

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC John Nance Garner House  
AND/OR COMMON Ettie R. Garner Memorial Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 333 North Park Street  
CITY, TOWN Uvalde VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 21  
STATE Texas CODE 48 COUNTY Uvalde CODE 463

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** Contact: Mrs. Hugh Porter, Curator  
Garner Memorial Museum  
333 North Park Street, Uvalde.

NAME City of Uvalde  
STREET & NUMBER City Hall  
CITY, TOWN Uvalde VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE Texas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Office of the County Clerk  
STREET & NUMBER Uvalde County Courthouse, N. Getty at E. Main  
CITY, TOWN Uvalde STATE Texas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From 1920 until his wife's death in 1952, Garner made his permanent home in this two-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed, brick house, which was designed for him by architect Atlee Ayers. Also included within the nominated acreage is a one-story, white-painted, framehouse that the Garners occupied from about 1900 to 1920 and in which he lived from 1952 until his death in 1967. This structure stood originally where the brick residence now rests, and to make room for the new house, Garner moved the **older** one back about 75 additional feet from the street. The frame dwelling remains in the Garner family (contact Mrs. John Currie, Route 2, Box 44A10, Amarillo, Texas, 79101) and serves presently as a rental property. The principal **Garner** residence, the brick house, was donated by Garner to the city of Uvalde in 1952 as a memorial to Mrs. Garner. It housed the community library until about 1973, but now it functions as both a Garner and a Uvalde County museum. Although library officials removed some key upstairs partitions, they did not disturb the stairway or the first story, and the exterior remains almost exactly as it was in Garner's day. Only one other extant Garner residence is known: Hotel Washington at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Garner occupied an apartment there from 1931 to about 1940. Clearly, the Uvalde property commemorates the former Vice President best.

Constructed of variously shaded tan brick, the east-facing Garner House sits on a stone foundation and over a full basement. The structure derives its H shape from a three-bay-wide central block that is flanked on its north and south sides by a pair of rectangular ells. Each roof section is covered with dark wood shingles, and each crest is highlighted by a row of red clay tiles. A plain, boxed cornice with paneled soffit decorates each roof eave. As with all exterior woodwork, this trim is white-painted. Two tan brick exterior chimneys pierce the roof overhang. One stack rises along the rear wall of the central block, while the other soars upward along the rear wall of the south ell. In addition to the two end ells, there are three other appendages to the house. All were part of the original construction, but Garner may have made slight changes in them during his residency. None of them have been altered by the city. A small, two-story, hip-roofed, brick and frame wing or sunporch attaches to the rear two-thirds of the south end of the south ell; a similar but smaller wing abuts the west or rear end of the north ell; and a one-story, shed-roofed, enclosed porch passes across the rear of the central block and connects to each of the ells.

Fenestration in the Garner House is varied--basically according to section--but throughout the house, windows are rectangular in shape and set within white-painted wood surrounds. Almost all windows in the central block and two ells are six-over-six sashes, and have white-

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1920-52 (1900-67) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Atlee Ayers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From 1902 to 1932 John Nance Garner was one of the most influential Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and from 1933 to 1941 he was Vice President of the United States. During World War I Garner served as liaison between President Woodrow Wilson and Congress, and in the 1920's, he was the chief Democratic critic of Republican tariff and tax policies. In 1931 he became Speaker of the House and announced that Democrats would cooperate with President Herbert Hoover in combating the depression. Garner supported Hoover's proposed Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but the two men disagreed over the relief question, and when Hoover vetoed Garner's bill for a massive public works program to put the unemployed back to work, cooperation between the chief spokesmen for the two political parties ended.

