

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 6 1986  
date entered SEP 19 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Anthony Hotel

and or common St. Anthony InterContinental San Antonio

2. Location

street & number 300 Travis Street

N/A not for publication

city, town San Antonio

N/A vicinity of

state Texas

code 048

county Bexar

code 029

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Historic Saint Anthony Corp.

street & number 300 Travis Street

city, town San Antonio

N/A vicinity of

state Texas 78205

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number Main Plaza

city, town San Antonio

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

San Antonio Historic Resource Survey, 1977  
 title Historic Sites Inventory, 1983 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
 City of San Antonio Historic Landmark, 1982  
 date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Office, Texas Historical Commission

city, town San Antonio, Austin

state Texas

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. Anthony Hotel is a ten-story, masonry and steel-frame structure consisting of four towers, located in Downtown San Antonio. The present design is the result of a series of remodelings which unified early hotel sections, producing a uniform exterior appearance. The detailing of the hotel's exterior reflects the Spanish Colonial heritage of San Antonio, while the handsome interior spaces are more classical in their appearance and detailing.

The ten-story St. Anthony Hotel occupies an entire block facing the south side of Travis Park in San Antonio. The primary facade is situated on Travis Street, and includes the two main entrances to the hotel. At street level, the ten-story mass of the building steps out toward Travis Street in the form of a single-story unit forming an enclosed loggia across the front facade. The entrances to the hotel are positioned at each end of the Travis elevation. The west entrance is somewhat more elegantly detailed, primarily as it serves as a pedestrian entrance, with the east entrance designed for vehicular traffic. Both of these entrances are capped by segmental, stepped parapets derived from the 18th-century Spanish Colonial architecture of the region. The central section of the Travis Street elevation is formed by a series of eight arched openings shaded by a continuous molding carried by a series of Corinthian columns. The large, round-arch, glazed openings in this arcade configuration feature wrought-iron railings. The other street-level bays of the entry facade feature large, fixed sashes in classically detailed frames, with Ionic pilasters supporting segmentally arched pediments. The two entrances are protected from the rain by canopies hung from chains attached to the facade wall.

The main mass of the hotel, rising seven stories from the ground to the penthouse levels, is faced with tawny brick. Double-hung, one-over-one sash windows are used throughout these intermediate floors. The planes of the facade walls are accentuated by a series of slight setbacks which relate to detailing found on the base and penthouse levels of the hotel. A simple cornice band divides the penthouse section from the rest of the hotel facade, featuring decorative inset panels at the corners and beneath the mock porticoes of the penthouse. The uppermost two stories of the hotel are faced with blonde brick and are somewhat more elaborately detailed than what stands beneath them. A series of portico frames dominates this section of the hotel exterior, with one each on the east and west elevations, and three on the main north elevation facing Travis Street. These enframements step out slightly from the plane of the wall, and rise through the tiled hipped roof of the penthouse. Brick pilasters flank large square-headed window openings, and rise up to form finials in the parapet design above the windows and the tiled roof. The three enframements facing Travis Street feature grilled window openings to either side of the major opening. Windows such as these with their wrought-iron

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 8/6/86

date entered SEP 19 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

rejas or grilles were a popular element in Spanish Colonial architecture, and are very appropriate given the historical background of San Antonio. Beneath each of the large window openings of the penthouse level are decorative, blind panels of brickwork that appear as a balustrade beneath the windows, as if the space had once been an open loggia. The hotel is capped by a red-tile roof whose eaves project above the penthouse. The round profiles of the tiles add another Spanish Colonial element to the building's exterior.

The major interior public spaces of the hotel are concentrated on the first and second floors. Running parallel to Travis Street for most of the length of the hotel is the elegantly detailed Peacock Alley, the principal lobby space of the structure. This space is articulated by a series of square piers and pilasters which support a heavily coffered ceiling. A modillioned cornice frames each of the coffers. The floor is covered in small, octagonal tiles laid out in a reflected pattern following the ceiling divisions. At the west end of the main floor is the main lobby area, with a curvilinear staircase leading to the mezzanine meeting rooms. This section of the lobby is somewhat more richly detailed than Peacock Alley, with very ornate pier and pilaster capitals. The largest meeting space is the Anacacho Room which features a mezzanine with a wrought-iron balcony railing.

In 1935, the two reinforced concrete towers—tower 1 built in 1909 and tower 2 built in 1910—were incorporated into one building with a common facade. Two additional stories were added and a third major tower was constructed. Spanish Colonial Revival details evident in the earlier structures were repeated. Also, a brick colonnade and covered walkway were added to the Navarro Street facade. The hotel became recognized as a "world-class" hostelry.

In 1941, the fourth and final ten-story tower was constructed. The hotel covered an entire city block, extending from Navarro to Jefferson streets. The addition included an innovative drive-in parking garage, which was situated in the basement and the first five floors with guest rooms, which were located on the top five floors. The original ballroom in tower 2 became the Peraux Room, and an elaborate new ballroom named the Anacacho Room was located in this new section. While sympathetic in form, style, and materials to the 1935 sections of the hotel, tower 4, by virtue of its construction date, cannot be considered as being a contributory element of the nominated structure. Since 1941, the St. Anthony has undergone a continuous modernization program; however, the changes have been largely cosmetic.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** see continuation sheet

**Builder/Architect**

see continuation sheet

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The present St. Anthony Hotel, consisting of four towers, is the result of a series of building programs that began in 1909 with the construction of the initial section, an eight-story structure located at the corner of Travis and Navarro streets. Already recognized for innovative features during the decade after the turn of the century, the St. Anthony received its greatest notoriety in 1935 after Ralph W. Morrison, an energy magnate, purchased the property. The purchase of the hotel during the Depression for the large sum of \$475,000, was significant commercial act in San Antonio. The subsequent million-dollar expansion, refurbishing, and redecorating program was an even greater economic boost to the city because it strengthened the depressed local realty market when help was desperately needed. Morrison's building program, involving seventy-five percent of the present hotel (towers 1, 2, and 3) was completed in 1935. The work altered the configuration of the hotel while retaining the Spanish Colonial revival influences of the earlier sections. The hotel configuration has remained the same since that period except for the addition of a final ten-story tower containing guest rooms and a drive-in garage, which was completed in 1941. Although the fourth tower was not completed until 1941, the use of the same building materials and the continuation of the Spanish Colonial Revival detailing created a unified hotel complex extending the entire city block. Throughout the years, modernization and redecorating programs have been undertaken. During the 1935 building program, Morrison created a world-renowned hostelry similar to the resort hotels located in California and Florida; in fact, the St. Anthony was the only "luxury" hotel operating in San Antonio during the Depression, which was clearly the most important period in the history of the hotel. Morrison established the hotel as a symbol of quality development, growth, and civic pride. This tradition has continued for over fifty years, during which the hotel has attracted to the city distinguished visitors such as Douglas MacArthur, Will Rogers, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. The restoration program, completed by InterContinental Hotels Corp., in 1983, re-emphasized the importance for the hotel of the 1935 period. In the 1930s, the St. Anthony Hotel played a role in the transformation of San Antonio into a major urban center. Once again, its importance cannot be diminished; it is a major component of the redevelopment of Downtown San Antonio.

The Great Depression of the 1930s came late to Texas, and its effects were not as devastating as in other parts of the country, but it was a trying and difficult era. San Antonio's population grew very slowly—less than one percent a year as verified by the United States Census Bureau,

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bexar County Deed Records, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

Dielman, Leo M.J., Collection. Unidentified newspaper article on file with Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio, Texas.

(see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name San Antonio East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	5	4	9	6	10	10	3	12	5	15	2	14	10
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

New City Block 415, Lot Numbers A-7, A-8, A-9, Block Number 18, Zoning District I, City of San Antonio, Bexar County.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Osborne Bobbitt, Consultant (with John C. Ferguson, THC)

organization date (see continuation sheet)

street & number 410 King William Street telephone (512) 227-7804

city or town San Antonio state Texas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Curtis J. Jannell*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 23 July 1986

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Patrick Andrews*

date 9/19/86

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

for Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

8/6/86

date entered

SEP 19 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

which recorded 231,542 people in 1930 with an increase to only 253,000 in 1940.<sup>1</sup> Building and commercial activities decreased notably and by the mid-1930s, and San Antonio slipped into third place in Texas behind Dallas and Houston. As a regional mercantile and financial center dependent on natural resources such as cattle, agriculture, oil and gas, San Antonio's economy had failed to keep pace with those younger, rapidly expanding cities.

Morrison's purchase of the hotel during the Depression was important, but the fact that he immediately began a million-dollar refurbishing and expansion program was even more dramatic. Morrison acquired the hotel for \$475,000 in February of 1935, from Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, a Cincinnati, Ohio, corporation who had been forced to foreclose on the mortgage.<sup>2</sup> The hotel was in a deteriorating condition, struggling to remain open, as were other hotels in the city. Morrison's investment transformed the St. Anthony into a luxury hotel. By providing superior hotel facilities, San Antonio was better equipped to accommodate tourists, ranchers, military officials, and oil and gas representatives, many of whom were coming to the city because of its location at the crossroads of several major rail lines. The St. Anthony Hotel dominated the market and became a local attraction. Often the names of the city and the hotel were used interchangeably.

A Federal Writer's Project report stated that no important improvements were undertaken in the city until the advent of the Works Progress Administration in the mid-1930s.<sup>3</sup> The San Antonio Express reported on March 9, 1935, that "when the St. Anthony Hotel construction began it would be San Antonio's first major downtown project using private funds to begin in the last five years." It is evident that Morrison made it possible for the hotel to become a leader in the business which, in turn, aided the city's depressed economy. Also, he preserved the St. Anthony for future generations to enjoy.

Morrison's building program included the addition of two floors to the existing two towers, the construction of a third tower of ten stories, and the incorporation of the towers into one building with a common facade and lobby thereafter known as Peacock Alley. Also, new materials were introduced to solve an engineering problem created by the addition of two more floors to the original buildings. The well-known San Antonio structural engineer, Willard E. Simpson, used gypsum planks and a light steel structure to help decrease the load on the foundation.<sup>4</sup> The hotel reportedly became the first completely air-conditioned hotel in the world. It contained a set of three elevators with brass doors and electric eyes. The renovation project was completed by November of 1935.<sup>5</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 8/6/86

date entered SEP 19 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Morrison's sophisticated influence manifested itself in the St. Anthony's interior as well. French Empire antiques decorated the lobby, oriental rugs adorned the floors, and original paintings by such noted artists as Cartier, McCann, Remington, and DeYoung were displayed throughout the hotel. Perhaps the best known is "Monarch of the Golden West," a painting of a mighty eagle by James Ferdinand McCann, an Irish artist who fell in love with Texas and settled in San Antonio. It now hangs in the lobby. A rosewood and gold-leaf Stanwick piano, commissioned by the Russian Embassy in Paris in 1924, was purchased by Morrison and placed in the lobby, further creating an atmosphere of quiet elegance.

A writer described the St. Anthony as "the Waldorf on the Prairie...which was distinguished, among other things, for its readiness to humor any fanciful desire that comes into the head of a whimsical patron."<sup>6</sup> He attributed the St. Anthony's quality to the taste and personality of its owner, Ralph Morrison, a "big reticent, amiable industrialist."

In addition to the Hotel, the property included a power plant located in another building in the block immediately west of the Hotel.<sup>7</sup> A tunnel connected the power plant to the Hotel. An old-time utility operator, Morrison reworked the power plant to provide electricity to the Hotel. When the San Antonio Public Service Company reminded Morrison that there was a city ordinance prohibiting private power lines from crossing a public street, Morrison acquired a charter and sold electricity at reduced rates to other buildings in the block. The Public Service Company purchased the power plant from Morrison. The contract included a clause to the effect that if his rates for electricity ever increased to a figure Morrison considered unreasonable, he would buy back the plant for what he had sold it. The power plant no longer exists, but the tunnel still remains.

After Morrison's death in 1948, the St. Anthony was owned and operated by trustees of Morrison's Hotel Company until 1971, when financier, William Ochse purchased the Hotel. InterContinental Hotels Corp. acquired the St. Anthony in April, 1981. After being closed for 11 months, the Hotel officially reopened in May of 1983. A \$20-million restoration program highlighted the 1935 historic period, the era during which the most significant exterior and interior modifications occurred.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

8/6/84  
SEP 19 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

STRATHMORE PARCHMENT  
100% COTTON FIBER USA

- 1 Sam Woolford, San Antonio...a History for Tomorrow (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1963), p. 168.
- 2 Pan American Hotel Company Corporate Records, Book No. 1, January 30, 1935-  
November 14, 1946, pp. 29-32; San Antonio Express, February 8, 1935,  
p. 6.
- 3 San Antonio: An Authoritative Guide to the City and its Environs,  
Compiled and Written by the Federal Writer's Project of the Works  
Progress Administration in the State of Texas (San Antonio: The Clegg  
Company, 1938), p. 41.
- 4 San Antonio Express, March 9, 1935, p. 7.
- 5 Pan American Hotel Company Corporate Records, Book 1, p. 49.
- 6 Green Peyton, San Antonio: City in the Sun (New York: McGraw-Hill Book  
Co., Inc., 1946) p. 58.
- 7 Pan American Hotel Company Corporate Records, Book 1, p. 31.

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

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

For NPS use only

received 8/6/86

date entered SEP 19 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

Specific Dates and Architects:

- 1909 TOWER 1, eight stories  
J. Flood Walker, Architect, San Antonio, & Mauran, Russell & Garden,  
Architects, St. Louis  
Willard E. Simpson, Sr., Structural Engineer, San Antonio  
Seiden-Breck Construction Co., General Contractor, San Antonio
- 1910 TOWER 2, eight stories  
J. Flood Walker, Architect, San Antonio
- 1935 COMBINING TOWERS 1 & 2 with common facade and construction Floors  
9 and 10 and Tower 3  
John M. Marriott, Architect, San Antonio  
Willard E. Simpson, Sr., Structural Engineer, San Antonio  
Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres, Architects, San Antonio
- 1941 TOWER 4, ten floors and parking garage  
F.S. Jones, Architect, San Antonio
- 1959 INTERIOR REMODELING  
Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres, Architects, San Antonio  
Dorothy Draper, Interior Design, New York City
- 1964 FACADE AND INTERIOR REMODELING  
Richard Kent, Inc., Interior and Exterior Design, New York City
- 1981- EXTERIOR CLEANING AND INTERIOR REMODELING  
1983 Chumney, Jones and Kell, Inc., Architects, San Antonio

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

SEP 19 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography continued -

Hall, Arthur. "The Greater St. Anthony," Texasland, the Pioneer Magazine. April, 1926, Vol. VI, No. 6, pp. 22-23.

Hart, L.J. "Modern Growth of San Antonio," New Encyclopedia of Texas. Dallas: Texas Development Bureau, 1930.

Pan American Hotel Company Corporation Records, St. Anthony Hotel Files.

Peyton, Green. San Antonio: City in the Sun. New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, Inc., 1946.

San Antonio Daily Express, January 3, 17, 24, 31, 1909; January 2, 1910; February 8, March 9, 1935; July 18, 1940; April 27, 1941.

San Antonio Light, March 1, 1959; February 28, 1965; August 9, 1965.

Sanborn Insurance Co. Map, September, 1935, Vol. 2, p. 119.

"The St. Anthony Coyote," published by the St. Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, November 15, 1908, Vol. I, No. 10.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

*8/6/86*

date entered

SEP 19 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 11

Page 1

Dates of Submittal:

September 12, 1982

August 20, 1984

September 9, 1985

May 5, 1986

STRAITHMORE PARLAMENT

100% COTTON FIBER USA

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

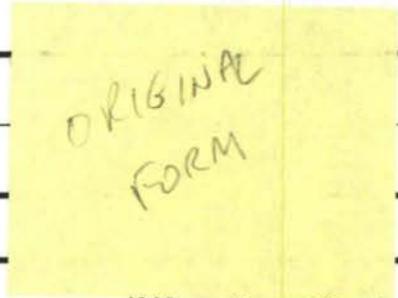
For NPS use only  
received **OCT 3 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Anthony Hotel

and/or common St. Anthony Intercontinental San Antonio



2. Location

street & number 300 East Travis Street

N/A not for publication

city, town San Antonio N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Bexar code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Historic Saint Anthony Corp., Attn. Stephen H. Cathey

street & number 300 East Travis Street

city, town San Antonio N/A vicinity of state Texas 78205

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number Main Plaza

city, town San Antonio state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (1) San Antonio Historic Resource Survey  
(2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date (1) 1977  
(2) 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records (1) City Preservation Office  
(2) Texas Historical Commission

city, town (1) San Antonio  
(2) Austin

state Texas

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **OCT 3 1983**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic St. Anthony Hotel

and/or common St. Anthony Intercontinental San Antonio

**2. Location**

street & number 300 East Travis Street N/A not for publication

city, town San Antonio N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Bexar code 029

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Historic Saint Anthony Corp., Attn. Stephen H. Cathey

street & number 300 East Travis Street

city, town San Antonio N/A vicinity of state Texas 78205

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number Main Plaza

city, town San Antonio state Texas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title (1) San Antonio Historic Resource Survey  
(2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date (1) 1977  
(2) 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records (1) City Preservation Office  
(2) Texas Historical Commission

city, town (1) San Antonio  
(2) Austin state Texas

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. Anthony Hotel is a 10-story masonry and steel-frame structure located on Travis Park in downtown San Antonio. The present design is the result of a series of remodelings which unified two early hotel towers, producing a uniform exterior appearance. The detailing of the hotel's exterior reflects the Spanish Colonial heritage of San Antonio, while the handsome interior spaces are more classical in their appearance and detailing.

