

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 677981

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 13 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 25 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Texas Avenue Buildings--800 Block, Shreveport

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

824-864 Texas Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Shreveport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

4th - Buddy Leach

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY

Caddo

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

see attached continuation sheet - "Owners of Property"

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caddo Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

500 Texas Street

CITY, TOWN

Shreveport

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1979

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana 70804

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The row of two-story buildings on the west side of the 800 Block of Texas Avenue are examples of urban residential and light commercial architecture characteristic of the early 1900's. The overall growth of the block was influenced by urban planning philosophies of earlier periods, that being the narrow and deep urban lot. Exterior and party walls are of loadbearing masonry and/or stone with wood construction for floors and roof. Many of the buildings originally functioned as a "ma/pa" operation, that being a first floor retail use with the store owners' residence on the second floor.

The general architectural character of the approximately 520 feet of contiguous building facades exhibit a variety of pilasters, engaged columns, semi-circular arched openings, and recesses, modillioned cornices, column capitals and bases, architraves, and multiple other applications of classical details. The repetition of various building materials and details and the rhythm established by the second floor fenestration make the entire row of buildings perform in concert as an example of early 20th century urban architecture.

*See attached "West Elevation of the 800 Block of Texas Avenue."

Building A (c. 1908-1909) 824 Texas Avenue

This building exhibits an astylar quality. As is typical with buildings of this era, the first floor windows were much larger than the second story windows. The front elevation is topped by a brick cornice which displays four rectangular embellishments. The first floor has been altered in recent years.

Building B (c. 1908-1909) 828-830 Texas Avenue

Building B is also of an astylar nature. Additions have been made to the first floor in recent years.

Building C (c. 1969) 832-834 Texas Avenue

Building C is similar in its fenestration to both A and B. The parapet is raked at various degrees from the center and capped with concrete.

Building D (c. 1909) 836-842 Texas Avenue

The building is similar to both A and B. There has been some alteration to the cornice and also additions to the first floor. A strip across the upper portion, front elevation, has been filled, obliterating a name and date.

Building E (c. 1907) 844 Texas Avenue

Building E is characterized by a classical Palladian fenestration pattern at the second floor level. The windows are framed by pilasters with a simple base and capital supporting a plain frieze. Atop a parapet wall is a cornice composed of a stone corona and symatium. There have been additions to the first floor.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Texas Ave. Historic District is a visually distinct and discreet grouping of early twentieth century brick commercial buildings. In many ways these buildings are typical of their period, being brick, two stories high, with shop fronts on the ground floor, and the major styling confined to the second story. In two respects, however, the Texas Ave. buildings represent a superior grouping of such buildings. This is a subtle superiority which is not strikingly apparent to the casual observer, but which emerges upon close examination of the district, and comparison with similar areas around the state.

1. Six of the ten buildings are first rate examples of Renaissance revival architecture. While average examples usually feature corbeled brick work, shallow pilaster strips, square head windows, and scant ornamentation, these six buildings are intensively and vigorously articulated with Renaissance features. The second story facades have a pronounced rhythm of pavilions and modules featuring tri-partite arches, Palladian window motifs, parapets, cornices on consoles, oculi, pediments, heavy brick quoins, heavy vousoirs, and heavily molded pilasters. Indeed, several of these facades approach the dignity of piano nobiles. This high style pretention which imbues more than half the Texas Avenue buildings, gives the whole district a particular character which distinguishes it from other comparable groupings of commercial vernacular buildings both in Shreveport and in the state of Louisiana as a whole.

2. With an overall length of more than 250 feet, over two city blocks, the Texas Avenue district has impressive continuity of street frontage. Indeed, it is one of the longest continuous groupings of early twentieth century commercial buildings in the state. The Texas Avenue district conveys therefore, the feeling of a period commercial street much better than in most comparable areas where some buildings have been lost, and there is infill or a "missing tooth" effect.

