the same orientation and is sited on a corner lot that equals the original buildings site. It retains a strong relationship to the community of Taylor as the home, office and clinic of Dr. James Lee Dickey. The design of the building retains its massing and floor plan with a central hall and staircase as the major organizing feature. Although altered for another use in 1965, the structure retains its feeling and association with Dr. Dickey at the time of his most important work in the region. The original materials used on the building retain a substantial amount of evidence to support repair or replication as deemed necessary by the rehabilitation consultants. The Dickey House embodies the spirit and determination of residents who were nurtured, cared for and empowered by this remarkable man. Its presence fosters community pride, awareness of ongoing health care needs, education and professional opportunity. The Dr. James Lee Dickey House represents the hopes and aspirations of community, particularly the African American communities around and in Taylor. It is a unique large two story wood frame building, as imposing as the man himself, that carries a profound association to many of those who live in the community, who were born with Dr. Dickey's assistance, and have benefited by his leadership in providing educational opportunities, job training, recreational sites and access to health care. The 'mansion' marks the pride of a community in a remarkable man.

Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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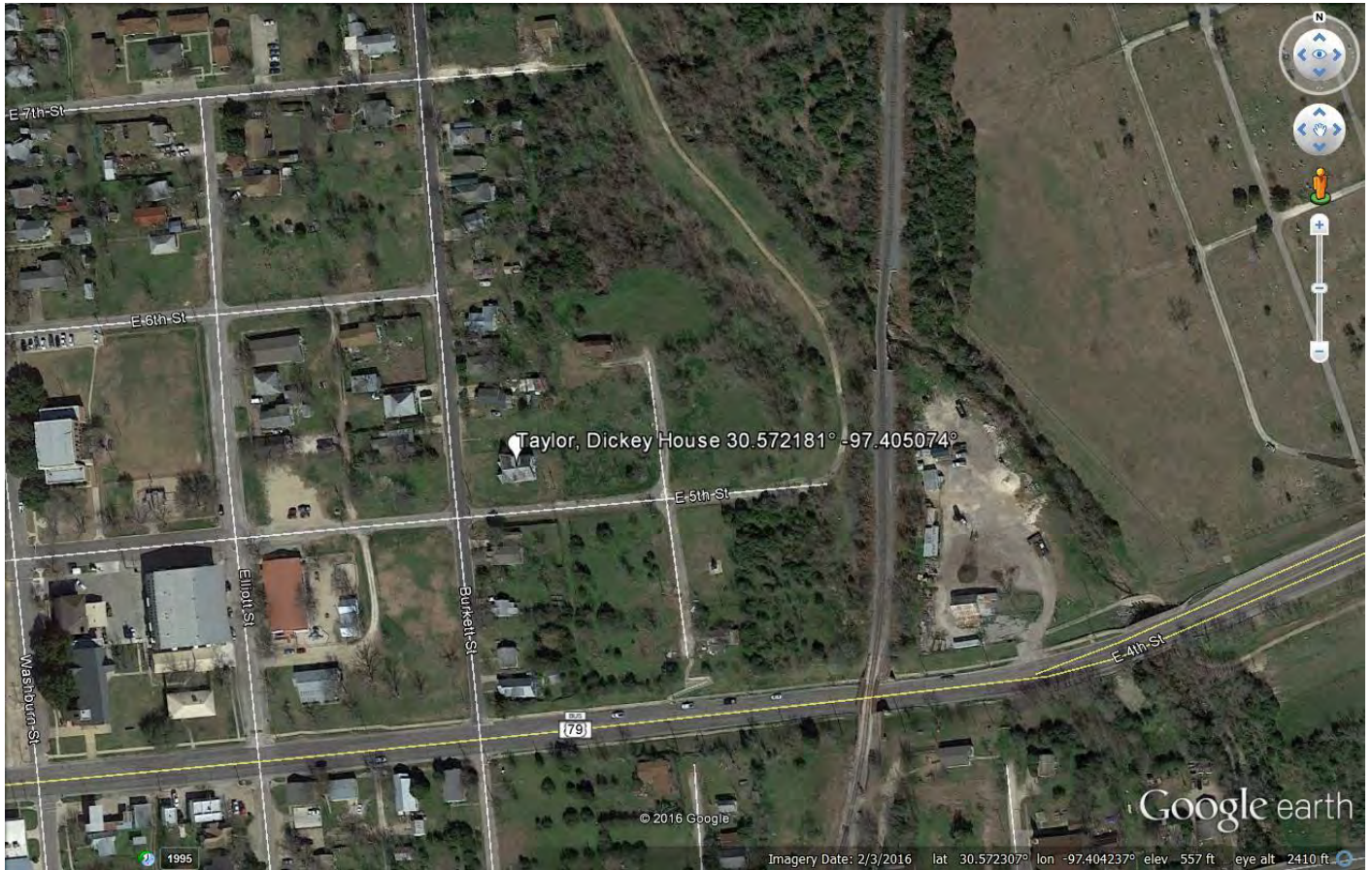
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Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Map (Current Location)

