## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

OMB No. 1024-0018

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_

Page

# Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100003533

Date Listed: 3/25/2019

Property Name: Hollowell, Cleta Friedman and Harry W., House

County: Cameron

State: TX

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

Signature of the leeper

Amended Items in Nomination:

Name of Property:

"Augustine Celaya Rental Property" is added under *Other Name*. [The Hollowell family is preferred for the Historic Name as they were associated with the building for the longest period even if outside the period of significance. The building is known locally by its association with the Hollowell family.]

The TEXAS SHPO was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:** 

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

3533

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FEB - 7 2019

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NPS Form 10-900	
<b>United States Departme</b>	ent of the Interior
National Park Service	
National Register of	Historic Places Registration Form

Historic Name: Hollowell, Cleta Friedman, and Harry W., House Other name/site number: NA Name of related multiple property listing: NA

#### 2. Location

Street & number: 622 East Saint Charles StreetCity or town: BrownsvilleState: TexasNot for publication: Vicinity:

County: Cameron

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Nacht

State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature of certifying official / Title

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

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby	certify	that	the	property	is:	

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action



5

## 5. Classification

## **Ownership of Property**

х	Private	
	Public - Local	
	Public - State	
	Public - Federal	

## **Category of Property**

Х	building(s)	
	district	
	site	
	structure	
	object	

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

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

#### 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions: DOMESTIC/single dwelling, secondary structure

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification: LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Principal Exterior Materials: WOOD

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6-7)

#### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

	Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of
		our history.
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Х	С	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.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Architecture

#### Period of Significance: 1909

Significant Dates: 1909

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

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

Architect/Builder: Unknown (main house); A.R. Kunsch (interior alterations, 1931)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-14)

#### 9. Major Bibliographic References

#### **Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 15)

#### 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:

- <u>x</u> 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

#### **10. Geographical Data**

#### Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

#### Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 25.903521° N Longitude: -97.503759° W

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 4, Block 33, Original Townsite of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas

Boundary Justification: This is the site historically associated with this property.

#### 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Juan M. Vélez, Historic Preservation Officer / Stephen Fox, Fellow Organization: City of Brownsville / Anchorage Foundation of Texas Street & number: City of Brownsville Planning & Development Services Department, 1034 E. Levee St., 2nd Floor / Anderson Hall, Rm. 100, Rice University, 6100 Main Street City: Brownsville / Houston State: Texas zip code: 78520 / 77005-1892 / E-mail: juan.velez@cob.us / sfox@rice.edu Telephone: 956.548.6142 / 713.348.3378 Date: 23 August 2018

#### Additional Documentation

Maps	(see continuation sheets 16-17)
Additional items	(see continuation sheets 18-24)
Photographs	(see continuation sheets 5, 25-42)

**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.

#### Photograph Log

Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell House Brownsville, Cameron County, TX Photographs by Juan Velez Date: December 2016 & July 2017

- Photo 1: View from northeast (main facade), camera facing southwest.
- Photo 2: View from south (rear and southeast elevation), camera facing north.
- Photo 3: View from southeast, detail (rear elevation), camera facing northwest.
- Photo 4: View from northwest elevation, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 5: Second floor main façade, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 6: Entrance, camera facing southwest
- Photo 7: Detail of porch's colonette and Tuscan capital, camera facing south.
- Photo 8: View of garage, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 9: View of first floor bay windows, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 10: Main entrance door, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 11: Northwest door from the interior, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 12: Detail of living room fireplace, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 13: Staircase from the first floor, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 14: Staircase form the second floor, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 15: Second floor interior door transoms, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 16: Second floor corridor, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 17: Interior first floor door and closet, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 18: First floor. Southeast windows, camera facing northwest.

#### **Narrative Summary**

The Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell House is a two-story wood frame, Queen Anne style, single-family dwelling house at 622 East St. Charles Street that occupies Lot 4 of Block 33 in the Original Townsite of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. The house was built in 1909 and is situated in what remains of the turn-of-the-twentieth-century residential fabric of Brownsville's West End neighborhood. Based on a T-plan configuration, a plan shape employed in other Brownsville houses of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to maximize breeze penetration in the sultry, subtropical climate, the Hollowell House exhibits architectural traits that conservatively perpetuate late Victorian architectural practices. Intact architectural features include the asymmetrical façade, one-story shed roof porch, tapered wood colonnettes, and two-over-two wood sliding sash windows. A noncontributing one story garage is located at the rear of the property. While the property has been modified over the years, it retains historic integrity.

### Location and Setting

The Hollowell House is located 622 East St. Charles Street on a small rectangular lot just west of Brownsville's commercial core. The house and garage are positioned near the west side of the property. Large trees provide ample vegetation while a nonhistoric brick and wrought iron fence follows the property line on the northeast and northwest sides and a rear wood fence provides privacy for the back yard. Historically a residential neighborhood, now the surrounding development displays a mix of residential and commercial uses and parking lots. In particular, Garza & Garza Law Firm at 680 East St. Charles Street serves as a 1978 intrusion positioned along the eastern boundary of the Hollowell House compromising the setting.

#### Exterior

The Hollowell House is a two-story, Queen Anne style, wood frame house set on brick foundation piers. It is surfaced with painted wood weatherboarding. The primary (northeast) elevation is asymmetrical and consists of a two-story faceted bay that projects forward from the body of the house toward St. Charles Street. The street-facing triangular roof gable is in-filled with imbricated wood shingles surrounding a centered, tripartite window, its central aperture having a taller head height than the flanking windows as well as decorative wood muntins. A one-story, shed-roofed porch projects forward of the primary bay and fills the re-entrant angle where the front and side wings intersect and where the front door is located. The porch roof is supported on tapered wood colonnettes with Tuscan capitals. A recessed side wing projects toward the side (southeast) property line. The side wing is also faceted in profile. The back of the house is a spatial continuation of the projecting northeast street-front bay, giving the house a T-plan configuration. A one-story rear porch fills out the re-entrant angle on the back side of the house. The roof is gable-ended above the two faceted bays but has a hipped configuration above the back wing. A small nonhistoric wood porch is visible at the rear of the house. Almost all windows in the house are framed, single openings fitted with two-pane-over-two-pane wood sliding sash windows. The lack of windows on the long northwest elevation of the house suggests that openings on this side of the house have been filled-in.

#### Interior

The first-floor plan contains a living room facing St. Charles Street that occupies the projecting faceted bay. The front door opens from the front porch into a shallow vestibule that, spatially, is a continuation of the living room. This space seems to have been modified in 1928 when Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell bought the house and contracted with the Eagle Pass Lumber Company for \$1,700 worth of unspecified improvements. This is evident in comparing the Sanborn maps of 1926 and 1930-57 and from the presence of a three-part ganged window in the vestibule that faces the southeast side property line, the only ganged window in the house. Double doors in the living room open into the dining room, set in the faceted bay facing the southeast side property line. The dining room shares the center portion of the house with a dog-leg stair, accessible from the living room as well as from an exterior door facing the northwest side property line. As the interior is now configured, a kitchen occupies the one-story former back porch, alongside a rear-facing bedroom

with separate bathroom on the house's west corner. On the second floor, the centrally located stair rises to a short hall that gives access to three bedrooms occupying the house's projecting street-front, back-yard, and southeast side wings as well as a single bathroom alongside the stair.