The 10-story St. Anthony Hotel occupies an entire block facing the south side of Travis Park in San Antonio. The primary facade is situated on Travis Street, and includes the two main entrances to the hotel. At street level, the 10-story mass of the building steps out towards Travis Street in the form of a single-story unit forming an enclosed loggia across the front facade. The entrances to the hotel are positioned to each end of the Travis elevation. The west entrance is somewhat more elegantly detailed, primarily as it serves as a pedestrian entrance, with the east entrance designed for vehicular traffic. Both of these entrances are capped by segmental, stepped parapets derived from the 18th-century Spanish Colonial architecture of the region. The central section of the Travis Street elevation is formed by a series of eight arched openings shaded by a continuous molding carried by a series of Corinthian columns. The large, round-arch, glazed openings in this arcade configuration feature rather Baroque wrought-iron railings. The other street-level bays of the entry facade feature large, fixed sashes in classically detailed frames, with Ionic pilasters supporting segmentally arched pediments. The two entrances are protected from the rain by canopies hung from chains attached to the facade wall.

The main mass of the hotel, rising seven stories from the ground floor to the penthouse levels, is faced with tawny brick. Double-hung, one-over-one sashes are used throughout these intermediate floors. The planes of the facade walls are accentuated by a series of slight setbacks which relate to detailing found on the base and penthouse levels of the hotel. A simple cornice band divides the penthouse section from the rest of the hotel facade, featuring decorative inset panels at the corners and beneath the mock porticoes of the penthouse. The uppermost two stories of the hotel are faced with blonde brick, and are somewhat more elaborately detailed than what stands beneath them. A series of rather Baroque portico frames dominates this section of the hotel exterior, with one each on the east and west elevations, and three on the main north elevation facing Travis Street. These enframements step out slightly from the plane of the wall, and rise through the tiled hipped roof of the penthouse. Brick pilasters flank large square-headed window openings, and rise up to form finials in the parapet design above the windows and the tiled roof. The three enframements facing Travis Street feature grilled window openings to either side of the major opening. Such windows, with their wrought iron rejas, or grilles, were a popular element in Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, are very appropriate given the historical background of San Antonio. Beneath each of the large window openings of the penthouse level are decorative, blind panels of brickwork that appear as a balustrade beneath the windows, as if the space had once been an open loggia. The hotel is capped by a red-tile roof whose eaves project above the penthouse. The rounded profiles of the tiles adds another Spanish Colonial element to the building's exterior.

The major interior spaces of the hotel are concentrated on the first and second floors. Running parallel to Travis Street for most of the length of the hotel is the elegantly detailed Peacock Alley, the principal lobby space of the structure. This space is articulated

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

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

For NPS use only

received 10/3/87

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

by a series of square piers and pilasters which support a heavily coffered ceiling. A modillioned cornice frames each of the coffers. The floor is covered in small, octagonal tiles laid out in a reflected pattern following the ceiling divisions. At the west end of the main floor is the main lobby area, with a curvilinear staircase leading to the mezzanine meeting rooms. This section of the lobby is somewhat more richly detailed than Peacock Alley, with very ornate pier and pilaster capitals. The largest meeting space is the Anacacho Room, which features a mezzanine with a wrought-iron balcony railing.

The present St. Anthony Hotel is the result of a series of building programs that began in 1909 with the construction of the original part, an eight-story block, located at the corner of Travis and Navarro streets at the west end of the present complex. The following year, an eight-story annex was constructed in the center of the block. These two sections were unified and enlarged to ten stories in 1935, with the final section of the hotel, the east block, being added in 1939-1941. These later building campaigns led to the creation of the present exterior and interior detailing and character of the hotel, with the Peacock Alley lobby space serving as the most important interior connection between what had been two separate structures. It is interesting to note that the latest addition included a multilevel parking garage, part of which is subterranean. While the hotel has undergone remodelings since 1941, there has been little change from the appearance of the building since that date.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1909; 1910; 1935;  
1939; 1941

**Builder/Architect** 1909 & 1910 - J. Flood Walker, Architect.  
1935 - John M. Marriot, Architect  
Willard E. Simpson, Engineer  
1939 & 1941 - F.S. Jones, Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Considered a decade ahead of its time when it was built in 1909, the St. Anthony Hotel represents San Antonio's early era of modernization and transformation. The hotel played an important role in transforming San Antonio into a modern city of the 20th century. The progressive business element of the city awakened at the turn of the century to the fact that San Antonio should actively pursue plans for future growth in order to compete with rival cities. San Antonio was recognized as a distinctive city because of its rich history, its interesting architecture, and its resort attractions. A group of enterprising men set out to provide the city with the necessary municipal, commercial, office, and hotel developments to compliment its historic and natural features.

Christened in honor of the city's namesake, San Antonio de Padua, the St. Anthony was an indication of the confidence being placed in the city and its future. Hailed by one writer as "...the Waldorf of the Prairie,"<sup>1</sup> the St. Anthony attracted distinguished visitors from all over the world--Douglas MacArthur, Will Rogers, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and John Nance Garner. It rapidly joined the ranks of notable hostelryes.

Civic leaders began a campaign in the early 1900s to make San Antonio a paragon city of the new century. Accordingly, two prominent citizens and wealthy cattlemen, A.H. Jones and B.L. Naylor, financed the construction of the two initial towers and hired local architect, J. Flood Walker to design them. These men recognized the need for a luxury hotel that would cater to cattlemen and ranchers visiting San Antonio. A local author reported that the St. Anthony was one of the greatest factors in changing the status of Old San Antonio to a modern city. The San Antonio Daily Express of January 3, 1909, stated that the vast improvements in hotel facilities in the city during the year should not be underestimated, and that the new St. Anthony Hotel would strengthen the local realty market.

In spite of the Depression, Ralph W. Morrison bought the hotel in 1935. Morrison, an entrepreneur and civic leader, is noted for building, among other accomplishments, the first diesel locomotive which ran from Laredo to Corpus Christi. Under Morrison's auspices the hotel flourished and achieved its significant world-wide reputation for opulence and elegance. After architect John M. Marriot had completed the third phase of architectural alterations in 1935, the St. Anthony became the first hotel in the world to be completely air-conditioned and to have electric-eye doors. Later, the 1941 parking garage, located

<sup>1</sup>Green, Peyton, San Antonio: City in the Sun (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1946), p. 57.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

10/3/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

in the third tower, offered the world's first drive-in garage and registration facility. Morrison's sophisticated influence manifested itself in the St. Anthony's interior as well. French Empire antiques decorated the lobby, oriental rugs adorned the floors, and original paintings by such noted artists as Cartier, McCann, Remington, and DeYoung were displayed throughout the hotel. Perhaps the best known is "Monarch of the Golden West," a painting of a mighty eagle by James Ferdinand McCann, an Irish artist who fell in love with Texas and settled in San Antonio. It hangs in the lobby. A rosewood and gold-leaf Stanwick piano, commissioned by the Russian Embassy in Paris in 1924, and purchased by Morrison in 1936 from the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., for \$27,000, further creates the atmosphere of quiet elegance sought by Morrison. It is placed in the lobby.

After Morrison's death in 1948, the St. Anthony was operated by his trustees. In the 1960s, the hotel was once again renovated and the private St. Anthony Club was incorporated into the existing building. In 1971, financier William Osche purchased and redecorated the building.

Intercontinental Hotels Corp. acquired the St. Anthony in April, 1981. After being closed for 11 months, it officially reopened in May, 1983, after a 20 million-dollar restoration program was completed which highlighted the 1935-41 historic period, the era during which the most significant interior and exterior modifications occurred.

The integrity of the St. Anthony Hotel has been greatly enhanced by the latest restoration program. The St. Anthony is once again able to continue the fine tradition it established over its 74-year history. Its history and that of San Antonio are closely intertwined. The restoration of the hotel is just as important to the city today as its construction was prior to World War I, when it joined the Gunter and Crockett Hotels and office towers such as the Gibbs, Rand, and Gunter buildings to change the skyline of San Antonio. The St. Anthony Hotel is a major component of the redevelopment of downtown San Antonio.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bexar County Deed Records, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

Dielmann, Leo M.J., Collection. Unidentified newspaper article on file with Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio, Texas.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name San Antonio East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	4	5	4	9	6	0	0	3	2	5	5	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

New City Block 415, Lot Numbers A-7, A-8, A-9, Block Number 18, Zoning District I, City of San Antonio, Bexar County.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Osborne Bobbitt and Rebecca Hensley Williams

organization

date September 12, 1982

street & number 107 King William Street

telephone 512 821-6176

city or town San Antonio

state Texas 78204

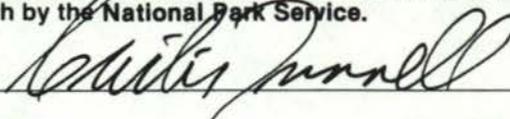
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 29 Sept. 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received 10/3/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Hall, Arthur. The Greater St. Anthony, Texasland, the Pioneer Magazine. April, 1926, Vol. VI, No. 6, pp. 22-23.

Hart, L.J. Modern Growth of San Antonio, New Encyclopedia of Texas. Dallas: Texas Development Bureau, 1930.

Peyton, Green. San Antonio: City in the Sun. New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, Inc., 1946.

San Antonio Daily Express, January 3, 17, 24, 31, 1909; January 2, 1910; February 8, March 9, 1935; July 18, 1940; April 27, 1941.

San Antonio Light, March 1, 1959; February 28, 1965; August 9, 1965.

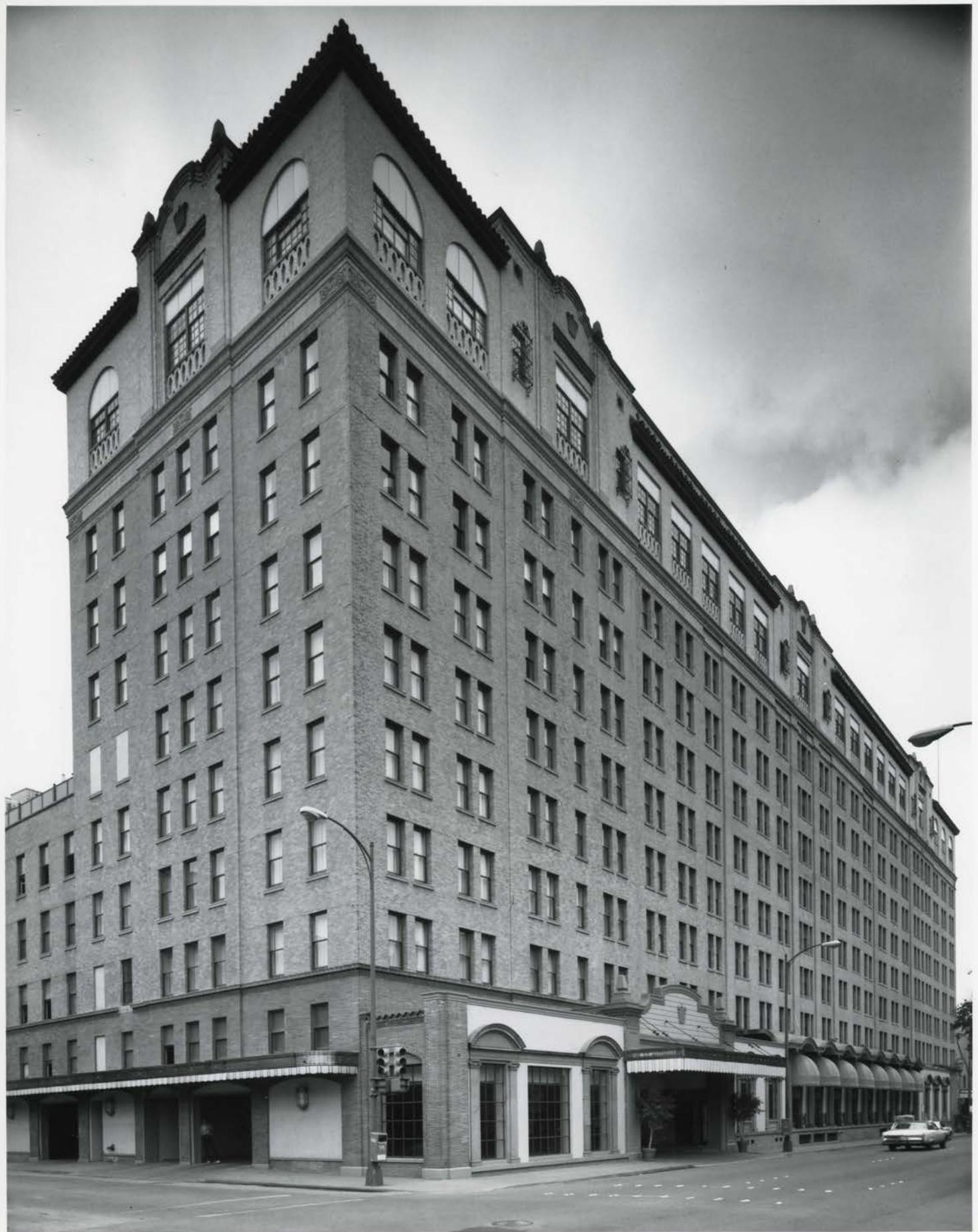
Sanborn Insurance Map, September, 1935, Vol. 2, p. 119.

"The St. Anthony Coyote," published by the St. Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, November 12, 1909, Vol. I, No. 10.



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
4. North & West Facades; camera facing SE.
5. Photo No. 1 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
4. North & East Facades; camera facing SW
5. Photo No. 2 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
4. Detail: North Facade; camera facing south.
5. Photo No. 3 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli.
4. Detail: North Facade - Main Entrance; camera facing south.
5. Photo No. 4 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
4. Peacock Alley; camera facing east.
5. Photo No. 5 of 17.

CT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
  2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
  3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli.
  4. Peacock Alley; camera facing east.
- 
5. Photo No. 6 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



- 7
1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
  2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
  3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
  4. Peacock Alley; camera facing east.
  5. Photo No. 7 of 17.

OCT 3 1983

© MICHAEL A. CAPPELLI  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
127 Lotus  
San Antonio, Texas 78210  
512-532-1959  
Neg #



TRAVEL ROOM  
MAIL ROOM

RECEPTION  
RECEPTION  
RECEPTION  
RECEPTION  
RECEPTION

1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
4. Main Lobby Area; camera facing south.
5. Photo No. 8 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



TRIMS ROOM  
NAARPO RO

EXETERAUM  
WELCOM

1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty., TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
4. Main Lobby Area; camera facing south.
5. Photo No. 9 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



MICHAEL A. CAPPELLI  
PHOTOGRAPHY

1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty., TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli.
4. Peraux Room; camera facing south.
5. Photo No. 10 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



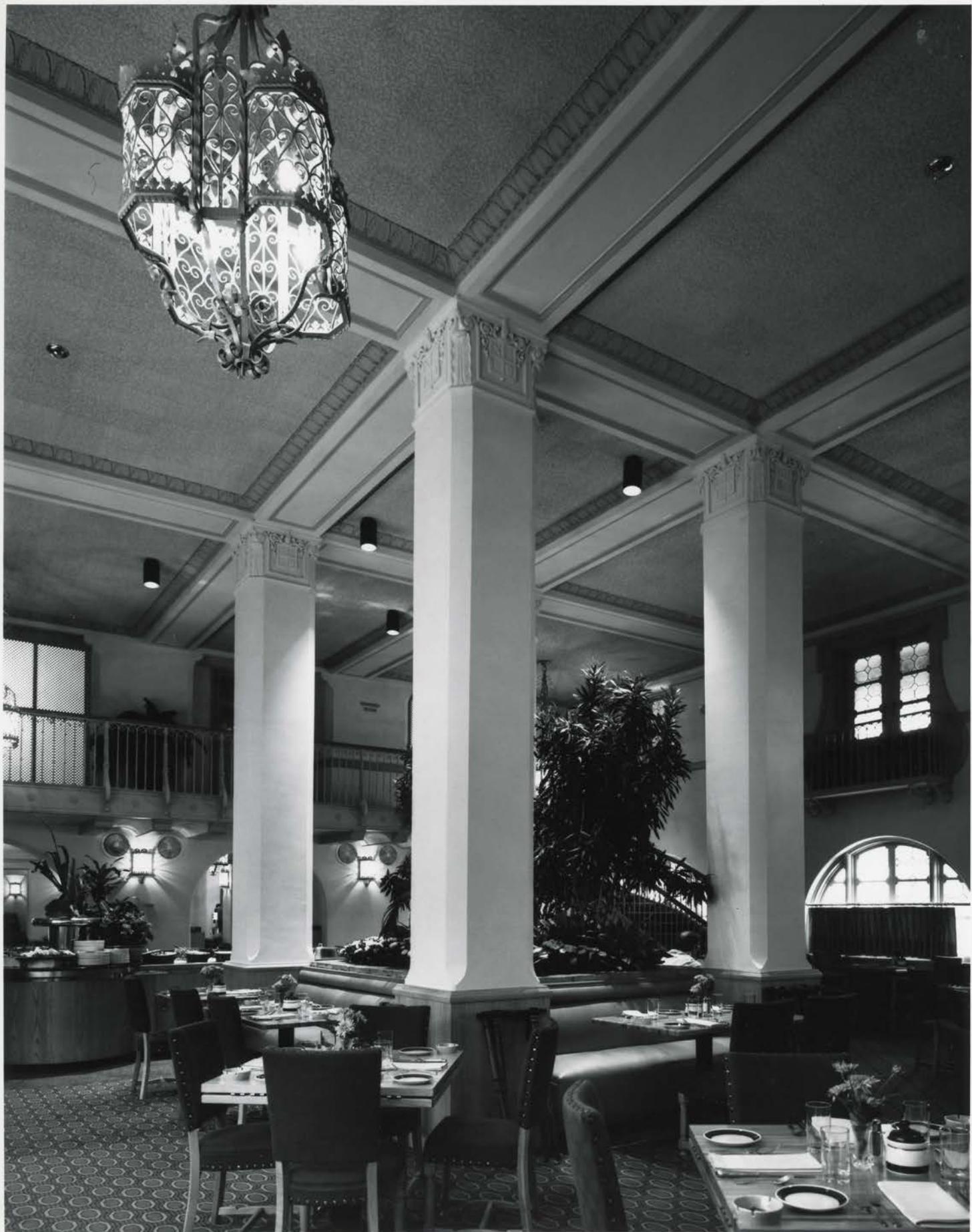
1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX.
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli.
4. Anacacho Room; camera facing north.
5. Photo No. 11 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX.
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli.
4. Jefferson Manor; camera facing north.
5. Photo No. 12 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli.
4. The Brasserie; facing southwest
5. Photo No. 13 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli.
4. Pete's Pub; camera facing north.
5. Photo No. 14 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX.
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli.
4. Detail: Guest Suite; camera facing SW.
5. Photo No. 15 of 17.