Google Earth, Accessed April 25, 2016



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

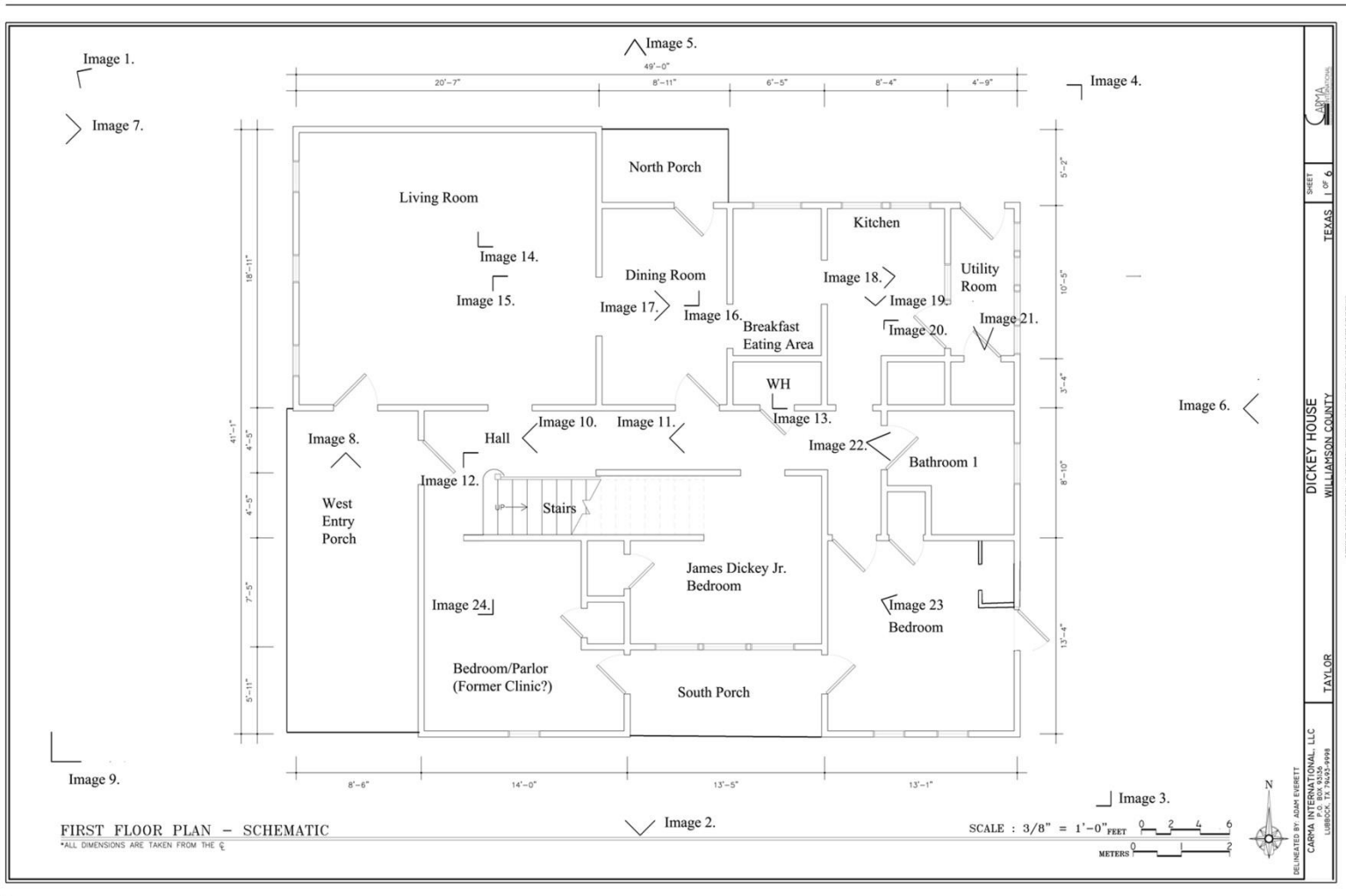
Map (Current and Previous Locations)