Interior detail is simple but characteristic of late nineteenth-century building practices. Rooms are lined with tall wood baseboards. Interior doors are capped by wood-framed glass transom panels. Door openings are framed by jambs articulated with vertically grooved reeding. The dog-leg stair is rimmed with varnished turned wood balusters supporting a polished wood hand rail. Elaborately turned newel posts are stationed on both the lower and upper levels. An interior fireplace in the street-facing living room is faced with a box mantle of polished, dark stained oak. The mantle wraps around the interior chimney, perpetuating a Louisiana Creole arrangement that was present in Brownsville houses of the nineteenth century. Floors are surfaced with polished wood strips.

#### Garage

The freestanding one-story, garage, accessible from the rear alley, is a modern replacement and is noncontributing. The garage has an L-plan and two doors provide access from the northeast. A larger door intended for automobiles provides access to the alley.

### Alterations

The Hollowell House has undergone modifications. Between the Sanborn Map of 1926 and the next edition in 1930-57, a shallow vestibule was added in front of the front door, and the freestanding rear garage building was replaced by a larger two-story garage apartment with an exterior stair that is no longer extant. Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell contracted with the Eagle Pass Lumber Company for the new garage and other unspecified improvements in April 1928. In 1931, they contracted with the Brownsville builder A. R. Kunsch for \$660 worth of alterations, also unspecified. The present front door is a modern, pseudo-Victorian replacement and the front porch has been resurfaced with tile. The back porch has been enclosed and is now part of the interior of the house. The side of the house facing northwest has had most of its windows blocked. Added in 2017, a nonhistoric brick and wrought iron fence follows the property line on the northeast and northwest sides. A brick wall added at an unknown date appears to divide the southeast lawn of the property. A contemporary raised wood deck spans between the back of the house. The modern, one-story gable-roofed garage, accessible from the rear alley that bisects the block, is a noncontributing resource. The house's roofs have been resurfaced with standing seam metal.

## Integrity

The Hollowell home remains in its original location, but due to the intrusion of more recent commercial construction in the late nineteenth and twentieth residential neighborhood largely composed of one and two story Victorian homes, the integrity of setting has been somewhat compromised. This is particularly evident in the large commercial building positioned just east of the property line. While the house was modified over the years, it retains its original design, workmanship, and materials. Extant exterior features typical of the Queen Anne style are evident including the original asymmetrical façade, one-story porch, tapered wood colonnettes, and two-pane-over-two-pane wood windows. Remarkably intact interior features such as doors capped by wood-framed glass transom panels, a dog-leg stair rimmed with varnished turned wood balusters, newel posts stationed on the lower and upper levels, an interior fireplace, and wood floors also reflect the historic integrity of the property as well. The home still possesses integrity of feeling but with the acquisition of the property by new owners in 1974, the home no longer has integrity of association with the Friedman and Hollowell families.

#### **Statement of Significance**

The Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell House in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, is a single-family, twostory, Queen Anne style, wood house. It is named for the residents who occupied the house for the longest interval of time. Located in the West End of Brownsville's Original Townsite, the house was built in 1909 by Augustine Celaya, a prominent Brownsville lawyer and businessman, as middle-income rental housing. In 1922 Celaya sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. John L. Friedman, who, six years later, sold it to their daughter and son-in-law, Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell. Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell occupied the house until their deaths in 1954 and 1973 respectively. The Hollowell House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance. A late example of its type, it serves as one of the few remaining modest Queen Anne residences designed with extruded wings and porches for ventilation in Brownsville's coastal climate. The period of significance is 1909.

#### Founding of the Community

The historic context for interpreting the significance of the Hollowell House involves the growth and development of Brownsville, Texas, in the early decades of the twentieth century. Brownsville, county seat of Cameron County, is in 2019 a city of more than 180,000 people. Brownsville is located near the mouth of the Río Grande at the southmost tip of Texas, across the border from its sister city, Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico (founded 1784), twenty miles west of the Gulf of Mexico. Brownsville was founded in 1848 at the end of the U.S.-Mexico War in order to establish a U.S. trade gateway opposite Matamoros, which had risen to prominence as a Gulf port in the 1820s. During its first twelve years of existence, Brownsville was one of the largest cities in Texas. As the site of the U.S. Army's Fort Brown, Brownsville was occupied by both the Confederacy and the U.S. during the Civil War. Because Matamoros was not subject to the U.S. Naval blockade of Confederate ports, it became the gateway for funneling Confederate cotton to Europe and the United States between 1862 and 1865, generating immense wealth for the Texan merchants participating in this trade, among them the Spanish-born Brownsville merchant Simón Celaya.<sup>1</sup> After the Civil War, Brownsville lost its commercial primacy as railroads that linked Texas and Mexico were built in the early 1880s much farther upriver, bypassing the entire southern tip of Texas. A single, narrow gauge rail line, the 22-1/2-mile long Río Grande Railroad, was built in 1870-72 by Simón Celaya and fellow investors to link Brownsville to the Gulf seaport of Point Isabel, Texas. Not until 1904 were Brownsville and the Lower Río Grande Valley of far south Texas connected to the rest of the state by the St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico Railway.<sup>2</sup> This transportation link encouraged investors from outside the region to acquire tens of thousands of acres of ranch land in Cameron and Hidalgo counties and install steam-powered irrigation systems fed by the Río Grande to transform arid *monte* into highly productive cropland with a growing season of almost 365 days a year. This cropland was then sold to farmers, many of them from the American Midwest.3

Brownsville, which in 1904 was one of only three towns in Cameron County (which then included Willacy and the southern part of Kenedy counties) benefitted from this economic boom. Brownsville's Original Townsite, surveyed in 1848, was nearly doubled in size with the opening of West Brownsville in 1908 and the adjoining Stillman Extension in 1909. Because Brownsville was the only established city in the Lower Río Grande Valley in 1904, it initially served as a base for developers operating in other parts of the Valley. Between 1900 and 1910 Brownsville's population increased by sixty-six percent, from 6,305 to 10,517.<sup>4</sup> This created a demand for housing, especially middle-income

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Betty Bay, *Historic Brownsville: Original Townsite Guide*, Brownsville: Brownsville Historical Association, 1980, pp. 156-57, 167-70.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Milo Kearney and Anthony Knopp, *Boom and Bust: The Historical Cycles of Matamoros and Brownsville*, Austin: Eakin Press, 1991, pp. 174, 189-194.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Kearney and Knopp, *Boom and Bust*, pp. 222-225.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Kearney and Knopp, *Boom and Bust*, p. 194.

rental housing, that the Brownsville lawyer and businessman Augustine Celaya, the son of Simón Celaya, responded to by building the house at 622 (originally numbered 608) E. St. Charles Street. The 1913-14 *Brownsville City Directory*, the first city directory published for Brownsville, listed Mr. and Mrs. Saunders Gregg as living at 608 St. Charles Street. Gregg was assistant cashier of the Brownsville Bank & Trust Co. He and his family moved to Brownsville in 1911; by 1920 they had returned to Sherman, Texas, where Gregg was from.<sup>5</sup>