OCT 3 1983

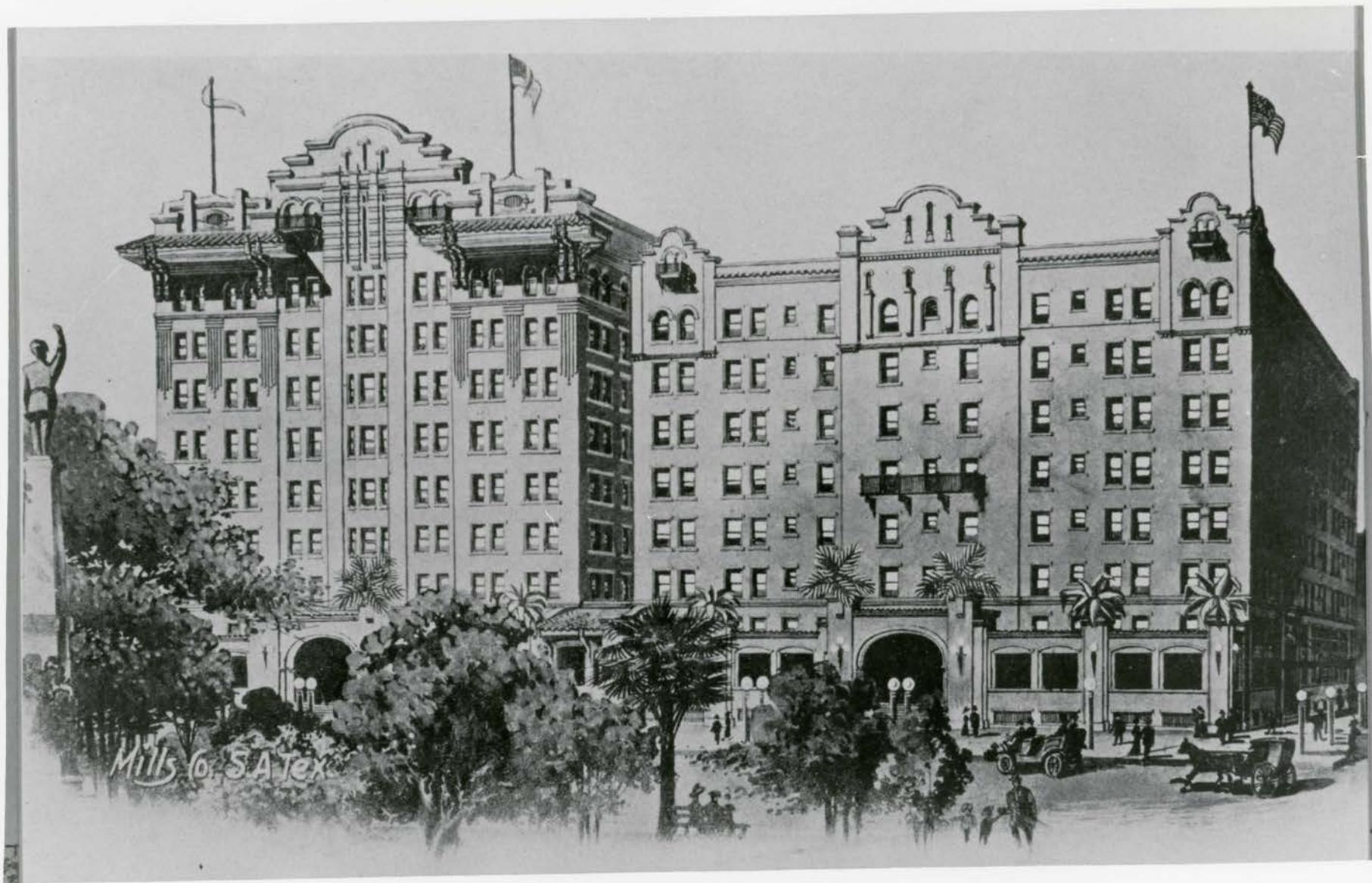


- 16
1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
  2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty.,TX
  3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
  4. Detail: Bedroom of Guest Suite; camera facing NW.
  5. Photo No. 16 of 17.

OCT 3 1983



1. St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony Inter-continental San Antonio.
2. 300 E. Travis, San Antonio, Bexar Cnty, TX
3. Michael Cappelli, Photographer. Date of Photo: June 24, '83. Negative w/M.Cappelli
4. Detail: Bathroom of Guest Suite; camera facing SE.
5. Photo No. 17 of 17.      OCT 3 1983



St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony InterContinental  
San Antonio, 300 E. Travis Street  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photographer unknown, Photo from Greater San Antonio, the City of Destiny and Your Destination, San Antonio: Higher Publicity League of Texas, March 1918, p. 24. Neg. with Chumney, Jones, & Kell, architects, San Antonio

North facade; view of St. Anthony facing Travis Park. Camera facing south

Additional photo no. 1 of 2

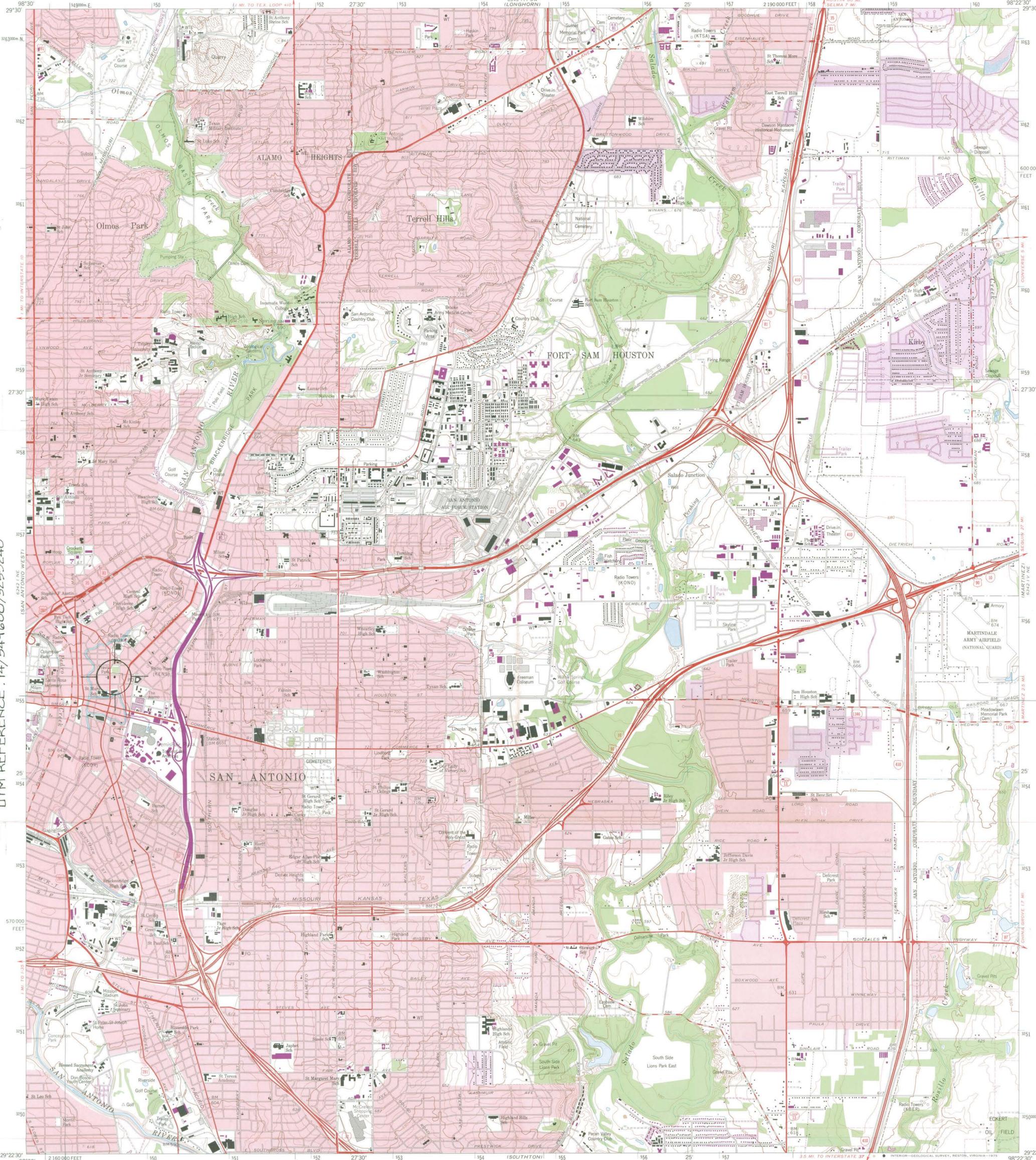


St. Anthony Hotel/St. Anthony InterContinental  
San Antonio, 300 E. Travis Street  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photographer unknown. Photo date: January 1909,  
soon after the hotel opened. Original photo in  
St. Anthony Hotel files. Neg. with Chumney,  
Jones & Kell, architects, San Antonio

view of First tower, corner Travis & Navarro/  
northwest corner

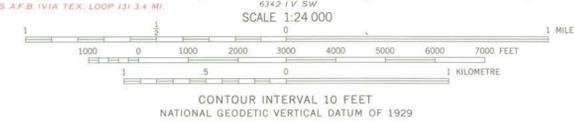
Additional photo no. 2 of 2



ST ANTHONY HOTEL  
300 EAST TRAVIS  
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO. TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 14/549600/3255240

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field annotated 1953. Revised by Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967.  
Polyconic projection 1927 North American datum  
10,000 foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines  
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET  
0° 13' 5 MILS  
81° 15' 151 MILS



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

2998-133

SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX.  
N2922.5-W9822.5/7.5  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1973  
AMS 6342 IV NW - SERIES V882

# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2014

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment)  
Other name/site number:  
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 300 Travis Street  
City or town: San Antonio State: Texas County: Bexar  
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  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer Date 9/23/14  
Signature of certifying official / Title  
Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain: Additional Documentation Approved

Jon Edson H. Beall Date of Action 11.24.14  
Signature of the Keeper

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, 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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** Domestic: hotel

**Current Functions:** Domestic: hotel

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Spanish Colonial Revival

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Brick, Cast Stone

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 9 through 10)

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	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"/>	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** NA

**Areas of Significance:** Commerce

**Period of Significance:** 1935-1964

**Significant Dates:** 1935, 1941

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

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

**Architect/Builder:** Marriott, John M.; Ayres, Atlee; Ayers, Robert; Jones, F.S.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 11 through 13)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 13)

### 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

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property:** Less than 1 acre (unchanged from original nomination)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates** (UPDATED from original nomination)

Datum if other than WGS84 :NA

Latitude: 29.427254° Longitude: -98.489147°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** (unchanged from original nomination) New City Block 415, Lots A-7, A-8, A-9, Block 18, Zoning District I, City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The property is further defined as being bounded by E. Travis Street, Jefferson Street, Peacock Alley, and Navarro Street.

**Boundary Justification:** Boundary includes all property associated with building, including all additions.

## 11. Form Prepared By

**Name/title:** Scott Carpenter, with Gregory Smith (National Register Coordinator, THC)

**Organization:** Seventh Generation Design, Inc.

**Street & number:** 118 Broadway, Suite 519

**City or Town:** San Antonio

**State:** Texas

**Zip Code:** 78209

**E-mail:** scott@seventhgendesign.com

**Telephone:** (210) 262-6161

**Date:** March 12, 2014

## Additional Documentation

### Maps

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets 14 through 31)

**Photographs** (see continuation sheets 5 through 8)

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

## PHOTOGRAPH LOG

St. Anthony Hotel  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

**Photographer:** Scott W. Carpenter

**Date Photographed:** September 16 and 17, 2012

**Digital Images:** TIFF format, 7360 x 4912 pixels, 300 pixels per inch, RGB color, 8 bits per channel

### Photograph Number 1

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0001.tif  
View: Northeast corner near intersection of Travis & Jefferson Streets  
Description: General exterior oblique view of building

### Photograph Number 2

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0002.tif  
View: Northeast corner as viewed from one half block east on Travis Street  
Description: General exterior oblique view of building

### Photograph Number 3

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0003.tif  
View: Southeast corner viewed from one half block south on Jefferson Street  
Description: General exterior oblique view of building

### Photograph Number 4

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0004.tif  
View: Jefferson Street facade, looking northwest  
Description: Detailed view Jefferson Street (east) façade

### Photograph Number 5

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0005.tif  
View: North facade at Travis Street garage entrance and canopy  
Description: General view of vehicular entrance and guest arrival area

### Photograph Number 6

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0006.tif  
View: North facade at Travis Street garage entrance & canopy, looking west  
Description: Vehicular entrance with canopy and existing streetscape elements

### Photograph Number 7

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0007.tif  
View: North facade at Travis Street garage entry & canopy, looking southeast  
Description: Vehicular entrance and existing streetscape elements

### Photograph Number 8

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0008.tif  
View: North facade at Travis Street garage entry & canopy, looking southwest  
Description: Vehicular entrance and existing streetscape elements

### Photograph Number 9

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0009.tif  
View: Travis Street garage entry, looking southeast  
Description: Valet station and guest arrival area

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

**Photograph Number 10**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0010.tif  
View: First floor garage interior, looking south  
Description: Guest arrival area and valet queuing lanes

**Photograph Number 11**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0011.tif  
View: First floor garage interior, looking east  
Description: Fountain feature at valet station and waiting area

**Photograph Number 12**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0012.tif  
View: First floor garage interior, looking northwest  
Description: Fountain feature at valet station and waiting area

**Photograph Number 13**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0013.tif  
View: First floor garage interior, looking east  
Description: Looking up concrete spiral ramp

**Photograph Number 14**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0014.tif  
View: Sixth floor pool terrace, looking northeast  
Description: Partial view of south façade of Tower 4

**Photograph Number 15**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0015.tif  
View: Sixth floor pool terrace, looking north-northwest  
Description: Partial view of south façade of Tower 4

**Photograph Number 16**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0016.tif  
View: First floor Anacacho Room interior, looking south toward stage  
Description: Coffered ceiling with plaster moldings, metal mezzanine railings & chandeliers

**Photograph Number 17**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0017.tif  
View: First floor Anacacho Room interior, looking southwest toward stage  
Description: Coffered ceiling with plaster moldings, metal mezzanine railings & chandeliers

**Photograph Number 18**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0018.tif  
View: First floor Anacacho Room interior, looking west toward mezzanine  
Description: Coffered ceiling with plaster moldings, metal mezzanine railings & chandeliers

**Photograph Number 19**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0019.tif  
View: First floor Anacacho Room interior, from stage looking north  
Description: Coffered ceiling with plaster moldings, metal mezzanine railings & chandeliers

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

**Photograph Number 20**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0020.tif

View: First floor Anacacho Room interior, looking northwest toward entry

Description: Coffered ceiling with plaster moldings, metal mezzanine railings & chandeliers

**Photograph Number 21**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0021.tif

View: Mezzanine level Anacacho Room interior, looking south toward stage

Description: Coffered ceiling with plaster moldings, metal mezzanine railings & chandeliers

**Photograph Number 22**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0022.tif

View: Mezzanine level Anacacho Room interior, looking west

Description: Corner detail of wrought iron railing with wood handrail

**Photograph Number 23**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0023.tif

View: Mezzanine level Anacacho Room interior, looking south

Description: Wrought iron railing with wood handrail; mezzanine column

**Photograph Number 24**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0024.tif

View: Mezzanine level Anacacho Room interior at top of east stair

Description: Wrought iron stair railing with wood handrail

**Photograph Number 25**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0025.tif

View: Tenth floor Presidential Suite interior, looking northeast

Description: Living room with paneled wainscot, plaster and wood moldings, & light fixtures

**Photograph Number 26**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0026.tif

View: Tenth floor Presidential Suite interior, looking southeast

Description: Living room with paneled wainscot, plaster and wood moldings, & light fixtures

**Photograph Number 27**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0027.tif

View: Tenth floor Presidential Suite interior, looking southwest

Description: Living room with paneled wainscot, plaster and wood moldings, & mantel

**Photograph Number 28**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0028.tif

View: Tenth floor Presidential Suite interior, looking northwest

Description: Living room with paneled wainscot, plaster and wood moldings, & mantel

**Photograph Number 29**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0029.tif

View: Tenth floor Presidential Suite interior, looking northeast

Description: Detailed view of cased opening to entry foyer

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

**Photograph Number 30**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0030.tif

View: Tenth floor Presidential Suite interior, looking southeast

Description: Detail view of plaster ornamentation and carved wood cornice

**Photograph Number 31**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0031.tif

View: Tenth floor Presidential Suite interior, looking south

Description: Detail view of plaster ornamentation and carved wood cornice

**Photograph Number 32**

Digital File Name: TX\_BexarCounty\_StAnthonyHotel\_0032.tif

View: Tenth floor Presidential Suite interior, looking south

Description: Detail view of carved wood cornice and casing at opening to entry foyer

**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.

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

## Description

The St. Anthony Hotel in downtown San Antonio, Texas, is a ten-story, masonry and steel-frame building consisting of four sections (referred to as “towers” in the 1986 NRHP nomination) built between 1909 and 1941. The present design is the result of a series of remodeling programs, which unified early hotel sections to produce a uniform exterior appearance. The detailing of the hotel's exterior reflects the Spanish Colonial heritage of San Antonio, while the handsome interior spaces are more classical in their appearance and detailing. The purpose of this amendment is to extend the period of significance to 1964, in order to reflect the significance of the 1941 “Tower 4” addition, and the continued significance of the building as an important hotel in the heart of San Antonio.

This section further clarifies the evolution of the building from its initial construction in 1909.