Google Earth, Accessed April 25, 2016



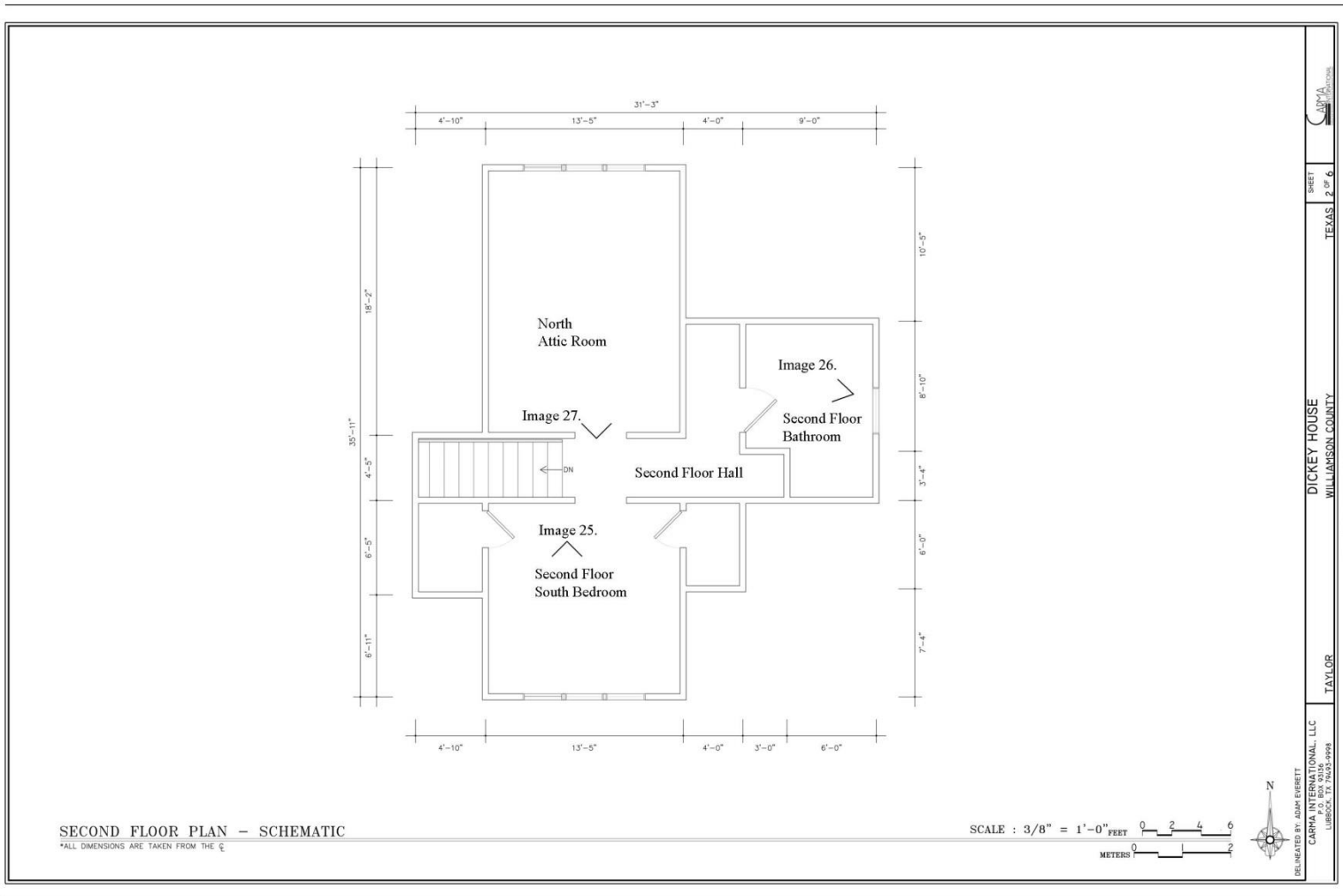
Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

