

Marjorie M. Adams
P.O.Box 702
Kendleton, Texas 77451
Kendleton Heritage Society
ID #76-0428799

The Kendleton Heritage Society is requesting in writing this letter to request for a Historical TAX exemption for year **2015**, for the operations of the Kendleton Heritage Society. Kendleton Heritage Society has broaden its scope in the preservation and restoration of the “Oldest” house in the area, to serve as “HOUSE” Museum, or the Green Historical Museum to exhibit and display historical information concerning African American life style before and after slavery. **The Green House has been recognized and listed on the National Registry since 09-18-1996.** I have attached National Registry Document for your records.

Tax Property 0058-01-650-0000-908 R35548

Description of property, Issac McGary League, containing .91 ac, Sec 1, out of the Henry Green tract; Lot 20, Vol. “p” Page 544 as recorded in Fort Bend County Court House. Deed Records to Annie Mae Green Subdv.

Under sec 501(c): Internal Revenue Code, it clearly states that any non-profit charitable institution is perfectly eligible to be exempted on tax.

Hoping you consider my case in the soonest time possible.

Sincerely,
Chrystal D Jammer
c/o Marjorie M Adams

Founder and President,
The Kendleton Heritage Society
979-531-5081
832-549-0946

Green, Henry G. and Annie B., House



Green, Henry G.& Annie B. House

<i>Property Name:</i>	Green, Henry G. and Annie B., House
<i>Other Name:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Fort Bend
<i>Address:</i>	.5 mi SE of old US 59 and TX 118
<i>City:</i>	Kendleton
<i>Date Listed:</i>	1996-09-18 00:00:00.000
<i>Reference Number:</i>	96001016
<i>Multiple Property Name:</i>	
<i>To SBR:</i>	
<i>Vicinity:</i>	no
<i>Status Code:</i>	1
<i>Status:</i>	Listed
<i>Date Removed from National Register:</i>	
<i>Notes:</i>	
<i>To NPS:</i>	1996-08-07 00:00:00.000
<i>Date Notified:</i>	
<i>Local</i>	yes

Significance:

State Significance: no

National Significance: no

Significance Code:

Area of Significance:

Criteria Code:

Criteria:

Style Code:

Style:

Period Code:

Period:

Resource Type Code:

Resource Type:

Architect: unknown

Narrative: The Henry G. and Annie B. Green House (c. 1870) faces northwest approximately one-half mile southeast of the intersection of old U.S. Highway 59 and State Highway 118 in Kendleton, Fort Bend County, Texas. This 1-story sidegabled house is of box frame construction resting on concrete piers. An asphalt shingled roof covers the house and continues over a full-width open porch supported by six irregularly placed square wooden columns resting on a wooden floor. The wooden, originally board and batten, house is now covered with asbestos shingles (added c. 1938) and six-inch horizontal siding. The principal facade is in an A-B-A-B-A arrangement reflecting the triple pen form of the house established c. 1910. A rear addition (c. 1912) extends from the center in a rough L shape. This addition replaces an original rear shed roof room extending the full width of the house. The last alterations to the house occurred c. 1942 and includes the enclosure of the northern part of the porch for a bathroom. A chicken coop and hen house are Contributing structures on the site; a water pump is a Contributing object.

Constructed c.1870, the double-pen side-gabled house included a rear shed roofed addition and shed roof front porch. The principal facade followed a fairly common A-BA configuration. An additional single pen was added c.1910 on the western end making a triple-pen house with rear addition. This alteration added a second front door and window forming the present A-B-A-B-A formation. In 1912 1913, the Greens removed the shed roof rear addition and added a kitchen, dining room, porch, and small storage room.(1) The original double-pen house and rear shed roof addition appear to have been of

unpainted board-and-batten siding typical of rural housing in the late 19th and early 20th century.(2) Coarse wooden shingles covered the roof of the main block and the shed roof of a full-width porch which fell slightly below the main roofline.

The original double-pen section contains 4/4 and 1/1 wooden windows and a wooden door with upper light. The c. 1910 western addition contains 1/1 wooden windows and a wooden paneled door. Both front doors now have screens; no screens cover the windows.

A fence encloses the exterior domestic space beginning approximately 20 feet from the porch and 10-20 feet from the side of the house. The fence encircles the house and allows access to the domestic space by single gates near the northwest corner on the front and along the center at the rear. Historic photographs indicate that a crude picket fence existed at one point, but today the extant fencing is largely modern chain link.