1909

- Tower 1, eight stories
- J. Flood Walker, Architect, San Antonio, & Mauran, Russell & Garden, Architects, St. Louis
- Willard E. Simpson, Sr., Structural Engineer, San Antonio
- Seiden-Breck Construction Co., General Contractor, San Antonio

1910

- Tower 2, eight stories
- J. Flood Walker, Architect, San Antonio

1935

- Tower 3, ten stories
- At this time, Towers 1 & 2 were remodeled to achieve a common façade, and additional floors were added, resulting in a total of ten floors in all sections
- John M. Marriott, Architect, San Antonio
- Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres, Architects, San Antonio
- Willard E. Simpson, Sr., Structural Engineer, San Antonio

1941

- Tower 4, ten floors and parking garage by architect F.S. Jones of San Antonio

1946

- Alterations and additions to Main Dining Room (current location of Georgian Room and the St. Anthony Club) by Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayers, Architects, San Antonio, Texas

1959

- Interior remodeling by Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres, Architects, San Antonio and Dorothy Draper, Interior Design, New York City

1964

- Façade and interior remodeling by Richard Kent, Inc., Interior and Exterior Design, New York City

In 1981- 1983, the building was cleaned and the interior was remodeled by Chumney, Jones and Kell, Inc., Architects, of San Antonio. In 1986, the St. Anthony Hotel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, under Criterion A at the Local Level for its historically significant contributions to the development of business and commerce in San

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

Antonio, Texas during the period between 1908 and 1935. In 2000, the Starlight Terrace and sixth floor Pool Terrace were remodeled, with interior renovations at Peacock Alley, Jefferson Room restrooms, Peraux Room restrooms, Pool Terrace restrooms. These projects, along with minor interior modifications to the guest rooms and guest corridor finishes were completed through the Palladium Group, hotel architects and interior designers, of Albuquerque. During 1912-14, Overland Partners, Inc., Architects, of San Antonio, and Seventh Generation Design, Inc., of San Antonio, Texas conducted a rehabilitation of the entire hotel, including the removal of unsympathetic additions to the Main Lobby, expansion and reconfiguration of the guest rooms, building systems modernization, and improved life safety and accessibility.

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

## Statement of Significance

The purpose of this nomination amendment is to change the period of significance of the St. Anthony Hotel, originally listed in the National Register in 1986, in the area of Commerce, with the period of significance ending at an unspecified date, but no later than the 50-year point of 1936. This amendment serves to extend the period of significance to 1964 in order to take into account the significant and architecturally sympathetic additions made in 1941, and to justify the building's continued significance through the current fifty-year point (1964).

### *Significance of the 1941 Addition*

The St. Anthony Hotel's 1909 wing is at the west edge of the property; subsequent additions were built to the east until the block was filled. The 1910 addition was one story taller and more ornate than the original building, and was separated by an open bay above the second floor. In 1935, Ralph W. Morrison purchased the property and began an ambitious expansion program, which was completed in 1941. In 1935, the 1909 and 1910 sections were incorporated into one building with a common façade, with the space between them infilled. Two additional stories were added at this time and a third major tower was constructed to the east. Due to the extent of the changes made in 1935, the period of significance in the original nomination was understood to be 1935-1936.

In 1941, the fourth and final ten-story tower addition was constructed, and the hotel then stretched the length of the block, extending from Navarro to Jefferson streets. The addition included an innovative drive-in parking garage in the basement through the first five floors, with guest rooms on the top five floors. The original ballroom in Tower 2 became the Peraux Room, and an elaborate new ballroom named the Anacacho Room was located in Tower 4. This final addition – as stated in the original nomination – is “sympathetic in form, style, and materials to the 1935 sections of the hotel,” but was not considered to be a historic component of the hotel only due to its age at the time the document was prepared.

After Morrison's death in 1948, the St. Anthony was owned and operated by trustees of Morrison's Hotel Company until 1971, when financier, William Ochse purchased the Hotel. InterContinental Hotels Corp. acquired the St. Anthony in April, 1981. After an 11-month-long, 20-million-dollar rehabilitation program, the hotel reopened in May 1983.

### *Significance of the St. Anthony Hotels through the early 1960s*

Despite the economic challenges presented by the Great Depression to San Antonio and the nation as a whole, the St. Anthony Hotel continued to serve as an important business and social hub for the city and region from the mid-1930s to mid-1960s. The St. Anthony was a favorite among traveling businessmen, cattlemen, military personnel, politicians, celebrities and entertainers who were inevitably drawn to the largest, most important commercial center in the South Texas region. As evidenced by numerous newspaper articles and announcements of the pre- and post-World War II eras, the St. Anthony also remained a popular venue for conventions and banquets for local civic, business and fraternal organizations. Throughout its long history, the hotel has also been *the* venue of choice in the city for events such as debutante balls and high society wedding parties in San Antonio.

On November 17, 1934, a young, up-and-coming political hopeful named Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Taylor at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, Texas, after having known each other for only ten weeks. They spent their honeymoon at the St. Anthony Hotel, which is located immediately south across Travis Park from the church.<sup>1</sup> The young congressional aid would eventually serve in four elected federal offices of the United States: Representative, Senator, Vice President and President.

<sup>1</sup> Woods, Randall Bennett. *LBJ: Architect of American Ambition*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007.

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

During World War II, the hotel hosted many traveling celebrities and entertainers touring around the country to keep moral high and to promote the sale of war bonds. A considerable number of historic photographs in the hotel's private archives and at the University of Texas at San Antonio's photographic collections date from this period. They capture visits by some of Hollywood's leading performers, such as Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Fred Astaire, Betty Hutton, and Greer Garson.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the presence of five significant military bases in the area, the St. Anthony Hotel also hosted numerous awards ceremonies for returning military heroes during World War II and in the post-war era. In attendance at many of these awards ceremonies were military and political dignitaries who stayed at the hotel for the event. These include Eleanor Roosevelt, President Eisenhower and General Douglas McArthur.<sup>3</sup>

During the post-war era, the St. Anthony Hotel continued to attract luminaries, as testified by many noteworthy photographs displayed throughout the hotel or featured in newspaper articles of the period. Prince Ranier and Princess Grace of Monaco are shown enjoying drinks amongst throngs of partygoers in Peacock Alley. Images of John Wayne, Rock Hudson, Gregory Peck, the von Trapp Family Singers, and many others testify to the enduring appeal of the hotel to famous visitors to San Antonio.<sup>4</sup>

Despite the hotel's impressive list of patrons over the decades, the St. Anthony Hotel's true historic significance, beyond the economic stimulus its 1935 expansion brought to the local economy during the Great Depression, lay in its contributions to local commerce by providing an elegant venue where local business leaders discreetly gathered to conduct business dealings. The bar at the St. Anthony Club was a popular place for business leaders to meet and casually discuss enterprising ventures with fellow entrepreneurs. An untold number of deals have been struck over drinks at the hotel, establishing a local tradition that endures to this very day. One often repeated anecdote illustrates the St. Anthony's quiet facilitation of the advancement of commerce in the region, though the events in this tale occurred a few years after the period of significance. Author Dan Roam relates the following story:

Way back in 1967, Texas businessman Rollin King's WILD GOOSE AIRLINES (a small charter flying operation that shuttled sportsmen around the Lone Star state) failed financially, so he hired ex-NY lawyer Herb Kelleher to close the books. Afterward they retired to San Antonio's swankiest bar, The St. Anthony's Club, for a commemorative drink.

What they drank remains a mystery, but what is known is that at some point King picked up a napkin and said, "Herb, I have an idea for another airline; one that connects just the main metro areas of Texas..." He drew three dots on that napkin to represent Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, then connected them with three lines to form a simple triangle.

Presto: Southwest Airlines was born. From that humble napkin emerged the most profitable airline in history.<sup>5</sup>

To this day, as a homage to that moment of inspiration at the bar in the St. Anthony Club, Southwest Airlines prints its route map on the small napkins they serve with drinks during flights.

---

<sup>2</sup> Images found in the Photograph Collections, The University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries Special Collections from the Institute of Texan Cultures, and the St. Anthony Hotel Drawings, Historic Photographs and Post Cards Collections, BC Lynd Hospitality, San Antonio, Texas. In some cases duplicates of the same image appear in both collections.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Roam, Dan. "Southwest Keeps Up the Napkin Spirit." Online article at <http://www.danroam.com/southwest-airli/>

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

The St. Anthony Hotel and Gunter Hotel, along with several other noteworthy historic hotels in the city, became the foundation upon which San Antonio's present-day vibrant tourism and travel industry was built. More than 26 million tourists visit the city annually, drawn by its rich history and diverse cultural heritage. Many of these travelers are drawn to the charm, stately elegance and gracious hospitality of its leading historic hotels.

The current ownership, BCL St Anthony ML LP, an entity of BC LYND Hospitality led by Brandon S. Raney and Clyde Johnson, purchased the hotel on April 26, 2012 for \$31 million and began developing plans to renovate and rehabilitate the historic hotel. They assembled a design-build team consisting of Overland Partners, Inc. (Architects), Seventh Generation Design, Inc. (Historic Preservation Architects), Forrest Perkins (Interior Designers) and Zachry Construction Company (General Contractors) to design and implement a planned \$24 million renovation and rehabilitation plan. After completion of the project, the hotel it will be re-branded as a Starwood Luxury Collection property. Construction began in the summer of 2013 and is scheduled to be concluded in the late fall 2014, with the hotel remaining in operation throughout the entire process.

### **Major Bibliographical References**

Bexar County Deed Records (BCDR).

Photograph Collections. The University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries Special Collections from the Institute of Texan Cultures.

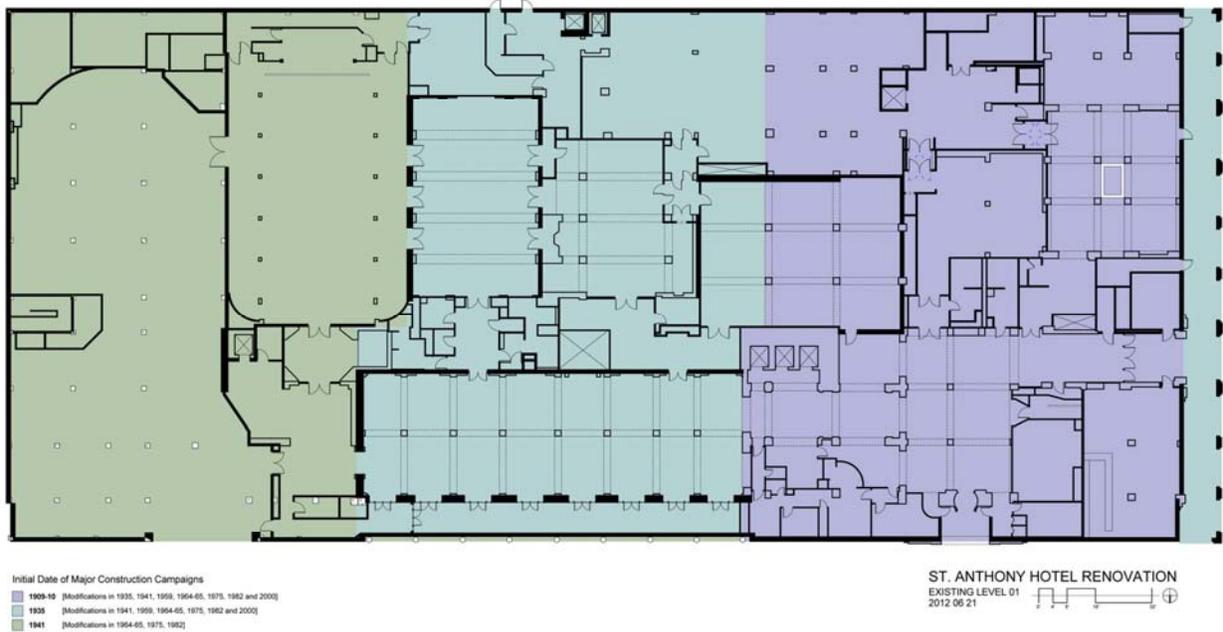
St. Anthony Hotel Drawings, Historic Photographs and Post Cards Collections. BC Lynd Hospitality, San Antonio, Texas.

*San Antonio, Texas* [maps]. Various dates. Various scales graphically indicated. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps – San Antonio, Texas (1877-1952)". San Antonio Public Library, Texas Digital Sanborn Maps. <http://guides.mysapl.org/content.php?pid=347382&sid=2842514>.

W.E. Simpson Company's Structural Engineering and Architectural Drawings Archives. HDR, San Antonio, Texas.

St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

FIGURE 1: St. Anthony Hotel, Historical Development Diagram, First Floor Level



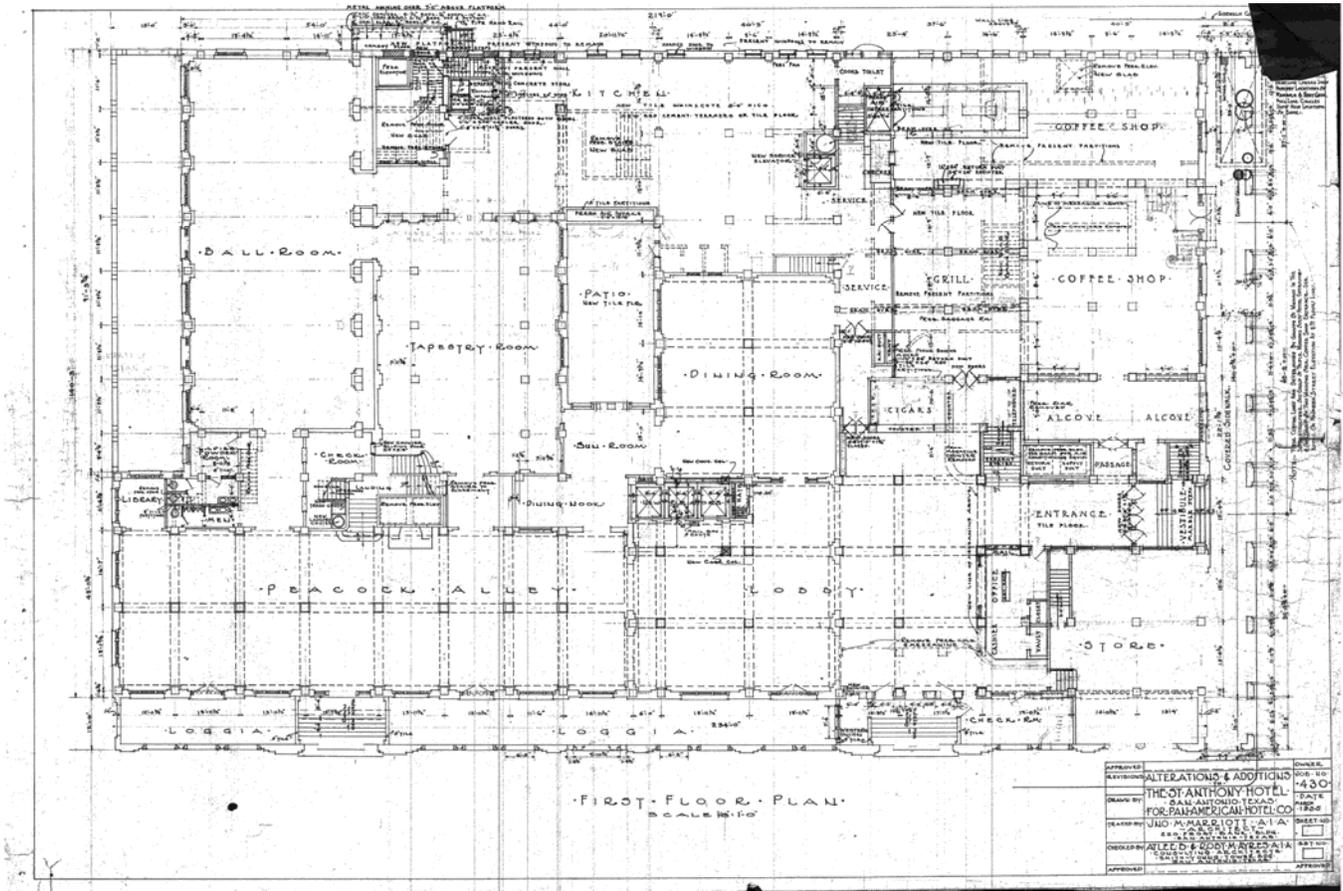
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