First Floor Plan



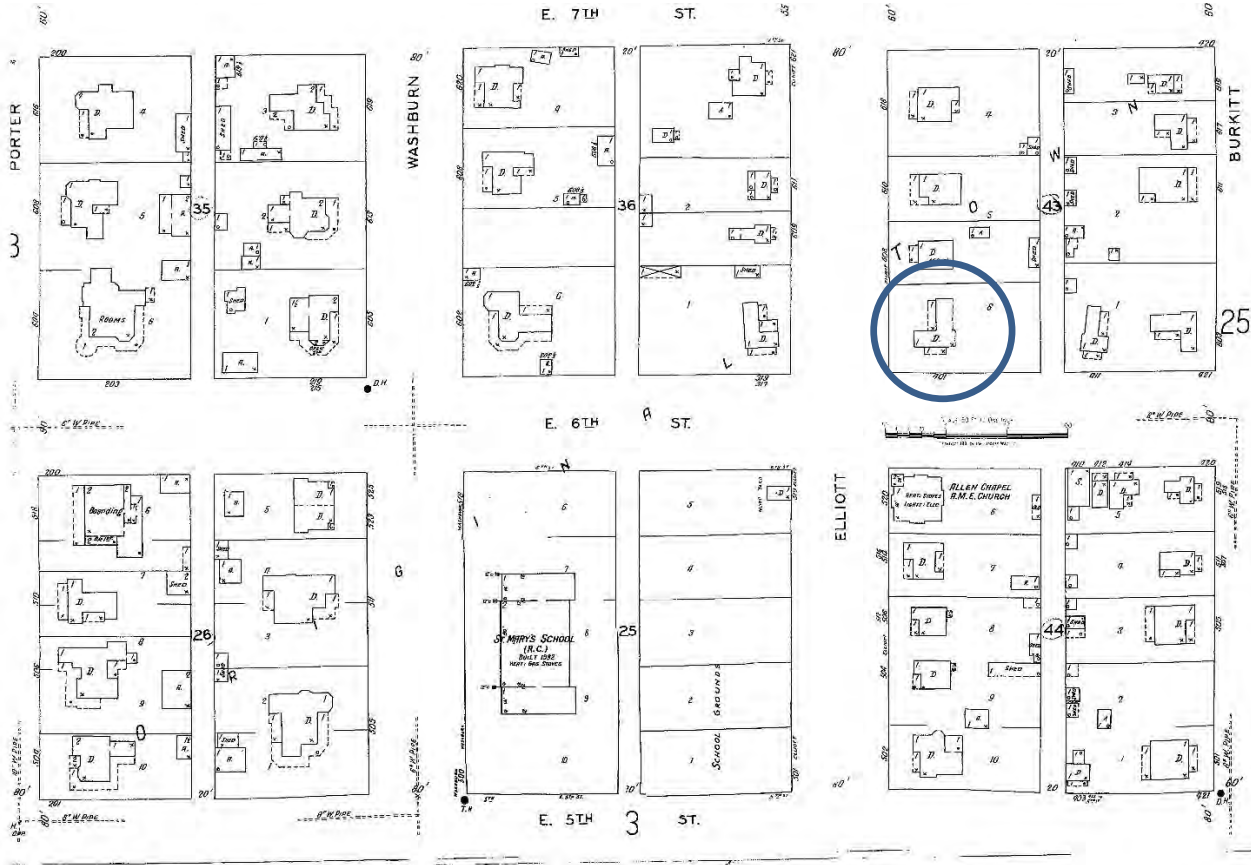
Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Second Floor Plan