Few men have exercised as much influence on a particular epoch of history as John Nance Garner did on the New Deal period. At the 1932 Democratic National Convention his timely withdrawal on the third ballot enabled Franklin D. Roosevelt to win the nomination at a time when it appeared almost certain that the New Yorker's delegate strength would begin to decline. As Roosevelt's Vice President, Garner, according to historian Seymour V. Connor, "by persuasion, cajolery, and a mastery of parliamentary tactics ushered the New Deal into law."<sup>1</sup> A veteran of 30 years in Congress, Garner, with his numerous friendships in both houses of Congress, proved to be the key individual in the passage of most legislation during Roosevelt's first 6 years in office. By 1938, however, the Roosevelt-Garner relationship cooled because of what Garner perceived as a too leftward slant in administration policy. Consequently new Presidential proposals encountered rough sledding. At this juncture, says biographer Bascom N. Timmons, Garner became "the symbol of opposition to the course Roosevelt was taking" and the leader of conservative Democrats.<sup>2</sup>

1

Seymour V. Connor, Texas: A History (New York, 1971), 338.

2

Bascom N. Timmons, Garner of Texas: A Personal History (New York, 1948).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Connor, Seymour V., Texas: A History (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1971).

Dorman, Michael, The Second Man: The Changing Role of the Vice Presidency (New York: Dell Books, 1970).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY                      circa 3.5 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	42,298,0	3,23,159,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the boundary of the legal tract known as 333 North Park Street, Uvalde, Texas, as it was constituted in 1952 prior to John Nance Garner's donation of his brick residence to the city of Uvalde.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George R. Adams, Managing Editor; and  
Ralph Christian, Assistant Editor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

American Association for State and Local History April 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1400 Eighth Avenue South

615-242-5583

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Nashville

Tennessee

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

painted stone lintels and brick sills. A double window flanked by two single ones light the second story of the central block's front facade, while triple windows illuminate both the first and second stories of the ells' front facades. Elsewhere window placement is somewhat irregular. The north side of the north ell displays four regularly placed single windows on the second floor, while on the first story, there are three single openings and one small double window, which is positioned at the west end of the facade. The two-story sunporch along the south side of the south ell features eight one-over-one sashes on the top level and seven two-over-two sashes on the ground floor. The rear sunporch has eight one-over-one sashes, four aligned along each side of a center-placed, single, rear door.

Main entrance to the Garner House is through a recessed, three-bay-wide, front porch sheltered by an overhang of the central block's second story. Two cross-shaped brick pillars support the flat- and stone-arched overhang. Three full-width brick steps ascend from a concrete front walk to the porch's red tile floor, and brick corbeling decorates the central block facade just above the arches. Above this decor on the central bay hangs a sign identifying the houses as the "Ettie R. Garner Memorial Building." From the front porch, five stone-linteled doorways give access to the interior. Opening into the central block are three double, glass doors. Each pair is framed by wood surrounds and topped by a six-light transom, and each individual door consists of six horizontal rows of three glass panes. At each end of the porch, a single but similarly designed door provides access to its respective ell. Other entrances, in addition to these and the above noted rear sunporch door, are a single door with transom and side lights in the first story of the south ell's rear facade and a single, rear door in the ground level of the north ell's rear wing.

The three double, front doors open into a single, rectangular-shaped, north-south receiving hall. Here, as in the remainder of the house, the walls and ceilings are white-painted plaster and the floors are 2 1/4-inch-wide strips of pecan wood. At each end of the hall, a double, glass door--similar to the front entrance doors but without a transom--opens into an ell, and along the rear or west wall of the room, a carpeted, double-flight, open-string, balustraded stairway mounts to the second floor. The area underneath the stair is closed and contains a closet and half bath.

At the north end of the front hall, the double door leads into what served formerly as Garner's dining room. It now houses his collection of gavels as well as sundry other personal memorabilia. From this room a

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short corridor near the center of the ell's north wall leads past a pantry and enclosed basement stairway and into the former kitchen at the rear of the ell. This room now houses artifacts related to Garner's hunting and fishing interests. Beyond the former kitchen is a small rear entrance foyer formed by the rear wing.

The double door at the south end of the receiving hall opens into the Garner living room, which fills the entire first story of the south ell. Here now are some Garner and some period furnishings, a brick fireplace, and a collection of Garner's hats. Near the center of the south wall, a single door opens onto the tile-floored sunporch, where Garner usually conducted his various business affairs. Behind or west of the receiving hall is the rear sunporch, which is accessible from the former kitchen and from a single door near the south end of the front hall's west wall. This room is structurally unaltered, but the museum has placed a photographic display board temporarily across the west side of the room and against the eight rear windows and door.