FIGURE 2: St. Anthony Hotel, Historical Development Diagram, Fourth Floor Level



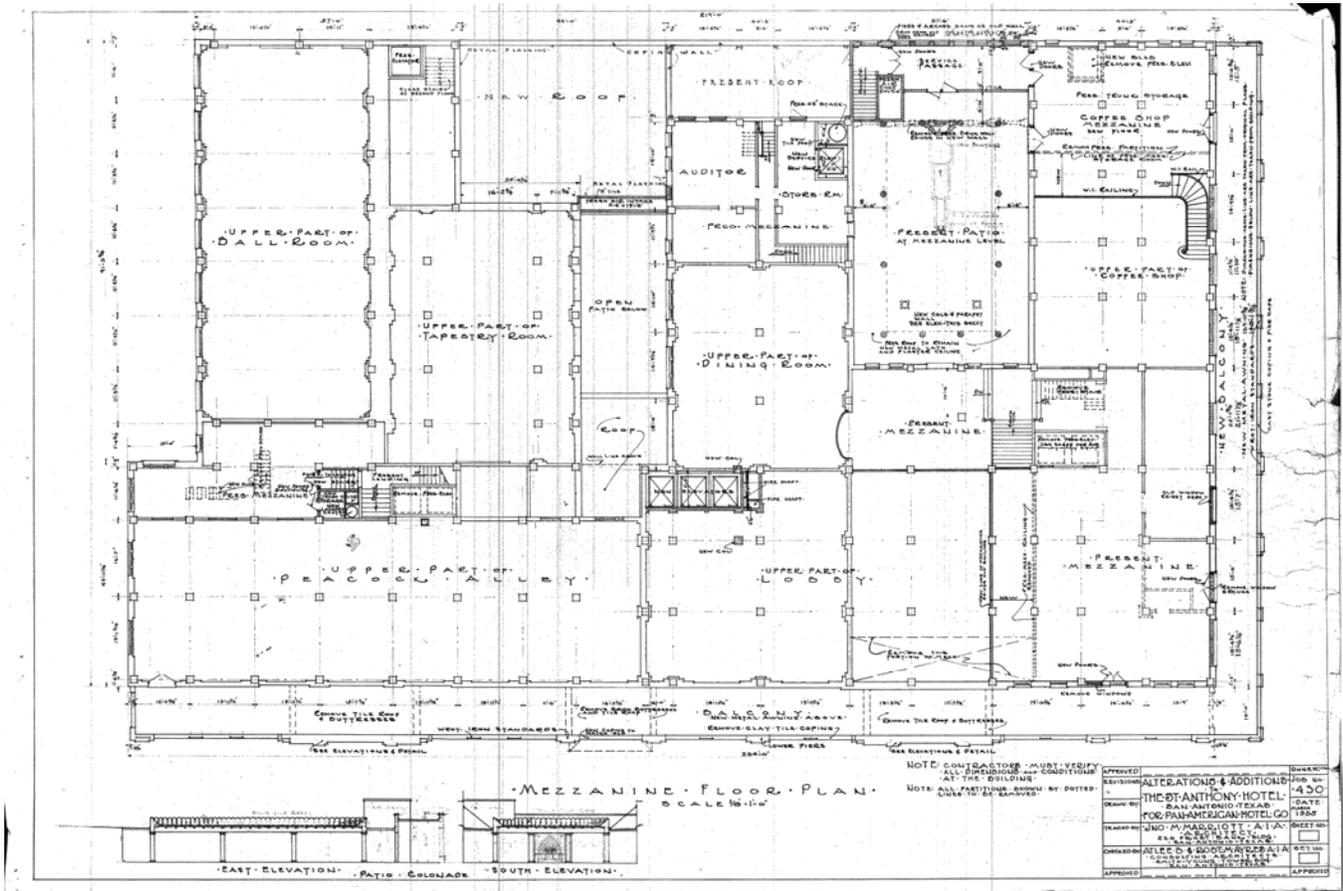
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 3:** St. Anthony Hotel, First Floor Plan Drawing  
John M. Marriott, March 1935  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



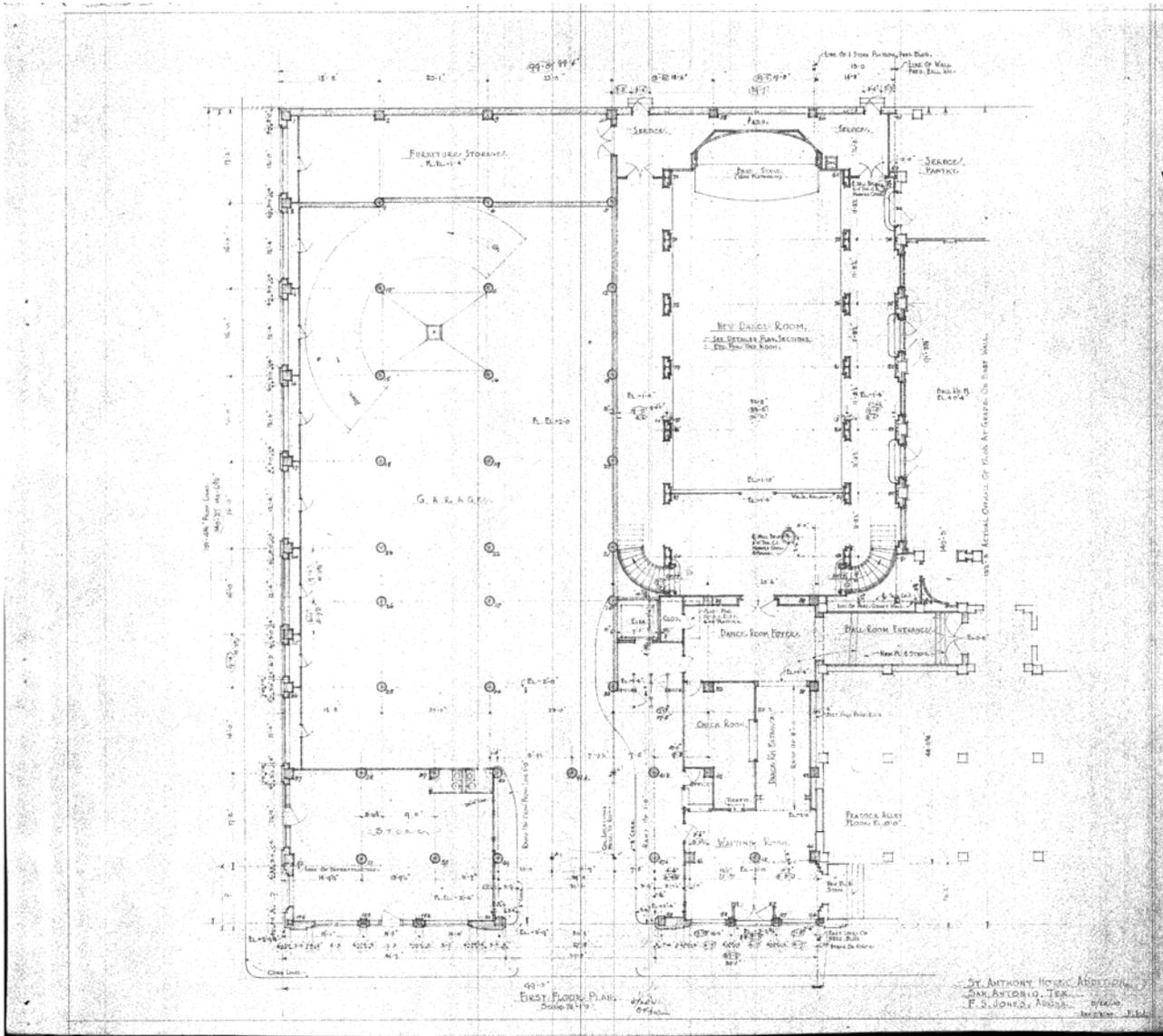
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 4:** St. Anthony Hotel, Mezzanine Floor Plan Drawing  
 John M. Marriott, March 1935  
 BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
 (Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



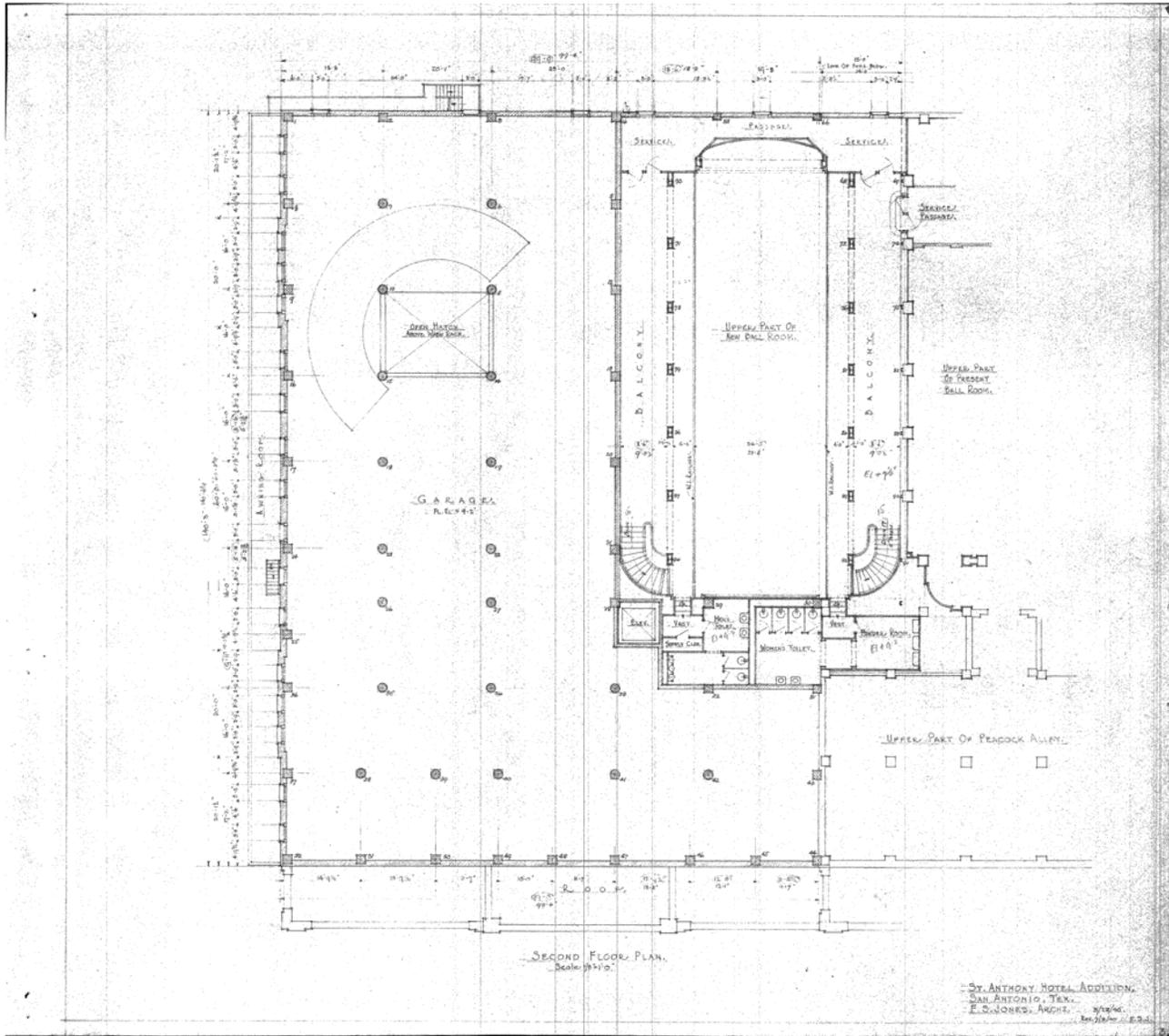
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 5:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, First Floor Plan  
F.S. Jones, Architect, May 28, 1940 (Revised July 8, 1940)  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



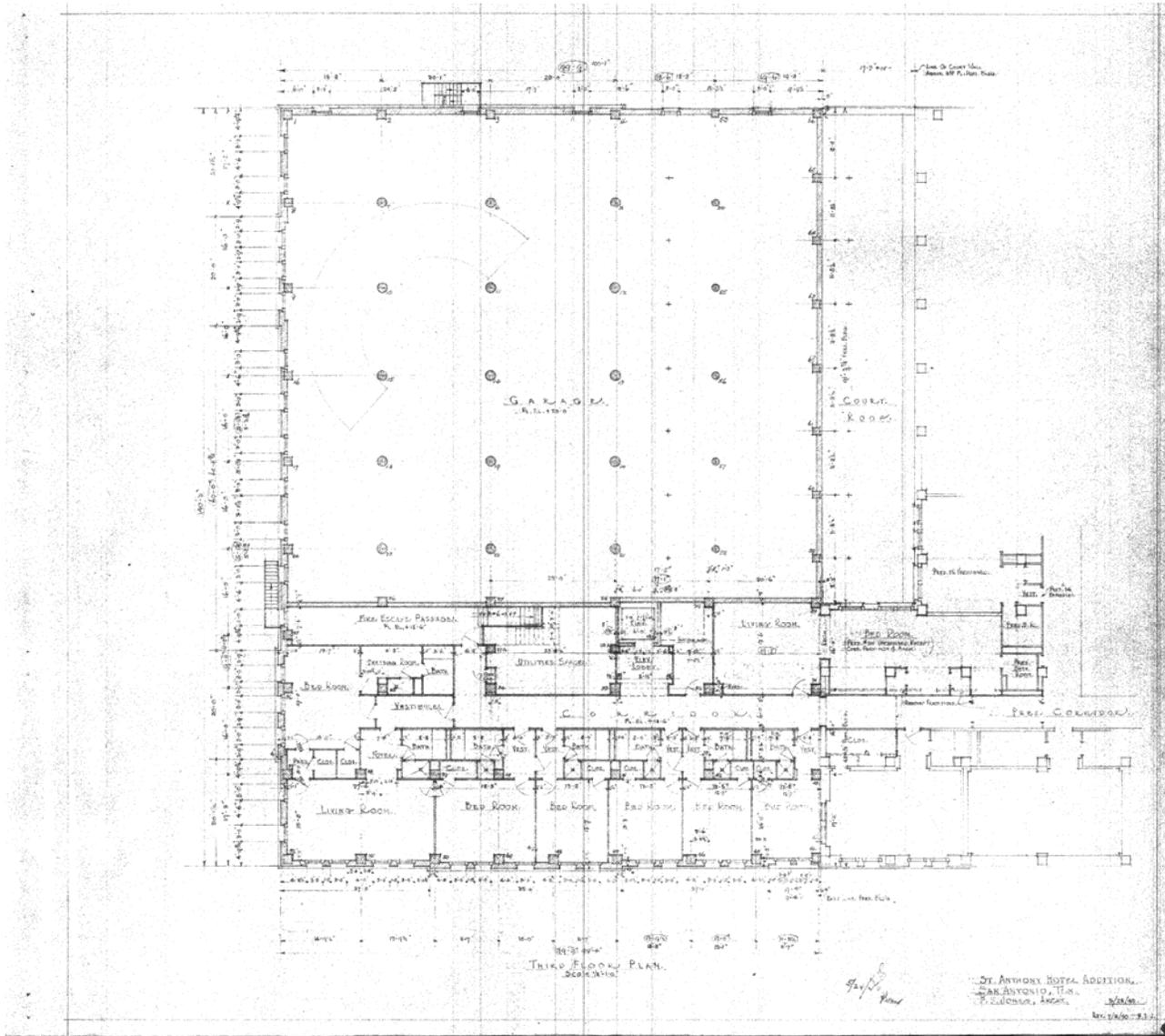
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 6:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, Second Floor Plan  
F.S. Jones, Architect, May 28, 1940 (Revised July 8, 1940)  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



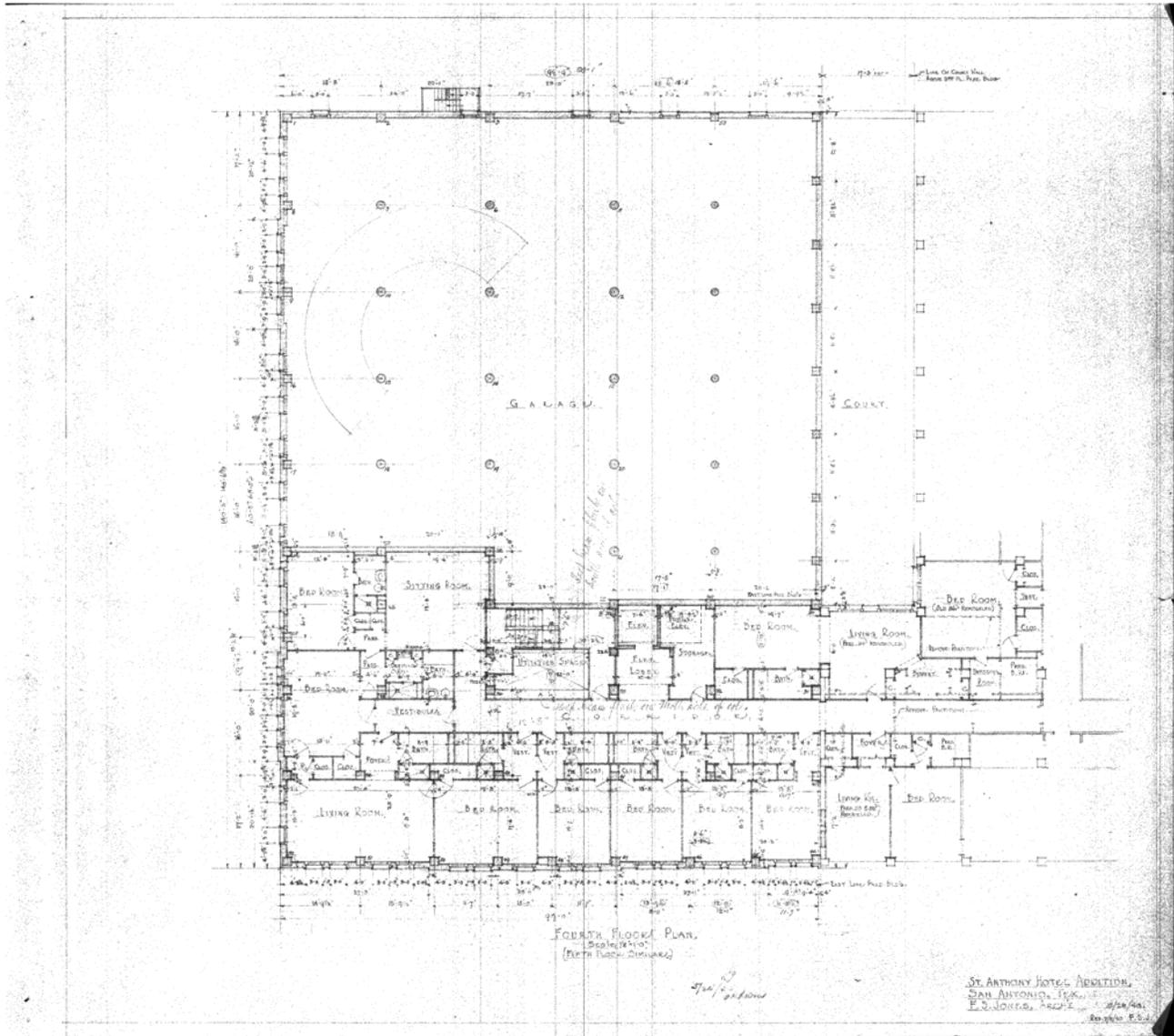
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 7:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, Third Floor Plan  
F.S. Jones, Architect, May 28, 1940 (Revised July 8, 1940)  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