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

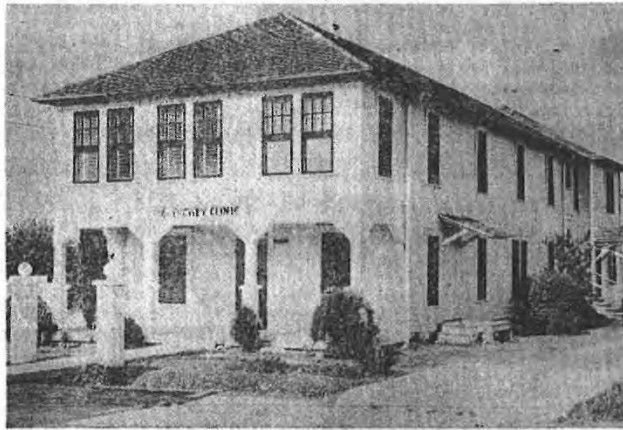
Sanborn Map, 1931
Circle indicates original location of house



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

INSTITUTIONS, Like Counties Do Not "Just Happen"! CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIAMSON COUNTY

ON ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY . . .
THE PAST 100 YEARS HAVE SEEN MUCH OF ACCOM-
PLISHMENT IN TAYLOR AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY —
MAY THE NEXT CENTURY SEE MORE.



THE DICKEY CLINIC

IS PROUD OF ITS PART IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THIS COUNTY. IT WAS ORGANIZED IN 1935 By DR. J. L. DICKEY, WHO IS A GRADUATE OF THE MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE WITH THE CLASS OF 1921, TO PROVIDE CLINICAL AND HOSPITALIZATION PRIVILEGES FOR THE NEGROES OF TAYLOR AND VICINITY.

The Dickey Clinic and Hospital is a large, white two-story building located at 401 Bland Street. It has a well lighted, safe operating room, a large autoclave sterilizer where gauze and instruments are sterilized by live steam under pressure, a complete equipment of instruments of various kinds to take care of all requirements. A small, well stocked laboratory is maintained.

A staff of capable nurses and trainees is on duty 24 hours a day.