The Shreve Town Company was formed on May 27, 1836. Shreve Town was given incorporated status by the legislature of Louisiana on March 20, 1839. "Traders had long faced the bluff" above the Red River where the town was established. "A high ridge with the land falling off perceptibly on both sides began at this point and meandered off toward Texas. Americans in their covered wagons moving westward invariably traveled the ridge to keep out of the mud, and long before Shreveport was founded it was being called the Texas Trail. Today this same trail is still the high road to Texas from

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached page.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 2 9 3 5 0	3 5 9 6 8 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries encompass the row of buildings itself - a discrete grouping wholly separate from the surrounding buildings both by the street pattern and style and period of construction.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

S. Judd Tooke, Past President

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservations of Shreveport

DATE

February 1979

STREET & NUMBER

711 Texas, P. O. Box 2207

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Shreveport

STATE

Louisiana

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

Bernard Larri

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/5/79

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Atkins

DATE 5-25-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Bell Telovich

DATE

May 24/1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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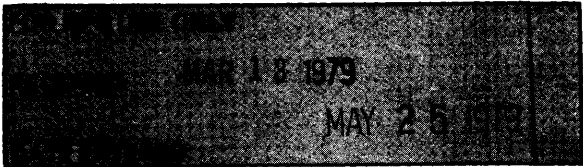
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PROPERTY OWNERS

1. Ralph O. Kiper
Petroleum Tower
Shreveport, LA 71101
2. John H. Stalnaker
925 Camilla Drive
Shreveport, LA 71104
3. Bobby Cochran
P. O. Box 6027
Shreveport, LA 71106
4. Cecil T. Baker
6254 Trailwood Terrace
Shreveport, LA 71109
5. C. W. Lane Co., Inc.
Lane Building
Shreveport, LA 71101
6. Mithra Grotto
c/o 7101 Southern Ave.
Shreveport, LA
7. James Jacob Katz, et al
3782 Greenway Place
Shreveport, LA 71105
8. Jimmy Alexander et al
P. O. Box 21
Rhinehart, LA 71363

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Discription (cont'd)

Building F (c. 1911) 846-848 Texas Avenue

Building F displays stone pilasters at the second floor level. Each pilaster has a simple base and capital, is an architrave, frieze, and cornice supported by modillions rising from the frieze. Pilasters are visible in the parapet wall above the cornice. There are arched windows between each pilaster.

Building G (c. 1910) 850-854 Texas Avenue

Building G has stone pilasters, which establish three bays and rise from the sidewalk to the architrave atop the second story windows. There are three second story windows in each bay. The center window in each bay is emphasized by engaged columns which rise from the sill on either side of the center window to the cornice. The cornice forms part of the three broken pediments which are supported by the engaged columns. There have been additions to the first floor.

Building H (1916-1917 Architect: Edward F. Neild) 856-858 Texas Avenue

Cantoned stone columns rise from the street level to the first floor ceiling line. Here there is a spandrel panel composed of an architrave, frieze with square embellishments at regular intervals, and a cornice at the sill line of the second floor windows. Three bays are established by four pilasters rising from the cornice. The center bay is wider than the two outside bays and contains three rectangular windows in recessed archways. The two outer bays each contain a rectangular window topped by a modillion supporting the cornice. Above the cornice extends the parapet wall. The parapet wall is raked above the center bay.

Building I (c. 1908) 860-862 Texas Avenue

Pilasters divide the front of this building into three equal bays. The pilasters extend above the parapet wall which is crowned by a stone cornice on the two outside bays and a fronton over the center bay. Between each pilaster is a palladial window arrangement. There have been additions to the first floor.

Building J (1916-1917, Architect: Edward F. Neild) 864 Texas Avenue

This building is exactly like building "H" with the exception of the cornice atop the pilasters and spanning the entire elevation. The cornice has been removed. Buildings H and J were built at the same time by Col. Taliaferro Alexander on either side of Building I which Alexander bought in 1917.

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Texas Avenue - 800 Block

Shreveport has many other early 20th century commercial buildings; none are close enough to the Texas Avenue buildings to join the buildings as part of a district. The nearest ones are indicated on the attached map in red. In any case, the buildings are significant as an unbroken row. As such their essential significance is as a distinct entity rather than as a part of anything larger.

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Description (cont'd).

Dates of the buildings above have been established through some direct information, however, most of the factors relied on were derived through interviews with former residents of the avenue, study of pertinent Shreveport City directories and the existence of several documents transferring interests in existing common brick walls.

As indicated above, most of the street level facades have been altered through the years. As was common elsewhere, most of the buildings were owned by absentee landlords for whom they were a commercial investment. As the number and type of tenant changed the glass wall and door configurations were altered.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Significance (Cont'd).

the river (Red) up Texas Street to Common, Common Street to Texas Avenue, Texas Avenue to the Mansfield road and the Greenwood road.¹ Common Street is the western-most boundary of the original Shreve Town grid and only where Milam, up from the river, becomes an Avenue does the Texas Trail begin. The 800 block of Texas is historically the first block of the old Texas Trail.

The 800 block of Texas Avenue, then the Texas road, was actually owned by Walker R. Carter just before he finally dedicated it to the City of Shreveport in 1866, long before his W. R. Carter Ten Acre Lot #5 Subdivision came within the city limits. That subdivision plat was not filed into the Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish until 1874, apparently in conjunction with Mr. Carter's bankruptcy proceedings in the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis.

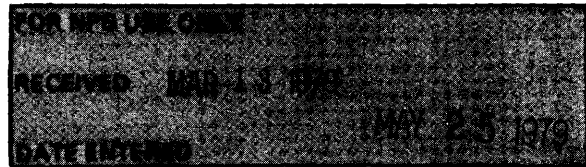
Shreveport was a rough river town during its early years, having already been populated by Caddo Indians, traders and adventurers before actual incorporation and the coming of "city fathers." "As a busy port for steamboats plying up and down the Red River and the converging point for wagon trains moving westward over the Texas Trail, Shreveport probably attracted more than its share of adventurers, gamblers and dance hall girls. Three breweries, Schaftner, Mulhaup and Bercher, were located on the Texas Trail, and Texas Avenue was called Mugginsville, for a saloon keeper who operated at Texas and Cotton Streets",² near the upper end of the 800 block of Texas Avenue.

The basic character of the area nominated has not varied greatly since the late 19th century. Although the buildings were not built until 1907-1917, the ethnic groups who populated them date from at least the turn of the century.

Through the end of the nineteenth century as "King Cotton" and commerce on the river ran its course, the trail west was well traveled by wagon, horse and mule on their way to the Mexican territory and eventually Texas. As the twentieth century approached, railroads began to replace the steamboat and paddlewheel as the major commercial conveyance and then the discovery of oil transformed Shreveport. In 1906 the Caddo Parish area produced 4560 barrels of oil. By 1910 the figure was 5,090,893 barrels. Shreveport was on its way to becoming a major city as fortunes were amassed in the burgeoning petroleum industry. This wealth helped encourage the building of more permanent commercial buildings, especially along the 800 block of Texas Avenue.

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Significance (Cont'd).

The row of buildings extant, being nominated here, ranges from municipal nos. 824 through 868. Originally, the first block of the Old Texas Trail numbered buildings beginning at 800. However, in the 1940's, Milam Street, going west, was taken through a part of the area, over to the Municipal Auditorium and some of the buildings were demolished at that time. The remaining buildings in the row of commercial structures were all built between 1907 and 1917 and is an excellent example of urban residential architecture of the early 1900's.

The first brick structure on the block was 844 Texas Avenue, known historically as the Nader Building. The Monsour family (Lebenese lineage) had operated a business on Texas Avenue since at least 1903 and George Monsour retired in 1910 and sold his business to Amin Nader (Lebenese) who had worked for him. Shortly thereafter, Amin sold out to his son Issac A. "Ike" Nader who had married George Monsour's daughter, Mamie, prior to 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Nader lived or operated a business in that location (except for a 15 year period when they were next door at 846 Texas Avenue) until 1975 when Mr. Nader retired. The Naders lived on Texas for almost 30 years; three of their sons were born at 846, one at 844.

Mr. Nader was the only ethnic proprietor of a business on the 800 block of Texas Avenue ever to own his own building. In 1929, Col. Taliaferro Alexander, whose family owned portions of over half of the block from 1895 to the present, came collecting the rent as he did monthly. He needed cash and offered 844 to Mr. Nader which he bought at the time of the Great Depression.

This block was populated by a diversity of ethnic groups and businesses. On the northeast end of the block at 824 Texas Avenue, Joseph Graeber, a Jewish tailor, operated the New Orleans Tailoring Co. uninterrupted from 1908 through at least 1930. The next two buildings have been furniture store locations ever since they were built over 60 years ago. 828-830 Texas Avenue, historically Vaughn Furniture since the 1940's, opened first as Caddo Furniture in 1909. 832-834 Texas Avenue has been a series of furniture establishments since 1916 when Southern Furniture opened. Earlier in the 1900's on that location, George and John Monsour had operated dry goods and grocery stores intermittantly. In fact, for the first 35-40 years of the twentieth century, Monsours were all over the 800 block of Texas, residing and operating businesses. Today, there are still two Monsours in Shreveport, downtown: Monsours #1, a lounge on Edwards and Monsour's, a restaurant at 219 Texas Street. Both of these proprietors grew up on Texas Avenue.

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Significance (Cont'd).

G. J. Monsour ran a grocery in the 836-842 Texas Avenue building, followed by Hadad and Abrams, confectionary and A. M. Nasser, confectionary. Through 848 were the Naders, Abramson, Rubin and Veto Viola operating usually dry goods and groceries. A curious addition to this collection of Lebenese and Italian families was Lee Yuen who operated a Chinese restaurant at 844 Texas, the Nader building, from 1912 to 1922 when it became the Dixie Cafe.

In the upper end of the block, businesses operated by Negroes (denominated 'colored' by the city directories) were firmly established. At 850 J. M. Blocker, 'colored', operated a restaurant from 1912 until 1919. At 852, the Avenue Pharmacy (c) operated on the ground floor with a group of 4 or 5 Negro doctors practicing upstairs. At 854, News Enterprise, a 'colorea' weekly paper and various other publications operated in the 1910's and Dr. T. M. Johnson, a black dentist, has been practicing his profession on the second floor of that address since 1923.

In 860, before 1920 there was a black shaving parlor, doctors, dentists, barbers and even a Notary Public. In 862, the G. U. O. of O. F. (Odd Fellows) building, from 1909 to 1923, a melting pot was evident with Negro doctors, Fung Kee, Hop Lee and George Asaf along with Odd Fellows Hall upstairs at 862½.

The newest building on the block, 864-868 Texas Avenue, built in 1917, was New York Furniture into the late 1960's operated by Nathan Murov.

FOOTNOTES

1. Carruth, Viola. Caddo: 1,000 - A History of Shreveport, (Shreveport Magazine) Shreveport, 1970. p. 20.
2. Ibid., p. 32.

Do Not Film

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Addendum to U. S. Post Office and Courthouse, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

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8. Statement of Significance

The post office lobby, parallel to Texas Street, because of the repeated bay spaces of the exterior with inlaid marble pilasters and handsome dome-vaulted ceilings is a significant architectural feature of the building.

Submitted April, 1978.

Addendum to U. S. Post Office and Courthouse, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana which was entered on the National Register September 12, 1974.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Maps

1. Original grid map of Shreve Town, 1839.
2. Environs of Shreveport and its Defences, 1864 (Surveyed by C. U. Lenoir; drawn by Lieut. Heidfreich under direction of Major Venables Engr. Corps C. S. A.).
3. Bird's Eye View of Shreveport, Louisiana, 1872 (drawn by H. Brosins; according to the map of O. L. Van Greelan).
4. DeVoe's Map of Shreveport, Louisiana and Environs, copyright 1896 by Wm. R. DeVoe.

Carruth, Viola, Caddo: 1,000; Shreveport Magazine (Shreveport, Louisiana) 1970.

City Directories of Shreveport, Louisiana, 1900-1925.

Conveyance Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; Tax Assessors's Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Interviews

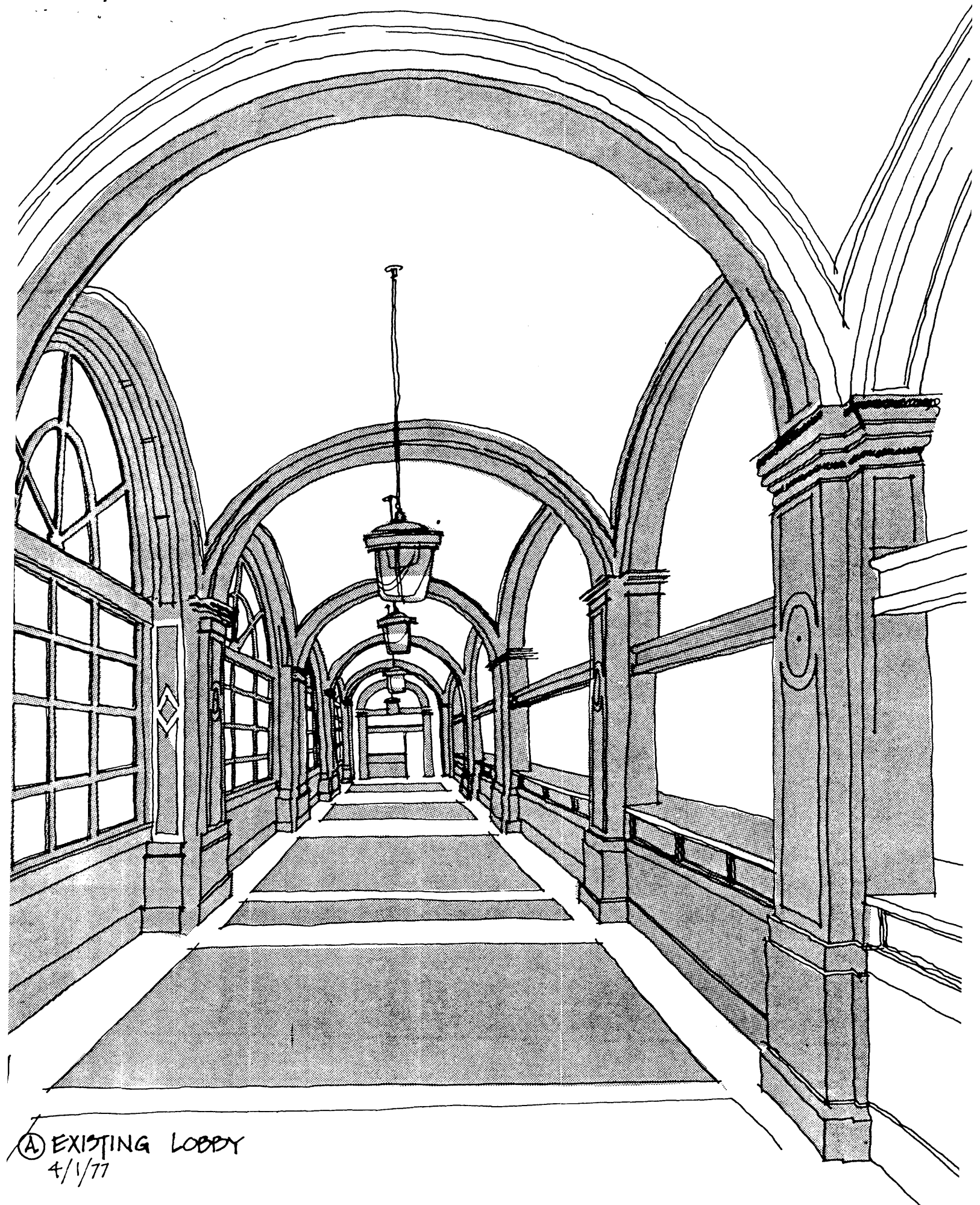
Baker, Cecil T., proprietor of 832 Texas Avenue for many years; by John Stalnaker (present owner of Nader Building) October, 1978.

Johnson, Dr. T. M., dentist practicing at 854 Texas Avenue, 1923 to present; by John Stalnaker, November, 1978.

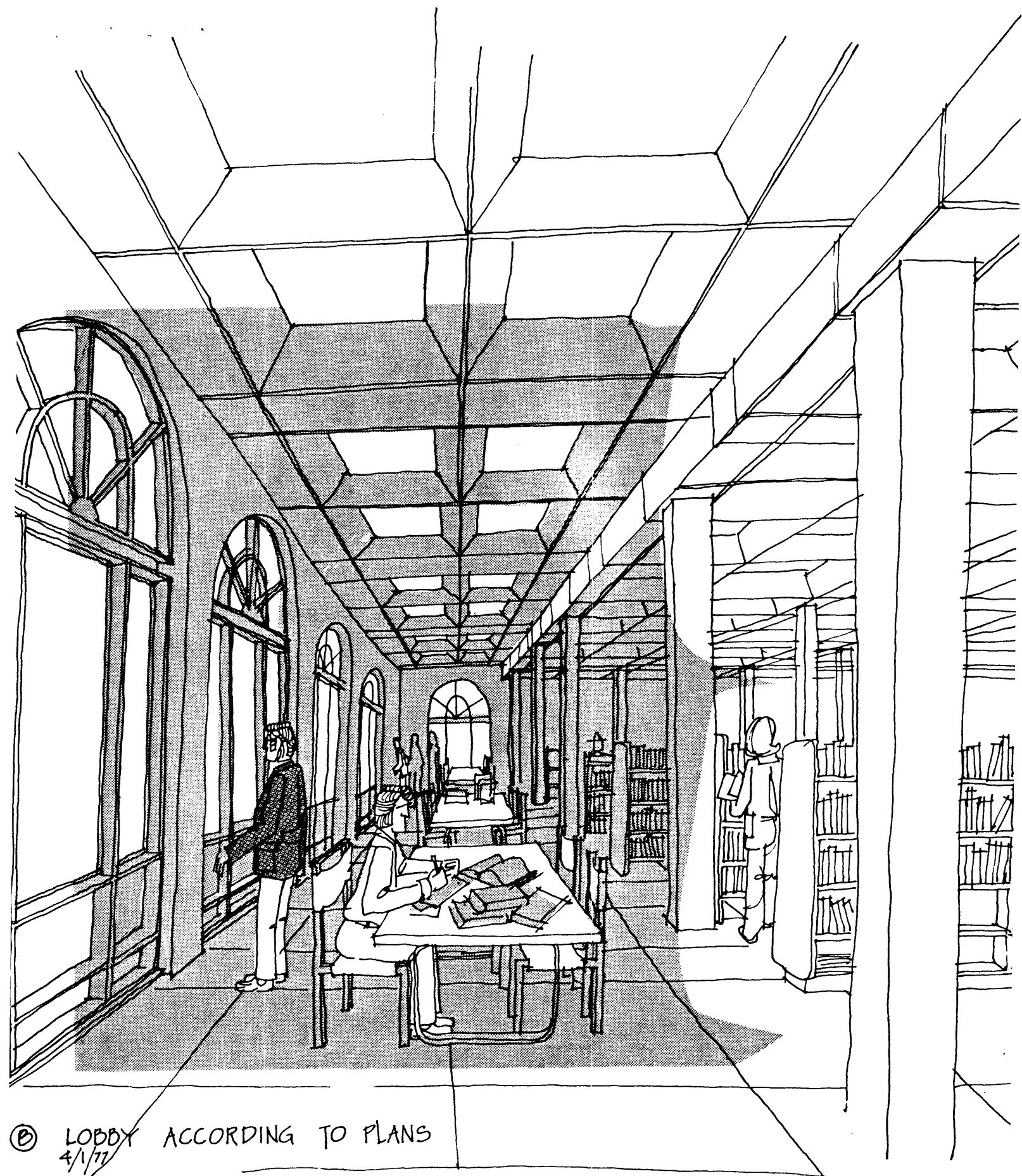
Nader, Issac; resident, proprietor, land-owner in 800 block Texas Avenue, west side, pre-1910 to 1975; by John Stalnaker, from 1975 through 1977.

Nader, Issac, Mrs.; wife of Issac Nader; by John Stalnaker, from 1975 through 1978, particularly October, 1978.

Ritman, Abe; owner of Abe's Seafood whose father ran a tailor shop in 800 block of Texas Avenue, west side in 1920's; by John Stalnaker, October 1978.



① EXISTING LOBBY
4/1/77



© LOBBY ACCORDING TO PLANS
4/1/77



3) LOBBY AS PROPOSED BY H.P.S.
4/1/77

PROPERTY MAP

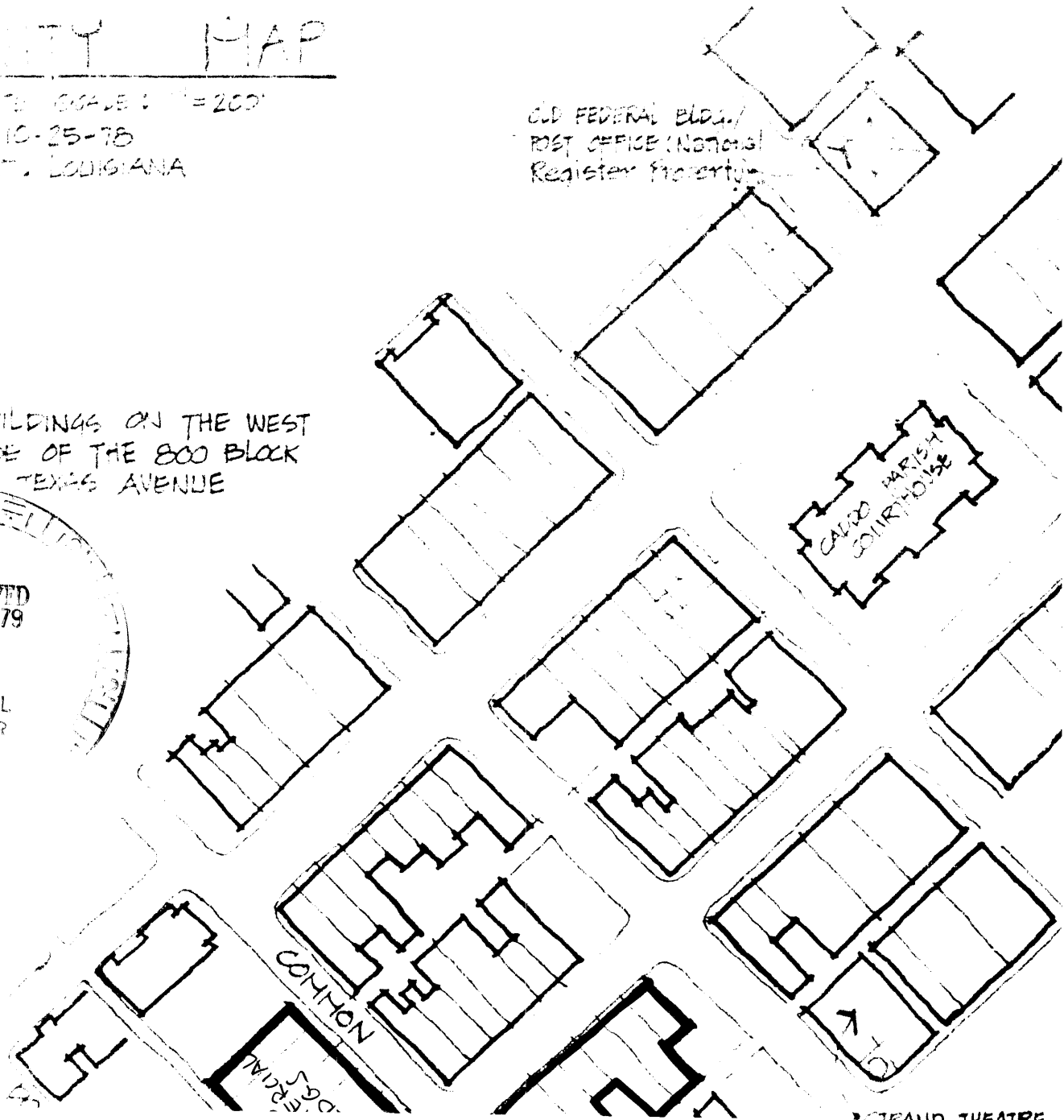
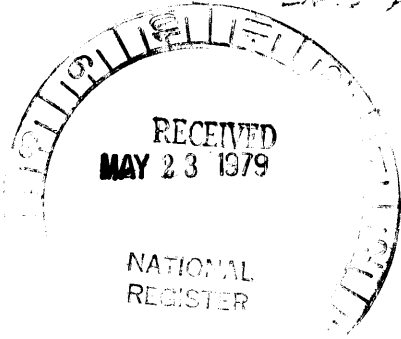
SCALE: 1" = 200'
DATE: 10-25-78
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

OLD FEDERAL BLDG./
POST OFFICE (National
Register Property)



NORTH

BUILDINGS ON THE WEST
SIDE OF THE 800 BLOCK
OF TEXAS AVENUE



25