Historically, the fence defined the primary exterior domestic space and allowed the owners to maintain it by raking and removing most grass. Ms. Annie Mae Green, daughter of the original owner, recounted their efforts to maintain the area as a "swept yard" in the early part of the 20th century (the swept yard was probably original to the house). She also elaborated on the extensive plantings that surrounded the house including zinnia, chrysanthemums, flowering tobacco, cockscomb, hollyhocks, oleanders, morning glories, grapevine, hibiscus, and assorted day lilies. In more recent years, the area around the house was planted with Saint Augustine grass.(3) To the immediate rear of the house, the Greens maintained a hen house and chicken coop, an outhouse, a vegetable garden, a row of fruit trees (orange, peach, plum, banana), and a water pump. The water pump replaced an original water well in the front yard that the Green's believed dried up because of a nearby cypress tree.

The secondary domestic space, or second backyard, is farther south of the house and is fenced with barbed wire and cedar posts. This space encompassed the trash pit and some animals. A barn was west of the house and rear yards.

The original double-pen house served as both bedrooms and family spaces. The rear addition functioned as a kitchen and dining room. A wood stove with flue in the westernmost room of the original house (after the c.1910 addition it became the "middle room") heated the house in winter months.(4) No fireplaces ever existed.

The Green House was updated and improved c.1938. Ms. Annie Mae Green recalls a government program paid for a new roof, new windows, and added asbestos siding. Although she is uncertain whether the program was out of the

local or federal government, Ms. Green believes that many houses in Kendleton received similar updating indicating it was probably part of a larger program.(5)

After the death of her mother in 1942, Annie Mae enclosed the northern end of the rear porch to make a bathroom. This was the last major alteration to the house. The replacement of windows and removal of building elements appear to have continued but are unable to be documented.

In February and June of 1995 the Office of the State Archeologist at the Texas Historical Commission conducted archeological testing at the Green property. The testing consisted of the hand excavation of twelve 40 X 40 cm test units. A total of 735 artifacts were recovered from the test units. The artifacts include 501 metal specimens consisting of nails, clothing fasteners, and tin can fragments; 151 glass artifacts include bottles and bottle fragments, flat glass fragments, and a glass bead; 25 ceramic artifacts are shards from pottery vessels; and 58 miscellaneous artifacts include building materials and faunal remains.(6) Many of the artifacts are recent in age but a significant number of them date to the late 19th to early 20th centuries. The archeological evidence supports an interpretation of occupation on the property dating back to at least the turn of the century. The practice of "sweeping the yard" is documented in oral interviews with Ms. Annie Mae Green, and was apparently practiced in the early 1900s. This may account for the lack of artifacts predating the late 19th century.

The Green House is now vacant and in poor condition. The property is owned by the Kendleton Heritage Society and plans are underway to develop the house for a local museum and visitor's center.

The Henry G. and Annie B. Green House represents late 19th and 20th century African-American settlement and heritage in Kendleton, Fort Bend County. The house in its original setting constitutes one of the best extant examples of African-American domestic forms and spaces in Kendleton. Despite alterations and additions since construction, the house reflects the ethnic heritage and settlement in the years immediately following the Civil War through the mid 20th century. The property also reflects the influence of federal government programs to improve the housing and economic conditions of rural residents during the New Deal era. These alterations and additions indicate larger cultural and social standards that were applied uniformly across the country without regard to ethnic identity or traditions in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The property is eligible under Criteria A and D in the area of Ethnic Heritage (Black).

Fort Bend County lies in the Texas coastal plains approximately 30 miles southwest of Houston and 60 miles northwest of Galveston. The county encompasses 867 square miles of largely undulating alluvial prairie land ideal

for farming cotton and in particular sugarcane. The Brazos River divides the county almost in half; the San Bernard River sets the western boundary of the county.

Kendleton lies two miles east of the San Bernard River along Turkey Creek at the far western part of the county. The community is accessed by rail on the Southern Pacific Railroad (originally the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway and later the Texas and New Orleans Railroad) and is approximately 60 miles southwest of Houston. The larger Kendleton community covers several square miles and encompasses a number of family farms, churches, and cemeteries. The City of Kendleton, incorporated in 1973, includes the core of the community with six churches, a small commercial district, and a number of residences.

In 1822, William Little of Stephen F. Austin's colony established a blockhouse at the "big bend" of the Brazos River. A number of Mexican land grants followed during the 1820s and early 1830s mostly along the Brazos and San Bernard Rivers and major creeks. Years later William Lusk and Robert Eden Handy, land speculators, surveyed land west of the Brazos for a new town they named "Richmond." After the formation of the county in 1837, residents selected Richmond as the county seat. Fort Bend County grew into one of the most prosperous plantation economies in Texas. Cotton and sugarcane dominated agriculture that was heavily dependent on slave labor and wealth.