Before the city library tore out the upstairs fixtures and some of the partitions, the second floor contained at least four bedrooms and Garner's study, which was in the west end of the south ell. Despite these needless alterations, the original configuration of the second floor is still clearly indicated, and the stairway's second-floor railing is intact. Most of the space here will soon be utilized for a Uvalde County museum. The attic remains unfinished and is accessible by an enclosed stair near the center of the north side of the north ell.

The Garner House sits on a large, grassy, live-oak-shaded lot and near other dwellings about the **same age**. A short distance from the north-west corner of the house stands a one-story, hip-roofed, brick, four-car garage erected the same year the house was built. Directly rear of the 1920 residence stands Garner's one-story, gable-roofed, white-painted, framehouse. It is east-facing and T-shaped, with the stem pointing southward. A small, shed-roofed wing attaches to the east side of the stem; an enclosed, shed-roofed porch abuts the opposite or west side of the stem; and a narrower, longer wing adjoins the west, gabled end. Recently a tree fell on the house's front porch, forcing its removal, but the structure appears to be in good condition and otherwise unaltered since Garner's death.

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Garner's permanent home from 1920 until 1952 was this two-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed, brick house. Also included in the nominated property is the white-painted framehouse in which Garner lived from about 1900 to 1920 and from 1952 until his death in 1967. The only other extant Garner residence is an apartment that he occupied in the Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C. from 1931 to about 1940.

Biography

John Nance Garner IV was born November 22, 1868, in Blossom Prairie, Tex., to John N. and Sarah G. Garner. Although his family was fairly well-to-do, his educational opportunities were limited by semifrontier conditions and his formal schooling was sporadic. Fiercely independent, Garner began to support himself at an early age, working at various times as a farm laborer, store clerk, and semipro baseball player. In 1886 Garner entered Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., but his stay proved short because of poor health and educational deficiencies. Returning to Detroit, Tex., where his family now resided, he began to study law under W. L. Sims and M. L. Wright.

In 1889 Garner won admission to the Texas bar and opened his first office, in Clarksville. Three years later his health worsened, and he visited a physician who informed him he had tuberculosis and that his only hope for recovery was to move to a drier climate. In December 1892 he moved to Uvalde, where he was to make his home for the rest of his life. Soon he had a flourishing law practice and became increasingly involved in local politics, particularly after he acquired the Uvalde Leader in payment of a legal fee.

Garner won his first public office in 1893 when he was elected County Judge, and 5 years later he gained election to the Texas House of Representatives. During his two terms in the legislature, he fought pork barrel legislation and won a reputation as an advocate of economy in government and a strong supporter of corporation regulation, particularly of railroads. In his last term Garner carved out his own Congressional district and had it approved by the legislature.

In 1902 Garner was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas' 15th Congressional District, a position he was to hold for the next 30 years. Garner devoted his first years in the House to taking care of the needs of his constituents and becoming acquainted with his colleagues. Although he made few speeches and offered no important bills, he favorably impressed the Democratic House leadership. In 1909 Champ

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Clark made him assistant whip and 2 years later promoted him to whip after the Democrats won control of the House.

In 1913 while a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Garner helped draft the United States' first income tax law following ratification of the 16th amendment. He is "chiefly credited," says historian Michael Dorman, "with bringing about the graduated income tax system that taxes citizens according to what they earn."<sup>3</sup> Garner's star rose to even greater heights during World War I, when, according to historian Seymour V. Connor, he "visited the White House twice a week for private conferences with the President" and served as Wilson's liaison with Congress.<sup>4</sup>

Although Garner did not officially become minority leader until 1929, in the decade of the 1920's he emerged as the leading Democratic spokesman in Congress, leading assaults on the Republican administrations of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover. Particularly critical of tariff increases and Andrew Mellon's efforts to reduce taxes for the wealthy, Garner fought a rearguard action against these proposals and sometimes was able to have them modified. After becoming minority leader, Garner attracted much public attention because of his close friendship with the Republican Speaker Nicholas Longworth, who used the Speaker's limousine to transport Garner to and from the House each day.