The DICKEY CLINIC

Hospitals

401 Bland Street

DR. J. L. DICKEY

Phone 928

Taylor, Texas

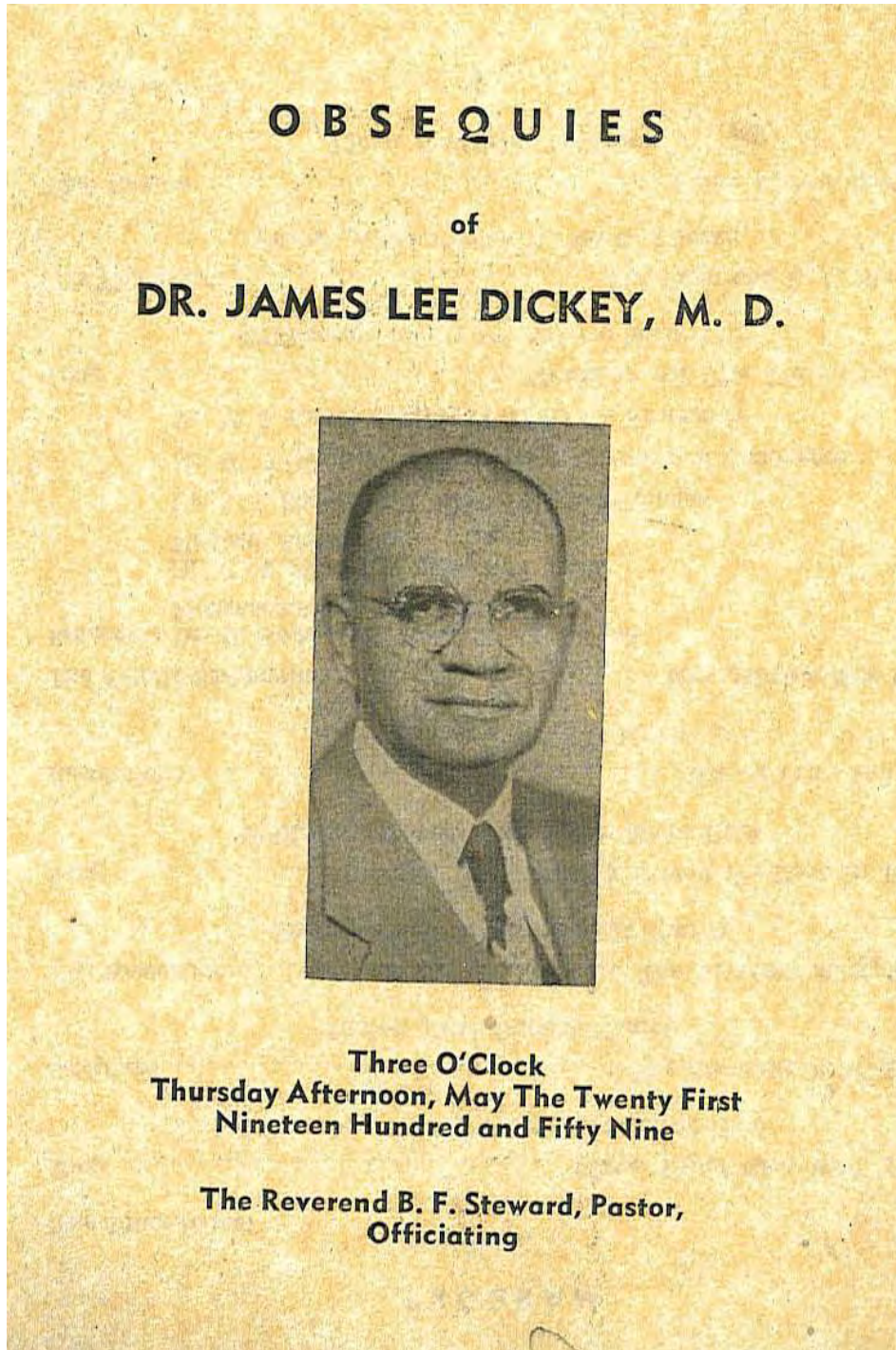
3-18-48

Taylor Times

Newspaper advertisement showing the Dickey Clinic at 401 Bland Street. Source: Williamson County Historical Museum Archive. Taylor Times, March 18, 1948.

Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Dr. James L. Dickey Funeral Program



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 1

View of west and north façades showing the current general condition of the entry porch, exterior wood siding walls, wood frame windows and wood/asphalt roofing prior to rehabilitation. Camera facing southeast.



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 2

View of south façade showing the current general condition of the exterior wood paneling walls, wood frame windows, 2nd floor bedroom windows, dormer and wood/asphalt roofing prior to rehabilitation. Camera facing north.



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Photo 3

Oblique view of south and east façades showing the current general condition of the exterior wood walls, wood frame windows, 2nd floor bedroom windows, dormer and wood/asphalt roofing prior to rehabilitation. Camera facing northwest.



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Photo 4

Oblique view of east and north façades showing the current general condition of the exterior wood walls, wood frame windows, 2nd floor bedroom windows, dormer and wood/asphalt roofing prior to rehabilitation. Camera facing southwest.



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Photo 5

Elevation view of north façade, side of the house, showing the current general condition of the exterior wood walls, wood frame windows, 2nd floor bedroom windows, dormer and wood/asphalt roofing prior to rehabilitation. The small porch addition seems to have been partially demolished. Camera facing south.



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 6

Original three vertical lites, wood front door on the right, added wood door and metal storm door into living room on the left, added plywood archway, temporary wood 4" x 4" column porch and roof supports in the foreground. Camera facing northeast.