Joseph and Elizabeth Powell, two sons, and two daughters were among the earliest residents in the immediate vicinity of Kendleton. Although reports differ on the year of their arrival, the Powell family appears to be in Fort Bend County by 1828.(7) Elizabeth, believed to be the daughter of a Native American mother and Spanish father, received a Mexican land grant in 1831 for one league of land containing 4,463 acres and described as the Elizabeth Powell League, Abstract 71. Joseph Powell, possibly originally from Haiti or Jamaica, received an additional 1/2 League to the north of Elizabeth's in Abstract 72. Other than this land grant, Joseph disappears from local history accounts and the area is only associated with Elizabeth who is referred to as Mrs. Powell or the "widow Powell."

By the mid 1830s, Elizabeth Powell had established a homestead on the San Bernard River at the mouth of Turkey Creek where she farmed and provided accommodations to travelers when in the area. Several historical accounts state the significance of Powell's home as a stopping point for travelers, including the Mexican army under Santa Anna.(8) Though destroyed during 1836, Mrs. Powell's house was referenced in travel accounts during the years of the Republic of Texas as the half-way point between Columbia and San Felipe.(9) Mrs. Powell's homestead along Turkey Creek eventually became known as "Powell's Point" and continues to be known as that today in the

northern part of the Kendleton community.

The division of Elizabeth Powell's land grant after her death is unknown. Some portion of it, however, was purchased in the 1850s by William E. Kendall. Kendall, a native of Virginia and attorney in nearby Richmond, purchased land in the western part of Fort Bend County to establish a plantation. After the Civil War, Kendall divided the land into 100-acre plots to sell to free African Americans for 50 cents to \$1.50 per acre. Kendall's land sales and support attracted ambitious men and women from neighboring communities to a "colony" around Powell Point. African Americans from Austin, Washington, and Colorado Counties constituted the largest number of new land owners who bought land in quantities of a few to over 200 acres. David Jackson, George Alton, Ben Guess, Willey Dillard, Sr., Steve Humphrey, Natt Axiel, Sr., Cam Gogier, Warren Braxton, Benjamin Williams, and Robert Pink were among the early residents.⁽¹⁰⁾ The town of Kendleton gradually formed on Kendall's land in the 1870s and 1880s and was subsequently named in his honor.

Simon Green, Sr., originally from Washington County, was one of the early land owners arriving in Kendleton by 1870. Green reportedly purchased approximately 200 acres from Kendall that began near the present-day Green House and extended west to the San Bernard River. This acreage was later divided in 60-acre allotments among the three children (Simon, Jr., Henry, and Richard) and a 25-acre plot to one nephew (John Wright).⁽¹¹⁾ Henry G. Green

Henry G. Green (unknown-1924) first lived near Columbus, Colorado County, before settling in Kendleton in the late 19th century. His first wife (name unknown) was from Kendleton, but they later divorced and he married Annie Boyd (unknown-1942) also of Kendleton. Although little is known about the Boyd family, Asberry Boyd came to Kendleton from Tennessee. The marriage of Henry Green and Annie Boyd was not the first for either one and both apparently had children from the previous marriage. After the Henry and Annie union, the Greens had three children. The first child died in infancy followed by Robert (dates of birth and death unknown) and Annie Mae (1901-present). ⁽¹²⁾

Henry Green occupied the house in Kendleton sometime before 1880. It is unclear whether he built the house or acquired it upon the death of his father, but in either case the house became associated with Henry in the late 19th century and remained so until his death. From this location, Green managed his small cotton farm and sharpened plows for area farmers. At some point, he also worked as a blacksmith.⁽¹³⁾ Annie Green, on the other hand, became known for her nursing skills using herbs and plant material collected from the yard and nearby land. Mrs. Green was often called upon by local residents to provide medical assistance when professional care was not readily

available.(14) Mr.Green ran for public office as early as 1882 when he first served as county commissioner and later as constable of Precinct 2 (Kendleton). The following lists Green's years of elected office: 1882-1884 Commissioner, Precinct 2 1884-1886 Constable, Precinct 1 (probably mislabeled, should be Precinct 2) 1886-1888 Constable, Precinct 2 (Collected from Election Register, Nos. 264-271 (1870-1888), published in *The Jay Birds* by Pauline Yelder, pp.295-302)

Green's political tenure coincided with the final decade of biracial politics in Fort Bend County. In the early days of Reconstruction (1870), the black population of 5,510 was more than twice that of whites (1,604). This sizable difference gave the African American population an edge in local elections that could defeat targeted white candidates and when sought to place black candidates in significant and powerful elected office. From 1869 through 1889, the political structure of Fort Bend County consisted of both black and whites sympathetic to the position of African Americans. The county's black constituency largely centered around Kendleton in western Fort Bend County and was the focus of much of the white antagonism. Fort Bend County residents reached a low point on August 16, 1889, with the deadly riots between the antagonistic white Jay Bird Party and sympathetic white Woodpecker Party. This event effectively ended the period of African American dominance in local politics until the 1954 US Supreme Court decision denounced the Jay Bird Party primaries and once again allowed biracial governance.(15)

The timing of Henry Green's political career may be more significant than its duration or substance. Local historical accounts, however, reveal that Green established an office at the railroad depot and often assisted travelers coming through Kendleton. On some occasions he offered travelers a place to stay or eat at his home. The Green House thus became known as "The House by the Side of the Road." In several ways, it appears that Green's role as precinct constable established him as a community leader and probably placed him squarely in the combat of the decadelong Jay Bird-Woodpecker War.