In 1931 Garner became the first Democrat since Champ Clark in 1919 to serve as Speaker of the House. Shortly after assuming office, Garner announced that he and his party would cooperate with President Hoover in combatting the depression. Actually, says historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Garner "vacillated between cooperation and obstruction in his attitude toward the administration."<sup>5</sup> Although Garner supported such Hoover proposals as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Texan concerned himself more with developing a Democratic program against the depression. In February 1932, he formed a Democratic Economy Committee whose duty was to do everything possible to balance the Nation's budget. The committee recommended a national sales tax which Garner reluctantly accepted, but efforts to pass such a tax were to no avail. Garner then proposed a massive public works program to put the unemployed back to work. It passed Congress but was vetoed by President Hoover. This veto

<sup>3</sup>Michael Dorman, The Second Man: The Changing Role of the Vice Presidency (New York, 1970), 143.

<sup>4</sup>Connor, Texas, 311.

<sup>5</sup>Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933 (Boston, 1957), 228.



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virtually destroyed efforts at cooperation between the President and the Democrats.

Because of his National prominence, Garner began to receive mention as a potential candidate for the 1932 Democratic nomination for President. Garner disavowed any intention of seeking the office, but his candidacy received impetus from William R. Hearst, who supported the Texan, according to historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., because of his "opposition to all foreign entanglements as well as his devotion to economy and thrift."<sup>6</sup> Thanks to Hearst, Garner defeated Alfred E. Smith and Franklin D. Roosevelt in the California primary, and with the solid support of the Texas delegation entered the convention with 90 delegates. After the 3rd ballot, certain that Roosevelt was the popular favorite and fearing a repeat of the long 1924 convention, Garner withdrew, enabling Roosevelt to win on the next ballot. After much persuasion, the Speaker agreed to accept second spot on the ticket.

Garner in 1933 became the first man since Schuyler Colfax in 1869 to succeed to the Vice Presidency from the House Speakership. As Vice President, says historian James T. Patterson, Garner's "old congressional friendships made him a valuable administration man in both houses."<sup>7</sup> A veteran of 30 years in Congress, Garner proved to be the key individual in the passage of most legislation during Roosevelt's first 6 years in office. By 1938, however, relations between the two men cooled because of what Garner perceived as a too leftward slant in administration policy. New Presidential proposals encountered rough sledding, and Garner, according to historian Donald Young, came to symbolize "the resistance within the Democratic party to the Roosevelt leadership."<sup>8</sup> Strongly opposed to the third term, Garner announced his candidacy in 1940 but was swamped in the primaries by "Draft Roosevelt" sentiment.

When Garner left office in 1941 he held an international record, says Bascom N. Timmons, because "he had continuously presided over a par-

<sup>6</sup>  
Ibid., 286.

<sup>7</sup>  
James T. Patterson, Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal (Lexington, 1967), 131.

<sup>8</sup>  
Donald Young, American Roulette: The History and Dilemma of the Vice Presidency (New York, 1965), 171.

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liamentary body for ten consecutive years, a record then and still unequalled."<sup>9</sup> Garner returned home to Uvalde where he devoted himself to his business interests. He passed away on November 7, 1967, 15 days before his 99th birthday, making him the longest-lived President or Vice President in American history.

9

Bascom N. Timmons, John Nance Garner of Texas on the American Political Stage (Uvalde, Tex., n.d.), 3.

CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

New York Times, obituary, November 8, 1967.

Patterson, James T., Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1967).

Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr., The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1957).

Timmons, Bascom N., Garner of Texas: A Personal History (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1948).