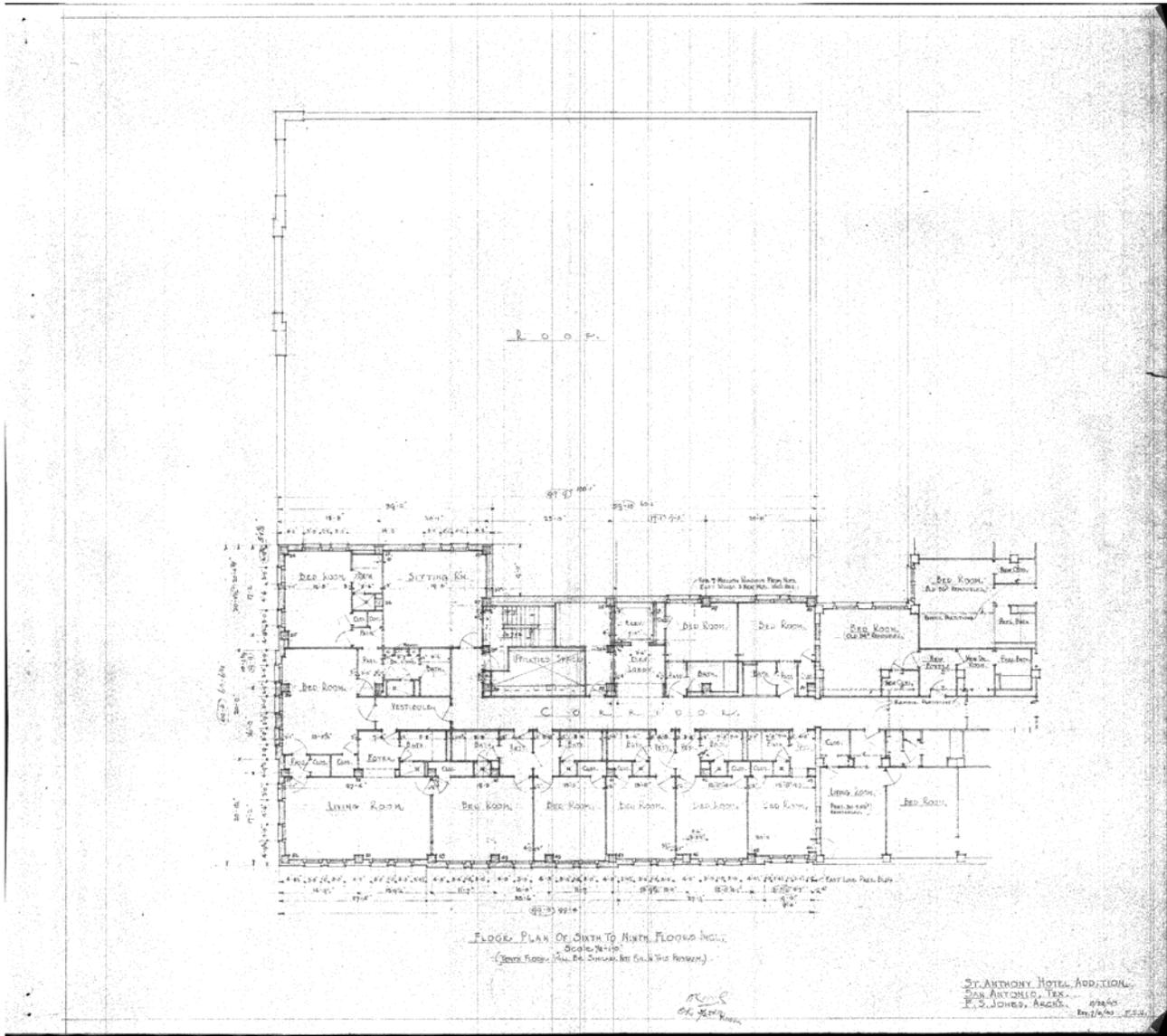
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 8:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, Fourth Floor Plan (Fifth Floor Similar)  
F.S. Jones, Architect, May 28, 1940 (Revised July 8, 1940)  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



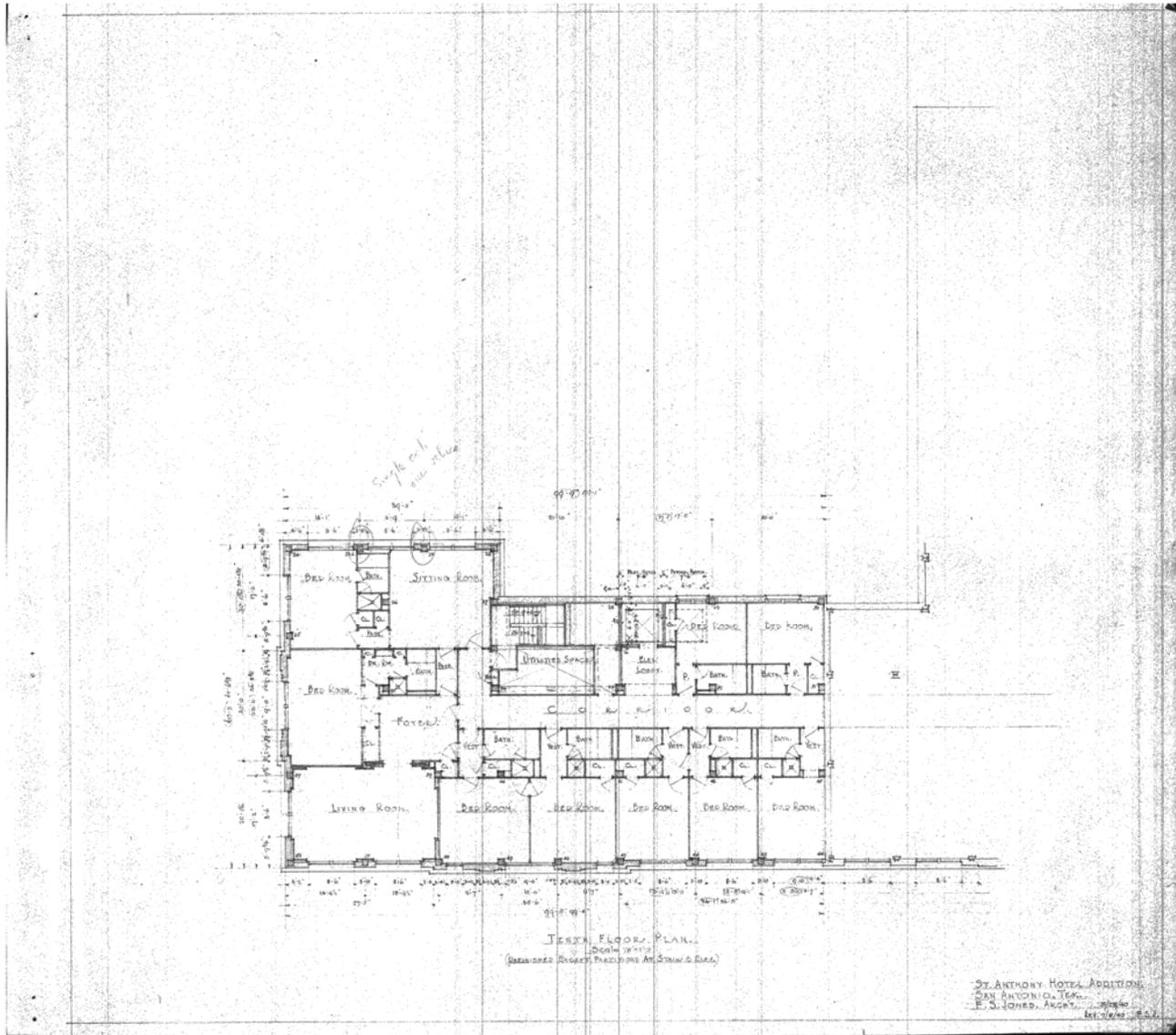
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 9:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, Floor Plan of Sixth to Ninth Floors Incl.  
F.S. Jones, Architect, May 28, 1940 (Revised July 8, 1940)  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



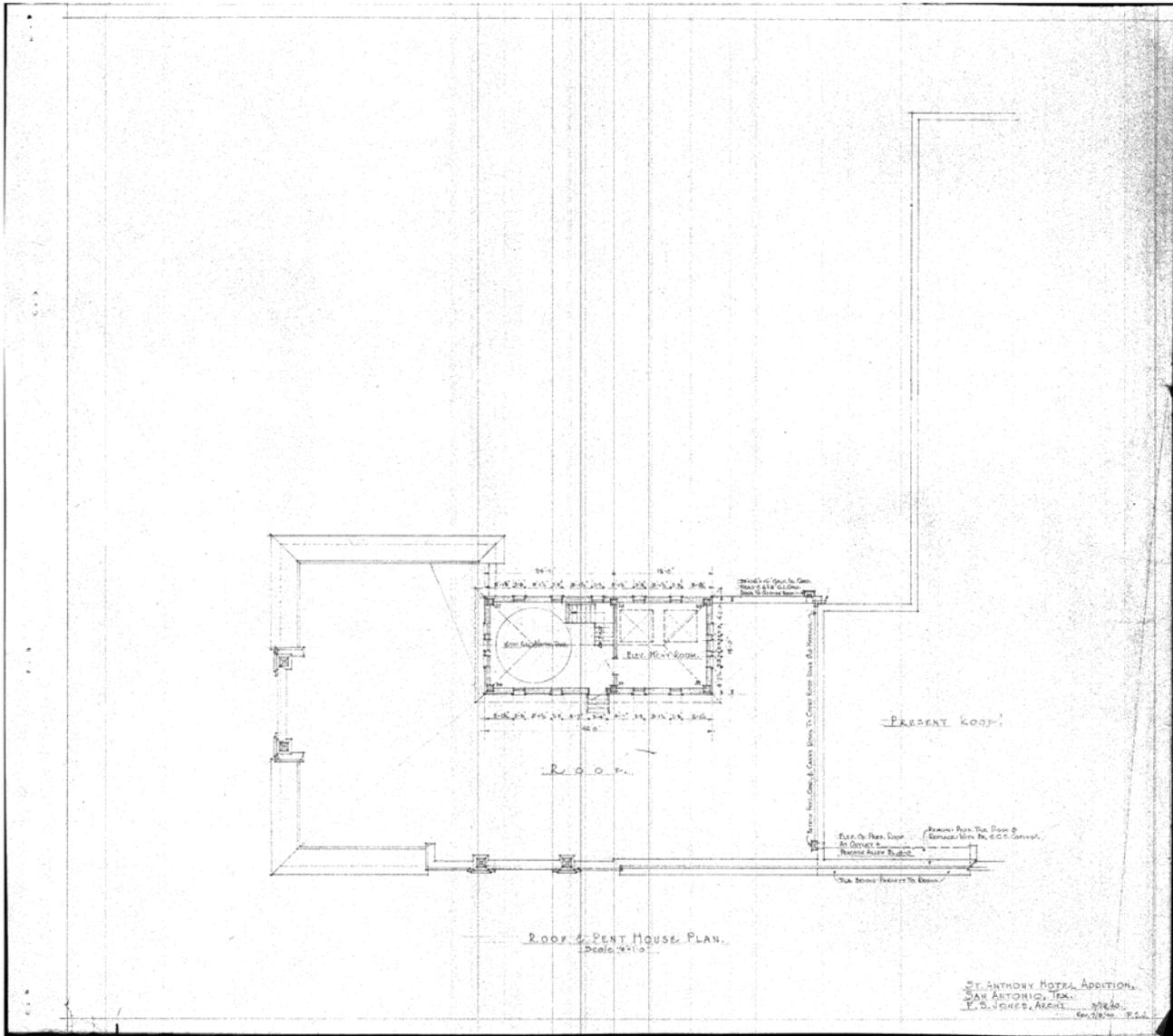
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 10:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, Tenth Floor Plan  
F.S. Jones, Architect, May 28, 1940 (Revised July 8, 1940)  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



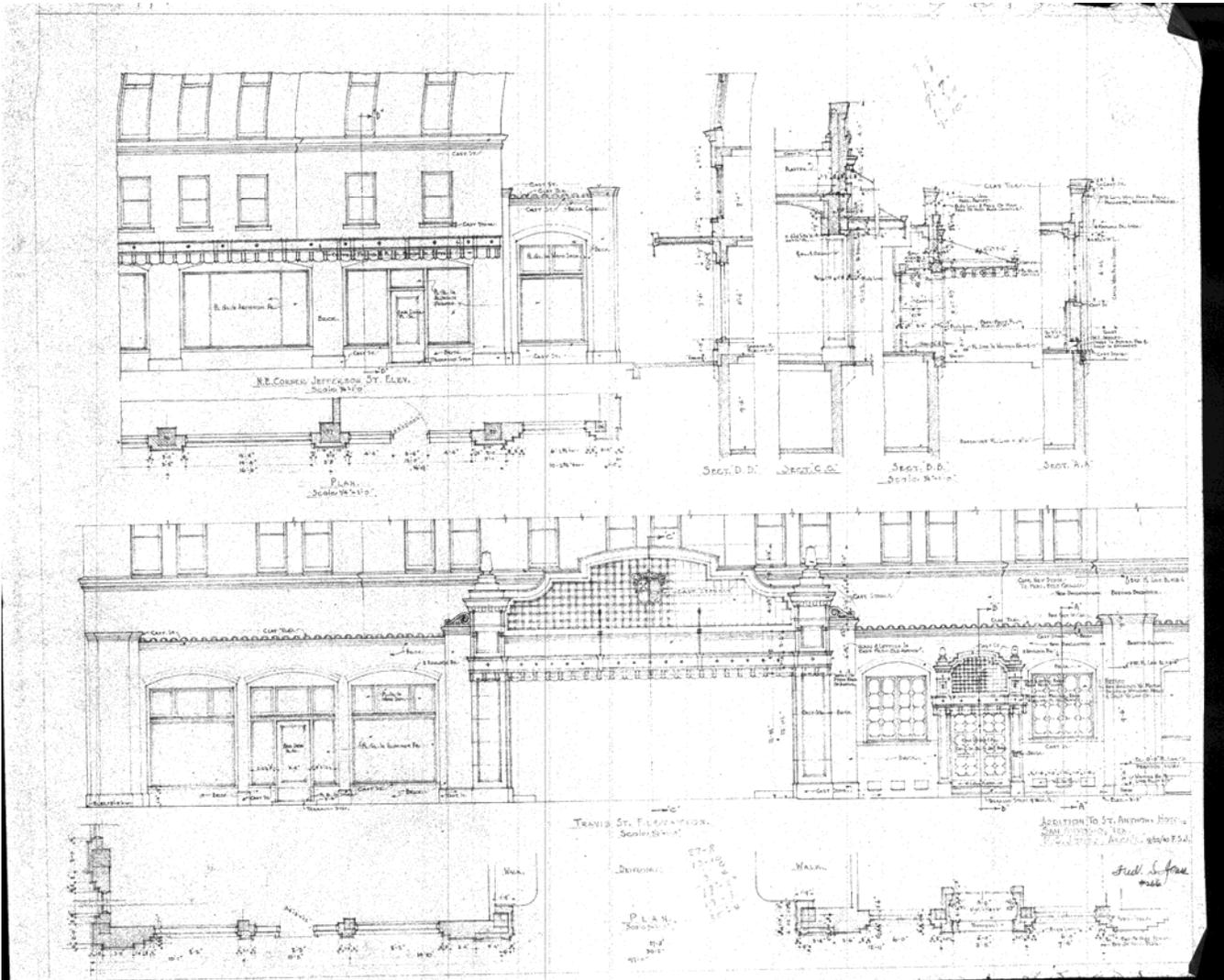
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 11:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, Roof and Penthouse Floor Plan  
F.S. Jones, Architect, May 28, 1940 (Revised July 8, 1940)  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



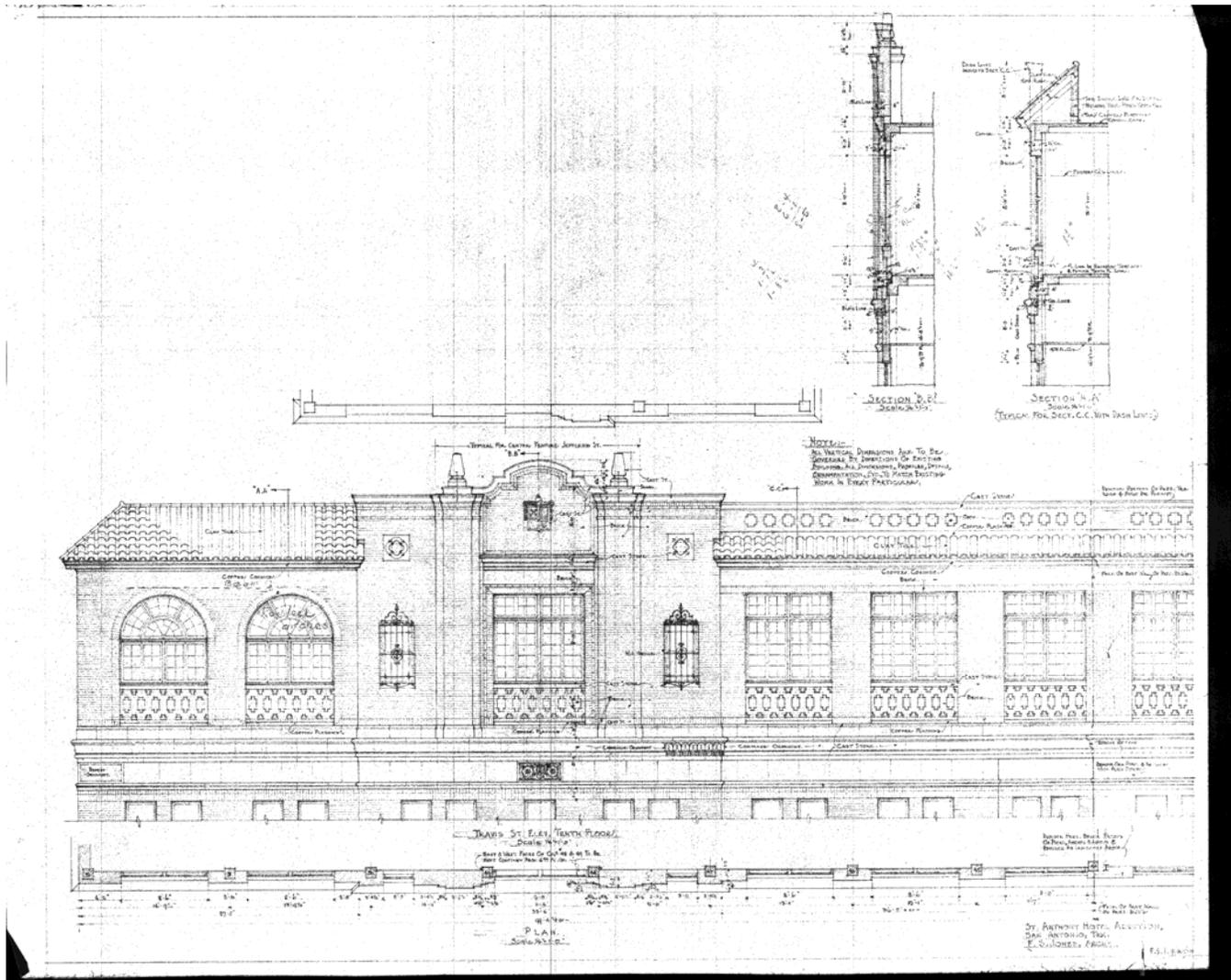
St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 12:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, Travis and Jefferson Streets Elevations  
F.S. Jones, Architect, September 22, 1940  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 13:** St. Anthony Hotel Addition, Travis St. Elev. Tenth Floor and Plan  
F.S. Jones, Architect, September 30, 1940  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Drawings Collection, San Antonio, Texas  
(Formerly contained in DBR's W.E. Simpson Company Drawings Archives)



