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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The George Braun Residence, located at 421 North Austin Avenue in Denison, Texas, was built in 1882 for one of the town's leading businessmen. Designed by a local architect, J. B. McDougle, in the Italian Villa style, the two-story residence was constructed of wood with a pier and beam foundation supporting the balloon framing. As with many buildings of this style, the roof is flat with elaborate cast-iron balustrade and finials around its perimeter. An elegant belvedere that once graced the entrance pavilion was removed many years ago because of deterioration.

The property chosen for Mr. Braun's residence was lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 24 of the original town plat of Denison. Upon its completion in 1883, the residence and its gardens were one of the showplaces of the city. A cast-iron fence encircled the property which included a gazebo, greenhouse, carriage house, and formal gardens. All of the out buildings have been demolished and another residence built on the east half of the site.

The plan of the house is asymmetrical with rooms opening into each other in rambling fashion. The stairhall on the west end is rather small in scale when compared to the spacious adjoining rooms. Ceilings are fourteen feet in height throughout the house. Handsomely crafted doors of Louisiana curly pine with elaborate hood moulds grace the formal rooms of the first floor. Cast-iron mantles in the dining room, library, and drawing room are embellished with gargoyles, rosettes, and floral motifs. Four spacious bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor open onto a narrow hallway. The sitting room at the head of the stairs has been converted into a bathroom and the stairs leading into the belvedere removed. Alterations at the rear of the house include the enclosure of the south end of the veranda and the addition of a kitchen ell.

Evidence of the Italian Villa style is further alluded to in the facades of the house. A wide one-story veranda follows the projecting and receding configuration of the north and east facades, and is supported by tall, slender posts with fan motif brackets. Windows, originally shuttered, are tall and narrow with one pane of glass per sash. An elegant balustrade which once graced the porch has also been removed. A simple cornice with dentils and paired brackets is terminated with a cast-iron balustrade and finials at the corners. Six chimneys with corbeled caps protrude through the flat roof in asymmetrical fashion.

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BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. B. McDougle

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICAN

Constructed in 1882 for one of the most prominent businessmen in Denison, the George Braun House is an interesting example of the Italian Villa style as interpreted in Texas. Once among the showplaces of the city, the house at 421 North Austin Avenue is significant as the only extant example of the architectural style in the community, and the last opulent residence on North Austin Avenue.

George Braun moved to Denison from St. Louis in 1879 where he had been employed with the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company. It was here that he established the Depot Saloon near the prestigious Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Station. In addition to the saloon enterprise, he also established the Northern Lake Ice Company which led to the sale of fish, oysters, celery, and other rare foodstuffs almost unpurchasable on the sun-blistered Texas prairie.

Mr. Braun contracted with a local builder-architect, J. B. McDougle, to build a residence suitable for a man of his stature. The house was begun in 1882 and completed in 1883. Carpenters from his native Germany were summoned for the construction. The great houses of St. Louis having been designed in the fashionable Italian Villa style, a house of similar opulence was selected for the Braun family. Therefore, this is the only known example of this style in the city.

After his death in 1903, George Braun's wife Minna was the sole recipient of his estate. She lived in the house until 1919, at which time it was sold to Charles J. Harrison. Joseph G. Cain bought the house from C. J. Harrison in 1923 and lived there until 1952. Mr. Cain sold the house to his son-in-law Bryan Steen, who lived there until 1975, at which time it was sold to Joe Pollaro. Mr. Pollaro plans to restore the house and grounds to their former elegance, and maintain his office as well as his residence there.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Books: Polk, R. L., Denison City Directory, Denison, 1880-1925.

Newspapers: The Sunday Gazetteer, April 1883-1886, April 1903-1906.

Pamphlets: "Denison Texas Centennial 1872-1972," by Lester Maurer, Denison, 1972.

"Industrial Denison," by Frank C. Robinson, 1900.

Abstracts: Abstract of Title - Lots 1,2,&3 of Block 24, compiled by H. Tone, Denison.

People interviewed:

Mrs. J. K. Megginson, 411 West Sears, Denison, May, 1975. Mr. Frank McCune, 101 East Walker, Denison, May, 1975. Miss Eugenia DuBois, 400 West Morton, Denison, May, 1975. Mr. Bryan Steen, 215 West Sears, Denison. Mrs. Mary Marsico, 109 West Sears, Denison, May, 1975.





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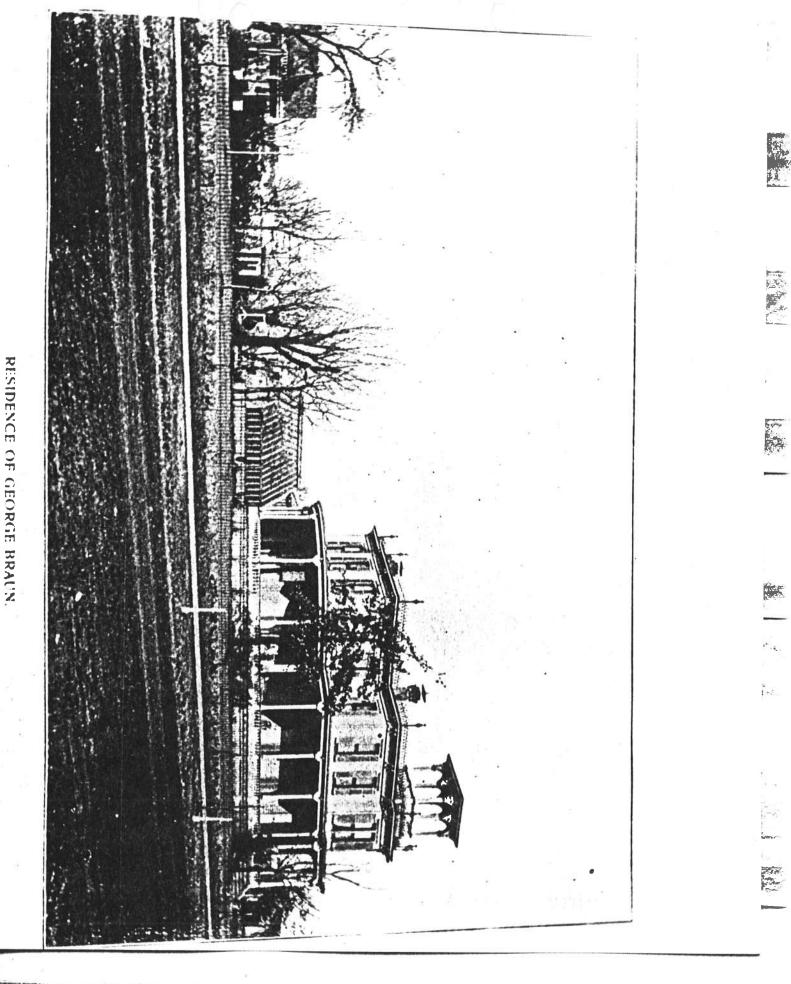
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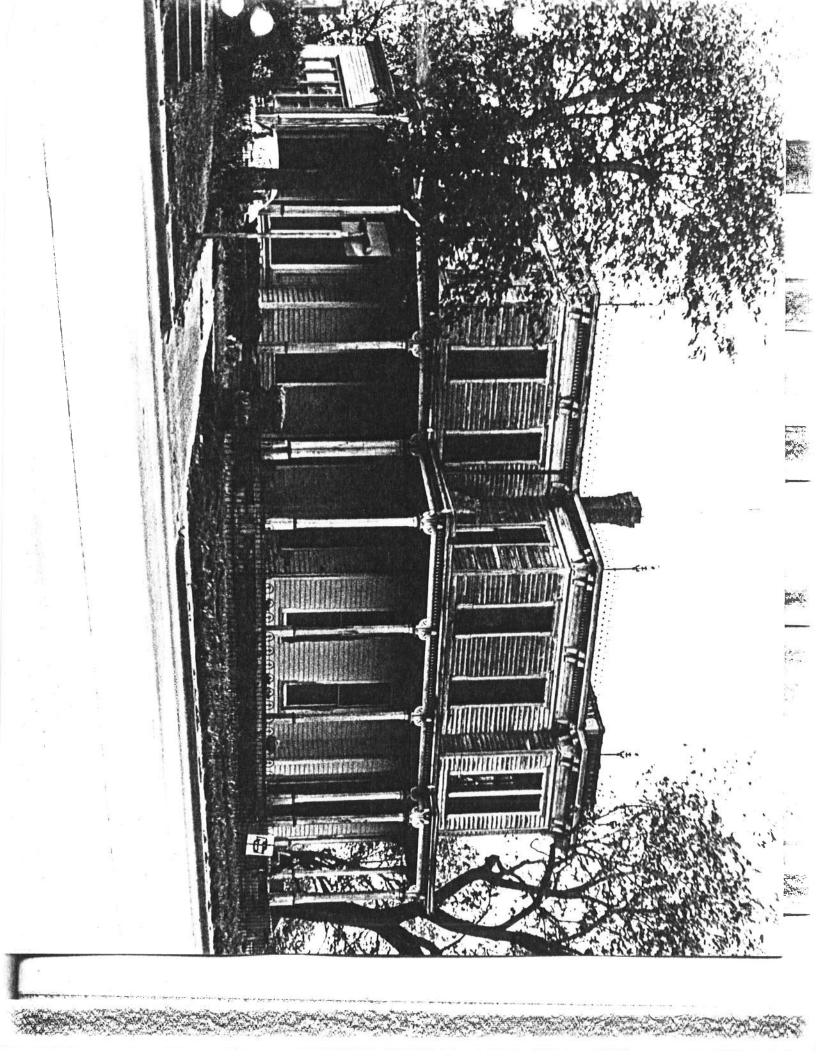
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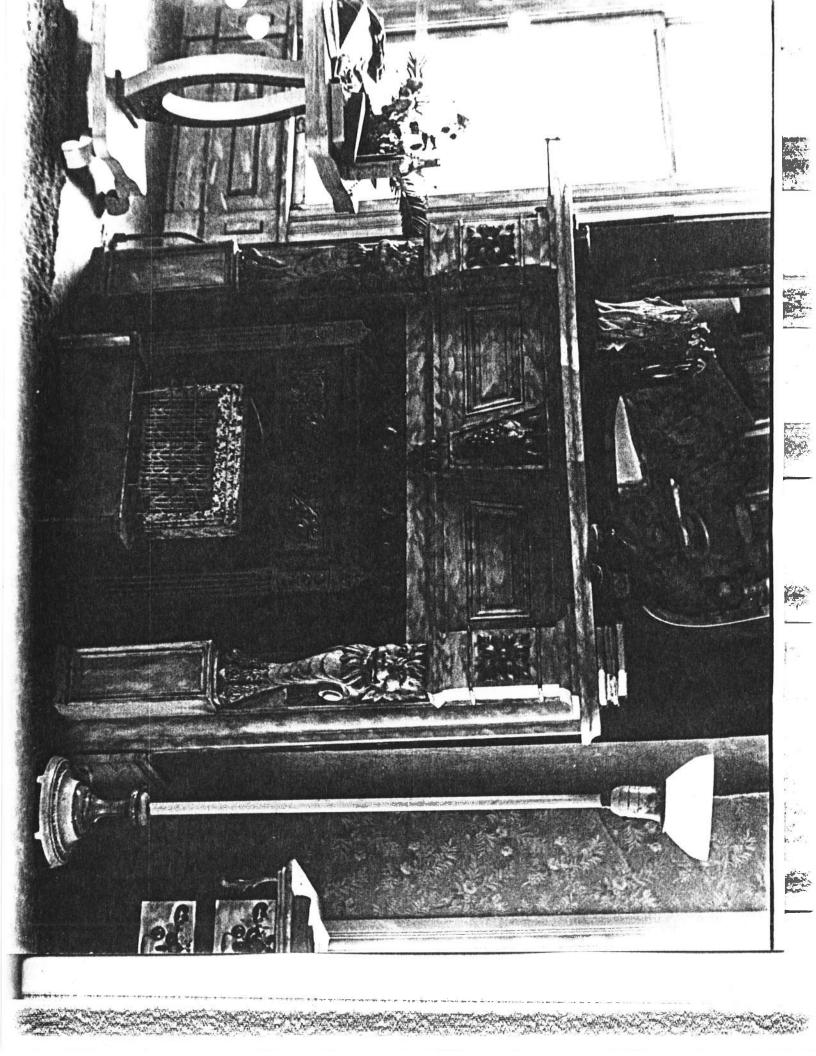
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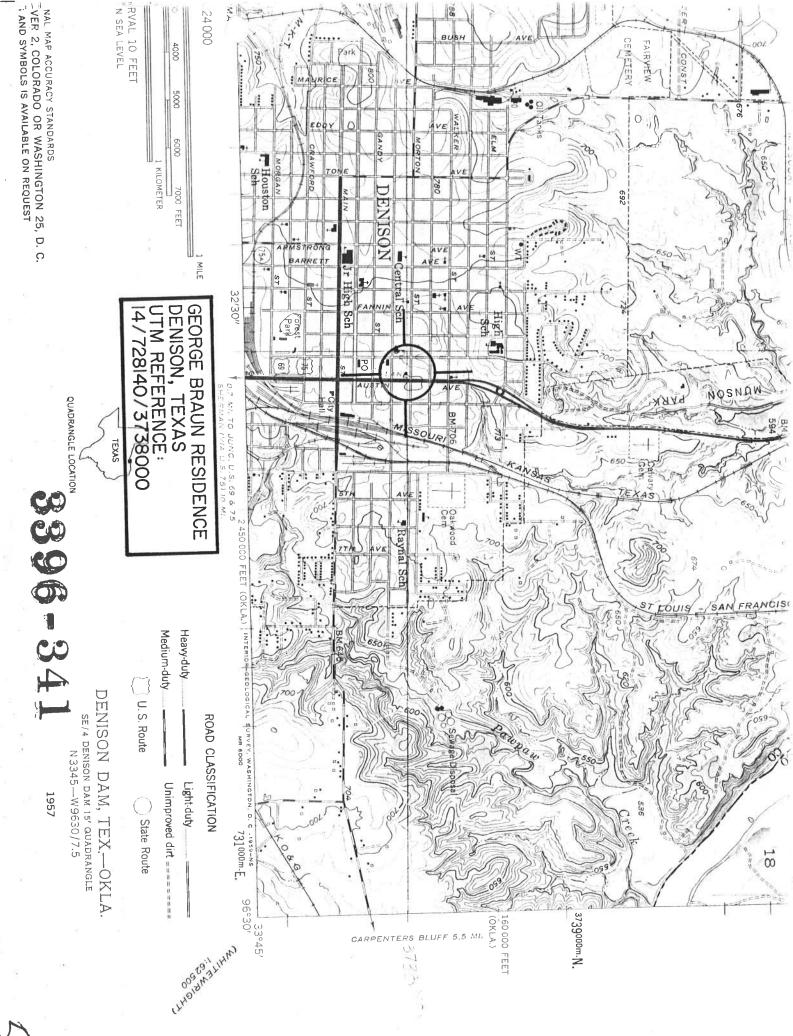
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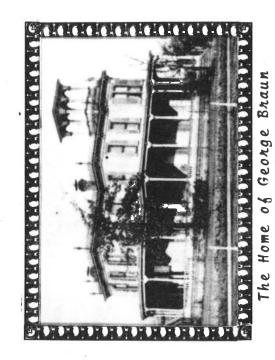
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH NAME HISTORIC George Braun Residence AND/OR COMMON

LOCAT	IUN		
CITY, TOWN	DenisonVICINITY OF	state Texas	COUNTY Grayson
РНОТС	REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	Joe Pollaro	DATE OF PHOTO	4ay 1975
NEGATIVE FILE	1727 West Elm, Denison		
IDENTI	FICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEV	V. DIRECTION. ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET Door detail in drawing room		рното NO. 4
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R' 0 1 ວ S. ed ttention 1 0 0 on was growing fast and Mr. Braun kept pace with its advance. He was appointed agent of the Anheuser-Busch ng Association, which at that time virtually controlled ice plant, Northern Lake Ice. His ice business lead to ale of wholesale fish and oysters, along with celery an rare foodstuffs almost unpurchaseble on the sun-blis-prairies of Texas. Mr. Braun conducted a first class so owned a sizable amount of real estate in Galveston so correct a control of real estate in Galveston a first class the Depot Salo in Galveston any September 0 550 R c h c h \$ 4 K'H • city 5.6 0 e Before is where i establis iison came came and an September took immigrant, short while the much a estate in Germany Larly age. St. Louis re en 90 he x St. LouSusch wer<math>xth ob Deival here, h businessmen 80 Berlin, Germ at an early ived in St. L euser-Busch w ng 3 24 l German Ierman a , 196 attracti arrival 10 Anheus to the c mber 1 ive sh. leading then to ; vembe Braun, oss in amount born i his th es w. Jutions Mov *seorge* Bra business 19**.** Wi wa.s **u**0 the this wonld. which with ntribu death in ti Braun to Ō in o Denison firs. Denison and came ide C01 0 owned a George stairies Located owned a •0 moved to Denis from the outsi mediate positi Denison was gr rapid advance. Brewing Associ the sale of wh the sale of wh other rare foo tered prairies saloon located He also owned County. George 9, 1835 and ca moving to Deni probable his f His countless an end with hi ā In th Denis

ht nda 9 d g され broi wooi vera 5 was b Block Cand heat detached green-carved woodwork George Braun br d a Bavarian wo ound throughout 5 with fancilful exterior. The ie iron fence at Sul * -2 house 1883. 1 broad v he lo 9 ier part of house with 2, 80 n ratt. ratt. ratte rch colum rods on t. removed. i is blat an i is blat an c id that G house a' at is to 1 Den 000 wurt perween August of 1882 and the laid is a two story frame Italian Villa-style metal balustraded parapet, wood porch co brackete, and original lightening rods cupola and wood shutters have been remov property line is in place. The roof is f structure was well proportioned Throof is 1. The or fireplac plat ruperty line is in place. The roof i structure was well proportioned. The house has been removed. Ornate firepl highlight the interior. It has been s in German carpenters to construct the carver to create the ornate woodwork the old mansion. been been Located Town Pl inal -0 Braun Origi George Br g to the O od in two under cupola property lin structure was v inse has been inse has the ine home of Ge 24 according t was purchased built betwee is a twi me

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