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Photo 7

Original Newel Post and Banisters. Wood Banisters arranged two per tread along the single run stair case to the second floor. Camera facing southeast.



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 8

Living Room looking toward Dining Room Entry. The view shows the double entry with wood trim toward the formal dining room. Minimal fire damage to trim is likely repairable. Camera facing southeast.



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 9

Dining room view of northeast dining room corner and entry with the living room west window in the background. Some fire damage on the wall and ceiling of the dining room. Camera facing northwest.



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Photo 10

View from the kitchen looking toward the breakfast or informal eating area to the west. Arched doorway and wood trim are original. The stove is located to the left of the view and cabinets are to the right. Camera facing west.



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Photo 11

Kitchen Cabinets

Original wood cabinets on the north wall of the kitchen. The double windows located above the sinks are original. To the right of the image is the utility room and back entry. A gas heater is located in the right foreground with a window into the utility room suggesting that a porch was later enclosed on the east side of the building. Camera facing north.



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Photo 12

Kitchen Pantry, Ironing Board and Back Porch doors.

View from the kitchen toward the pantry on the right and the backdoor leading to the utility room on the east side of the house. Original wood trim, doors and ironing board are extant. Camera facing east-southeast.



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 13

1st Fl. Bathroom, Pink Pedestal Sink and Tub

First floor toilet, sink and storage cabinet to the right of the image, bathtub not shown to the right of the image. Wood original window opens to the east and back yard. Camera facing east.



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 14

1st Fl. SE Room Flooring

Original wood flooring shown in the southeast room with board length oriented east to west. An exterior door is visible in the southeast corner of the room. This room had a variety of uses including parlor, clinic, office and bedroom. The original windows facing the west were closed likely during the period that the building was used as a funeral parlor. These windows will be reconstructed during the rehabilitation scheduled to begin in 2016 and will match the style and material of the rest of the large wood extant windows. Camera facing east.



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 15

2nd Fl. South Bedroom

Bedroom located at the south central second floor area of the house. It is one of three rooms on the second floor. The south facing wood double set of windows were covered to deter vandalism. The original wood ceiling planks and floor are extant. Camera facing south.



Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Photo 16

2nd Fl. Bathroom

The second floor bath and toilet room are located directly above the first floor bathroom although this room is smaller. A smaller wooden window opens to the east and back yard. The sink appears to be original and a small line storage is across the room from the sink, to the right of the door as one enters. Camera facing northwest.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Dickey, Dr. James L., House

Multiple Name:

State & County: TEXAS, Williamson

Date Received:
1/6/2017

Date of Pending List:

Date of 16th Day:

Date of 45th Day:
2/21/2017

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100000675

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<i>Submission Type</i>	<i>Property Type</i>	<i>Problem Type</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years

Accept Return Reject 2/21/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Dr. James Lee Dickey House is locally significant under National Register Criterion B (Social History, Ethnic Heritage-Black). Completed in 1926, the house is the lone surviving property directly associated with an outstanding African-American physician, community activist and civil rights leader, who advocated for public health issues for those with limited access to medical care, including African American children and new mothers. While in poor condition, the house retains sufficient overall integrity (size, scale, overall design and plan) to convey its historic associations and significance. When built, the house was fairly imposing in scale within the surrounding, largely African American, community, acknowledging Dr. Dickey's status as a prominent professional and the house's function as both residence and clinic. The property meets Criteria Consideration B as its current setting is on a comparable lot one block from its original location, and the house derives its primary significance from its close association with a significant person, for whom no other property survives.

Recommendation/ Accept NR Criterion B; Meets Criteria Consideration B.
Criteria

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 2/21/17

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments Y/N

see attached SLR Y/N

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Edson Beall
 National Register of Historic Places
 National Park Service
 1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
 Washington, DC 20005

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

DATE: December 28, 2016

The following materials are submitted:

	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk.
X	The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Dr. James L. Dickey House, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas
	Resubmitted nomination.
X	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk.
	Resubmitted form.
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	Correspondence.

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do) (do not) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