St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

**FIGURE 14:** St. Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, ca. 1936  
101-0153, General Photograph Collection  
University of Texas San Antonio Libraries Special Collections from the Institute of Texan Cultures



St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

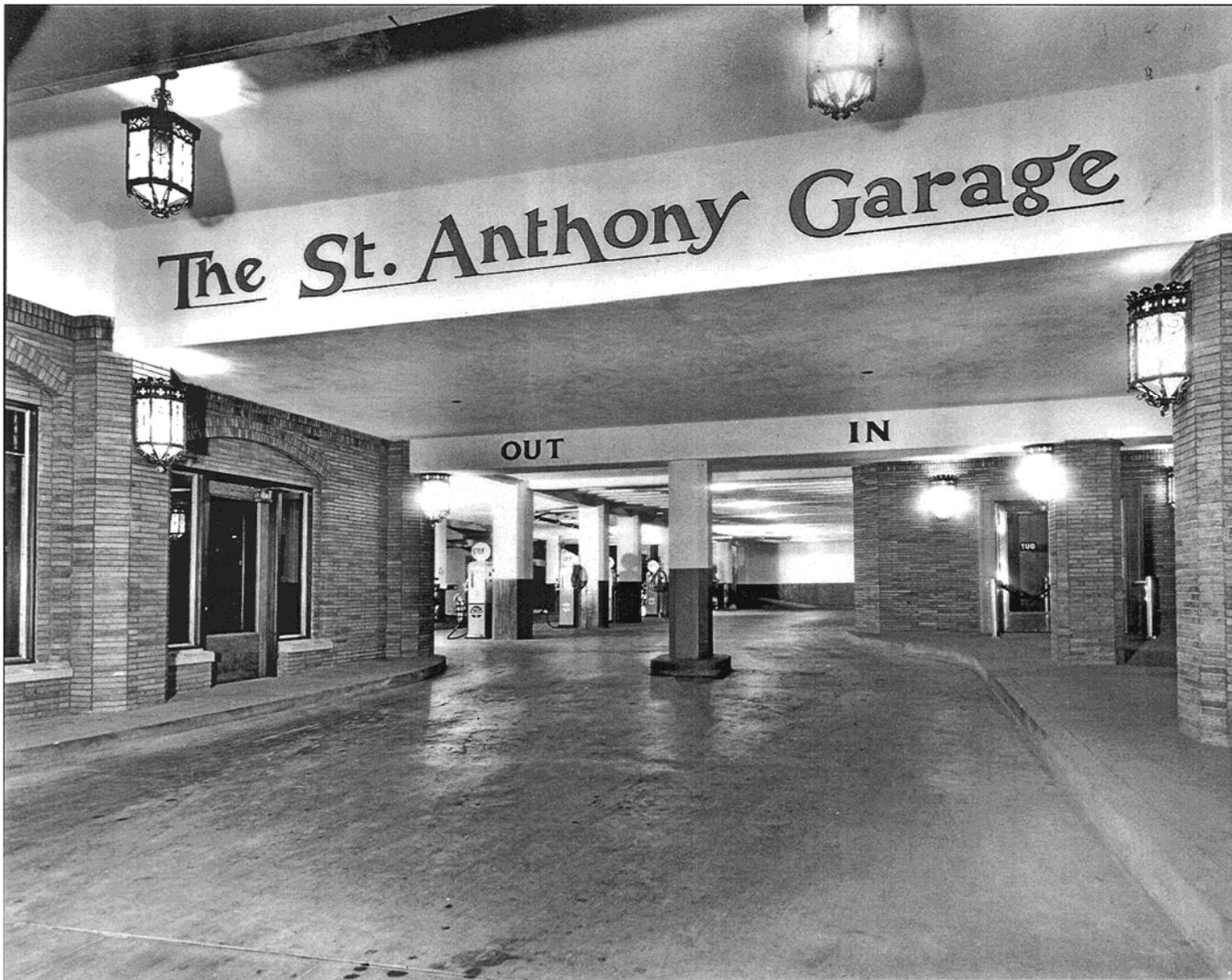
**FIGURE 15:** St. Anthony Hotel, Postcard, ca. 1941  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Historic Postcard Collection, San Antonio, Texas



St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

**FIGURE 16:** St. Anthony Hotel, View of Automobile Lobby, ca. 1941  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Photographs Collection, San Antonio, Texas



St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

---

**FIGURE 17:** St. Anthony Hotel, Anacacho Ballroom, ca. 1941  
BC Lynd's St. Anthony Hotel Photographs Collection, San Antonio, Texas



St. Anthony Hotel (Period of Significance Amendment), San Antonio, Bexar, County, Texas

**FIGURE 18:** People dancing at New Year's Eve Party at the St. Anthony Hotel, January 1, 1943[?] L-3044-C, *San Antonio Light* Photograph Collection, MS 359  
University of Texas San Antonio Libraries Special Collections from the Institute of Texan Cultures







**ATLAS CREDIT**

THURSDAY







CLEARANCE 8'

EXIT

EXIT



THE ST ANTHONY

ATLAS  
CREDIT

THE ST ANTHONY





THE ST ANTHONY



CLEARANCE 8'

ENTER

EXIT

EXIT



The 1st Floor  
is reserved for  
the use of  
the building  
and is not  
to be used  
for parking.

67













































National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

St. Anthony Hotel  
Bexar County  
TEXAS

Substantive Review

10/3/83  
AUG 6 1986

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/9/87  
Date Due: 9/19/86 - 9/20/86  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-19-86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments: *This is a rather complex nomination due to the fact that the building has been altered significantly over the years. Tower 4, built in 1941, is to be considered a non-contributing element of the nominated property. Significant alterations were also made in 1935, but the nomination points out that the 1935 work comprised a major part of the downtown redevelopment in San Antonio. They do a good job of showing how this work was significant in that it involved the expenditure of a lot of money during the depression etc.*

Recom./Criteria Accept A  
Reviewer Bruce J. Noble, Jr.  
Discipline Historian  
Date 9/19/86  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location \_\_\_\_\_

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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

**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 Bruce Noble (202) 343-9547

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 27 1984  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Anthony Hotel

and/or common St. Anthony Intercontinental San Antonio

2. Location

street & number 300 East Travis Street

N/A not for publication

city, town San Antonio

N/A vicinity of

state Texas

code 048

county Bexar

code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Historic Saint Anthony Corp., Attn: Stephen H. Cathey

street & number 1120 Avenue of the Americas

city, town New York

N/A vicinity of

state New York 10036

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number Main Plaza

city, town San Antonio

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) San Antonio Historic Resource Survey  
title (2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

(1) 1977  
date (2) 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records (1) City Preservation Office  
(2) Texas Historical Commission

city, town (1) San Antonio (2) Austin

state Texas

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. Anthony Hotel is a 10-story masonry and steel-frame structure located on Travis Park in downtown San Antonio. The present design is the result of a series of remodelings which unified two early hotel towers, producing a uniform exterior appearance. The detailing of the hotel's exterior the Spanish Colonial heritage of San Antonio, while the handsome interior spaces are more classical in their appearance and detailing.

The 10-story St. Anthony Hotel occupies an entire block facing the south side of Travis Park in San Antonio. The primary facade is situated on Travis Street, and includes the two main entrances to the hotel. At street level, the 10-story mass of the building steps out towards Travis Street in the form of a single-story unit forming an enclosed loggia across the front facade. The entrances to the hotel are positioned to each end of the Travis elevation. The west entrance is somewhat more elegantly detailed, primarily as it serves as a pedestrian entrance, with the east entrance designed for vehicular traffic. Both of these entrances are capped by segmental, stepped parapets derived from the 18th-century Spanish Colonial architecture of the region. The central section of the Travis Street elevation is formed by a series of eight arched openings shaded by a continuous molding carried by a series of Corinthian columns. The large, round-arch, glazed openings in this arcade configuration feature rather Baroque wrought-iron railings. The other street-level bays of the entry facade have large, fixed sashes in classically detailed frames, with Ionic pilasters supporting segmentally arched pediments. The two entrances are protected from the rain by canopies hung from chains attached to the facade wall.

The main mass of the hotel, rising seven stories from the ground floor to the penthouse levels, is faced with tawny brick. Double-hung, one-over-one sashes are used throughout these intermediate floors. The planes of the facade walls are accentuated by a series of slight setbacks which relate to detailing found on the base and penthouse levels of the hotel. A simple cornice band divides the penthouse section from the rest of the hotel facade, featuring decorative inset panels at the corners and beneath the mock porticoes of the penthouse. The uppermost two stories of the hotel are faced with brick, and are somewhat more elaborately detailed than what stands beneath them. A series of rather Baroque portico frames dominates this section of the hotel exterior, with one each on the east and west elevations, and three on the main north elevation facing Travis Street. These enframements step out slightly from the plan of the wall, and rise through the tiled hipped roof of the penthouse. Brick pilasters flank large square-headed window openings, and rise up to form finials in the parapet design above the windows and the tiled roof. The three enframements facing Travis Street feature grilled window openings to each side of the major opening. Such windows, with their wrought-iron rejas, or grilles, were a popular element in Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, are very appropriate given the historical background of San Antonio. Beneath each of the large window openings of the penthouse level are decorative blind panels of brickwork that appear as a balustrade beneath the windows, as if the space had once been an open loggia. The hotel is capped by a red-tile roof whose eaves project above the penthouse. The round profiles of the tiles adds another Spanish Colonial element to the building's exterior.

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

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

For NPS use only  
received NOV 27 1984  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The major interior spaces of the hotel are concentrated on the first and second floors. Running parallel to Travis Street for most of the length of the hotel is the elegantly detailed Peacock Alley, the principal lobby space of the structure. This space is articulated by a series of square piers and pilasters which support a heavily coffered ceiling. A modillioned cornice frames each of the coffers. The floor is covered in small, octagonal tiles laid out in a reflected pattern following the ceiling divisions. At the west end of the main floor is the main lobby area, with a curvilinear staircase leading to the mezzanine meeting rooms. This section of the lobby is somewhat more richly detailed than Peacock Alley, with very ornate pier and pilaster capitals. The largest meeting space is the Anacacho Room, which features a mezzanine with a wrought-iron balcony railing.

The present St. Anthony Hotel is the result of a series of building programs that began in 1909 with the construction of the original part, an eight-story tower, located at the corner of Travis and Navarro streets at the west end of the present complex. The following year, an eight-story annex was constructed in the center of the block. These two sections were unified and enlarged to 10 stories in 1935, with the final section of the hotel, the east block being added in 1939-1941. These later building campaigns led to the creation of the Peacock Alley lobby space serving as the most important interior connection between what had been two separate structures. It is interesting to note that the latest addition included a multilevel parking garage, part of which is subterranean. While the hotel has undergone remodelings since 1941, there has been little change in the appearance of the building since that date.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

NOV 27 1984

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURE

Exterior Facade on Jefferson, Travis & Navarro Streets

- DATE: 1909 TOWER NO. 1, eight stories  
J. Flood Walker (San Antonio) & Mauran, Russell & Garden (St Louis),  
Architects  
Willard E. Simpson, Sr. (San Antonio), Structural Engineer  
Seiden-Breck Construction Co. (St. Louis), General Contractor
- 1910 TOWER NO. 2, eight stories  
J. Flood Walker (San Antonio), Architect
- 1935 COMBINING TOWERS NO. 1 & 2 with common facade and 9th & 10th floors  
  
John M. Marriott (San Antonio), Architect  
Willard E. Simpson, Sr. (San Antonio), Structural Engineer
- 1941 TOWER NO. 3, ten floors & Parking Garage  
F. S. Jones (San Antonio), Architect
- 1959 INTERIOR REMODELING  
Atlee B. & Robt. M. Ayres (San Antonio), Architects  
Dorothy Draper (New York City), Interior Design
- 1964 FACADE & INTERIOR REMODELING  
Richard Kent, Inc. (New York City), Interior & Exterior Design

DRAWING NOS.

GENERAL RENOVATIONS, FINAL SCOPE (REV. 15 July 1982)  
VOLUME II, FACADE RENOVATIONS #A-1 thru A-5, EM-1 & 2  
COLOR BOARD NO. 2 (13 July 1982)

DESCRIPTION:

General - In 1935 the original two separated reinforced concrete towers were incorporated as one building with a common facade. Floors 1 & 2 were covered with a St. Louis Roman, dark brown brick veneer capped by a tan, cast-stone water table. Floors 3 thru 9 were covered with a buff brick made in the San Antonio vicinity and capped by a large cast-stone cornice band. The 10th floor continued above with a cream brick veneer and a red Spanish clay-tile mansard roofing alternated with brick parapets.

The original Spanish Colonial revival influence seen in TOWER NO. 1 was retained and the First Floor architectural features of built-up brick pilasters with cast-stone caps, bow-arch brick headers over rectangular windows and cast-stone sills were extended. In addition, the Navarro Street facade was revised and a brick

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

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

For NPS use only

received

NOV 27 1984

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

colonnade and covered walkway added. This feature is the only remnant of this 1935 period at the 1st & 2nd Floor facade other than the cast-stone pediment and copper canopy over the West Travis Street entry.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

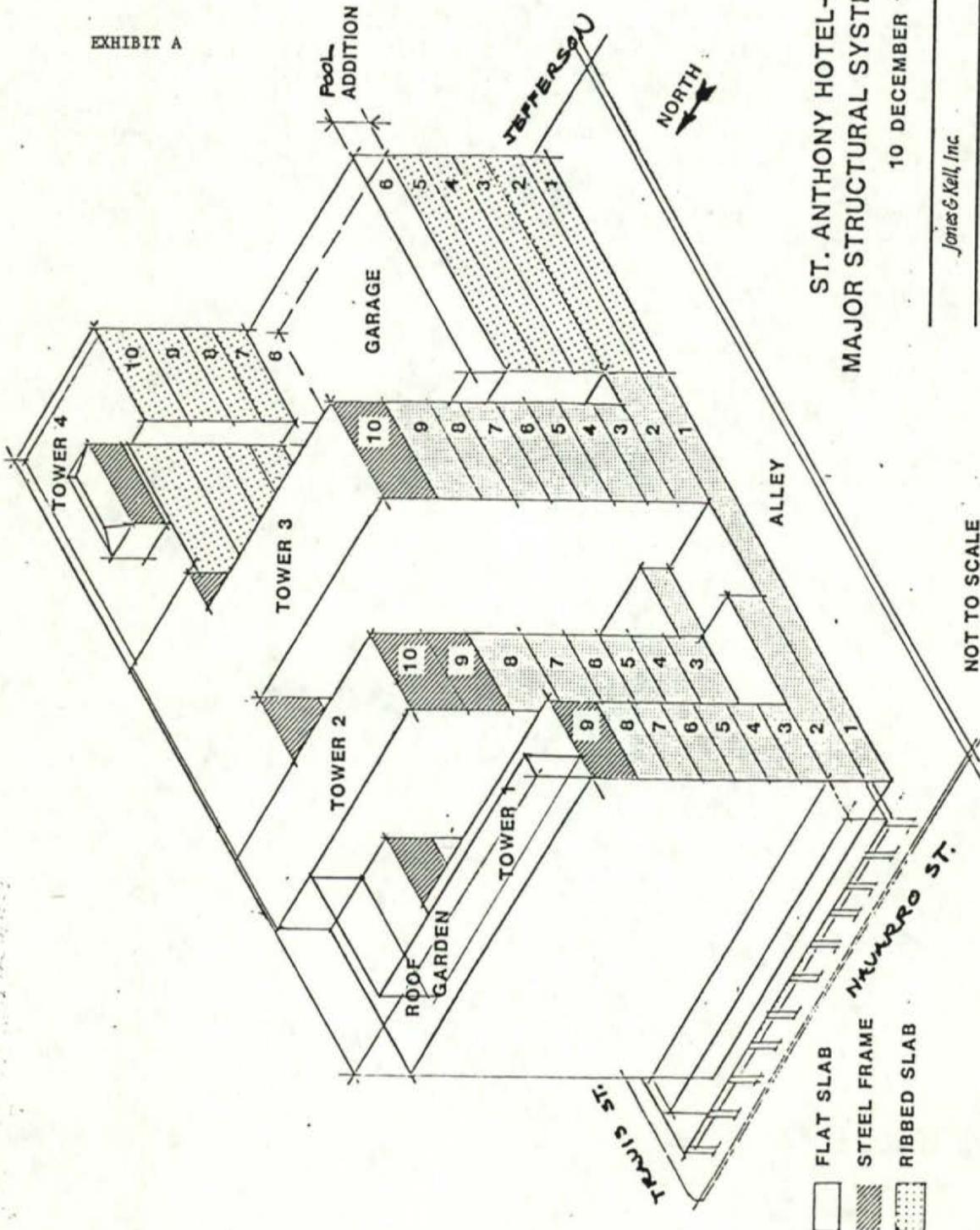
For NPS use only  
received NOV 27 1984  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