The outbreak of the Mexican Revolution in 1913 affected Brownsville as both Mexican nationals and foreigners resident in Mexico sought safety on the U.S. side of the border.<sup>6</sup> Mrs. Hollowell's father, John L. Friedman, came to Brownsville in December 1913 from his farm near Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. Although he spent the rest of his long life in Brownsville, Friedman retained diverse business interests in Mexico.<sup>7</sup>

#### West End

Celaya built the two-story wood frame house at 622 E. St. Charles Street on Lot 4, Block 33 of the Original Townsite of Brownsville. This city block lies in the West End, the primary middle- and upper-income residential neighborhood of Brownsville during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Hollowell House is adjoined on the west by the one-and-a-half-story W. H. Russell-J. J. Cocke House at 602 E. St. Charles Street (1872). Across St. Charles Street lie the one-story wood cottage of the nineteenth-century Brownsville architect-builder, Martin Hanson at 647 E. St. Charles Street (1868), the elaborately ornamented one-and-a-half-story wood house of another architect-builder, S. W. Brooks, at 623 E. St. Charles Street (built in 1888; the Brooks House was moved to this location and restored in 1987, NRHP 1988), and four one-story wood cottages with pyramidal roofs, protruding polygonal bays, and wrap-around galleries at 613, 603, 517, and 533 E. St. Charles that date from the 1910-1917 period.<sup>8</sup>

At 510 E. St. Charles Street and E. 6th Street is the imposing, one- and two-story, brick M. Alonso Building, a corner store complex constructed in stages between 1890 and 1911 and now the headquarters of the Brownsville Historical Association.<sup>9</sup> The Garza & Garza Law Firm Building east of the Hollowell House at 680 E. St. Charles Street (1978) and the 14-story, 189-unit Villa del Sol public housing tower at 700 E. St. Charles Street (1971), both with paved surface parking lots, represent the changes in land use and building scale that affected the West End neighborhood after 1970.

At the time the Hollowell House was built, the dominant institutional presence in the West End was the Convent of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, constructed in 1869 and occupying an entire city block at 700 E. St. Charles. The Incarnate Word sisters operated a day- and boarding school for girls at the convent as well as a day school for boys on the half block backing up to 622 E. St. Charles Street. Even after the schools were moved to West Brownsville in the 1920s, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word occupied the convent until the order sold the property to the Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville, which demolished the convent in 1968-69 to clear a site for construction of the Villa del Sol public housing complex and transform the boys school property into a parking lot.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> "Came To Take Position," *Brownsville Herald* 4 July 1911, p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Kearney and Knopp, *Boom and Bust*, pp. 208-211.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "Nine Refugees from Victoria," *Brownsville Herald*, 5 December 1913, p. 1; "Will Plant Large Acreage of Cotton Near Victoria, Mex.," *Brownsville Herald*, 11 October 1923, p. 1; and "Goes to Mexico," *Brownsville Herald*, 27 December 1923, p. 3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Bay, Historic Brownsville, pp. 156-57, 167-70.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Bay, *Historic Brownsville*, pp. 157-58.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Mother M. Patricia Gunning, *To Texas With Love: A History of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament*, Austin: Von Boeckmann-Jones Co., 1971; "Plan for Saving Convent Outlined," *Brownsville Herald*, 14 June 1968, p. 7; "Demolition of Incarnate Word Convent Almost Complete," *Brownsville Herald*, 9 March 1969, p. 12A.

According to Cameron County deed records, Augustine Celaya bought Lot 4, Block 33 from J. J. Cocke in June 1902.<sup>11</sup> In 1909 Celaya had the house constructed for a reported cost of \$2,200. The August 7, 1909 issue of the *Brownsville Herald* noted that the recently finished house "like most others built here for rent, was rented as soon as ready for occupancy." The first tenants were identified as Mr. and Mrs. Jack Porter, who had recently moved to Brownsville from San Antonio.<sup>12</sup> By 1913-14, when Saunders Gregg lived in the house, Mr. and Mrs. Porter were not listed as living in Brownsville. Celaya and his wife, Laura Scanlan de Celaya (whose mother, Mrs. William Scanlan, lived at 620 E. St. Charles and E. 7th Street), sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. John L. Friedman in 1922.<sup>13</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Friedman and their children lived there until selling the house to Harry W. Hollowell, the husband of their daughter Cleta, in February 1928.<sup>14</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell lived in the house until their deaths in 1954 and 1973 respectively. The house was purchased in 1974 by Sally and Tom Fleming. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming restored the house before selling it in 1977 to Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Peterson, who sold it to the lawyer Gilberto Hinojosa in 1980. Mr. Hinojosa occupied the house as his law office until 2016, when he sold the property to Brownsville lawyer César de León Zendejas.<sup>15</sup>

#### Architectural Context

The architectural context for interpreting the significance of the Hollowell House involves the extreme conservatism of Brownsville's building culture during the first decade of the twentieth century. The imposing brick house constructed for Augustine Celaya and his family in 1904 by the Brownsville builder Atilano Rendón at 504 E. St. Francis Street (NRHP, 1986), a block from the Hollowell House, could just as easily have been built in the 1880s.<sup>16</sup> The one-story wood houses at 613, 603, 517, 533, 203, 153, and 812 E. St. Charles, which appear to be the work of the Brownsville contractor and builder D. V. Farías, are late Victorian cottages, although they were all built during the 1910-17 period.<sup>17</sup>

The nineteenth-century Brownsville architect-builder, S. W. Brooks employed the T-plan configuration visible in the Hollowell House at the Louis Kowalski House (1893) at 507 E. Elizabeth and the María Josefina Glaevecke Vda. de Browne House (1894) at 245 E. St. Charles, both in the West End.<sup>18</sup> This plan configuration, which involved the projection of thin wings from a central core, promoted efficient ventilation in Brownsville's hot-humid, subtropical climate. The Celaya House on St. Francis Street is an especially distinctive example of this plan of projecting angled bays, as is the addition made to the two-story brick building at 855 E. St. Charles Street in 1910 to transform it into the Frontier Hotel.<sup>19</sup>

The Hollowell House's projecting polygonal front and side bays, two-over-two-pane wood sash windows, and the shingle-surfaced gable front facing St. Charles Street are more characteristic of Texan houses of the 1880s and '90s than of houses built in 1909.<sup>20</sup> These architectural attributes bespeak Brownsville's isolation from the mainstream of

<sup>18</sup> Bay, *Historic Brownsville*, pp. 160-67, 176-78.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Juan M. Vélez to César de León, 31 July 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> "Pretty New Residence," *Brownsville Herald*, 7 August 1909, p. 3, and "Building Active in Brownsville: Over \$200,000 Worth of Building So Far This Year," *Brownsville Herald*, 29 September 1909, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> "Residence Purchased," Brownsville Herald, 10 April 1922, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "Real Estate Transfers," *Brownsville Herald*, 15 March 1928, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Juan M. Vélez to César de León, 31 July 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> H. E. McNair and Michael B. Putegnat, "A Narrative History of the Augustine Celaya House, 500 E. St. Francis St., Brownsville, Cameron County TX" <u>https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth428531/m1/5/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Photos of houses built by D. V. Farías (1876-1917), now in the collection of the Texas State Historical Archives, are quite similar to the onestory cottages along St. Charles. Farías seems to have constructed his own house at 1425 E. Madison in 1909: "Building Active in Brownsville: Over \$200,000 Worth of Building So Far This Year," *Brownsville Herald*, 29 September 1909, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> "For Rooming House," Brownsville Herald, 30 May 1910, p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Two other houses built in 1909, the Hicks-Gregg House (NRHP 2009), a two-and-one-half story American Foursquare home located at 1249