After Henry Green's death in 1924, Annie B., Robert, and Annie Mae gradually sold off acreage from the 60 acres. These sales allowed for additional residential development around the Green House and some commercial activities along old Highway 59. Today, these houses and businesses make up a large part of the City of Kendleton. The Green's lost a substantial part of their land with the construction of the Gulf Freeway in the 1960s leaving the small acreage around the house now between two major highways.

By the late 1930s, writers for the WPA Guide to Texas described Kendleton as "weathered houses around a general store" and listed a population of 68. This description confirms information provided by the last family owner,

Annie Mae Green. It also indicates that some of the houses remained unpainted and primitive. Shortly afterwards, the owner recalls that a government assistance program provided asbestos shingled siding, new windows, and a new roof. Although undocumented, these changes are similar to efforts under way by the Farm Security Administration that offered aid to many farmers and tried to address extensive rural poverty. The Green House represents a government effort to improve living conditions, agriculture practices, and elevated the standards for the rural poor.

The Green House today represents African American domestic architecture and spaces from the late 19th through the mid 20th century. It is the most intact remnant of the post Civil War era in Kendleton, including an association with the biracial political activities in Fort Bend County through Henry G. Green.

The archeologically significant Green House property has the potential to yield important data which may provide insights into our understanding of the post-Civil War African American settlement of Southeast Texas. The artifactual materials, for example, at the site may provide information on the economic and cultural changes that occurred within a single African American family, starting c.1870 and continuing over a period of more than 100 years. In addition, the artifacts may provide information on day today life in rural Southeast Texas during the 19th and 20th centuries. This data should reflect the cultural and material life of African Americans and their interactions with Anglo Americans in the decades following the Civil War and continuing into the 20th century.

The house at the site should provide data on construction methods utilized by African Americans in Southeast Texas and provide information on the local availability of materials and the evolution of local building techniques. Furthermore, the site may harbor data on yard patterning in Southeast Texas that could provide significant information for developing comparative models to the rest of the state.

The Green House property remains virtually undisturbed due to the continual occupancy by one family for more than 100 years. The house, its outbuildings, and the surrounding grounds have the potential to contain a wealth of information relevant to the African American settlement of the area. Further archeological investigation could reveal data on features documented by oral tradition that are no longer extant, revealing potentially significant information on yard patterning in the Southeast Texas Gulf Coastal Plain region. Very little information is available on yard patternings in this region.

In addition to the surviving house structure, evidence suggests the historic presence of a barn, a buggy shed, chicken coop, and an outhouse. The yardscape also encompasses fences, the remnants of a garden, and a cistern.

Archeological investigation could also identify features and artifacts related to trash pits and other latrine locations, thereby significantly expanding our understanding of rural life in the Texas Gulf Coastal Plain region during the 19th and 20th centuries. Such data would also facilitate comparisons with those areas of the state such as North Central and East Texas that have been more thoroughly studied. While the period between 1870 and 1910 comprises the site's primary date of archeological significance, artifacts from the second quarter of the 20th century may later extend the property's significance for future generations.

Footnotes

1. Interview with Annie Mae Green, November 14, 1994
2. Inspection by Gerron Hite, THC architect, 1994/1995.
3. Green, November 14, 1994.
4. Green, November 14, 1994.
5. Interview with Annie Mae Green, January 9, 1996.
6. Howell, Christopher G. Archeological Investigations at the Green House (41FB233) Fort Bend County, Texas, February 27-28 and June 14-16, 1995. Office of the State Archeologist, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.
7. Clarence Wharton. History of Fort Bend County, Naylor Company, San Antonio, Texas, 1939, p. 67.
8. Wharton, p. 82.
9. Ibid., p. 67.
10. Pauline Yelderman, The Jay Birds of Fort Bend County, Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1979, p. 42.
11. Green, November 14, 1994.
12. Ibid.
- 13 Green, January 1996.
- 14 Green, November 1994.
- 15 Leslie A. Lovett. "Biracial Politics and Community Development: The Reconstruction Experience in Fort Bend County, Texas, 1869-1889,"

unpublished manuscript, Rice University, no date, pp. 1-4.

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Interviews: Annie Mae Green, November 1994; January 1996