EXHIBIT A



ST. ANTHONY HOTEL-IHC  
MAJOR STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

10 DECEMBER 1981

*Jones & Keil, Inc.*

*Architecture, Planning, Interior Design*

NOT TO SCALE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

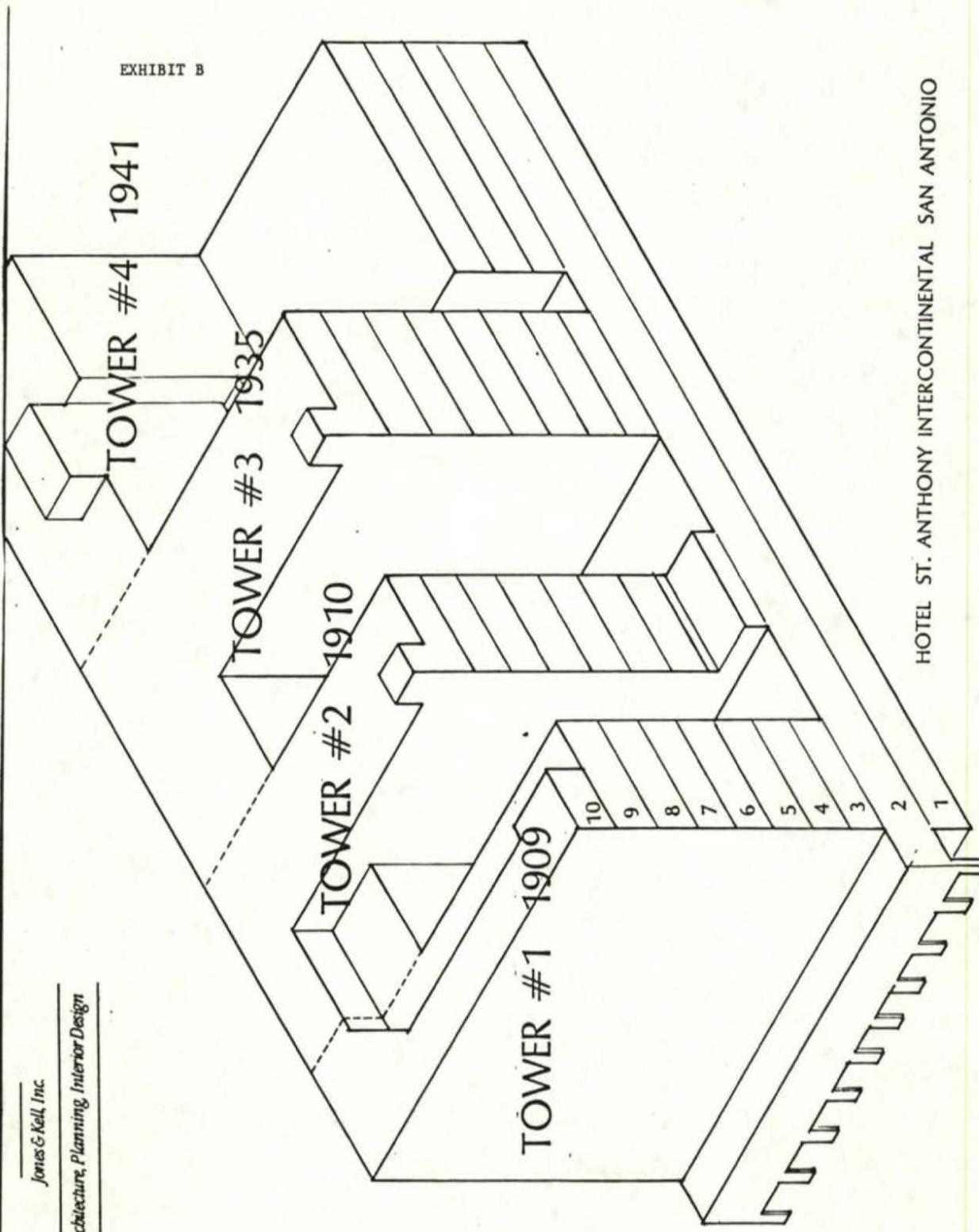
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered  
NOV 27 1984

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5



Jones & Kell, Inc.  
Architecture, Planning, Interior Design

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1909; 1910; 1935; 1939; 1941 **Builder/Architect** 1909 & 1910 - J. Flood Walker, Architect.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

1935 - John M. Marriot, Architect  
Willard E. Simpson, Engineer  
1959 - Interior Remodeling - Atlee B. & Robert Ayres, Architects.

Considered a decade ahead of its time when it was built in 1909, the St. Anthony Hotel represents San Antonio's transformation from a border town into a modern city of the 20th century. The St. Anthony was significant to the commercial development of San Antonio because it provided the necessary hotel facilities for San Antonio's growing visitor and business population during the first two decades of the 1900s. More importantly, by 1935 it had become a source of civic pride and financial accomplishment, and was heralded throughout the United States as the greatest hostelry between New Orleans and San Francisco. The hotel's rehabilitation in 1982 provided another important contribution to the economic stability of San Antonio as a major component of the revitalization of the downtown. It is also historically and architecturally noteworthy because of the many innovations incorporated into its design and the sensitivity employed by various architects and planners during its four periods of construction and alteration.

The progressive business element of the city awakened at the turn of the century and again in the mid-1930s to the fact that San Antonio should actively pursue plans for future growth in order to compete with rival cities. San Antonio was recognized as a distinctive city because of its rich history, its interesting architecture, and its resort attractions. Enterprising businessmen set out to provide the city with the necessary municipal, commercial, office, and hotel developments to complement its historic and natural features.

The St. Anthony Hotel assumed its present configuration between 1935 and 1941, after it was purchased by Ralph Waldo Morrison, a distinguished businessman and entrepreneur who declared his love for the Alamo City and vowed to "give of his material aid to all matters having to do with the city's improvement."<sup>1</sup> The St. Anthony's distinctive quality, which has been preserved throughout the years, was the direct result of Morrison's taste and personality.

When Morrison bought the institution, he found it in a deteriorating condition, struggling to remain open as were many businesses in San Antonio during the depression<sup>2</sup> years. Owned by a Massachusetts Insurance Company who had foreclosed on the mortgage, the hotel required refurbishing and personal attention. Indeed, Mr. Morrison's decision to purchase<sup>3</sup> the proud dame of hotels, the St. Anthony, and then to spend one million dollars on the project during a devastatingly depressed period was a daring step taken for the economic health of the local community, an indication of the confidence he placed in the city's future. Morrison's decision assured the preservation of the St. Anthony Hotel for future generations to enjoy.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

NOV 27 1981

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Civic leaders began a campaign in the early 1900s to make San Antonio a paragon city of the new century. Accordingly, two prominent citizens and wealthy cattlemen, A. H. Jones and B. L. Naylor, financed the construction of the two initial towers and hired local architect J. Flood Walker to design them. These men recognized the need for a luxury hotel that would cater to cattlemen and ranchers visiting San Antonio. A local author reported that the St. Anthony was one of the greatest factors in changing Old San Antonio into a modern city. The San Antonio Daily Express of January 3, 1909, stated that the vast improvements in hotel facilities in the city during the year should not be underestimated, and that the new St. Anthony Hotel would strengthen the local realty market.

In spite of the Depression, Ralph W. Morrison purchased the hotel in 1935. The effects of the Great Depression came late to San Antonio and South Texas and never reached the financial depths found in the East. Nevertheless, the period from 1930 to 1940 was a trying and difficult one.<sup>4</sup> Commercial activity decreased notably and the city's population grew very slowly, as verified by the United States Census Bureau figures of 231,542 in 1930 and 253,000 in 1940. Most local merchants faced hard times and many smaller stores were forced to close. By the mid 1930s San Antonio had slipped into third place behind Dallas and Houston. Its economy had failed to keep pace with those cities because it had previously grown as a mercantile and financial center geographically removed from other cities. San Antonio was the natural center of a large farming and ranching area, and its economy depended heavily on the related industries such as meat-packing, stockyards, and produce terminals. The emerging military establishments and the oil and gas operations further solidified San Antonio's regionalism.

Morrison, born in Missouri, developed his fortune in public utilities. In 1916, Mr. Morrison combined a group of small public utilities in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Mississippi into the Central Power and Light Company with an office in San Antonio. The company operated directly or through its subsidiary central power stations, as well as gas, water, street railway and ice businesses in about 70 cities, serving more than 32,000 customers. In 1925, Morrison sold the business organization to the Middle East Utilities Company for \$20,000,000.<sup>5</sup> He is also credited with building the first diesel locomotive which ran from Laredo to Corpus Christi.

Under Morrison's auspices the hotel flourished and achieved its world-wide reputation for opulence and elegance. Morrison employed architect John M. Marriot to unify the two earlier towers (and a new third tower) with a common facade and lobby, and to add two floors to the lower, or 1909, tower.<sup>6</sup>

The St. Anthony was a innovative institution from its inception, and Morrison insured its first-class status when it became the first completely air-conditioned hotel in the world.<sup>7</sup> An atmosphere of quiet elegance pervaded the Hotel which was distinguished for its readiness to humor any fanciful desire that came into the head of a whimsical patron. It conveyed the impression of a well-run home rather than a "luxurious tavern."

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

NOV 27 1984

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

In 1941, a fourth and final tower, which included a parking garage, was constructed, offering the world's first drive-in garage and registration facility. The garage permitted guests to drive their cars in and take an elevator to their floor without the necessity of going through the lobby.

Morrison's sophisticated influence manifested itself in the St. Anthony's interior as well. French Empire antiques decorated the lobby, oriental rugs adorned the floors, and original paintings by such noted artists as Cartier, McCann, Remington, and DeYoung were displayed throughout the hotel. Perhaps the best-known is "Monarch of the Golden West," a painting of a mighty eagle by James Ferdinand McCann, an Irish artist who fell in love with Texas and settled in San Antonio. It hangs in the lobby. A rosewood and gold-leaf Stanwick piano, commissioned by the Russian Embassy in Paris in 1924, was purchased by Morrison in 1936 from the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., for \$27,000. It helps create the atmosphere of quiet elegance sought by Morrison, and is located in the lobby.

After Morrison's death in 1948, the St. Anthony was operated by his trustees. In the 1960s the hotel was renovated once again, and the private St. Anthony Club was incorporated into the existing building. In 1971, financier William Osche purchased and redecorated the building.

Intercontinental Hotels Corp. acquired the St. Anthony in April of 1981. After being closed for 11 months, it officially reopened in May 1983, after a 20 million-dollar restoration program which highlighted the 1935-41 historic period, the era during which the most significant interior and exterior modifications occurred.

The integrity of the St. Anthony Hotel has been greatly enhanced by the latest restoration program. The St. Anthony is able once again to continue the fine tradition it established over its 74-year span. Its history and that of San Antonio are closely intertwined. The hotel has continued to grow with the city, expanding in 1910, 1935, and 1941, with continued modernization in facilities. The restoration is just as important to the city today as its construction was before World War I, when it joined the Gunter and Crockett hotels and office towers such as the Gibbs, Rand, and Gunter buildings to change the skyline of San Antonio. The hotel is a major component of the redevelopment of downtown San Antonio, and is a designated City of San Antonio Historic Landmark.

Christened in honor of the city's namesake, San Antonio de Padua, the St. Anthony was hailed by one writer as ". . . The Waldorf of the Prairie."<sup>8</sup> It attracted such distinguished visitors from all over the world as Douglas MacArthur, Will Rogers, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and John Nance Garner, to mention a few.

Architects

The St. Anthony Hotel seems to have been the most notable project for architects J. Flood Walker, John M. Marriot, and F. S. Jones, perhaps because very little is known of their work. All three designed substantial residences in the developing neighborhoods surrounding Downtown San Antonio.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

NOV 27 1984

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

3

Atlee and Robert Ayers, architects of the interior remodeling of 1959 are very well known throughout the State of Texas. The father-and-son team is remembered for such important structures in San Antonio as the Municipal Auditorium, Tower Life Building, Taj Mahal at Randolph Air Force Base, and an addition to the Menger Hotel. Their works generally incorporated Spanish Colonial elements; residences throughout the early 20th-century neighborhood called Monte Vista are testimonials to the excellent interpretation of the Spanish Colonial Revival in San Antonio.

---

<sup>1</sup>Ellis A. Davis and Edwin H. Grobe, 1930, p. 357.

<sup>2</sup>Green Peyton, 1946, p. 65.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 65.

<sup>4</sup>Sam Woolford, 1963, p. 168.

<sup>5</sup>Ellis A. Davis and Edwin H. Grobe, p. 357.

<sup>6</sup>See St. Anthony Hotel Major Structural Systems, Exhibits A and B, herein.

<sup>7</sup>Edward W. Heusinger, 1951, p. 70.

<sup>8</sup>Peyton, p. 57.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Davis, Ellis A. and Edwin H. Grobe. The New Encyclopedia of Texas. Dallas: Texas Development Bureau, 1930.

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name San Antonio East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	5	4	9	6	0	0	3	2	5	5	2	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

New City Block 415, Lot Numbers A-7, A-8, A-9, Block Number 18, Zoning District I, City of San Antonio, Bexar County

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Osborne Bobbitt (with John C. Ferguson, THC)

organization date revised August 20, 1984

street & number 410 King William Street telephone (512) 227-7804

city or town San Antonio state Texas 78204

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Laurie J. Jannell*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5 Nov. 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

NOV 27 1984

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dielman, Leo M. J., Collection. Unidentified newspaper article on file with Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, the Alamo, San Antonio.

Heusinger, Edward W. A Chronology of Events in San Antonio. San Antonio: Standard Printing Co., 1951.

Peyton, Green. San Antonio: City in the Sun. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1946.

Woolford, Sam. San Antonio... a History for Tomorrow. San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1963.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

St. Anthony Hotel  
Bexar County  
TEXAS

*Substantive Review*

*10-3-83*

*NOV 27 1984*

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: *1/11/85*

Action:  ACCEPT

RETURN *1-7-85*

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:  
*See attached*

Recom./Criteria *Return*

Reviewer *APSchlaef*

Discipline *Archit History*

Date *12/17/84*

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

*See attached*

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

See attached

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 Amy SchlageL

Signed Beth Cisneros Date 1/7/85 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

St. Anthony Hotel  
Bexar County  
TEXAS

Substantive Review

Working No. OCT 3 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 11/3/83 - 11/17/83

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 11/17/83

REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*The hotel has undergone numerous additions and the historical character of the building has been determined by expansion of the property between 1935 and 1941. Therefore, exceptional significance needs to be specifically discussed and a better description of the evolution of the property would be helpful.*

Recom./Criteria Return  
 Reviewer Bushong  
 Discipline Historian  
 Date 11/16/83

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

*Please describe the various building programs in greater detail or provide a sketch plan of the building indicating the dates of the various components of the building constructed between 1909 and 1941.*

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

It is stated in the nomination that the present appearance of the hotel was created during the 1935-1941 building modifications and that these building programs determined the historical character of the property. Therefore, the exceptional significance of the property must be explicitly justified and demonstrated to be of exceptional value to San Antonio's history, architecture, or culture. Please identify all properties in the region that portray the same values or historical associations and demonstrate how the St. Anthony best represents the development of San Antonio, i.e. commercial development as checked on the nomination form.

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 Bill Busting

Signed Beth Givens Date 11/17/83 Phone: 343-9542

① period x  
 comm  
 vote  
 why signy  
 except  
 city - St A  
 ② during Depression  
 only building hotel  
 other hotels in SA  
 why signy  
 except  
 ③ should innovat  
 except  
 signy  
 why

Reviewer's Comments:

The building's period of significance dates from 1935-on when it achieved its current configuration. In this case, as noted in the return sheet of 11/16/83, the exceptional significance of the property must be specifically discussed in Item #8.

7. Description. The revised description statement is an excellent presentation which sets forth the history and development of the property.

8. Significance.

Justification of Areas Checked: Although much of the discussion in this section concerns the architectural development of the building from 1935-on, the category "architecture" and/or "engineering" is not checked. Given the innovative technological advancements of this property (first air conditioned hotel, first drive-in garage and registration facility) and the architectural design of the interior work, should either of these areas be checked?

If either case is to be made, it must be documented for exceptional significance within the context of San Antonio's hotel history and development. For example, were these technological developments illustrative of paramount events in the architectural history of the city? How do they reflect a conscious effort for new thinking in design when compared to other hotels of this time period? What relationship do they have to other buildings of the period of a similar type in the city?

Justification of Exception: Using the Area of Significance as Commerce, the nomination must explicitly state the exceptional value of the hotel to the historical development of the city. For example, what role did the hotel play during the Depression years in the city? Was it the only luxury hotel in the city during this time, and as part of that, was it the home of various significant events such as charity functions, etc., that had an *exceptionally* significant role in the maintenance of the city's economy during this time? Does the hotel share fundamental associations with the historical development of San Antonio during the Depression and the early World War II years? Were the full facilities and entertainment amenities constructed to satisfy a specific local or traveling clientele that made a major contribution to the commercial and architectural development of the city? Since the form indicates that the Depression years were not as catastrophic for the City as other places across the country, were there other hotels in the city that were of a similar character? Was Morrison an exceptional figure within the Depression history of San Antonio?

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Saint Anthony Hotel  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 10/10/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/26/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86002186

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 11.24.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Approved**

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: Gregory Smith  
 National Register Coordinator  
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: St. Anthony Hotel (amendment to change period of significance), San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

96002189

DATE: September 15, 2014

The following materials are submitted:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination amendment for the St. Anthony Hotel (amendment to change period of significance).
	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 TIFF photograph files and PDF
	Correspondence

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do\_\_\_) (do not\_\_\_) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