American building culture even after the arrival of the railroad. The tapered wood colonettes with Tuscan capitals that support the front porch of the Hollowell House are more typical of early twentieth-century architectural practices. By 1910, when a construction boom was underway in Brownsville, the city's architecture was being transformed, as is visible at the grand, Colonial Revival style house built in 1910-11 by the rancher J. J. Young, Jr., for his family at 500 E. St. Charles Street, a block away from the Hollowell House.<sup>21</sup>

A Mechanic's Lien dated April 26, 1928 shows that the Hollowells contracted with the Eagle Pass Lumber Co. to build "a small garage, and mak[e] certain repairs to the house." Another Mechanic's Lien dated July 24, 1931 records Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell's agreement with contractor A. R. Kunsch to make "certain repairs, alterations and improvements to the existing buildings according to the plans and specifications heretofore agreed upon between the Owners and contractor," to be completed "on or before the 20th day of August" and valued at \$660. The note and lien were transferred to the Taylor Lumber Co. on October 8, 1931.<sup>22</sup>

#### **Background of Historic Persons Connected**

The Hollowell House was built in 1909, seven years after Augustine Celaya bought what had been the side yard of the adjoining J. J. Cocke House. The house was used for rental purposes until it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. John L. Friedman in April 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Friedman had rented the no-longer extant house next door at 630 E. St. Charles. They bought 622 when 630 was sold to a new owner who wanted to occupy it.<sup>23</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Friedman lived at 622 until selling it to their son-in-law, Harry W. Hollowell, in March 1928, the year they built a compact one-story Spanish style house for themselves at 116 Acacia Drive in Brownsville's first garden suburban neighborhood, Los Ebanos.<sup>24</sup> The house was occupied until 1973 by their daughter, Cleta Friedman Hollowell, and is primarily associated with Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell. At the time of his death in 1962, J.L. Friedman lived at 452 E. St. Charles with his elder son Gilbert C. Friedman, a block-and-a-half from his daughter, and in the same block as his younger son, Ralph J. Friedman(n), who lived at 405 E. St. Charles.<sup>25</sup>

Cleta Friedman (1900-1973) and Harry William Hollowell (1891-1954) lived at 622 E. St. Charles Street for forty-five and twenty-six years respectively. Cleta Hollowell was born in Jasper, Indiana, to Katie Moeller (1873-1956) and John L. Friedman (1869-1962).<sup>26</sup> The Friedman family came to Brownsville after her father was compelled to leave his farm near Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, in 1913 following the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution.<sup>27</sup> J.L. Friedman, called Pops, was a farmer and businessman who was best known in Brownsville as the owner of the American Bar in Matamoros.<sup>28</sup> Frequent notices in the *Brownsville Herald* from the late 1920s to the early 1970s chronicle Cleta Hollowell's social activities. She was involved in many women's groups, including the Chat and Stitch Club, the Altar Society of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the San Carlos Garden Club, and the League of Women

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161237045.

West Washington Street, and the Morris-Browne House (NRHP 2006), a two-and-one-half story Queen Anne Free Classic home at 204 E. Levee Street, also serve as contemporaneous residential examples in Brownsville.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Bay, Historic Brownsville, pp. 158-60; "Building Notes," Brownsville Herald, 13 June 1910, p. 5; and "A Palatial Home."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Cameron County Mechanic's Liens No. 17954 and No. 12454.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> "Residence Purchased," Brownsville Herald, 10 April 1922, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> "Real Estate Transfers," *Brownsville Herald*, 14 March 1928, p. 7, and "Building In City Reaches High Figure," *Brownsville Herald*, 16 September 1928, p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> "Murió el Sr. John R. Friedman en B'ville," *El Heraldo de Brownsville*, 24 August 1962, p. 1. See Friedman's death certificate at the Find a Grave website: <u>https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/157891220/John-L.-Friedman</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> "Obituaries: Mrs. Cleta Hollowell," Brownsville Herald, 19 June 1973, p. 8., and Mrs. Hollowell's Find a Grave site:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> "Nine Refugees from Victoria," *Brownsville Herald*, 5 December 1913, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> "Notice," and advertisement "'Pop' Friedman (Himself) Announces The American, Best and Finest in Matamoros, North Corner Main Plaza de Armas, Now Open with 'Pop's' Famous Old Fashioned Free Lunch And An Old Style Dinner Service," *Brownsville Herald*, 29 January 1929, pp. 7, Section 1, and 12, Section 2.

Voters. Mrs. Hollowell was especially identified with the card game of Bridge and was a frequent participant in games sponsored by the Brownsville Duplicate Bridge Club.

Harry Hollowell was a New Orleanian. He is listed as a resident of New Orleans in the U.S. Censuses of 1900 and 1910 and still resided there when he registered for the military draft in 1917. According to a profile published in the *Brownsville Herald* on February 8, 1939, Hollowell was sent to Fort Brown while serving in the U.S. Army in April 1918.<sup>29</sup> Hollowell was a specialist in car maintenance and repair. He stated that he had been in the auto repair business since he completed his schooling in New Orleans in May 1902. Hollowell started Harry's Vulcanizing Co. at 11th and E. Levee Street in 1922 but its premises burned in 1926.<sup>30</sup> Hollowell reestablished his business on E. 12th Street facing Market Square, where he remained until joining Mansur Motors as their repair specialist in 1937.<sup>31</sup> From 1939 to 1945, Hollowell operated Hollowell Motors, Brownsville's Dodge and Plymouth dealer, from a showroom and repair garage at 1223 E. Levee. In April 1945 Hollowell abruptly transferred ownership in what then became Friedmann Motors to his brother-in-law Ralph Friedmann.<sup>32</sup> At the time of his death, Hollowell was working as an auto repair specialist for Grindle Motors at 953 E. Adams Street.<sup>33</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell were the parents of Lt. Col. Harry W. Hollowell, Jr. (1922-1964), a career military officer who died in Germany while on active duty with the U.S. Army.<sup>34</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell were parishioners of Sacred Hearth Catholic Church, the West End parish.

