

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

473

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Joffre-Gilbert House
Other name/site number: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A



2. Location

Street & number: 309 S. O'Connor Road
City or town: Irving State: Texas County: Dallas
Not for publication: [] Vicinity: []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
[n] 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 [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
[] national [] statewide [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [] A [x] B [x] C [] D

Signature of certifying official / Title: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 6/10/14
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:
[x] 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: Jon Edson H. Beall
Date of Action: 8.1.14

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

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

Principal Exterior Materials: Wood, Perma-Stone

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-8)

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

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 checked="" 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: N/A

Areas of Significance: Health/Medicine and Architecture

Period of Significance: 1919, 1939 - 1963

Significant Dates: 1919 and 1950

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

Architect/Builder: Joffre, Fred (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-17)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-18 through 9-19)

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

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: 0.864 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 32.811433 Longitude: -96.950446

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is a rectangular parcel, bound on the east by S. O'Connor Road in Irving, Dallas County, Texas, and legally described as follows: BROWNS 3RD BLK A LT 1 & TAYLOR BLK A LT 1 ACS 0.864.

Boundary Justification: Nomination includes property historically associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Dr. Clay Gilbert, Owner/ Francis James, Architectural Historian/ Jay Firsching, Sr. Historic Preservation Specialist
Organization: Architexas (Jay Firsching)
Address: 1907 Marilla
City: Dallas State: Texas Zip Code: 75201
Email: jfirsching@architexas.com
Telephone: 214-748-4561
Date: January 2014

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheet Map-20 through Map-25)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-26 through Figure-33)

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

Photographs

Name of Property: Joffre-Gilbert House
City or Vicinity: Irving
County, State: Dallas, Texas
Photographer: Jay Firsching
Date Photographed: 10/07/2013

Photograph Number 0001
Northeast Oblique from O'Connor Road

Photograph Number 0002
East view from O'Connor Road

Photograph Number 0003
East Elevation

Photograph Number 0004
Northeast Oblique

Photograph Number 0005
Northeast Oblique detail showing chimney and side gable

Photograph Number 0006
Northwest Oblique

Photograph Number 0007
West Elevation

Photograph Number 0008
Southwest Oblique

Photograph Number 0009
Southeast Oblique

Photograph Number 0010
Partial South Elevation showing side of porch

Photograph Number 0011
Detail of porch structure

Photograph Number 0012
Garage (Contributing), Northeast Oblique

Photograph Number 00013
Garage (Contributing), Northwest Oblique

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.

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Joffre-Gilbert house is a 2-story, frame, Craftsman Style bungalow. This bungalow type is often referred to as an “airplane bungalow” based on its wide, low, front-facing gable end and centrally-placed and cockpit-like second floor. Cruciform in plan with covered porches at the front and rear, the primary axis aligns generally east and west with the front façade facing east onto S. O’Connor Road. Originally clad in wood clapboard siding, the first floor siding was covered in Perma-Stone in 1950. The foundations and chimney are of brick. The front porch is notable for its unusual open-timbered gable and modified “cross log” support columns. An open porch and flagstone patio connects the house to the driveway on the south. The modest interior features simple wood moldings of pine, much of which is in a stained finish. The house is located in central Irving on a roughly-flat, well-manicured lot with numerous oaks and other canopy trees. One of Irving’s early residential neighborhoods and still largely residential, the area contains few homes of this quality or level of integrity, the primary exception being Irving’s Heritage House museum directly to the north and constructed in 1912 for C. P. Schulze. To the southwest of the main house is a garage (contributing building) accessed by a single-lane driveway. The garage is in original condition with the exception of the overhead door, modern window, and a modest rear addition. The property is in excellent condition with Perma-Stone, now considered an historic modification, being the only notable alteration to the property. The house was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1999. As of 2013, the house is still owned and occupied by a member of the Gilbert family.

When laid-out in 1902, the City of Irving was placed on the south side of an intersection of the Chicago, Rock Island and Gulf Railroad line. The street was aligned to the cardinal points with the central business district adjoining the tracks. Residential blocks were placed to the south of this downtown core. The only Sanborn map of the town, published in 1942, reflects this arrangement, with small, usually one-story homes on large lots. As of 1942 Irving was still quite small, being just over ½ mile square. The map shows most homes being in the original town plat, with smaller and more sparsely-built additions at the fringes of the city. The house at 309 S. Iowa Street (later changed to S. O’Connor Road) is not difficult to spot on the map, its distinctive, centrally-placed second story being a unique feature among the almost exclusively single story homes.

The Joffre-Gilbert House is located on the southwest side of the original town of Irving on a well-manicured lot with many large canopy trees. The house faces east and is situated on the eastern 1/3 of the lot, the rear yard being larger than the front. A concrete sidewalk parallels O’Connor Road and is separated from the street by a narrow, landscaped parkway. All other at-grade site paving, including the curving front walkway and patio areas, is of flagstone in red and brown hues. The unpaved driveway with low concrete curbs on either side lies on the south side of the lot perpendicular to O’Connor Road and leads to the detached garage at the rear of the house.

The house is symmetrical and cruciform in plan, with gable ends aligned with the cardinal points. The larger, primary gables face east and west. There is a large, covered front porch and a smaller enclosed rear porch. An open and uncovered small side porch also exists on the south. The house is raised slightly on a pier and beam foundation. Visible original masonry on the house is red scratch-faced brick at the chimney and step checks at the front porch. Perma-Stone, added in 1950, covers the first floor and carries to grade, obscuring the foundation.

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The Joffre-Gilbert house features the low, wide-gabled roofs of a classic Airplane Bungalow. Deep eaves display exposed 2"x4" rafter tails and the wider bargeboards of the projecting eaves at the gable ends are supported by milled timber brackets near the trailing ends. The trailing ends of the bargeboards are accentuated with gentle curves.

The main body of the Joffre-Gilbert House is quite consistent from façade to façade. The second story best illustrates the original appearance of the siding and trim of the house's walls, all of which are of cypress. Horizontal weatherboard siding with a 6" reveal pattern covers both walls and gable ends. Window casing is 1" x 6" with a continuous 1" cap trim. A 12" horizontal board divides the main wall surface from the gable above. Fenestration patterns on the house generally conform to the interior floor plan and corresponding uses of the rooms. The exception is the ends of the primary east and west gables which contain paired windows providing light to the attic. The secondary gable ends feature louvered wood vents. The house's 1/1 wood windows are covered with wood screens. The screens are evenly divided horizontally into an upper and lower section, the upper section further divided vertically into three equal sections.

The primary, east-facing elevation of the house is also its most striking and complex. The symmetrical composition features three dramatic front-facing gable ends. The deep front porch, slightly narrower than the main body of the house, is contained entirely under its own lower gable. Behind the main roofline of the house, the smaller gable of the second story draws the eye further upward into the tree canopy. The porch itself is raised with a painted wood deck of tongue-and-groove cypress. Three equally-spaced masonry plinths (now covered in Perma-Stone) divide the porch's front elevation into two equal bays, the two outermost plinths forming the bases for the porch's roof supports. Guardrails are simple railings with closely-spaced square pickets, and concrete steps with brick checks provide access in the left bay. The roof supports of the porch are among its most interesting features. Here, a modified cross-log motif seen in some more rustic craftsman-style bungalows is constructed of milled timbers and supports the main structural beams. The roof structure of the porch is open timber with exposed rafters. At the center of the large beam forming the gable's lower end is an unusual post and beam composition. Two small vertical timbers support a horizontal beam which then supports a single vertical timber up to the gable's peak. This arrangement appears to be purely decorative. Within the porch, the front wall of the house features a centrally-placed front door flanked on both sides by triple-ganged windows.

The north side of the house is the only elevation with no doors. The red brick chimney is located on the western bay of the façade, servicing the living room beyond. At the rear, east side of the house, the porch varies from the rest of the house, being of a lean-to type construction with more shallow eaves. The upper portion of the porch features a continuous row of jalousie windows which replaced the screens in 1950. The lower wall of the porch is covered in Perma-Stone like the rest of the house. A door is located on the south side of the porch, serviced by concrete steps with iron railings. The south side of the house conforms to the general patterns already described, but features a single exterior door in the central bay. A small uncovered porch or stoop with concrete steps and iron railings provides access to the adjoining flagstone walkway.

As previously stated, Perma-Stone was added to the house by the owner Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert in 1950. The material was applied to the first floor only, from grade to the eaves. Externally it cannot be determined if

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the window casings were covered with the material, or removed prior to the process. The Perma-Stone is molded in an ashlar pattern in a color variation resembling cream Texas limestone.

Patented in 1929, Perma-Stone and other faux-stone were marketed as a solution to a variety of construction and maintenance issues. In renovation projects it provided owners and builders with a way to blend the old and new parts of a building with a uniform, continuous siding. As a maintenance solution it covered wood siding and other materials eliminating the need to paint, and giving some protection from fire. In new construction, it allowed homeowners on a budget to construct new homes with the look of natural stone, but at a far lower cost. While some faux-stone products were produced off site, Perma-Stone and some others were supplied in their components parts to a licensed installer and formed on site. Similar to traditional stucco installation, the process involved applying a metal lath to exterior wood surfaces followed by brown and scratch coats. A finish coat was applied to the still-wet scratch coat and quickly molded in a stone pattern using stamps. The use of crushed stone, natural pigments and other materials allowed for a variety of colorations to be achieved, as well as a variation similar to natural stone. Stone could mimic any style of masonry, from rubble to finely carved, and mortar joints could be similarly tooled to match. The end result often varied greatly depending on the eye and artistry of the installer involved.