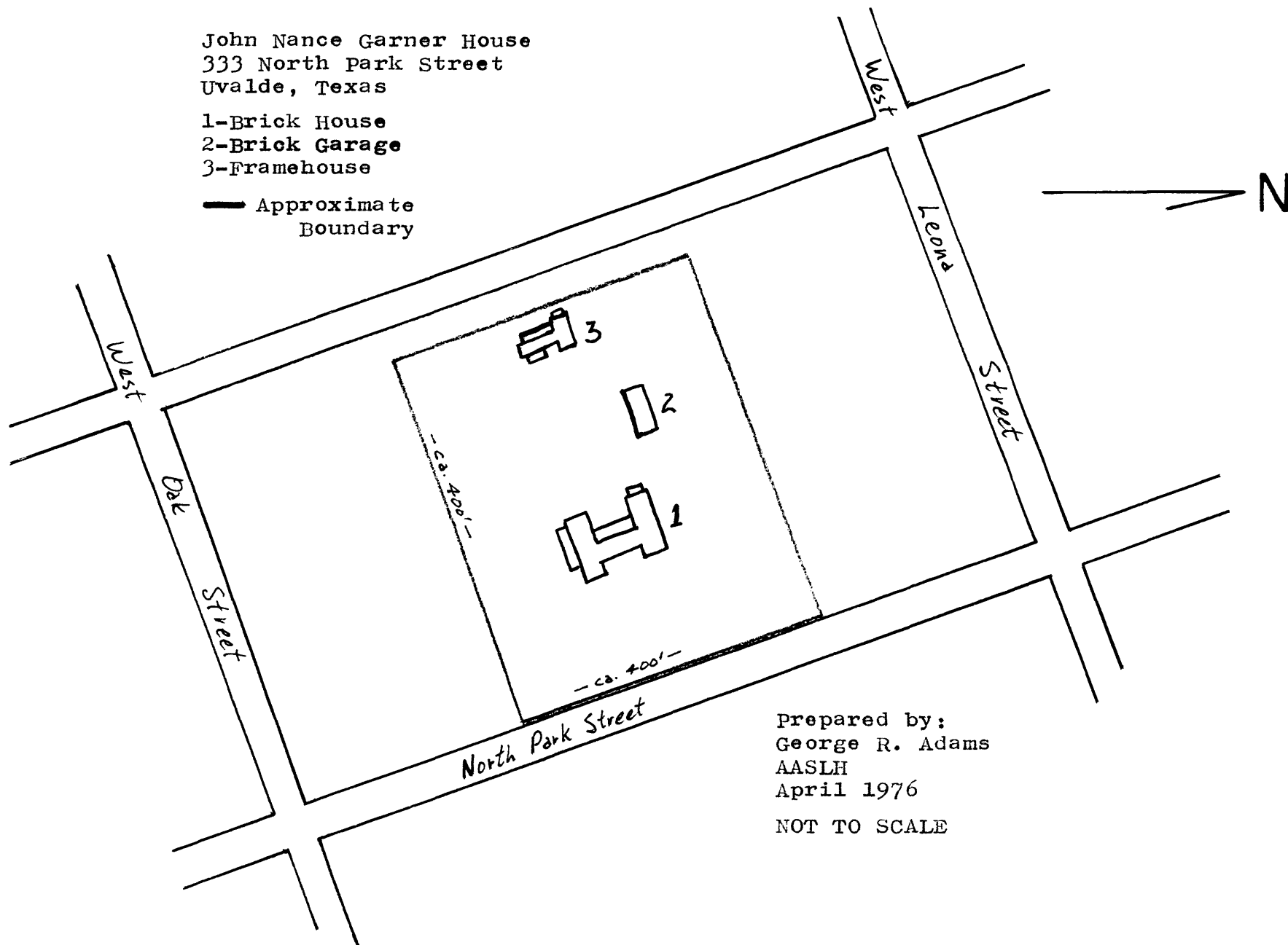
\_\_\_\_\_ , John Nance Garner of Texas on the American Political Stage (Uvalde, Tex.: Garner Memorial Museum, n.d.).

Young, Donald, American Roulette: The History and Dilemma of the Vice Presidency (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1965).

John Nance Garner House  
333 North Park Street  
Uvalde, Texas

- 1-Brick House
- 2-Brick Garage
- 3-Framehouse

— Approximate  
Boundary



Prepared by:  
George R. Adams  
AASLH  
April 1976  
NOT TO SCALE