Augustine Celaya-Danache (1860-1928), who built the house, was a Brownsville lawyer, businessman, and public official. He was the son of Simón Celaya (1824-1908), a Spanish immigrant, merchant, and railroad corporation president, and Adelaïde Danache (1836-1860), the daughter of a French immigrant to Matamoros. Augustine Celaya was a graduate of Spring Hill College and the law school of the University of Virginia. In 1889 he married Laura Scanlan (1867-1958), whose parents, Annie E. Duffy and William G. Scanlan, lived at 620 E. St. Charles Street, across from the Hanson House. Mrs. Celaya, her children, and great-grandchildren owned and occupied the Celaya House on St. Francis Street until 2000.<sup>35</sup>

Albert Ralph Kunsch, a native of Missouri, arrived in Brownsville around 1923 from Minneapolis.<sup>36</sup> Kunsch was soon described as "one of the best contractors known in the Valley."<sup>37</sup> Ads in the *Brownsville Herald* identified him as a contractor and builder for the Victor Junco Building under the name of Ralph Kunsch or as A.R. Kunsch, General Contractor and Builder.<sup>38</sup> In Brownsville he designed and built the "Model Home" in Los Ebanos (1928, demolished), working with such companies as Tuggle & Son, with whom he later built the Victor Junco Building. Other projects that he built were the Bessie and Pierre Joseph Vivier House at 44 Hawthorne St. (1927, altered), the Etta and C. F. Caudill Building (1928, demolished), the Helen and J. H. Greeno House at 15 Poinsettia Place (1928, altered), the E. H. Weller House (1933, demolished), and the Terrill Taylor House (1929, 426 W. Elizabeth St.) developed by J.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> "144 Years of Experience Backs Hollowell Motors," *Brownsville Herald*, 8 February 1939, p. 2; "Vulcanizing Shop Always Prepared Extend First Aid," *Brownsville Herald*, 1 May 1927, p. 7 of Hotel El Jardín section; Helen Nelson, "People You Should Know: Harry Hollowell," *Brownsville Herald*, 25 November 1936, p. 2; "112 Years Auto Experience Available at Local Company," *Brownsville Herald*, 24 October 1949, p. 6; and "Working On…" *Brownsville Herald*, 8 June 1953, p. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> "Fire Destroys Entire Stock Vulcanizing Co.," *Brownsville Herald*, 2 January 1923, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> "Vulcanizing Shop Always Prepared Extend First Aid," *Brownsville Herald*, 1 May 1927, p. 7 of Hotel El Jardín section; Helen Nelson, "People You Should Know: Harry Hollowell," *Brownsville Herald*, 25 November 1936, p. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> "A New Firm in An Old Location: Friedmann Motors, successors to Hollowell Motors," *Brownsville Herald*, 10 April 1945, p. 2 and "Notice To The Public," p. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> "Working On..." Brownsville Herald, 8 June 1953, p. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> "Hollowell Is Honored Posthumously," Brownsville Herald, 16 May 1965, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> McNair and Putegnat, "A Narrative History of the Augustine Celaya House, 500 E. St. Francis St., Brownsville, Cameron County TX" https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth428531/m1/5/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> "Strength of Model Home Pride Source", *Brownsville Herald*, 6 May 1930, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> "Two Brownsville Men Die When Interurban Hits Car," *Brownsville Herald*, 2 June 1930, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> "The New Junco Building," Brownsville Herald, 25 May 1930, p. 5, and "Confidence", Brownsville Herald, 9 September 1933, p. 2.

Calderoni.<sup>39</sup> Kunsch and his wife were divorced in 1940 and he moved to Houston as the superintendent for the Temple Lumber Company.<sup>40</sup> In 1946 he was living in Kerr County near his sisters. Kunsch died on February 2, 1958.<sup>41</sup>

As early as 1923, after the Friedmans moved into the house, they advertised rooms for rent.<sup>42</sup> Other addresses in the neighborhood also advertised rooms for rent, bespeaking the West End's transformation in the 1920s as newer elite neighborhoods were developed farther from the center of Brownsville. Yet, as was true of Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell, many of the West End families remained in their houses, sometimes for generations, as happened at the Celaya House on St. Francis St. and the Hanson House on St. Charles St. Even as institutional and commercial construction accelerated in the 1970s, the historic building fabric of the West End remained consistent, although increasingly frayed.

After Mrs. Hollowell's death, her house was involved in the beginning of the historic preservation movement in Brownsville. The Brownsville lawyer Thomas W. Fleming and his wife Sally Moore bought the house in 1974. They restored it and persuaded Thomas H. Sweeney III to restore the Russell-Cocke House next door in 1975.43 Mr. and Mrs. Fleming were actively involved with the Brownsville Historical Association during the 1970s, when the association shifted its focus to champion the cause of historic preservation in Brownsville. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming hoped to reverse the neighborhood's transition to commercial uses.<sup>44</sup> When they were unable to do so, they sold the house, which in the 1980s became the law office of Gilberto Hinojosa, county judge of Cameron County from 1995 to 2006, chair of the Democratic Party of Texas since 2011, and owner of the Augustine Celaya House since 2000. In 2016 Mr. Hinojosa sold the property to César de León Zendejas, a Brownsville lawyer and a Commissioner at Large of the City of Brownsville.45

#### **Summary of Historic Persons Connected**

The 1909 Hollowell House was the home to Cleta Friedman Hollowell, whose family, like others in the neighborhood, was displaced to Brownsville by the Mexican Revolution and then remained there. Mrs. Hollowell's neighbor, the Brownsville wholesale grocer, Eleuterio de la Garza, who lived at 603 E. St. Charles at the time of his death in 1967, was another refugee from the revolution who stayed in Brownsville to operate a regionally significant business. This circumstance represents an important historical phenomenon in early twentieth-century Brownsville, as some of those who came to the Valley for short-term economic opportunity remained to spend the rest of their lives in the city. Similarly, Harry Hollowell, who came to Brownsville as an Army recruit and stayed after marrying Cleta Friedman. Harry Hollowell stood out in Brownsville as a member of the first generation of Americans to embrace the automobile and master successive episodes of technical development as a car maintenance and repair specialist. He popularized the tag line "Tell It To Harry" in the 1920s to advertise his willingness to address and resolve any problem his customers encountered with their cars.<sup>46</sup> The Hollowell House was also owned by Augustine Celaya, who built it in Brownsville's West End neighborhood, where middle-income Anglo-American newcomers settled alongside established families to form new bonds, as was the case when Mrs. Hollowell's younger brother Ralph J. Friedmann (1903-1995) married Sarah Champion, who belonged to an established Brownsville family.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Juan M. Vélez research, Cameron County Tax Main Office.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Juan M. Vélez research, Cameron County Tax Main Office, 21 August 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> "Court Records," *Brownsville Herald*, 9 March 1940, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> "Funeral Service Held Monday For R.A. Kunsch," Kerrville Mountain Sun, 6 February 1958, p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> "For Rent," Brownsville Herald, 30 January 1923, p. 5; "For Rent," Brownsville Herald, 15 February 1925, p. 7; "For Rent: Room in private family with bath adjoining. Hot and cold water, 608 St. Charles," Brownsville Herald, 15 March 1926, p. 5; "One cool airy bedroom in private family, bath adjoining, 608 St. Charles," Brownsville Herald, 20 June 1927, p. 7.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> "St. Charles Street House Is Once Again A Home." *Brownsville Herald*, 28 December 1975, p. 1-C.
 <sup>44</sup> "Final Subdivision Plats Approved by Zone Board," *Brownsville Herald*, 15 April 1976, p. 10-A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> "Auto Movies By Harry Hollowell: Tell It to Harry," Brownsville Herald, 27 March 1927, p. 2 Auto section.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> "Obituaries: Ralph John Friedmann," Brownsville Herald, 3 September 1995, p. 2A.

#### Conclusion

The Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. One of the few remaining examples of its type, it embodies a conservative late Victorian design specifically reflected in its extruded wings and porches which provided efficient ventilation in the Brownsville's steamy coastal climate. The period of significance is the build date, 1909.

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Vélez, Juan M., Research in Cameron County deed records and mechanic's liens.

Brownsville Herald, 1909-1976.

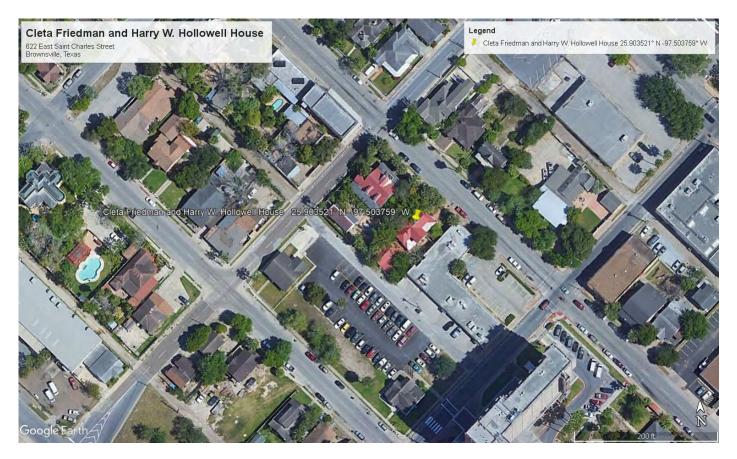
## Maps



Map 1: Cameron County, Texas



Map 2: Cleta Friedman and Harry William Hollowell House, 622 E. Saint Charles St., Brownsville, Google Maps accessed August 23, 2018



Map 3: Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell House, 622 E. Saint Charles St., Brownsville, Google Earth Maps accessed September 25, 2018

## Figures

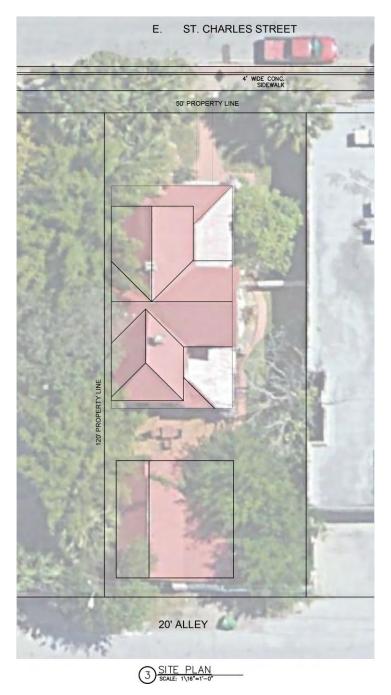


Figure 1: Site Plan by Eleazar Rodriguez, August 2018

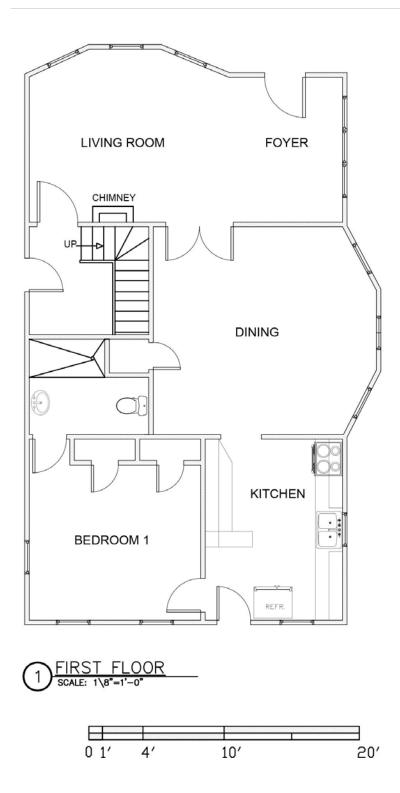


Figure 2: First Floor by Eleazar Rodriguez, August 2018

Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell House, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas

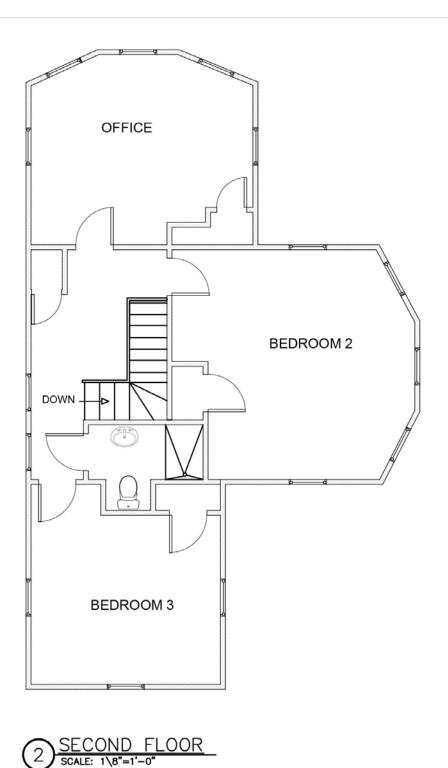


Figure 3: Second Floor by Eleazar Rodriguez, August 2018

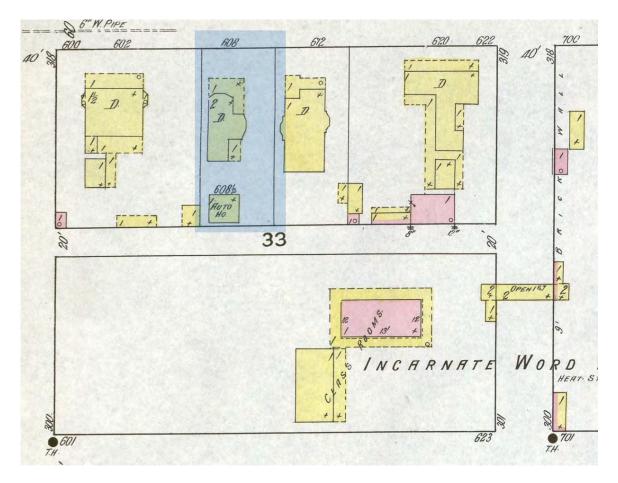
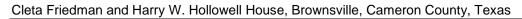


Figure 4: Sanborn Map Company. Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, 1914, Sheet Five.



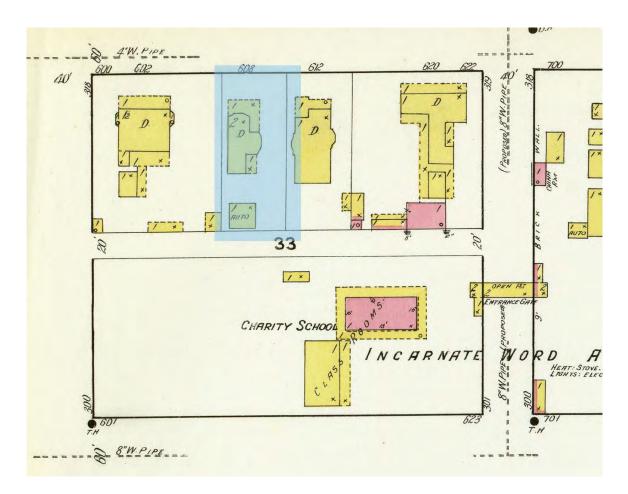


Figure 5: Sanborn Map Company. Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, 1919, Sheet Five.

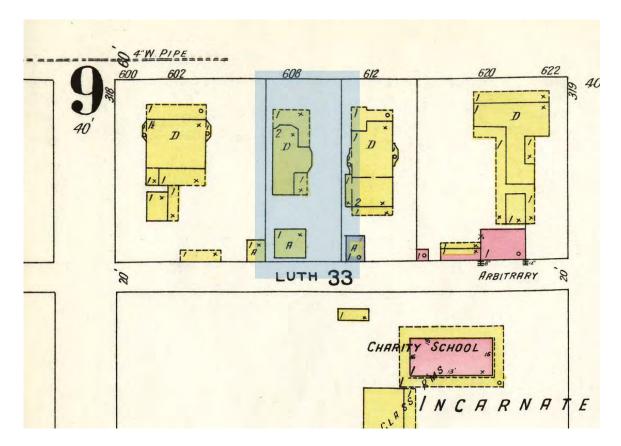


Figure 6: Sanborn Map Company. Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, 1926, Sheet Nine.

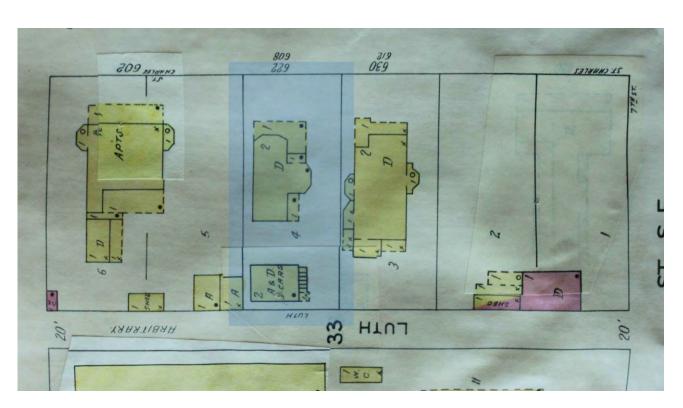


Figure 7: Sanborn Map Company. Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, 1930-57, Sheet Eight.

## Photographs



Photo 1: View from northeast (main facade), camera facing southwest.



Photo 2: View from south (rear and southeast elevations), camera facing north.



Photo 3: View from southeast, detail (rear elevation), camera facing northwest.

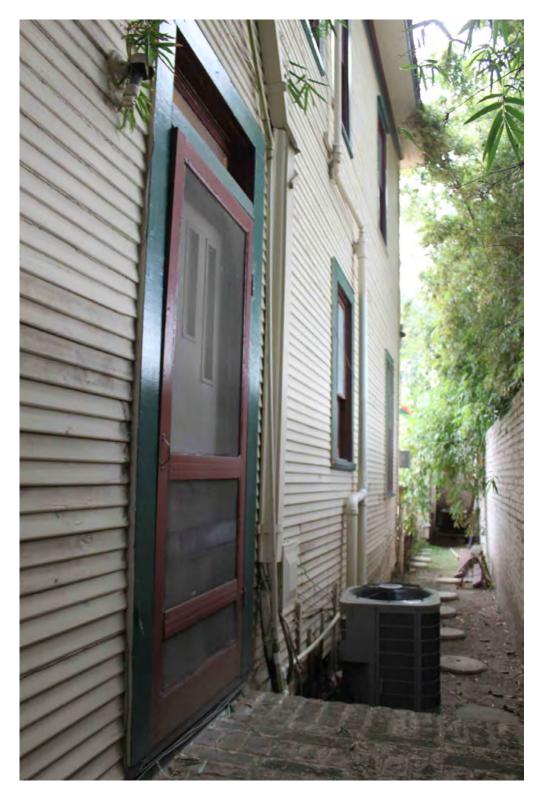


Photo 4: View of northwest elevation, camera facing southeast.



Photo 5: Second floor main façade, camera facing southwest.



Photo 6: Entrance, camera facing southwest.



Photo 7: Detail of porch's colonette and Tuscan capital, camera facing south.



Photo 8: View of garage, camera facing southwest.



Photo 9: View of first floor bay windows, camera facing southwest.



Photo 10: Main entrance door, camera facing southwest.



Photo 11: Northwest door from the interior, camera facing northwest.



Photo 12: Detail of living room fireplace, camera facing southeast.



Photo 13: Staircase from the first floor, camera facing northeast.

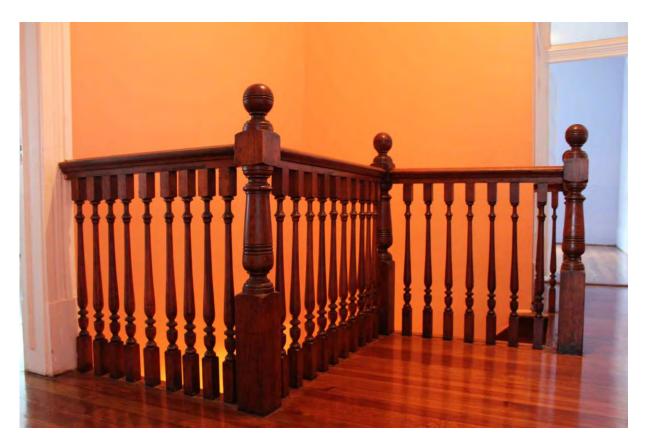


Photo 14: Staircase form the second floor, camera facing southeast.

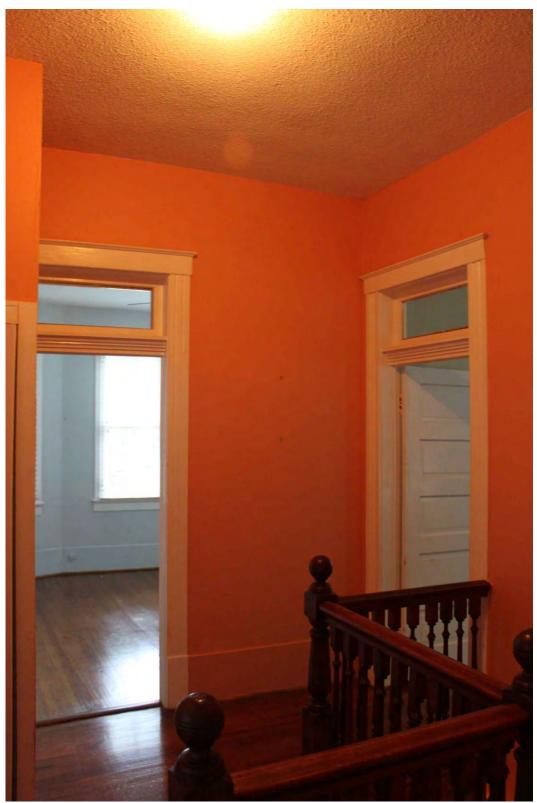


Photo 15: Second floor interior door transoms, camera facing northeast.