Until relatively recently, faux stone products applied to historic buildings were generally viewed as detrimental to character-defining features and integrity. Typically the application of these materials to existing buildings did have an esthetically negative impact on the original design. However, materials such as Perma-Stone are now being accepted as part of the historical narrative, particularly when applied during a building's period of significance. For example, in the Hamden Village Main Street Program in Baltimore, applicants are encouraged to keep Formstone that is in good condition as it is a distinctive part of Baltimore's unique heritage. Installed by Dr. Gilbert, more than 50 years ago, Perma-Stone should now be viewed as a character-defining feature of the Joffre-Gilbert House.

Inside, the Joffre-Gilbert House is quite simple in design with a typical bungalow floor plan. There are nine rooms in the house, all with twelve foot ceilings and edge grain pine floors, with the exception of the bathroom which has a tile floor installed in 1950. All rooms feature simple wood moldings of pine, much of which is in a stained finish. Entered directly from the front porch, the wide living room features two seating areas, one in front of the brick fireplace with flanking built-in cabinets. A central hallway connects the living room to the rest of the house and includes a staircase leading directly upstairs. The stair includes a simple pine balustrade with square balusters. Connecting the living area to the dining room on the north side of the home are paired twelve-light French doors. At the rear of the dining room, another door leads to the breakfast room and kitchen beyond, as well as the rear porch. The central hallway leads directly back to the west to the large downstairs bedroom and to the bathroom. To the south off of the corridor is the den, with a built-in bookcase and side door leading to the driveway. The multipurpose room upstairs is 13' by 13' and features 8 windows.

The Joffre-Gilbert House was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) in 1999.

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Statement of Significance¹

The Joffre-Gilbert House, built in 1919, is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an important and singular local example of a Craftsman “Airplane” Bungalow and was constructed by its first owner and local builder, Fred Joffre. The house is also significant under Criterion B in the area of health/medicine for its association with Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert. The Gilbert family is most notable for being local pioneers in the area of medicine. Dr. Daniel Webster Gilbert, Irving’s first physician and pharmacist, conducted house calls on the house that would later become home to his son, Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert. Franklin Monroe Gilbert opened Irving’s first clinic, a ground-breaking facility that provided comprehensive 24-hour care in the absence of an area hospital. He was a mayor of Irving (1932-1937) and president of the Irving State Bank and its later iterations for fifty-years, serving as president from 1938-1954. Together, Dr.’s D. W. and F. M. Gilbert provided leadership and compassionately-served the Irving area community for a century without interruption. This included provision of care to the poor with little or no compensation and to the African American community in a time of racial division and segregation.

The Joffre-Gilbert House is located in the town of Irving, Texas, at 309 South O’Connor Road in Otis Brown's Third Edition, Lot #1, Block A. The Third Edition was developed on March 10, 1912.

The ownership history of the home is as follows:

- Mr. Fred Joffre: 1919—1935
- Mrs. Louise Baker: 1935—1936
- Mr. W.B. Gilbert: 1936—1939
- Dr. Franklin Monroe and Dorothy Gilbert: 1939—1977
- Dr. Clay W. Gilbert: 1977-Present

Fred Joffre was the original owner and builder of the house, completed in 1919. Joffre’s parents, Joseph and Matilda Lanotte Joffre were pioneers of the failed La Reunion Colony to the southeast near present-day Oak Cliff. A respected builder in Irving, Fred Joffre apprenticed under Henry Moulard, who was the city’s first carpenter. Joffre ran a mercantile store in Irving with his partner Wiley “Doug” Lucas, but devoted the majority of his time to a building contracting business with offices at the Irving Lumber Company. The lumber company’s owner, C. P. Schulze, and his wife, Virginia, hired Joffre to construct their home at 303 Iowa Street (now S. O’Connor). That home, completed in 1912, is now a museum known as Heritage House.

While constructing the Schulze home, Fred Joffre grew to appreciate the lot adjoining it to the south at 309 Iowa Street. He is said to have attempted to buy the wooded parcel from Otis Brown many times before finally stopping him in town and offering him \$300 cash, an offer Brown accepted on the spot. C. P. Schulz recalled Joffre’s preoccupation with the construction of his and his wife’s dream home:

¹ The nomination for the Joffre-Gilbert House was compiled in large part from the records and files of Dr. Clay Gilbert. Spanning nearly 40 years of work, the information gathered by Dr. Gilbert was used by the doctor and by Dallas historian, Frances James, to document a number of Irving historic sites and figures including The Bear Creek Community, Sowers Community, Sowers Cemetery, the D. W. Gilbert Farmstead, Dr. F. M. Gilbert, and Dr. D. W. Gilbert. This documentation also supported the listing of the Joffre-Gilbert House as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and City of Irving Landmark.

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"During periods when he was not building homes, he worked for me in the lumber yard. Fred hand-picked all the lumber used in the old home. Fred especially liked the beautiful edge grain pine wood which he used to floor the home. Every time I got a shipment of edge grain pine floor in, Fred was there to pick out the most beautiful wood. He would then buy the wood and store it at the lumber yard until he was ready to build the home."

When the house was completed in 1919, Irving had no public utilities. The house was equipped with a Delco System, providing electricity and electric lights until Texas Power & Light came to Irving in 1925. It also had running water to the kitchen and bathroom provided by a well which belonged to C.P. Schulze, next door. With these amenities, the home was one of the first in Irving with modern electrical and plumbing systems.

The Joffre-Gilbert House is an important local example of the Craftsman Bungalow, and more specifically the "airplane bungalow," and is the only house of its type in Irving. The prevalence of the bungalow in America has a long and complex history. With East Indian roots dating as far back as the 17th-century, the bungalow as a popular form arose in Britain in the early 19th-century. Based on exotic east-Indian colonial homes, the bungalow's central characteristics were its simplicity, low profile, wide eaves and large verandahs or porches. These characteristics were well suited to architectural trends in England and America away from the complexity and density of Victorian-era styles toward Arts and Crafts ideals of architectural simplicity, natural forms, and a more intimate relationship of homes to their natural settings. These concepts were being explored and popularized by American Chicago School architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, but the rise of the bungalow in America is deeply-rooted in the work of California designers, most notably Charles and Henry Greene.

Greene and Greene designed fine California Bungalow homes in the Arts and Crafts Style. These designs emphasized a sympathetic relationship of a home and its site, the intermingling of indoor and outdoor spaces with the use of verandahs, screen porches, patios, courts, pergolas and trellises. Natural materials were critical to both the exterior and interior construction, and both structure and ornamentation give a craftsman-like, hand-made appearance. This emphasis on design simplicity and craftsmanship was expensive to produce and was initially reserved to those who could afford it. However, the concepts involved were perfectly suited to adaptation to the masses with the bungalow becoming a smaller and easy-to-maintain home for America's growing middle class. With the broad availability of journals and other printed materials, the bungalow quickly became widely appreciated, and was even marketed widely in catalogs by manufacturers such as Sears and Aladdin.

Typically of one or one-and-a-half stories, bungalows were generally compact with rooms and porches arranged around a central living area entered directly through the front door. Most often rectangular in shape, their form allowed them to be placed on relatively narrow and deep lots, providing greater levels of privacy even in densely-developed suburban neighborhoods. Stylistically, bungalows were adaptable to a variety of motifs. The popular Arts and Craft Bungalows of California gained nationwide appeal, as did variants in Mission Revival, Tudor Revival and other styles.

The Airplane Bungalow style dates from the early 1900s and became very popular in Los Angeles in the mid-teens. The Airplane Bungalow is a variant of the Craftsman Bungalow, characterized by a "pop up" second floor, usually of one or two rooms. Both have a low pitched, gabled roof, oversized eaves with exposed rafters, and bands of windows. The Airplane Bungalow is typically found with Craftsman or Prairie style motifs.

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In an interview in 1978, Louise Baker recalled that her adoptive father, Fred Joffre, became interested in the Craftsman Bungalow in the same way so many Americans had, in reading the popular magazines of the time such as Mrs. Joffre's subscription to *Ladies Home Journal*. She says Mr. Joffre used the upstairs room as his office because of the natural light from the eight windows and the quiet atmosphere it provided. Fred Joffre deeded the home to Louise Baker in 1935. Ms. Baker then sold the home to W. B. Gilbert in 1936. Dr. Franklin Monroe and Dorothy Gilbert purchased the home at 309 South O'Connor in 1939. The son and daughter-in-law of Irving's first doctor, Daniel Webster Gilbert, the house was very familiar to Franklin and Dorothy. The Gilbert family's medical practice in Irving gave them an unusual and ongoing connection to the original owners of the house, Fred and Minnie Joffre, and their family. Doctors D. W. and Franklin Monroe Gilbert made numerous house calls to the home. They treated Minnie Joffre there for a copperhead snake bite in 1919, and her son, Fred DeWitt Baker for an ongoing leg infection. Dr. F. M. Gilbert treated Minnie Joffre here for pneumonia on October 18, 1924, and in the absence of antibiotics, lost her that same day. On June 13, 1933, in the dining room of the home, he delivered Horace Raymond Baker, the son of Louise Baker. As stated earlier, Louise Baker was a niece and adopted daughter of Fred and Minnie Joffre, and the second owner of the house.

In 1950, the Gilberts added "Perma-Stone" to the outside of the first floor. The original clapboard was left on the second floor. Jalousie windows were also added to the back porch and the bathroom was remodeled with white octagonal tile flooring. The Gilberts remained there until 1963 when they relocated to a more modern home. The house was rented to several families until being bought in 1977 by the Gilbert's son Dr. Clay Gilbert. At the time Dr. Clay Gilbert acquired the home it was in a poor state of repair but has since been restored to its condition at the time of his parent's occupation.

The Gilbert Family in Irving

While Daniel Webster Gilbert was never a resident of the Joffre-Gilbert House, as the area's first doctor, a community-leader and patriarch of the Gilbert family, his is a critical component of the Irving story and provides an interesting prelude to the life of his son, Franklin Monroe Gilbert.

Daniel Webster (D. W.) Gilbert was born on January 31, 1854, to John W. and Sallie Broughton Gilbert in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. The Gilberts had eleven children, three of which would become physicians. At the age of 26, D. W. Gilbert moved to Texas, settling in Grapevine where he began the informal practice of medicine under his brother, Franklin Monroe Gilbert. D. W.'s first documented house call came on January 3, 1878 when he braved a winter storm to deliver Tom Pemberton in the area near present-day Sally B. Elliott Elementary in Irving.

D. W. Gilbert moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to obtain formal medical training, graduating from the Washington School of Medicine in 1881. He then returned to Grapevine where he practiced medicine for three years and where he married Marietta Boardman in April 1882. Gilbert practiced in Euless for one year before relocating to the Sowers Community 11 miles northwest of Dallas (now west Irving) in approximately 1884. E. D. Sowers is believed to have come to the area in approximately 1848. It was an attractive trade route due to several nearby Trinity River crossings; Eagle Ford being the most notable. Sowers established a store and later gave his name to the post office when it was established in 1881.

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Once in Sowers, Dr. D. W. Gilbert established himself as both a successful dairy farmer and physician, setting up his first medical office on his farmland. He soon relocated his practice to the Sowers business district where he also established the area's first pharmacy. With the only permanent medical practice and pharmacy in the sparsely populated area, Dr. Gilbert cared for patients in many small communities including Kit, Sowers, Shady Grove, Eules, Estelle, Hackberry, Elm, Union Bower, Bear Creek, Grand Prairie, and Grapevine. House calls were made by horse and buggy if the dirt roads were dry, but if they were muddy due to rains he would make his house calls by horseback. In this setting and period of time, it is recorded that the early settlers found Dr. D. W. Gilbert to be compassionate, trustworthy, and deeply dedicated to his patients and to the practice of medicine. The record books from his years of practice provide an interesting illustration of these roles, containing records of calls made and treatments given alongside accounts for eggs, milk and other goods produced on the Gilbert land. At their home place, Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert raised nine children, losing another two to death in early infancy. Four of those children would become area physicians, and one, Franklin Monroe Gilbert would practice with him on a daily basis in Irving.

By the early 1880s, area landowners were eagerly anticipating the arrival of the railroad. On news that the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad would soon lay tracks, local businessmen laid out a new town along the proposed route in 1882, naming it Gorbett for early-resident John B. Gorbett. With the establishment of a post office in 1894 the name was changed to Kit. In 1902, J. O. Schulze and Otis Brown, two members of the engineering crew charged with constructing the 10-mile line of railroad west of Dallas, became aware of the fact that the new line would miss the town of Kit. On November 8, 1902, the two men bought 80.21 acres for \$30.00 an acre from the H.W. Britain family and established the town site of Irving. The origin of the name is not documented but has been speculated to have been in honor of author Washington Irving, a favorite of Mrs. Brown. In June, 1903, the town's lots were sold at a festive public auction outside the new Irving depot. The post office was moved from Kit to the new town and by 1912 the population had grown to 500. Irving was incorporated as a city in 1914, and after 1930 enjoyed steady growth as a shipping and manufacturing hub, reaching a population of 45,000 by the early 1960s and becoming internationally-known as the home of the Dallas Cowboys in 1971. The Gilbert family would be a central part of the Irving community throughout this period.

With the establishment of Irving in 1903, Dr. D. W. Gilbert relocated his practice to the new town, and in 1914 occupied the newly-constructed second floor of the Irving State Bank Building. The only physician in Irving for many years, Dr. Gilbert treated everything from the common cold to such diseases as malaria, diphtheria, smallpox, typhoid fever, heart attacks and heart disease; corrected and cast fractures; and delivered babies in area homes. Dr. Gilbert was a founder and the first President of The Irving State Bank. He was a Director and President of the bank for twenty-three years. He remains among the most admired citizens in Irving's history. Joe Rice wrote in his 1989 book *Irving: A Texas Odyssey*:

"Notwithstanding the singular contributions of Otis Brown, C. P. Schulze, and other early-day leaders, the most influential citizen in the town was probably Dr. Daniel Webster Gilbert. He had the status of a patriarch in and around Irving because he was tireless, competent, and compassionate. When Dr. D. W. Gilbert died in 1930, exhausted from an energetic life, there were editorials and public proclamations. Dr. D. W. Gilbert was then, a physician, counselor, and friend to thousands in his time."

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert, M. D. was born in Sowers, Texas, on June 22, 1887. Franklin Gilbert attended the Sowers Elementary School and later attended Grand Prairie High School. He attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, and in 1908 graduated from North Texas State Normal College in Denton, Texas, with a lifetime permanent teaching certificate. He began a teaching career in Irving's Shady Grove School (1908-1909). He then became a principal at the Grand Prairie High School (1909-1911), and taught English at McKinney High School from 1911-1913.

In 1913, Gilbert decided he wanted to become a physician and follow in his father's footsteps. F. M. Gilbert subsequently studied pre-med at the University of Texas (1913-1914) and at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (1914-1915). He began his medical school studies at the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston in 1915, graduating in 1919 with doctor of medicine degree. He completed an internship of one year at the City Hospital of New York, New York City, New York, from 1919-1920. Dr. Gilbert married Dorothy Bald Brandon, a nurse he met at the hospital, in 1920, and together they came to Irving. On July 1, 1920 he began the practice of medicine in association with his father, Dr. D. W. Gilbert, on the second floor of the Irving State Bank building. The two men practiced together for 10 years and Franklin Gilbert carried on his father's legacy of service to the Irving community for years to come. The only other well-documented physician in the Irving area operating at the time was Dr. John Haley. Dr. Haley, a native of Sowers, performed his practice by horse and buggy and was a specialist in eye surgery. He was Irving's Mayor from 1927-1931.

Particularly notable in the careers of Daniel and Franklin Gilbert was their dedication to the area's African American community. Southwest of Sowers lies Bear Creek, one of the oldest African American communities in the Dallas area. The first African Americans came to the Bear Creek area as early as 1858 as slaves of early settlers. After the Civil War, Bear Creek became known as a place where black families, separated during the years prior to the war, might reunite. These freedmen began to purchase land as soon as they were able, the first black landowner being Jim Green who purchased 10 acres in 1878. The small community grew as more African Americans were drawn to the area and purchased land. Unrecognized by any county or municipality, Bear Creek would go without even the most basic services until the latter half of the 20th century. Local residents survived both through subsistence farming and as agricultural workers on white-owned farms, including that of Dr. D. W. Gilbert.

In addition to providing employment to members of the African American community, Dr. D. W. Gilbert along with his son Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert, provided them with medical services. In a time of deep racial division and segregation, they regularly conducted house calls, treated injuries and diseases, and delivered babies in Bear Creek. Dr. Clay Gilbert, son of Franklin Monroe Gilbert, remembers his father's many hours spent providing care within Bear Creek and in their home, noting that African Americans in the area had nowhere else to turn without taking the long trip into Dallas to see a doctor. He even recalled an incident while travelling with his father in the Bear Creek area. Upon passing an elderly black couple on the roadside and realizing he had not seen them in quite some time, the doctor turned around, pulled out his medical bag and provided them with an examination on the spot at no cost.

Dr. Clay Gilbert also recalls that both his grandfather and father often provided their services to the Bear Creek community at little or no cost. The doctors' records indicate they often accepted payment in the form of produce, a chicken or other goods. In a 2002 interview, Bear Creek resident Dixie Caraway remembered, "I guess I could use Dr. F. M. Gilbert as a person like that... that did a lot of things for black people. Like Dr.

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Gilbert went as far as up by Fort Worth to deliver children. Black people had no money. So, of course, they would... If he got anything it would be a bag of sausage, a couple of chickens, two dozen eggs, or some butter or something like that. That's what he got. He never really... And he was a dedicated doctor to the Bear Creek Area." Dr. Gilbert and his father were so admired in Bear Creek that Gilbert Road was named in their honor. The doctors' practice together finally came to an end upon D. W. Gilbert's death on July 16, 1930. At that time, school teacher and long-time Bear Creek resident Josye Davis wrote to the Gilbert family on behalf of the Bear Creek Community:

Blessed are they that moan, for they shall be comforted.

Whereas the Almighty has stepped in and shut the sunlight of this earth from Dr. D. W. Gilbert.

We the colored people of the surrounding community regret the passing of this great man. We feel we have lost a friend. No greater man ever lived.

We found Dr. Gilbert to be honest, faithful and true to his word. In sickness he has been with us. In trouble he never faltered. He was the father of our community.

Dr. Gilbert had shone to us that he was guided by the hand of the Almighty who led him to be a Christian. It is the true sunshine of our community has gone down but God doeth all things well. With him we do all things, without him we do nothing.

The family has lost a faithful husband, we have lost a friend, and our hearts are full of grief but earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot yield.

In Dr. Gilbert's sickness, God was his help in every need, God did his every hungry feed, God walked beside him, guided his way through every moment of the day. Now as he has passed, God is guiding his path up the golden stairs through the golden gate.

Dear family and Dear friends and all let us hope, let us pray, faint not by the way, hope on, hope ever so when that great day comes we who are on this side of the Kingdom will join Dr. Gilbert on the other.

Franklin Monroe Gilbert carried on his father's medical legacy for another 39 years. He also followed his example as a leader to the community. In 1921, Dr. F. M. Gilbert was elected to the board of trustees of the Irving Independent School District, serving ten consecutive years in that capacity. Appointed to serve on the Dallas County Irving Fresh Water Supply District Number 5 in 1925, he was elected president of this board in 1926, serving in this capacity until 1927. He served on the Board of Directors of the original Irving State Bank, The Irving Bank and Trust Company, and the Texas Commerce Bank from 1930 to 1980. He was president of the Irving State Bank and The Irving Bank and Trust Company from 1938-1954.

In 1932 Irving mayor Dr. John Haley, passed away. The city commissioners appointed Dr. Gilbert to fill-out Haley's un-expired term (1932-1933). He served as Mayor of Irving for an additional two consecutive terms (1933-1935 and 1935-1937). Many newspaper reviews and books report that Dr. Gilbert's years as Mayor of Irving, were productive ones. A new bridge connecting to Dallas was completed, a new high school constructed,

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and business and farm interests thrived. As mayor he led the Irving delegation to the 1936 Centennial Exposition in Dallas, broadcasting a program from the Gulf Oil Corporation Building.

Dr. Gilbert continued his respected and busy medical practice from his office on the second floor of the Irving State Bank Building from 1920-1946. City directories indicate that the medical community remained small during this period, with fewer than five doctors practicing prior to WWII. Dorothy Gilbert, having received her nurse's training at the City Hospital of New York City, often assisted in the office above the bank. Many times she would also assist in home deliveries, as there were no hospitals in Irving at the time. At the close of office hours each day, Dr. Gilbert began making house calls to those too ill to come to his office. With no answering services available at that time, Dorothy Gilbert would make a list of patients who called the Gilbert home after 5 pm. In emergency situations she would advise the patients on what to do until she could locate the doctor on his rounds.

Dr. F. M. Gilbert closed his office at the Irving State Bank Building (razed) in 1946 and opened Irving's first medical clinic at 103 South Iowa (now O'Connor). It was known as the Gilbert Clinic. While this clinic was established within a small converted house, it provided Irving residents with the area's first fully-equipped doctor's office and a higher level of care than that available with house calls or within the Gilbert home. He continued his practice here for several years with hopes of building a new, larger clinic on land he purchased next door at 101 South Iowa.

He invited Dr. Joe Roberts, a young surgeon, to become associated with him and on January 21, 1949, the Gilbert and Roberts Medical Clinic was completed. The new state-of-the-art clinic was groundbreaking, not just to the city of Irving, but to the entire region. In the absence of an area hospital, the clinic included a medical library, treatment rooms, recovery rooms, nurse's station, x-ray room, fluoroscope, cardiology wing with EKG facilities and a 24-hour emergency room. For the first time the Gilbert and Roberts Medical Clinic offered the community a full staff of physicians and 24-hour emergency care. Dr. Gilbert served as chief of staff in addition to his general practice, including house calls, until 1963. Dr. Gilbert's son, Clay, noted that the clinic had one other important feature that was, though imperfect, a reflection of his father's dedication to the African American Community: a segregated waiting room. Although they were segregated, the facilities were the first and only facilities in Irving available to the black community and would remain so until the establishment of Baylor Irving Hospital in 1964.

Whether the establishment of the Gilbert and Roberts Medical Clinic was a catalyst for growth in the Irving medical community, or just an example of it is not known. What is clear is that the number of physicians in the area began to increase in the late 1940s and the 1950s. Of twenty or so doctors practicing in Irving in 1950, fully a third worked at the Gilbert and Roberts Medical Clinic and many of these physicians would move into their own private practices in the community.

In 1962, Dr. Joe Roberts left the Gilbert and Roberts Clinic. During 1962 and early 1963 a new pediatric and surgical wing were added to the original clinic and more physicians were added to the staff. The clinic was rededicated in honor of his father Dr. D. W. Gilbert in 1963 and renamed the Gilbert Medical and Surgical Clinic. By 1963 the medical community in Irving was broad-based, with dozens of physicians practicing in a variety of specialties. With the construction of Baylor Irving Hospital in 1964, the City of Irving's medical community was fully mature, offering comprehensive services to the entire area. From 1963 - 1976 Dr. Gilbert

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continued as chief of staff of his clinic, continued his general practice, and continued to make house calls in addition to his business and civic duties.

The Gilbert Medical and Surgical Clinic (razed) continued to occupy the corner of 101 South O'Connor Road and Irving Blvd. until 1976. During this year, the clinic and its physicians moved into a new building at 2101 North MacArthur Blvd, Suite 214, Irving. The name of the clinic remained The Gilbert Medical and Surgical Clinic and was located north of Baylor Irving Hospital and Professional Building. The clinic continued to serve the public from this last location from 1976 through 1991. For three more years after the move Dr. Gilbert continued at the clinic as Chief of Staff, continued his general practice and continued to make house calls. He continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Irving State Bank and its successors, retiring from the board in 1980. In 1991, the clinic building was demolished to make room for parking areas for the hospital nearby.

At the time of his retirement on July 1, 1979, Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert had provided 59 years of continued medical practice to the Irving community. Each of his work days included 15-20 house calls and regularly included the delivery of 2 or 3 babies, with total deliveries in his career numbering in the thousands. He brought Irving its first comprehensive medical clinic and 24-hour emergency room. The doctor was available to his patients 24-hours a day, even providing care on a daily basis in his own home at 309 S. Iowa Street (O'Connor). As with his father before him, Dr. Gilbert's medical practice included providing care to the African American Community in and around Bear Creek at little or no charge.

Ninety-two years old at the time of his retirement, he received letters of commendation from Texas Governor William P. Clements, Jr., the University of Texas Medical School at Galveston, and Dallas County Medical Society. He received an Honorary Membership to the medical staff of Irving Community Hospital, and a proclamation letter from the Office of Mayor Marvin Randle, in which Mayor Randle proclaimed June 24th, 1979 "Dr. F. M. Gilbert Day". He received a Certificate of Merit from "The Fifty Year Club of American Medicine." Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert passed away September 26, 1982.

The Joffre-Gilbert House is the only surviving property in Irving that is closely associated with Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert. In addition to his childhood home, the Dr. D. W. Gilbert Farmstead, local buildings associated with Dr. F. M Gilbert but no longer extant include:

- Irving State Bank: Site of his first medical practice on the second floor
- The Gilbert Clinic: Irving's first clinic in a small house at 103 Iowa (O'Connor) Street
- The Gilbert-Roberts Clinic: Irving's first clinic with state-of-the-art, comprehensive, 24-hour care at 101 Iowa (O'Connor) Street.
- The Gilbert Medical and Surgical Clinic: 2101 N. MacArthur Blvd.

The Joffre-Gilbert House is closely associated not only with the doctor's personal life but with his medical practice. He provided critical care to the Joffre and Baker families in the home, after he purchasing it in 1939, it served as his secondary clinic, known throughout the community as a place to turn in time of need or emergency.

The Joffre-Gilbert House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion B in the area of health/medicine for its association with Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert, prominent area doctor, mayor and business leader who made significant contributions to the local medical community and to the health of Irving-area residents. The

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house is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a fine example of an Airplane Bungalow in the Craftsman Style, and based on a survey of the historical neighborhoods surrounding Irving's downtown, the only home of its type in Irving. The house possesses a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Its period of significance is 1919, the date of original construction, as well as 1939-1963, which corresponds to the dates of Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert's direct association with the house.

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

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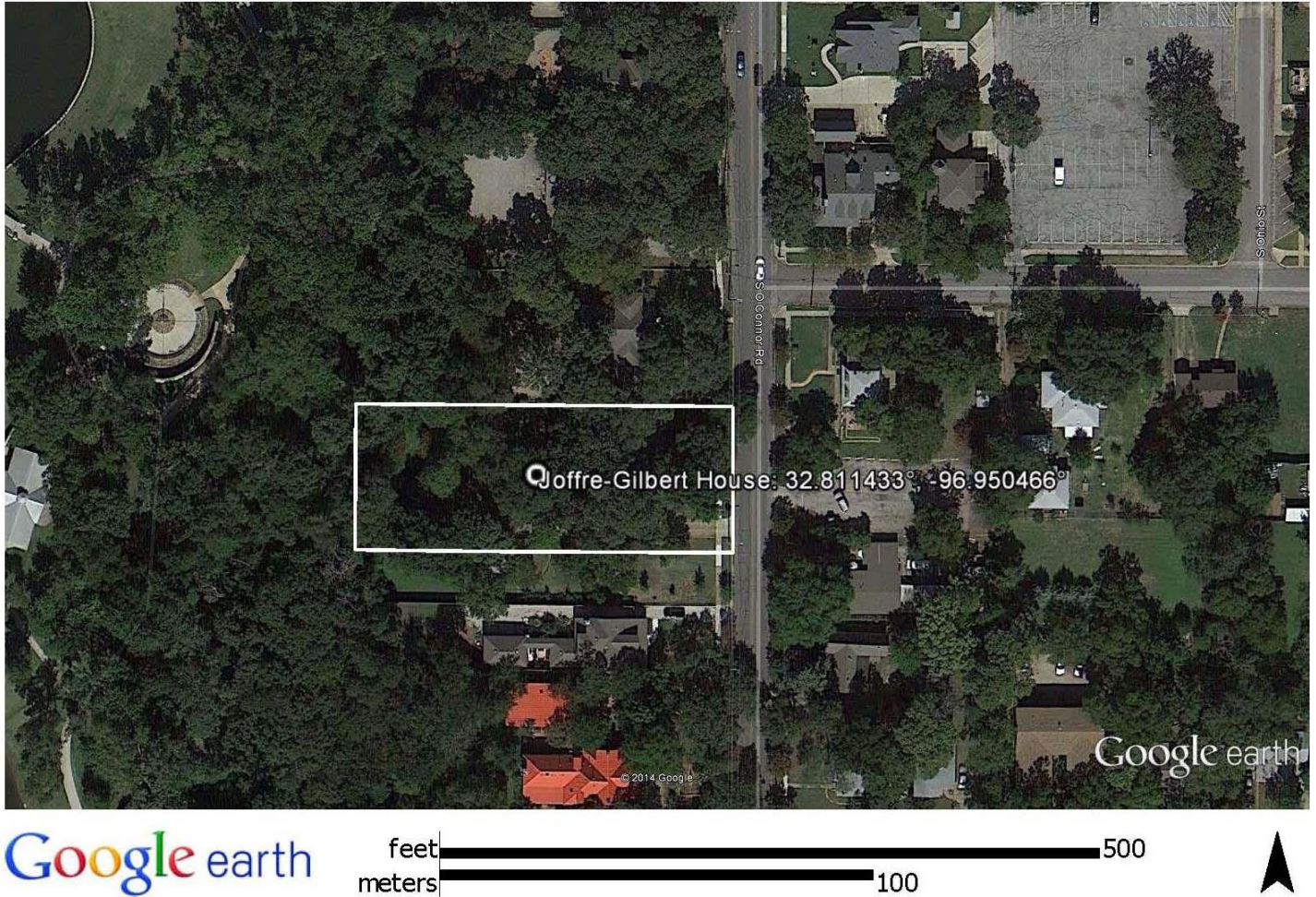
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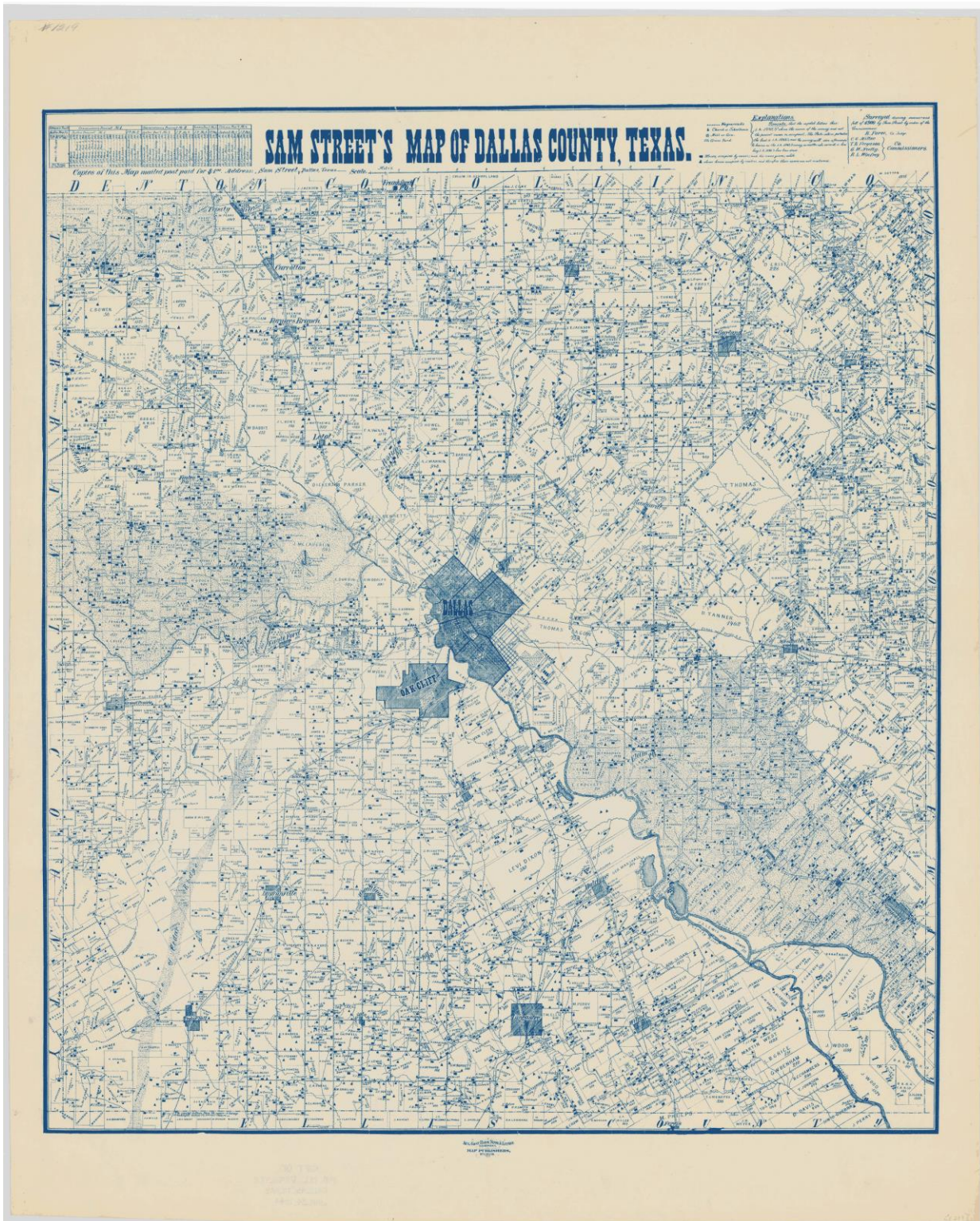
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Scaled Google Earth map depicts locational data and boundary for the nominated property.

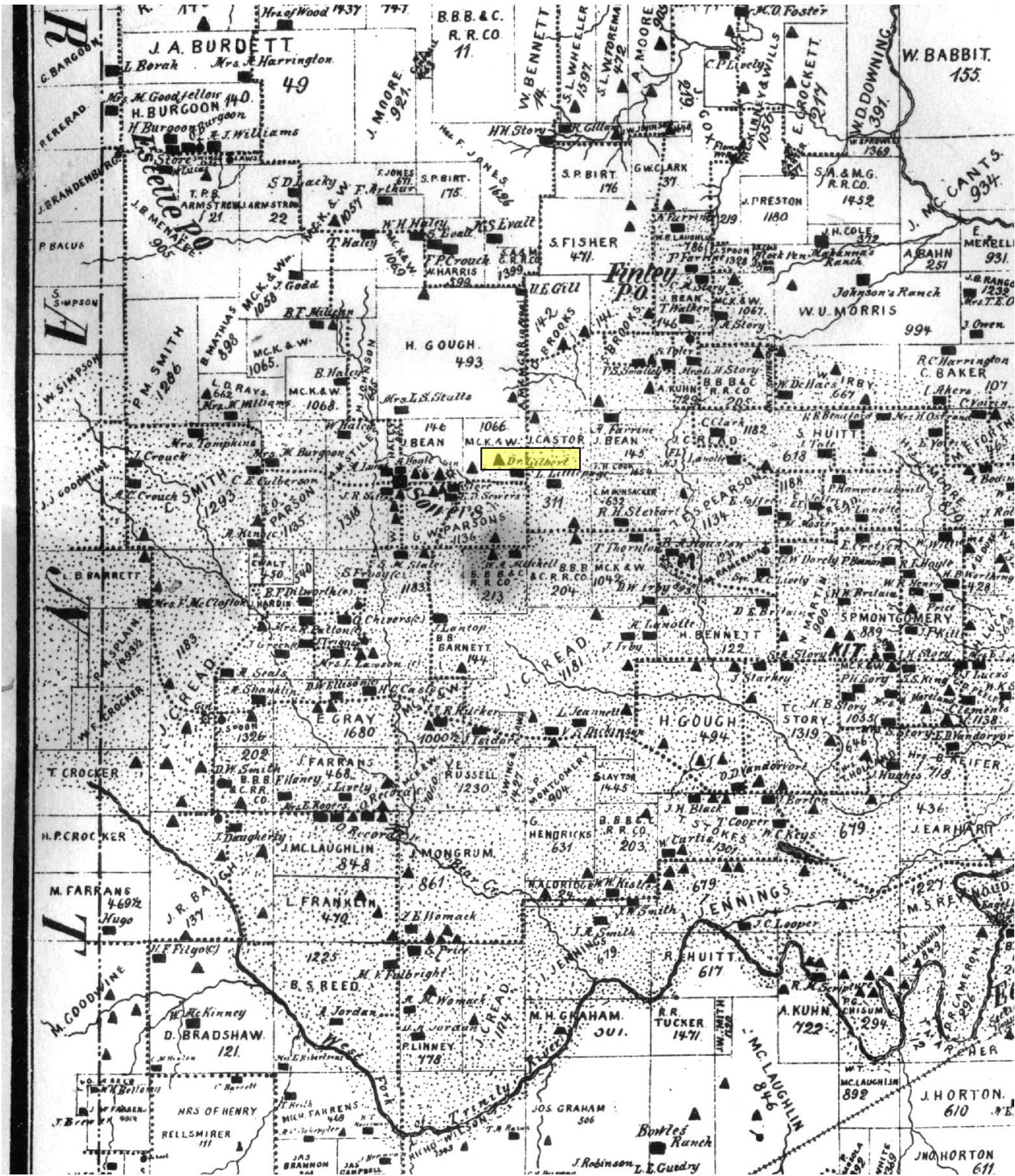


Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



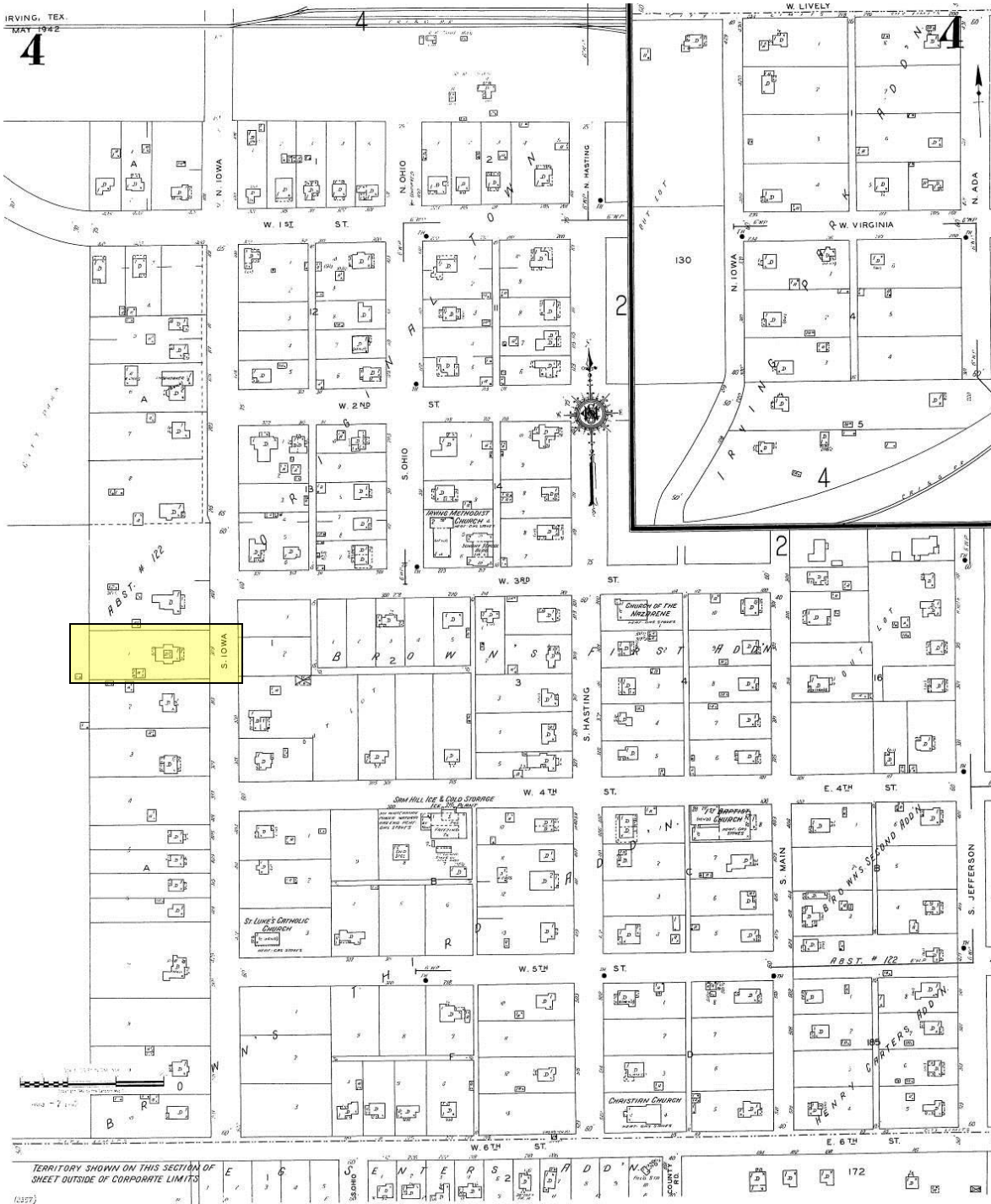
Sam Street's Map of Dallas County, 1900. Map shows towns of Sowers and Kit, and land ownership including the home of Dr. D. W. Gilbert.

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



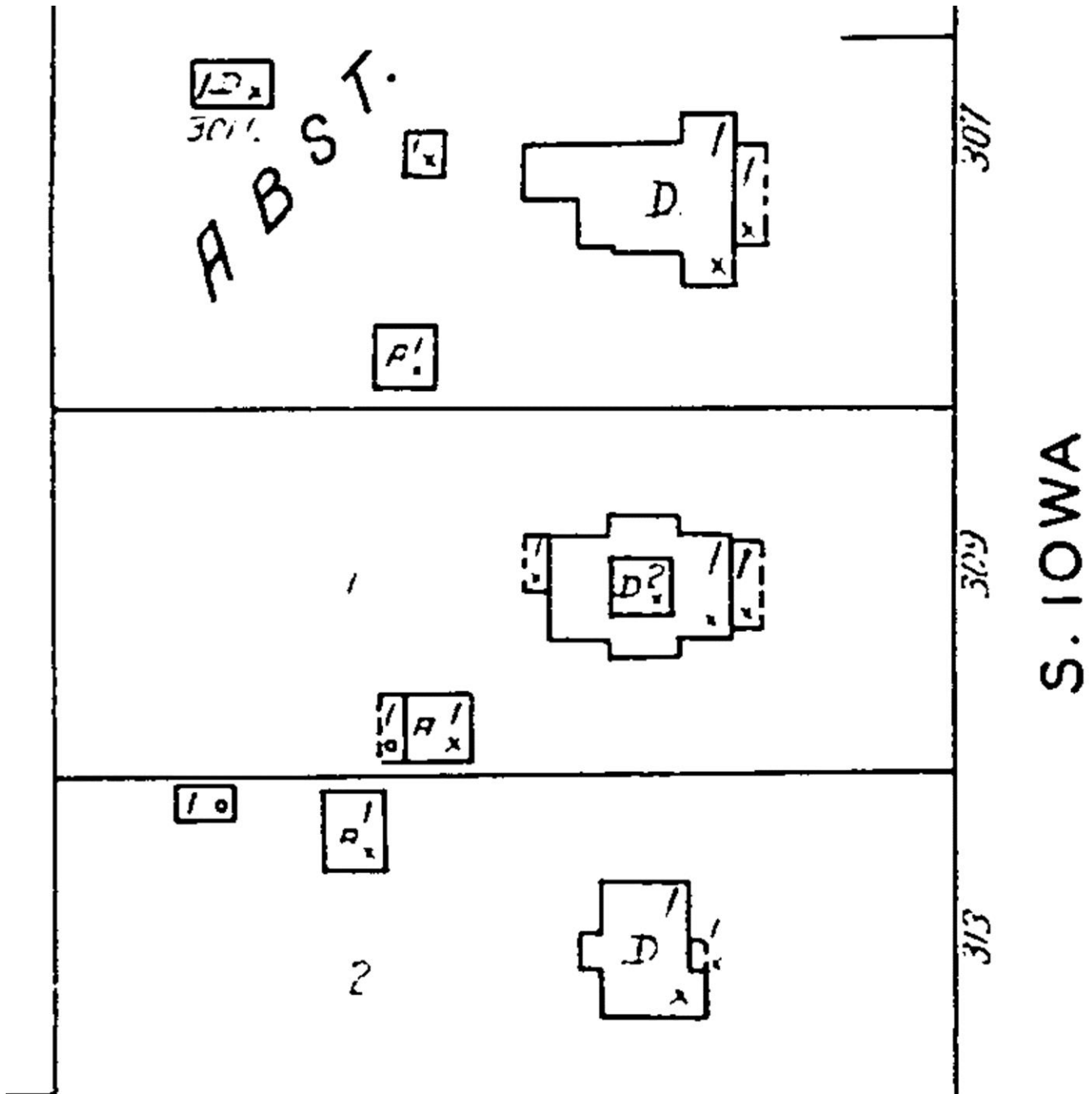
Sam Street's Map of Dallas County, 1900 (Detail). Map shows towns of Sowers and Kit, and land ownership including the home of Dr. D. W. Gilbert.

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



Sanborn Map of Irving Texas, 1942.

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



Sanborn Map, 1942, detail of 309 S. Iowa (now O'Connor).

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

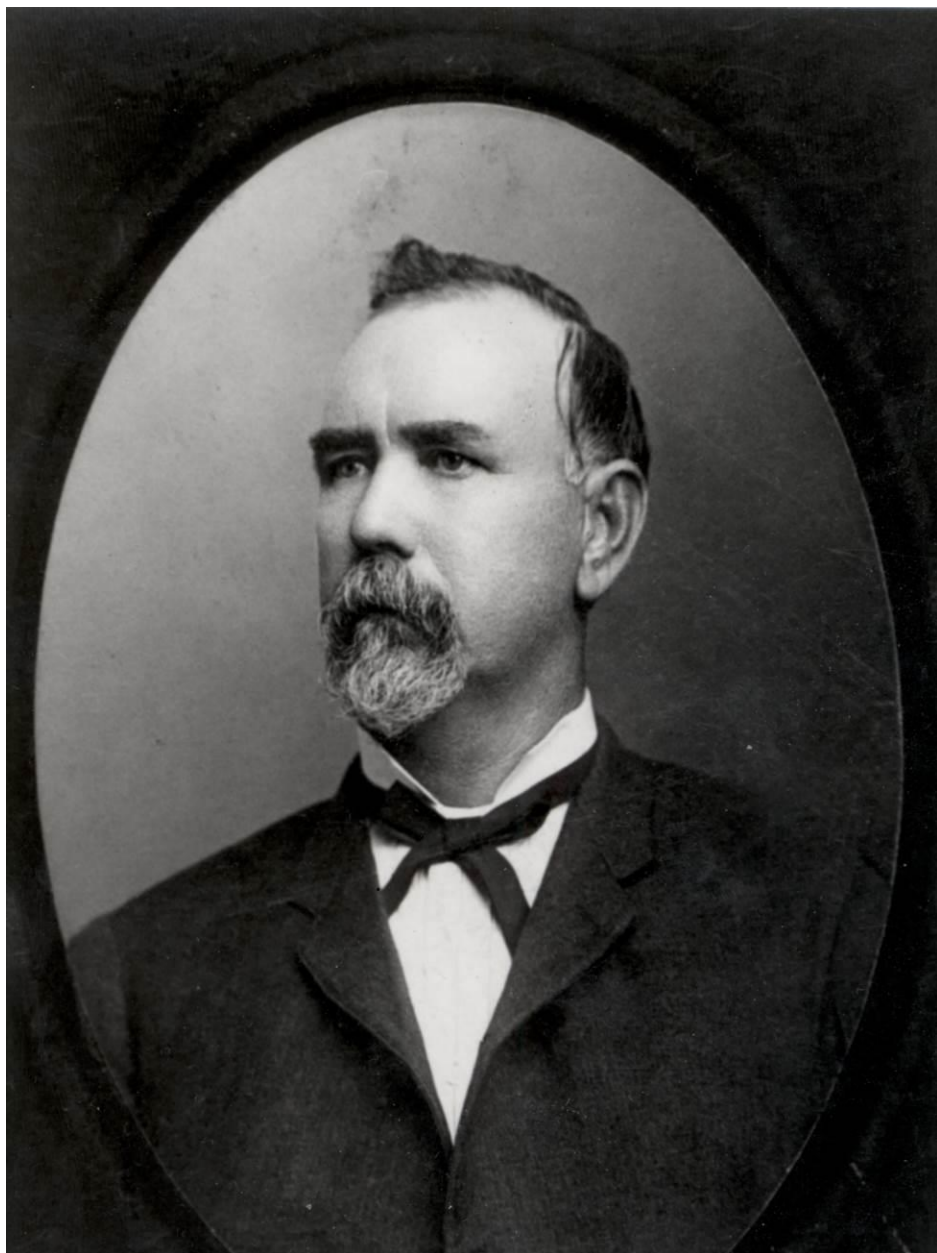


Photo: Portrait of Dr. D. W. Gilbert, c. 1900

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



Photo: Dr. D. W. Gilbert on call with medical bag in front of Model T Ford, c. 1925

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



Photo: Fred Joffre, 1905

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas

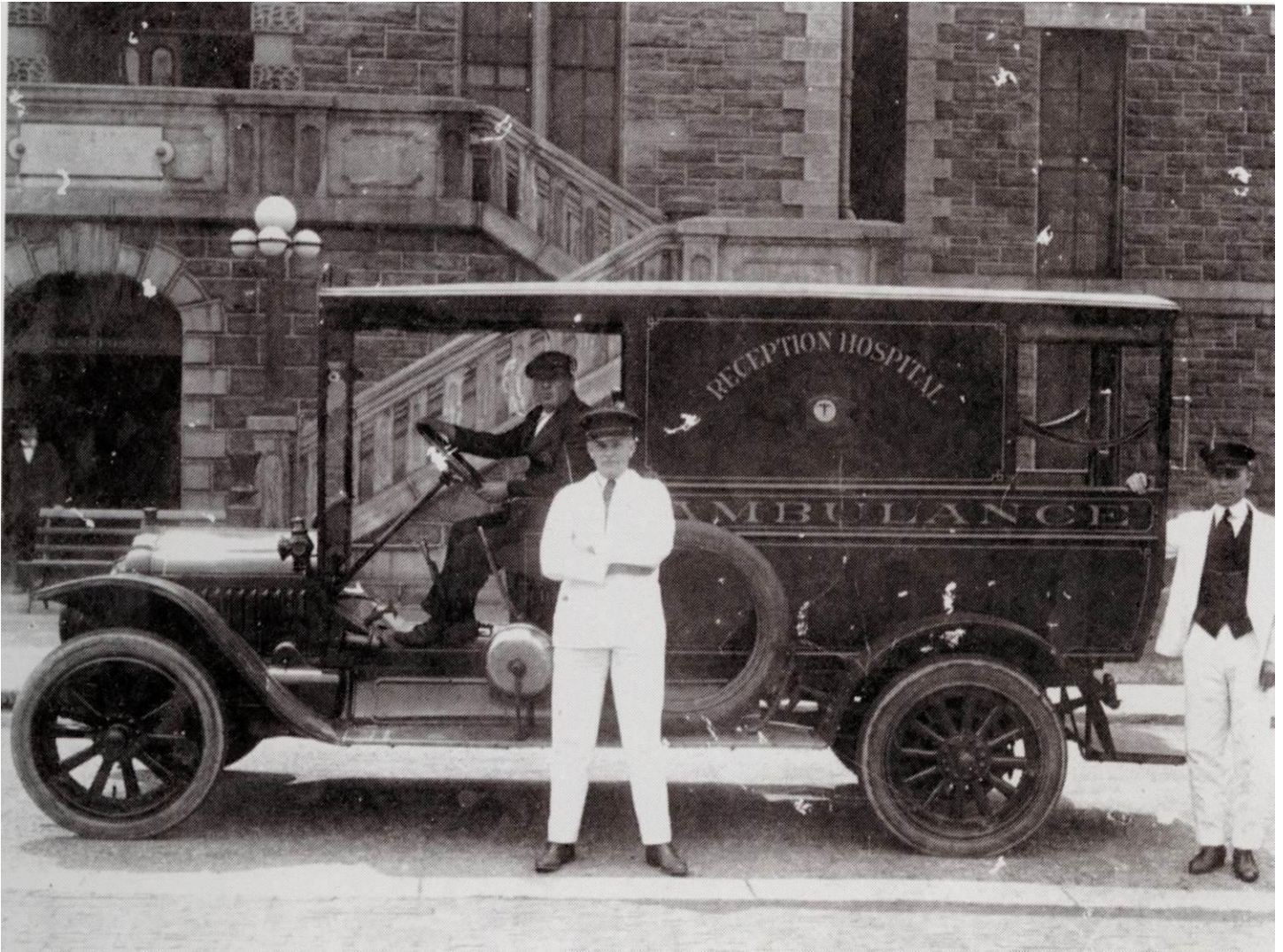


Photo: Dr. Franklin Monroe Gilbert (rt) posing with ambulance City Hospital, New York, 1919

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



Photo: Josye E Davis, Teacher at the Sowers School No. 2 (Bear Creek Community) c. 1920.



Photo: Joffre-Gilbert House c. 1919

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



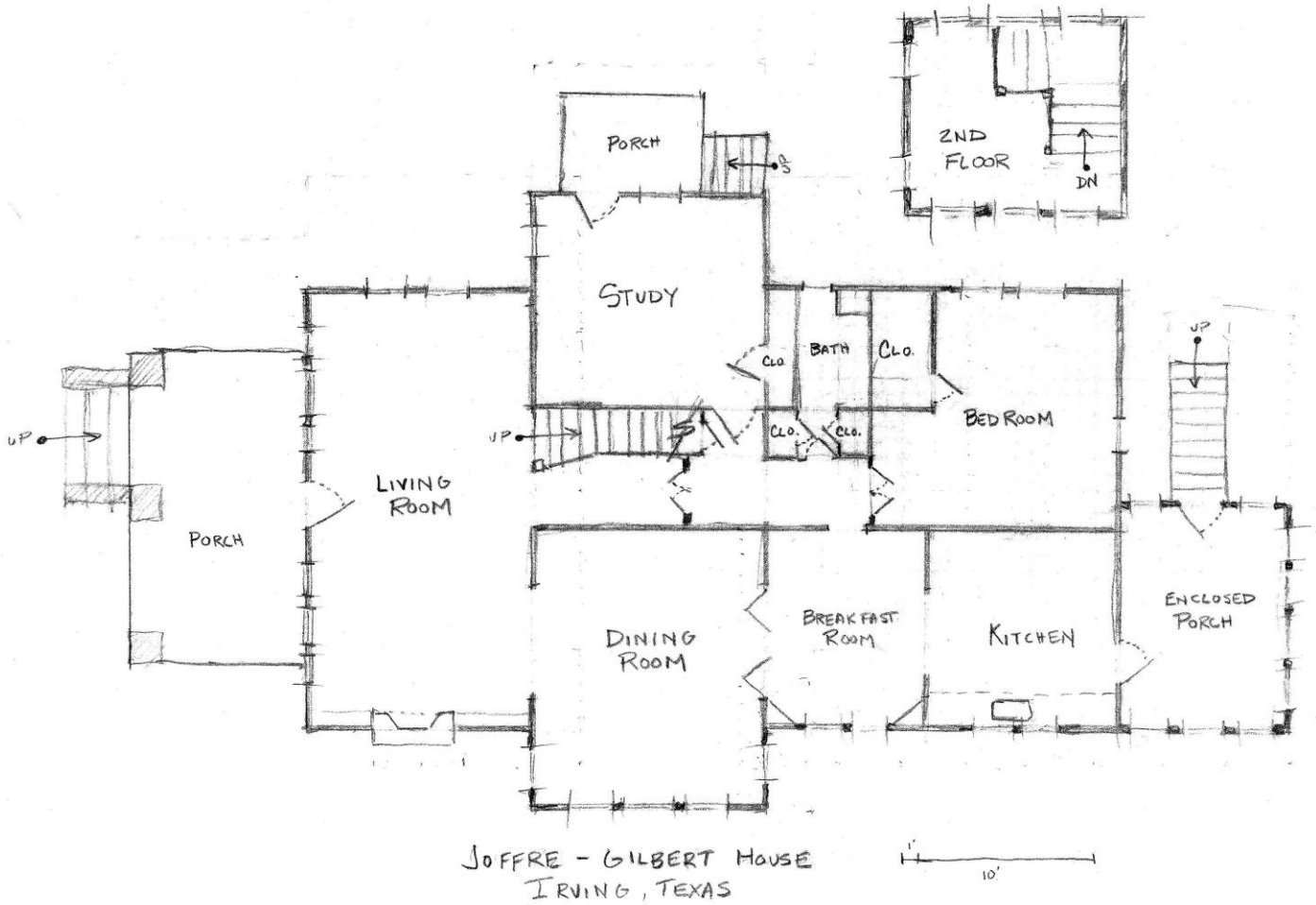
Photo: Gilbert Medical and Surgical Clinic c. 1965. This building no longer stands.

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



Photo: Joffre-Gilbert House, c. 1960

Joffre-Gilbert House, Irving, Dallas County, Texas



Sketch of the nominated property's floor plan. Drawn by the author. Top edge of page is south.







309

309

309





Historical marker text, partially obscured by a tree branch.

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ACT



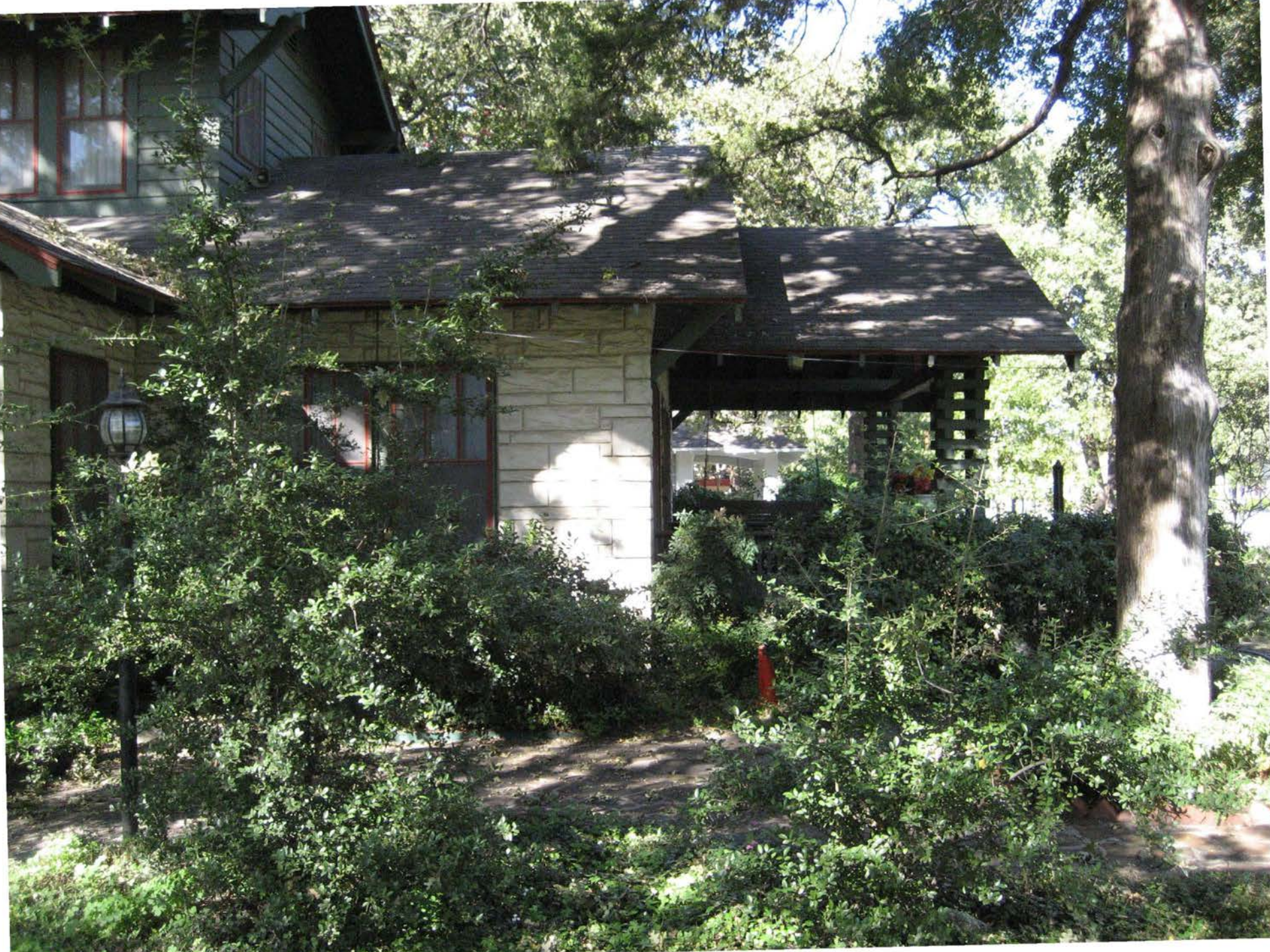


ADT















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Joffre--Gilbert House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Dallas

DATE RECEIVED: 6/20/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/11/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/28/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/06/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000473

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.1.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



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

FROM: Carlyn Hammons *dh*
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: New Submission, National Register Nomination
 Joffre-Gilbert House, Dallas County, TX

DATE: June 16, 2014

The following materials are submitted:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form and electronic locational data (in .kmz format) on CD. <i>dh</i> The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the <u>Joffre-Gilbert House</u> to the National Register of Historic Places.
	Resubmitted nomination.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CD with thirteen (13) TIFF photograph files.
	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:

