

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JAN 14 1985

FEB 20 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number 4,7,8,9,10

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#46, PHOTOS 17,18,19

NAME: William S. Rogers House

DATE: ca. 1860

ADDRESS: Cedar Street

BLOCK/LOT: See Verbal Boundary Description

PRESENT OWNER: Mr. Jim Lather
Mr. John Shaw
P.O. Box 158
Chappell Hill, Texas 77426

ACREAGE: Less than 1

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

CURRENT USE: Residence

U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: 7.5' Chappell Hill, Tx

U.T.M. REFERENCE: 14/763370/3337620

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Physical Condition: Restoration in progress - good

Dates of Alterations: ca. 1900--chimney added and interior room partition added;
1983-1984-restoration.

The William S. Rogers House is a pioneer, wood-frame, vernacular building constructed in the 1860s; it consists of five bays with a central entrance surrounded by sidelights and a transom. The broad sweep of the gabled roof is broken only by a one-room ell addition on the rear which once contained a screened porch on the east side. The roof of the gallery extends across the entire south facade and is supported by four chamfered, square cedar posts. A simple cypress railing, which may not have been original to the house, surrounds the porch. A composition roof covers the original cedar shingles.

The structure contains 6/6 double-hung sash-type windows with original single panes of blown glass. A brick chimney on the west end of the house was added ca. 1900-1910, as was a partition in the end room of the interior. The interior plan originally contained two rooms on each side of a central hall. There is evidence that a side door on the east end of the main structure had previously been enclosed.

In 1983 the current owners, Jim Lather and John Shaw, initiated the restoration of the house and are now in the process of completing interior work. The rear screened-in porch was enclosed and deteriorated interior flooring replaced. With the exception of the front (south) facade, deteriorated exterior cedar boards were replaced with new ones. It was also necessary to replace the front porch flooring. During the course of the restoration project, the west chimney crumbled but may be rebuilt by the owners. The house will soon be painted with its historic colors, a light yellow with a blue porch ceiling.

Outbuildings on the property are a wood-frame barn dating from the 1920s and a cistern located at the northwest corner of the house. The Rogers House is situated off a curved section of Cedar Street on an informally landscaped large lot which retains some 19th- and early 20th-century plantings.

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The house is located near the center of an ample rectangular lot. Facing south toward Cedar Street, the house and its outbuildings to the rear are on the middle of three terraces which slope toward the ravine at the eastern end of the property. The upper (west) terrace has fully mature cedar and pecan trees and a row of altheas screening the street to the south. This area was apparently the flower garden of the homestead, and retains many early plantings. The eastern terrace had a vegetable garden and possibly an orchard in the northeastern corner of the property. Day lilies are found along the Cedar Street borders, and a row of altheas at the western edge of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Period: 1800 - 1899

Areas of Significance: Architecture; landscape architecture

The William S. Rogers House, constructed in the 1860s is a prime example of pioneer vernacular architecture in the multiple-resource area. It is virtually the town's sole surviving unaltered example of this once prolific house type on its original site. Early 20th-century historic photographs reveal that several residential streets were once lined with similarly styled vernacular pioneer dwellings, but all have since disappeared.

The Rogers House is significant in local history as a representation of the kind of in-town dwellings owned and occupied by the professional class in the community: notably, two prominent pioneer doctors. The "Dr. Rogers' Lot" is significant as the homestead of a prominent early settler of Washington County, William S. Rogers, who began practicing medicine in Chappell Hill when the town was first established. His original practice had been conducted in the town of Old Washington.

William S. Rogers was born on December 22, 1822, at Patton's Hill, Alabama. He came to Washington County about 1840 where he took part in the defense of Texas against the Mexicans after the Battle of San Jacinto, and was a member of the troops from which the Mier expedition was organized. He continued to practice his profession at Chappell Hill until the Civil War, when he was appointed surgeon of the state militia. He was subsequently appointed medical examiner of Washington County.

After the war Dr. Rogers was a major force in combating the yellow-fever epidemic which devastated the town. An office practice and drug store were conducted by him at Chappell Hill until 1869, when he moved to Galveston to teach clinical medicine at the Medical Branch of Soule University. He continued to practice medicine in Galveston until his death on March 16, 1887. W. S. Rogers was the father of Dr. Joseph D. Rogers, also a prominent citizen, businessman, and wealthy landowner in Chappell Hill.

Subsequent owners of the property included G. G. Blake, mayor of Chappell Hill in 1880; Mrs. M. E. McDermott, a prominent landowner and businesswoman; and William Schwontkowski, a polish entrepreneur. The house served as rental property for many years. It was purchased in October 1982 by the current owners, Jim Lather and John Shaw.

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Significant in terms of landscape architecture, the lot was well-known locally for its landscaped grounds, featuring formal gardens and orchards. Native plants and various bulbs were planted in the yard, as well as crepe myrtles, roses, ligustiam, and altheas. Near the ravine on the east, the land featured three levels and a rock wall. While some early plant materials have been lost and newer plantings added, the grounds of the Rogers House retain their 19th-century ambience to a degree rarely found in Texas. The historic configuration of the property remains today, with defined flower and vegetable gardens, outbuildings, and mature trees. Popular 19th- and early 20th-century native and exotic plant materials are found about the property. Trees include pecan, cedar, and catalpa, and among the flowering plants are altheas, crepe myrtles, day lilies, and old roses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Washington County Deed Records, Brenham, Texas.

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS: House is situated off a curved section of Cedar Street on a large lot (originally bordered by Ravine and Walnut streets) bordered on the east by a small creek.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

A certain lot or parcel in the town of Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas, fronting 160 feet on Cedar Street, thence running back north 132 feet along the east line of lots #31 and 32 as appears on the map of said town is part of the lot known on said plot as the "Rogers' Lot."

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Chappell Hill Multiple Resource Area
State Washington County, Texas

Cover account

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Main Street Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 5/15/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | Applewhite, Isaac, House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Delores Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | Chappell Hill Circulating Library | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Delores Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal Church | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Delores Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. | Chappell Hill Public School and Chappell Hill Female College Bell | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | Felder, E. King, House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Delores Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | Rogers, William S., House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Delores Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. | Routt, J.R., House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Delores Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | Smith, John Sterling, Jr. House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Delores Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ |

85000347

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rogers, William S., House (Chappell Hill MRA)
Washington County
TEXAS

Working No. JAN 14 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.4.86
Date Due: 2/14/85 - 2/28/85
Action: ACCEPT 2-20-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in ~~NRA~~
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Rogers, William S. House (Chapel Hill, VA)
Washington County
TEXAS

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Invent '46

(12)

Papers House

Historic Resources of Chappell Hill
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#46 William S. Rogers House
Cedar Street

Photo by William Schaer, May 1984, neg on file
at Texas Historical Commission

South facade, camera facing north

photo 17 of 58



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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CHAPPELL HILL
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#46 William S. Rogers House
Cedar Street

Photo by Ed Smith, November 1981
Negative on file at the Texas Historical Commission
Photo # 18 of 58

VIEW: NORTH ELEVATION; camera facing south
(Prior to restoration)



Historic Resources of Chappell Hill
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#46 William S. Rogers House
Cedar Street

Photographer, date unknown, neg. with owners,
Jim Lather & John Shaw, Chappell Hill
Photo # 18A of 58

South elevation; camera facing north

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000834