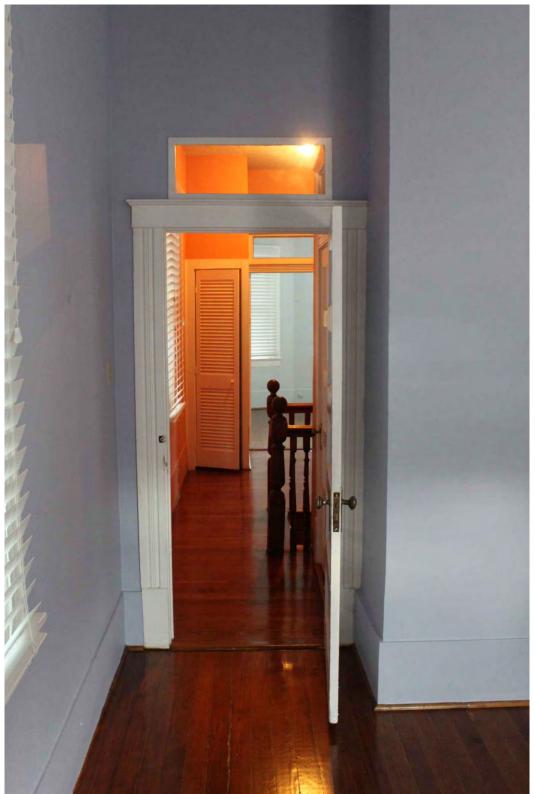


Photo 16: Second floor corridor, camera facing northeast.



Photo 17: Interior first floor door and closet, camera facing northeast.



Photo 18: First floor. Southeast windows, camera facing northwest.

















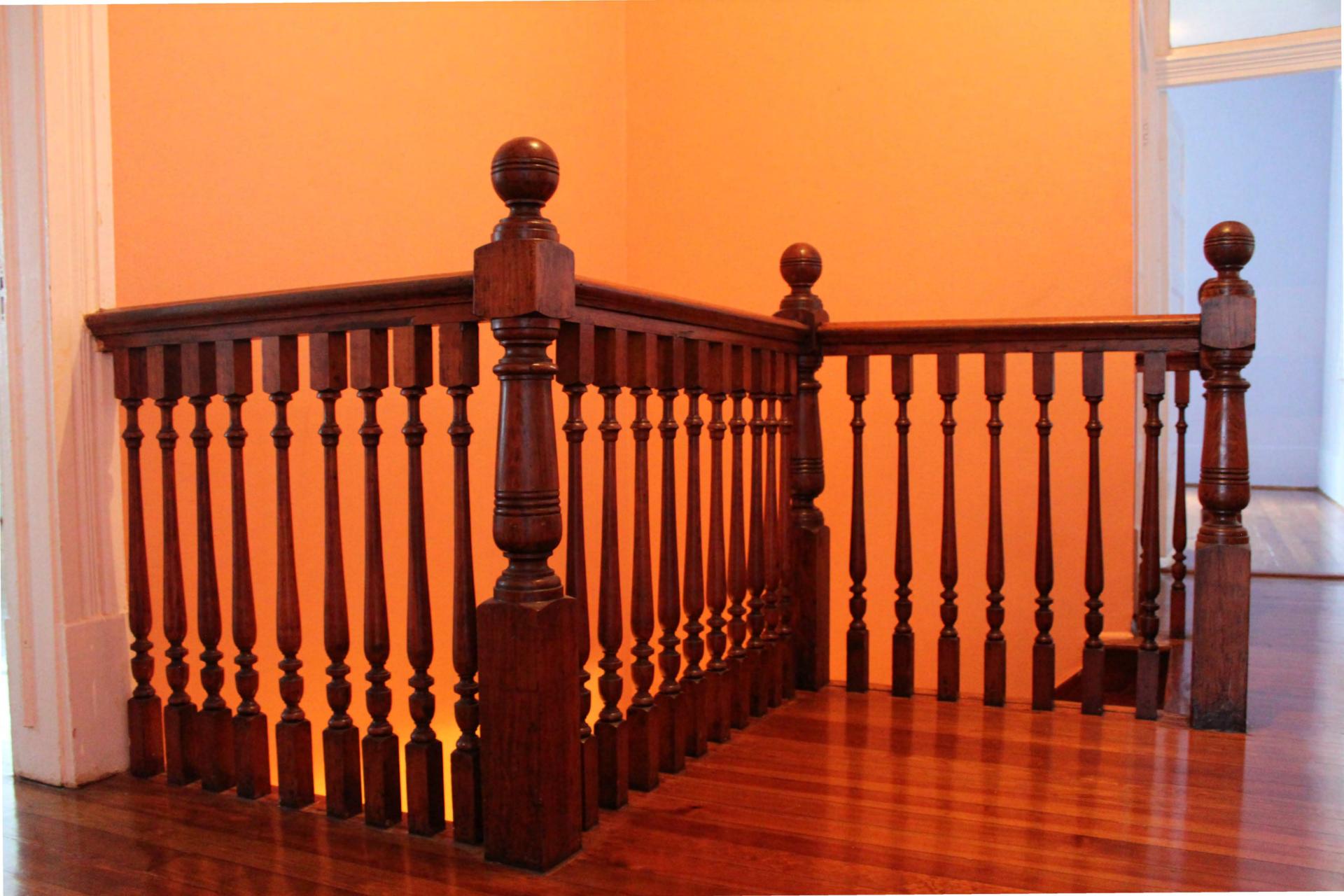




















#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination			·
Property Name:	Hollowell, Cleta F	riedman and Harry W., I	House	
Multiple Name:				
State & County:	TEXAS, Cameron			
Date Recei 2/7/201			16th Day: D 5/2019	ate of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List: 3/25/2019
Reference number:	SG100003533			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Nominator:	SHPO		-an an a an	
Reason For Review:				
Appeal		PDIL		Text/Data Issue
SHPO	Request	Landscape		Photo
Waiver		National		Map/Boundary
Resubr	mission	Mobile Reso	ource	Period
Other		TCP		Less than 50 years
		CLG		
<b>X</b> Accept	Return	Reject	3/25/2	2019 Date
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Register Criterion frame house is a to Once typifying the neighborhood, the	C (Architecture). Built i ine local example of ea middle and upper-inco	in 1909 as a r rly twentieth c me residentia	ocally significant under National rental property, the two-story, wood century Queen Anne style design. al designs of Brownsville's West End e illustration of local residential
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept NR Criteri	on C		
Reviewer Paul Lu	isignan		Discipline	Historian
Telephone (202)35	64-2229		Date	3/25/2019
DOCUMENTATION	see attached	comments : No see	attached SLF	R : Yes

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

# **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

real places telling real stories

R	ECEIVED 2280
	FEB - 7 2019
NAT	REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

- TO: Paul Lusignan National Register of Historic Places Mail Stop 7228 1849 C St, NW Washington, D.C. 20240
- From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO Texas Historical Commission

## RE: Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell House, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas

DATE: February 8, 2019

The following materials are submitted:

Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk.
The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Cleta Friedman and Harry W. Hollowell House, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas
Resubmitted nomination.
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.
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: