

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

562601



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building

Other name/site number: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 2720 Leeland Street

City or town: Houston

State: Texas

County: Harris

Not for publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐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 ☒ localApplicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

5/10/18

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: _____

Signature of the Keeper

6/25/2018
Date of Action

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris 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: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE / Office Building

Current Functions: VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification: MODERN MOVEMENT / Modern Classical

Principal Exterior Materials: CONCRETE, METAL, GLASS

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6-7)

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Commerce, Industry, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1938-1956

Significant Dates: 1938

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

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

Architect/Builder: Russell Brown Company, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-17)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 18-19)

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

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre.

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 29.743169°N Longitude: -95.353422°W

Verbal Boundary Description: The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building occupies TRS 1 & 2 ABST 75 H TIERWESTER, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Boundary Justification: Once part of a larger functionally-related complex, the boundary includes the only remaining legal parcel historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Hannah Curry-Shearouse, Lauren Maas

Organization: SWCA Environmental Consultants

Street & number: 10245 W. Little York, Suite 600

City or Town: Houston

State: TX

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Date: October 2017

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheet 20)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 21-24)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 5, 25-33)

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photographs

Name of Property: Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building
City or Vicinity: Houston
County, State: Harris, TX
Photographer: SWCA Environmental Consultants
Date Photographed: October 2017

Description: North façade, view south, with original glass block, exterior fluting, and fenestration pattern.
Photo Number: 0001

Description: North façade and partial view west elevation, view southeast.
Photo Number: 0002

Description: East elevation and north façade with original fenestration pattern, view southwest.
Photo Number: 0003

Description: South and east elevations, view northwest. Original fenestration patterns and exterior materials remain.
Photo Number: 0004

Description: Detail of entrance on north façade, view south. Original fluting, glass block, dentils, and flag pole remain in place.
Photo Number: 0005

Description: Interior, first floor hallway in east wing, view north. Original structure and terrazzo flooring remain in place.
Photo Number: 0006

Description: First floor lobby, view northeast. Original recessed ceiling details and front door openings remain with glass block windows.
Photo Number: 0007

Description: Third floor lobby, view northeast. Original fossilized limestone wainscot and black stone baseboard remain in place.
Photo Number: 0008

Description: Stair detail, view east. Original handrails, fossilized limestone wainscot, and black stone stringers remain in place.
Photo Number: 0009

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.

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation (SWSC) Building is located at 2720 Leeland Street, approximately 1.25 miles southeast of downtown Houston, Texas. It is a three-story, H-plan building with a flat roof, fire-resistant steel construction, and concrete tilt-slab walls. Built in 1938 and designed by Russell Brown Company, the Modern Classical building was part of the Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation's first industrial campus in the United States which occupied three blocks along Leeland Street. The auxiliary buildings and structures were demolished c. 2006 and the SWSC building is all that remains. Despite a few changes over time including window replacements, the building retains a high level of historic integrity.

Location and Setting

The SWSC Building is a 25,167 square-foot building located at 2720 Leeland Street in an area known as East Downtown approximately 1.25 miles southeast of downtown Houston, Texas. It is a three-story, H-Plan building with a flat roof, fire-resistant steel frame, and concrete tilt-slab walls that are painted white. Described as Modern Classical, the building exhibits streamlined and abstracted elements of Classical architecture with a few hints of Art Moderne detailing.

North (Primary) Elevation

The building's primary façade faces north onto Leeland Street and is divided into three, symmetrical bays in an A-B-A pattern (see Photo 1). The recessed center bay forms the primary entrance to the building and reads as a Classical temple. The center bay features abstracted Classical features including a pediment, entablature, and columns. The centered, double-door opening and transom forms the base of the "column" with four vertical courses rising to meet the entablature mimicking enlarged fluting. Original glass-block towers flank the fluting, defining the column shaft. The entablature features an architrave and frieze with minimal ornament. Short, vertical grooves adorn the cornice serving as abstracted dentils. A truncated pediment sits above the cornice, forming a partial parapet. A total of six window openings flank the entrance with three on the east and three on the west facing each other.

The first and third bays of the north façade are identical with a square formation of 12 window openings, arranged with four openings for each of the 3 floors. Each window opening has a simple, rectangular sill and three abstract and streamlined pilasters separate the four columns of windows. Rather than projecting from the façade, these elements are flush with the wall and have vertical grooves mimicking the typical, Classical fluting. Both corners of each bay are concavely rounded with fluting and an unornamented, rectangular capital. The elevator penthouse is visible above the third bay (see Photo 1, Figures 4-5).

East Elevation

The east elevation faces onto Delano Street and is composed of three, asymmetrical bays (see Photos 3-4). The first bay is located at the northeast corner of the building and continues the streamlined ornamentation of the north elevation. A flush pilaster with fluting terminates the bay and the cornice has vertical grooves similar to those in the center bay of the north elevation. A rectangular formation of six window openings (two openings per floor) is centered in this bay. The remaining bays are recessed from the first bay and have less ornamentation. The third bay features twelve paired windows and two downspouts. The third bay has three, smaller window openings and terminates in another pilaster.

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South Elevation

The south elevation is composed of three bays in an A-B-A pattern (see Photo 4). The first bay, located at the southwest corner of the building, has eight window openings and one door opening. The window openings are arranged three per floor on the second and third stories with two window openings with a center door opening on the first story. The second set of window openings on the second and third stories are slimmer than the other paired window openings and aligned with the door opening below. The second bay is deeply inset and creates the center courtyard of the building's H-Plan. It contains eight, symmetrically placed window openings of equal width. The third bay is similar to the first bay. The only difference between the two is a ninth window opening rather than a door opening.

West Elevation

The west elevation faces onto a row of townhouses and is not visible from the public right-of-way (see Photo 2). It is similar to the east elevation with an emphasized first bay and two recessed bays. Likewise, window openings are similar to those in the east elevation in size and placement.

Interior

The elevator shaft is located in the southeastern corner of the crossbar of the H-plan. L-shaped stairs wrap around the elevator shaft. The rest of the cross bar constitutes the elevator lobby, and the original recessed ceilings remain on two of three floors. Other original features appear intermittently. Each level features original terrazzo floors in the elevator lobby, and the stairs retain many of the vinyl treads, wooden risers, and black stone stringers. Limestone wainscot remains inconsistently in elevator lobbies and stairwells. Two-toned terrazzo flooring features heavily on the first floor, where it extends in both the H-plan stems in addition to the elevator lobby. There is also original terrazzo flooring the southern corner of the west wing. Though no original interior partition walls remain, some punctures into the concrete structure identify where walls were located originally. Based on the first floor terrazzo and the remaining concrete framing, it is presumed that there was a central corridor flowing through both stems and the elevator lobby on each floor.

The SWSC Building was originally part of a larger Schlumberger industrial campus with sheds and warehouses (see Figures 1 & 5). These associated structures and buildings were demolished c. 2006. Beyond the loss of these resources, however, the building has undergone few exterior alterations. Originally, the first and third bays of the north façade had the word 'Schlumberger' along the cornice lines (see Figures 3-4). According to the owner, the signs were covered following the company's relocation c. 1956, but are still extant beneath the coverings. As of October 2017, the building is vacant, though the current owners plan to rehabilitate the building into mixed-use retail and office space using historic preservation tax credits.

Integrity

The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building retains its integrity of location, materials, workmanship, and design. Aside from the removal of many original windows, the SWSC building retains most of its original exterior materials and detailing including fenestration pattern. These, in addition to many extant interior features like terrazzo flooring, ceilings, stairs, the elevator shaft, and wainscoting contribute to the integrity of materials, workmanship, and design. Though the building has a somewhat diminished integrity of association and setting following Schlumberger's relocation to newer facilities, the loss of the industrial complex, and the changing demographics of the neighborhood, the building retains its integrity of feeling, evoking the high-end materials and design omnipresent in corporate office buildings among Houston's oil and gas leaders.

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation (SWSC) Building is located at 2720 Leeland Street in the East Downtown Management District of Houston, Texas. Designed by Russell Brown Company with Hubbard Construction Company as the General Contractors, the building was constructed in 1938 as part of Schlumberger's first United States Campus. The Modern Classical style administration building originally held the offices for SWSC and other subsidiary executives, including Houston philanthropist and art collector John de Menil. Originally surrounded by Schlumberger warehouses and sheds, the SWSC Building is all that remains of the former industrial property (see Figure 5). The property is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for Commerce and Industry and under Criterion C for Architecture. The building is significant for serving as the headquarters of the Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation, a leader in the oil and gas industry in 20th Century Houston known for inventing and manufacturing electric well logging equipment used for taking geophysical surveys. A notable work of Russell Brown Company, the SWSC Building is an excellent example of the Modern Classical style blending modern architectural massing with traditional details. The period of significance is 1938-1956, spanning the years Schlumberger occupied the building.

As of 2017, Schlumberger is a global company supplying technology, information solutions, and project services to customers of the oil and gas industry. Schlumberger Limited serves as a parent company to numerous subsidiaries both internationally and within the US. The following contexts are designed to provide a brief history of the Schlumberger family, the company's foundation, and its early presence in Houston. It is not a comprehensive corporate history. A history of the family, beginning with the births of Conrad and Marcel Schlumberger in the late nineteenth century is included to illustrate the importance of the brothers' inventions and the significant role of members of the Schlumberger family in the development of the company. Without either of these two factors, the company would neither have grown to become a global corporation nor have founded SWSC. The history of the company's foundation as La Société de Prospection Électrique (Pros) has been included to explain the shift in clients from mineral mining to oil and gas and the group's early, rapid growth. Finally, SWSC's history is included as the Schlumberger subsidiary for which the property was built and as the primary occupant.

The Schlumberger Family and Electrical Prospecting

The Schlumberger brothers, Conrad and Marcel, were born to Paul and Marguerite Schlumberger at the end of the nineteenth century (1878 and 1884 respectively).¹ Paul was a member of a wealthy cotton-weaving family and worked as a textile manufacturer in the Alsatian region of France. Marguerite was a political activist campaigning for women's rights and served as head of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance after World War I (WWI).² The brothers were two of six Schlumberger children and both expressed early desires to become scientists.

Paul supported both sons' ambitions, sending them to Paris to further their education. In 1900, Conrad graduated from L'École Polytechnique de Paris with a degree in physics. Marcel graduated from L'École Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in 1907 with an engineering degree before continuing his education at L'École des Mines.³

During his studies, Conrad became interested in earth science and developed a theory concerning the use of electrical current to identify subsurface metal ore deposits, a technique known as electrical prospecting. He posited

¹ Schlumberger, "1870s-1910s: An Early Passion." Accessed October 17, 2017, <http://www.slb.com/about/history.aspx>.

² Jon Kutner, Jr., "Schlumberger," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed October 17, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dzsgxg>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.

³ Schlumberger, "1870s-1910s: An Early Passion." Accessed October 17, 2017, <http://www.slb.com/about/history.aspx>.

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that because metal ores had a different degree of electrical conductivity, they could be distinguished from their surroundings by generating a subsurface electrical field and recording voltage measurements at the surface. As ore-bearing rock was more conductive than surrounding non-ore-bearing rock, changes in the voltage measurements could indicate the presence of metal ore deposits. These measurements were mapped using lines of equal potential, called equipotential curves, which, when compared with typical measurements of non-ore-bearing rock, could reveal the location of deposits.⁴

In order to further research his method of electrical prospecting, Conrad accepted a physics teaching appointment at L'École des Mines in 1910. There, he had access to equipment and labs with which to begin testing his theories both in the lab and in the field. Naming the process 'wireline logging,' Conrad successfully mapped equipotential curves at his estate in Normandy two years later.⁵ During this attempt, he also discovered the ability to identify features of the subsurface deposit, specifically its extent and the direction of any formation layer dips. The ability to map these dips proved invaluable in the technology's later use for finding oil as these features often created pockets that could trap oil and gas deposits.⁶

World War I interrupted Conrad's research when both he and his brother Marcel joined the French Army. At this time, the brothers formed a partnership, funded by Paul with an initial investment of 500,000 francs. His only requirement was that the brothers focus on scientific gain before financial success. Conrad continued his professorship and research at L'École des Mines in Paris, while Marcel worked at his home in Normandy.⁷

In 1920, Conrad published the findings of his 1912 experiments with wireline logging and the brothers opened an office at 30 rue Fabert in Paris. Although slow at first, by 1923 the Schlumberger brothers' work had begun to increase, leading Conrad to resign his position at L'École des Mines.⁸ The brothers' early projects involved geophysical surveys around the world, including countries such as Canada, South Africa, Congo, the US, and Romania.⁹ It was not until the late 1920s, however, and the addition of Conrad's son-in-law Henri Doll to the team, that business truly began to take off.

Société de Prospection Électrique (Pros)

In 1926, the Schlumberger brothers founded the Société de Prospection Électrique or "Pros." The firm's early clients were predominantly mining companies hiring Pros to perform electrical surface prospecting for metal ore. Although the company had a few oil-related clients, they did not gain success in the oil industry until 1927 when they were hired by the Pechelbronn Oil Company in Alsace, France to help find oil.¹⁰

Pros' entrance into the oil market was largely the result of an invention by Henri Doll, Conrad's son-in-law and a physicist. Oil deposits reached greater depths than the metal ore the brothers had been searching for. As a result, they needed a tool to help extend the range from which they could take readings. Doll developed an electrical probe or sonde that could be extended down a borehole and take measurements at various depths.¹¹ In 1927, the brothers

⁴ Schlumberger, "1870s-1910s: An Early Passion." Accessed October 17, 2017 <http://www.slb.com/about/history.aspx>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Jon Kutner, Jr., "Schlumberger," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed October 17, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dzxsxg>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Schlumberger, "1920s: The First Well Log." Accessed October 17, 2017 <http://www.slb.com/about/history/1920s.aspx>

⁹ Jon Kutner, Jr., "Schlumberger," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed October 17, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dzxsxg>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Jon Kutner, Jr., "Schlumberger," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed October 17, 2017,

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and Doll successfully took readings from a 500-meter hole and initiated a process known as electrical coring. This success led to high demand for electrical coring around the world.¹²

By 1929, Pros had teams carrying out surveys in Argentina, Ecuador, India, Japan, the Soviet Union, Venezuela, and the U.S. In conjunction with Doll, the Schlumberger brothers continued to refine well logging techniques. They invented the continuous-recording hand recorder and then the Spontaneous Potential (SP) log in 1931. The handheld continuous-recording device made the logging process much more efficient, allowing a technician to record up to 1,000 feet in an hour where previously he would have to record the log point-by-point.

In addition to the discovery of new technologies, Pros underwent massive growth during the 1930s. Between 1933 and the start of World War II (WWII), the company grew from eight to 140 teams across the world. Pros had also developed into three international companies that formed the basis of the global parent company, Schlumberger Limited.

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation (SWSC)

In 1932, Pros earned its first American contract with the Shell Oil Company. Pros teams were hired to run wireline logs in California and along the Texas Gulf Coast.¹³ The exposure provided by this initial agreement led to more work in Texas and Oklahoma. In 1935, Marcel and Conrad founded a new firm in Houston called the Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation (SWSC).¹⁴ The introduction of this new branch of the company signaled the growing importance of the U.S. market, with more than half their electrical logging teams working stateside.¹⁵

Led by Eugene Leonardon, the new company had its first headquarters in the Niels Esperson building at 808 Travis Street until 1938 when they started a new campus east of Downtown Houston. The main SWSC building housed company offices and also served as the base from which John de Menil, Conrad's son-in-law, ran the firm's South American and Middle Eastern wireline operations.¹⁶ Equipment used in their electrical logging efforts was manufactured in other buildings in the industrial campus.

As a result of the Conrad's cutting edge ideas, Schlumberger became a leader in the field of electrical resistivity survey. Electrical resistivity survey utilizes electrical frequencies to identify subsurface abnormalities. The electrical waves respond differently to types of materials, so the survey method allows for differentiation between soil, rocks, and oil.¹⁷ This method is also used to help identify archaeological features. By using the electrical resistivity survey, Schlumberger could advise companies about where drilling would be most effective. Schlumberger was the first company ever to record an electrical resistivity well log in France in the 1920s.¹⁸ Their work in electrical resistivity survey was innovative that a particular arrangement of electrode placement which consisted of four collinear electrodes was and is known as the Schlumberger Array. Advantages to this setup were that fewer electrodes had to be adjusted for each sounding and potential electrode cables could be shorter in

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dzxsxg>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.

¹² Schlumberger, "1920s: The First Well Log." Accessed October 17, 2017 <http://www.slb.com/about/history/1920s.aspx>

¹³ Jon Kutner, Jr., "Schlumberger," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed October 17, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dzxsxg>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.

¹⁴ Schlumberger, "1930s: Technology in Demand." Accessed October 17, 2017 <http://www.slb.com/about/history/1930s.aspx>

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Jon Kutner, Jr., "Schlumberger," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed October 17, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dzxsxg>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.

¹⁷ "Electrical Resistance Survey," Wikipedia. Accessed October 17, 2017

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrical_resistance_survey

¹⁸ Schlumberger, "1920s: The First Well Log." Accessed October 17, 2017 <http://www.slb.com/about/history/1920s.aspx>

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length.¹⁹ Their success in electrical resistivity survey allowed Schlumberger to expand into other areas of the oil and gas industry, growing quickly to become the Schlumberger Overseas Company.

Conrad Schlumberger died in 1936, leaving Marcel to run the company. Even without Conrad, however, Schlumberger grew rapidly. In 1940, Schlumberger officially moved its entire company headquarters to their Houston office on Leeland Street. At the new location, several buildings, including offices, research labs, machine shops, a woodworking shop, an auto repair shop, and a general warehouse housed the different stages of the manufacturing process. The industrial campus was composed of roughly eighteen buildings by 1951 allowing Schlumberger to continue to manufacture electric logging equipment for use in the U.S. and abroad.²⁰

Despite the interruptions caused by World War II, the Schlumberger Company, now based in their Leeland location, invented and implemented new well logging techniques during the 1940s. In 1942, Schlumberger implemented the first dipmeter, a tool for measuring the direction and angle of subsurface rock formations in relationship to the horizontal planes.²¹ The dipmeter is essential for determining at which angle the oil would leave the earth. Schlumberger also deployed the first casing collars in 1946.²² Casing collars connect two pieces of casing together and ensure that they do not fall out of alignment.²³ "Casing" is the term used for the large hollow pipes that are cemented into place to provide a clear, protected run for the drill as it goes through the earth to oil under the surface.²⁴ The SWSC's most significant contribution occurred in 1947 when they implemented the first induction log, which uses electrical currents to distinguish oil from water in order to prevent wasted drilling efforts.²⁵ That same year, SWSC began using a new type of well logger called a nine-galvanometer R9 recorder, which allowed the company to take multiple logs simultaneously.²⁶ Some other technologies developed during this period include the 1948 Microlog which was "capable of taking high-resolution measurements close to the borehole wall and in very thin beds" and the Microlateralog which "investigated deeper and delivered data on the resistivity of the flushed zone—the rock around the borehole flushed with drilling fluids."²⁷ These and other inventions allowed for significant advances in the oil (both oilfield and offshore) and gas industry by the 1950s.

In 1946, Marcel appointed his son Pierre in charge of a new subsidiary company, North American Wireline Operations, also located in Houston at the SWSC Building.²⁸ By the early 1950s, Schlumberger and its subsidiaries in Houston had outgrown the original campus in East Downtown. The Gulf Freeway was completed in 1952 and a

¹⁹ "Exploration Technique: DC Resistivity Survey (Schlumberger Array)," Open Energy Information, National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Accessed October 17, 2017 [https://openei.org/wiki/DC_Resistivity_Survey_\(Schlumberger_Array\)](https://openei.org/wiki/DC_Resistivity_Survey_(Schlumberger_Array))

²⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Houston, Texas, 1924-1951, Vol. 4, Sheets 464 and 470, *Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970*, ProQuest.com.

²¹ Schlumberger, "1940s: New Frontiers." Accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.slb.com/about/history/1940s.aspx>; Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "Dipmeter." Accessed October 18, 2017 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dipmeter>; Dr. Miriam Hill, "Dip and Strike on Geologic Maps," Physical Geography II, Jacksonville State University, September 6, 2017. Accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.jsu.edu/dept/geography/mhill/phylabtwo/lab4/dipf.html>

²² Schlumberger, "1940s: New Frontiers." Accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.slb.com/about/history/1940s.aspx>

²³ Oilfield Glossary, "Casing Collar," Schlumberger. Accessed October 18, 2017 http://www.glossary.oilfield.slb.com/Terms/c/casing_collar.aspx

²⁴ Oilfield Glossary, "Casing," Schlumberger. Accessed October 18, 2017 <http://www.glossary.oilfield.slb.com/en/Terms/c/casing.aspx>

²⁵ Schlumberger, "1940s: New Frontiers." Accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.slb.com/about/history/1940s.aspx>

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ "1950s: New Technology, Strategic Acquisitions." *Schlumberger*, accessed October 27th, 2017, <http://www.slb.com/about/history/1950s.aspx>.

²⁸ Jon Kutner, Jr., "Schlumberger," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed October 17, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dzxsxg>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.

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year later, Houston architects Mackie & Kamrath completed a new campus located south of the highway.²⁹ By 1956, the entire company had left the first campus on Leeland Street. In the 1990s, Schlumberger moved its offices to Sugar Land, Texas, a Houston suburb. As a result, the Gulf Freeway location became a business park and later was purchased by the University of Houston in 2008 for the University's Energy Research Park.³⁰

John de Menil

Born in France in 1904 to Georges Menu and Madeleine de Menil, John de Menil grew to become an oil executive with Schlumberger, a patron of the arts, and a major Houston philanthropist. He began his career as a banker in Paris after graduating from the University of Paris in 1922 and earning an advanced political science degree there in 1925.³¹ He married Dominique Schlumberger, daughter of Conrad Schlumberger, in 1931.³²

After leaving the bank to serve in the French Army during the Moroccan Tribal Wars, John de Menil joined the Schlumberger family company in 1938.³³ Until this time Marcel, Conrad, and Henri Doll had provided technical expertise but the company was in desperate need of the financial organization brought by Menil. His first job was to travel to Romania to settle tax issues surrounding the exchange of international currencies for well logging services.³⁴

During WWII, Menil was drafted by the French army and assigned to intelligence work in Bucharest. Following the Nazi invasion of France, he traveled to the U.S. where he was joined by his wife, Dominique, in 1941.³⁵ During the remaining years of WWII, Menil aided in restructuring the company whose headquarters had been in Paris.³⁶ After traveling between New York, Houston, Venezuela, and Trinidad, the Menils settled in Houston where John managed the South American and Middle Eastern operations from the SWSC Building. Soon after, Menil was named president of Schlumberger Overseas and continued to work from the subject building.³⁷

The Menils became U.S. citizens in 1962 and John retired in 1969.³⁸ During their lives, the Menils had amassed a large art collection including modern and primitive artworks. In addition to his work with Schlumberger, John de Menil participated in the work of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston.³⁹ He was the founder of the Institute for the Arts at Rice University and the Black Arts Center, as well as

²⁹ Anna Mod, *Building Modern Houston*, Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2011. Pg. 35.

³⁰ Richard Bonnín, "New Energy Research Park Energizes March to Tier One," *University of Houston Magazine*. Fall 2009. Accessed October 18, 2017 <http://www.uh.edu/magazine/09f/features/energy/>

³¹ Linda Peterson, "Menil, John De," accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmeny>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on September 12, 2017.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Reed Karaim, "How the de Menils and Their Art Museum Changed Houston," *Architect*, June 19, 2013. Accessed October 18, 2017 http://www.architectmagazine.com/awards/aia-honor-awards/how-the-de-menils-and-their-art-museum-changed-houston_o

³⁶ Linda Peterson, "Menil, John De," accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmeny>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on September 12, 2017.

³⁷ William Middleton, "A House That Rattled Texas Windows," *The New York Times*, June 3, 2004. Accessed October 18, 2017 <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/03/garden/a-house-that-rattled-texas-windows.html>

³⁸ Linda Peterson, "Menil, John De," accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmeny>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on September 12, 2017.

³⁹ Ibid.

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a major benefactor of St. Thomas University.⁴⁰ In 1958, the Menils established the Menil Foundation in order to facilitate their cultural philanthropy.⁴¹

John de Menil served on the board of trustees for the Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Primitive Art, and Sarah Lawrence College in New York.⁴² He was also a member of the board of trustees for the Institute of International Education and the Institute for Religion. Beyond his philanthropic endeavors, Menil was a member of the Ramada Club, the River Oaks Country Club, and the Petroleum Club. He passed away in Houston on June 1, 1973.⁴³

East Downtown

East Downtown is a triangular shaped area located directly east of downtown and bounded by U.S. Highway 59 (U.S.-59) on the northwest, Interstate 45 (I-45) on the southwest, and railroad tracks to the east. Today the area has an eclectic mix of industrial, institutional, residential, recreational, and commercial resources reflecting its equally diverse development.

Following the founding of the City of Houston in 1836, the city was divided into geographic and political sectors called wards. A total of six wards were added before the end of the nineteenth century. The political subdivided wards were abandoned in the early 1900s, but the geographically and culturally the names remain to this day. The area now known as East Downtown was originally part of the Third Ward. Throughout the nineteenth century, the area featured Victorian era mansions populated by the city's fashionable upper class.⁴⁴ By the late nineteenth century, however, Houston's elite largely abandoned the neighborhood in favor of the burgeoning suburbs. The arrival of the railroad in East Downtown at the end of the nineteenth century further fostered the transition of the neighborhood from residential to a predominantly commercial and light industrial area.⁴⁵ During the first half of the twentieth century, the area was gradually redeveloped as a light industrial center with commercial properties and large warehouses interspersed with some remaining worker housing.⁴⁶

In the 1930s Cantonese Chinese immigrants relocated from downtown to East Downtown in search of cheaper land. They opened restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses, and the area came to be known as "Chinatown." Vietnamese and other Asian immigrants joined them in subsequent decades.⁴⁷ However, the construction of the Gulf Freeway in 1952 bisected the cultural Third Ward, hastening the area's decline in the face of suburbanization. By the 1980s and 1990s, most of the Asian population had also abandoned the area for southwest Houston and the suburbs, and the area began another downturn and transition. In 2002 a *Houston Press* article described the area as a "silent, godforsaken stretch of no-mans-land."⁴⁸

⁴⁰ Grace Glueck, "The de Menil Family: the Medici of Modern Art," *The New York Times*, May 18, 1986. Accessed October 18, 2017 <http://www.nytimes.com/1986/05/18/magazine/the-de-menil-family-the-medici-of-modern-art.html?pagewanted=all>

⁴¹ Linda Peterson, "Menil, John De," accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmeny>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on September 12, 2017.

⁴² Grace Glueck, "The de Menil Family: the Medici of Modern Art," *The New York Times*, May 18, 1986. Accessed October 18, 2017 <http://www.nytimes.com/1986/05/18/magazine/the-de-menil-family-the-medici-of-modern-art.html?pagewanted=all>

⁴³ Linda Peterson, "Menil, John De," accessed October 18, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmeny>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on September 12, 2017.

⁴⁴ Chris Lane, "The Changing Face of Houston-East Downtown," *Houston Press*, December 15, 2014.

⁴⁵ Lane, "The Changing Face of Houston-East Downtown."

⁴⁶ Sanborn maps prior to 1925 do not exist for this part of Houston.

⁴⁷ Jenalia Moreno, "Chinatown no longer; Call it EaDo, as in 'east downtown.'" *Houston Chronicle*, Saturday, October 17, 2009.

⁴⁸ John Nova Lomax, "Glamorous Youth." *Houston Press*, November 28, 2002.

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Like many urban warehouse districts in cities across the country, East Downtown (known to locally as “EaDo” since 2008) has very recently experienced a renaissance as a gentrified haven for young professionals. Scattered site townhouses began to appear in the last decade of the twentieth century yet the major catalyst for its transformation was the 2012 construction of the \$95.5 million BBVA Compass Stadium for the Houston Dynamo major league soccer (MLS) team in the “formerly desolate,” “gritty” area east of downtown Houston.⁴⁹ The neighborhood’s prime location – including proximity to the 2015 Metro light rail line extension that runs along Texas Avenue connecting the stadium to downtown, and reasonable real estate prices, helped to foster substantial retail and residential development.

While the neighborhood witnessed the demolition of several older buildings in favor of mixed-use, townhouse and condo residential development, interest in historic character and sustainability encouraged the adaptive reuse of many warehouses and commercial buildings of “old Houston.”⁵⁰ Developer David Denenburg and his partners purchased the 1917 Cheek-Neal Coffee building (NRHP 2016) designed by Joseph Finger and James Ruskin Bailey and are working on its redevelopment utilizing the historic tax credits.⁵¹ The 1913 Waddell Furniture warehouse, a city landmark, was converted into 94 loft apartments with pristine skyline views in 2017.⁵² The Houston Post (NRHP 2018) building, located at 2410 Polk Street, will be revitalized through the use of Federal Historic Tax Credits. Other adaptive reuse projects in the area include office and retail spaces, art galleries, bars, restaurants, and a brewery.

Modern Classical Architecture

The 1920s and 1930s were a critical stage in Houston’s development signaling economic, cultural, and political maturity as it emerged as a metropolis. Business and civic leaders were eager to brand the city as forward looking and open for business, particularly as the city became the hub of the oil industry. These intentions and attitudes manifested themselves in modernistic architecture. In many ways modernistic design, both Art Deco and Art Moderne, sought to largely abandon historic eclecticism and embrace modern principles.⁵³

Art Deco and Art Moderne served as the two principle variants of Modernistic architecture that appeared between the 1920s and 1940s. The earlier of the two, Art Deco, was popular in the 1920s and characterized by symmetrical rectilinear forms heavily decorated in both low relief Classical and modern details. Common features included fluting and reeding around the doors, piers with ornamentation, geometric shapes like chevrons and zigzags, spandrels, and the incorporation of elaborate metals into the design. The Great Depression and advent of modern architecture shaped the emergence of Art Moderne in the late 1930s. Art Moderne buildings had a noticeable streamlined presence largely devoid of detail previously seen in Art Deco design. Generally asymmetrical, Art Moderne design emphasized horizontality, featured smooth curved surfaces, flat roofs, and glass block. Another less common modernistic variation, Modern Classical, served as a subset of Art Moderne architecture and began to appear in 1930s and 1940s commercial, industrial, and civic buildings in Houston.⁵⁴

⁴⁹ Catherine Meredith, “Eado’s Big Changes.” *Bisnow London*, March 2, 2016. Accessed January 9, 2017, <https://www.bisnow.com/houston/news/neighborhood/how-houston-is-making-eado-happen-56787>.

⁵⁰ Meredith, “Eado’s Big Changes.”

⁵¹ Catie Dixon, “Historic Eado Building to be Redeveloped.” *Bisnow*, July 24, 2015.

⁵² Nancy Sarnoff, “Imagine a vacant East End furniture building as lofts.” *Houston Chronicle*, January 4, 2016.

⁵³ “About Houston Deco,” *Houston Deco*, <http://www.houstondeco.org/>.

⁵⁴ Virginia McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America’s Domestic Architecture*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014), 579-585; Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*, (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1992), 235-246.

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The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of Modern Classical design in Houston. This building represents a delicate balance of the cautious acceptance of modern design principles and gradual departure from Classical architecture. It blends modern architectural massing, form, and materials with traditional low relief ornament and smooth wall surfaces.⁵⁵ The building reads as a Classical temple which is reflected in the conservative and abstracted detailing largely concentrated on the primary elevation including fluting without capitals, a pediment, and dentils. Art Moderne inflections include the lettering, now covered, and the large glass block windows in the primary elevation. Given Schlumberger's position as an innovator in oil and gas exploration, it's not surprising the administration building conveyed a simple and modern elegance underscoring the company's attitudes about scientific research and progress.⁵⁶

Many Houston buildings designed during this period fall into either the Art Deco or Art Moderne categories, with very few identified as Modern Classical. Since East Downtown was industrial in the interwar period, examples of each variant are hard to come by. The 1935 Houston Casket Company by Moore & Lloyd at 1717 Live Oak Street serves as an intact example of Art Moderne design. The only other Modern Classical building identified in East Downtown is the 1937 Lone Star Creamery Company (now Oak Farms Dairy) designed by J.M. Glover located a half mile away from the subject building at 3412 Leeland Street. While the footprint of the creamery was substantially altered, it still embodies a similar streamlined monumental presence, centralized massing, abstracted Classical detailing including dentils and fluting, and lettering. Comparatively, the Schlumberger building has a much higher level of integrity making it a remarkably intact example in Houston.⁵⁷

The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building

After founding the new U.S. company, the Schlumberger family commissioned the Russell Brown Company architects to design the Modern Classical style building in East Downtown. Although they handled predominantly residential design, reference to their work with the SWSC Building was found in a previous City of Houston Protected Landmark Application for the Edward Weil House and an abstract for an article appearing in a 1938 volume of *Architectural Concrete*.⁵⁸ No other references to the architects were discovered. Schlumberger hired Hubbard Construction Company to complete the construction of the building which was part of a larger campus with warehouses and sheds to manufacture and house the company's wireline logging equipment.

Homebuilder Russell Brown (c. 1877-1963) started the Russell Brown Company in 1907 and by the 1920s, the firm had offices in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Los Angeles. Notable residential projects include the 1928 Herbert L. Kockernot House, San Antonio, the 1929 O.R. Seagraves Ranch, the 1929 Talbott F. Rothwell House, Beaumont, the 1931 W. F. Morgan House, Olmos Park, as well as several buildings in Houston's Westmoreland Historic District (NRHP 1994).⁵⁹ Though Russell Brown's newspaper advertisements from the early twentieth century claim them to be both residential and commercial architects and builders, only one other commercial building has been identified as designed by Russell Brown Company; the Simpson Building is a contributing resource to the NRHP-listed Historic Commercial District in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Russell Brown Company also served as the contractor for Houston's original Jefferson Davis Hospital (NRHP 2005).

⁵⁵ Gregory Smith, "Jack County Courthouse," *National Register of Historic Places*, December 2012, pg. 13-14.

⁵⁶ Gregory Smith, "Jack County Courthouse," *National Register of Historic Places*, December 2012, pg. 13-14.

⁵⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Houston, 1924-1951, sheet 466; "Lone Star Creamery Co., *Houston Deco: Modernistic Architecture of the Texas Coast*, <http://www.houstondeco.org/1930s/lonestar.html>.

⁵⁸ McElroy, W.A. "New Home for the 'Slumberjay'." *Architectural Concrete* 4 (1938): 34-35.

⁵⁹ Westmoreland Civic Association, "Westmoreland Historic District" *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, 1994, 43.

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An October 1954 construction outline describes the interior materials of the subject building. The interior walls were covered in metal lath and plaster as well as wood paneling, while the ceiling utilized acoustical plaster. Carpet was used for finished flooring, and furnishings were purchased primarily from Knoll Associates, with some pieces from Hermann Miller or Italian designers. Glass in the building was sand blasted, and the Leeland Street location also used custom mill work and aluminum doors.⁶⁰

An April 1958 furniture inventory from the Leeland Street location also describes recessed lights, fluorescent light strips, bamboo blinds, multiple art pieces by Matisse, and desks designed with black frames and teak or formica tops. The inventory includes architectural illustrations of the desks, chairs, tables, and lamps, and it becomes clear that the de Menil's commitment to modern design extended into the furnishings of the SWSC building. Much of the furnishings were shipped for use in one of their South American offices.⁶¹

Between 1939 and 1944 the building housed only Schlumberger's Well Surveying Corporation. After 1944, the complex also housed Schlumberger Overseas Oil Well Surveyors, of which John de Menil served as President. By 1959, the building is listed in the Houston City Directory as vacant following the completion of Schlumberger's 1956 Gulf Freeway Campus.

Between 1956 and 1958, prior to relocating to the Gulf Freeway Campus, the Schlumberger Overseas Company contracted Houston architects Bolton and Brownstone and contractor Ralph D. Galbreath to do repairs and upgrades on the Leeland building, including waterproofing around exterior walls and the roof, air conditioning repairs, a new defroster, a new intercom system, vinyl flooring repairs, and electrical repairs.⁶² Bolton and Barnstone also provided architectural services directly to the de Menils for their homes in New York City, Trinidad, Venezuela, and Argentina.⁶³ The invoice records available contain documentation from framers, photographers, and electricians, indicating that the de Menils love and appreciation for art and its display spilled over into the Schlumberger offices on Leeland.⁶⁴

In 1968, the Leeland Street building held the Harris County Concentrated Employment Program. Three years later in addition to this public entity, the building also housed the State Vocational School Training Program. Finally, from 1974 into the 1990s, the building and campus housed Industrial Education programs for the Houston Community College System and became the Leeland Center for Industrial Education.

During the late 1990s and 2000s, the main office building was vacant and fell into disrepair. The surrounding complex of auxiliary buildings and structures was demolished c. 2006. By the 2010s, the area experienced a resurgence in the form of athletic complexes and housing. Town houses have been built directly east of the building and replaced many historic buildings in the surrounding area.

⁶⁰ Howard Barnstone Papers 1947-1987, MSS 178, Box 2, Folder 2. Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Howard Barnstone Papers 1947-1987, MSS 178, Box 1, Folders 8-10. Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Summary

The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Commerce at the local level. Between 1938 and 1956, the SWSC building served as the United States headquarters for the company and its subsidiaries and is the only remaining portion of a once larger industrial campus. During its occupancy of the building, the company became a leader and contributed significantly to the oil and gas industry by introducing new equipment and technologies related to the electric well logging. Furthermore, the building housed the office of art patron and philanthropist John de Menil for the majority of his career at Schlumberger. Designed by Russell Brown Company, the remarkably intact Modern Classical administration building is a rare example of the style in Houston making it architecturally significant under Criterion C.

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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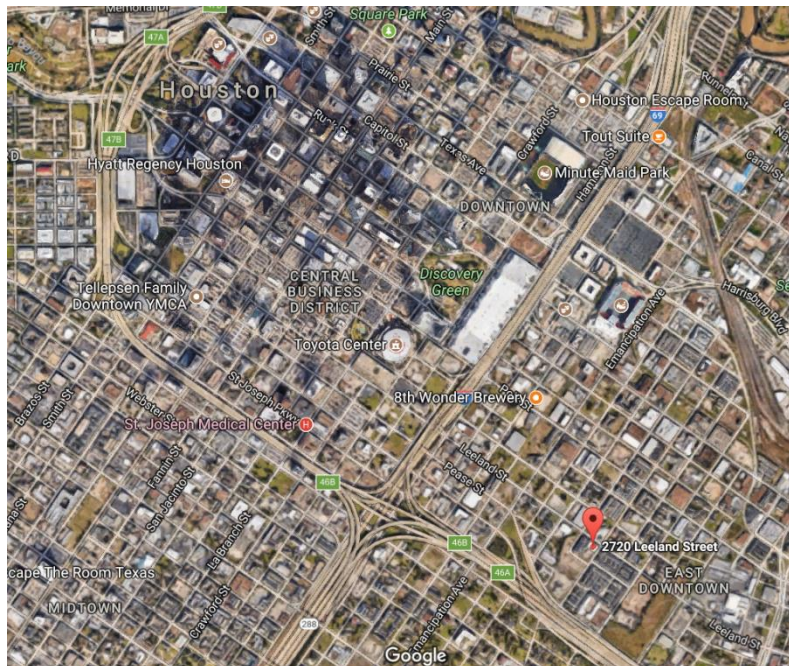
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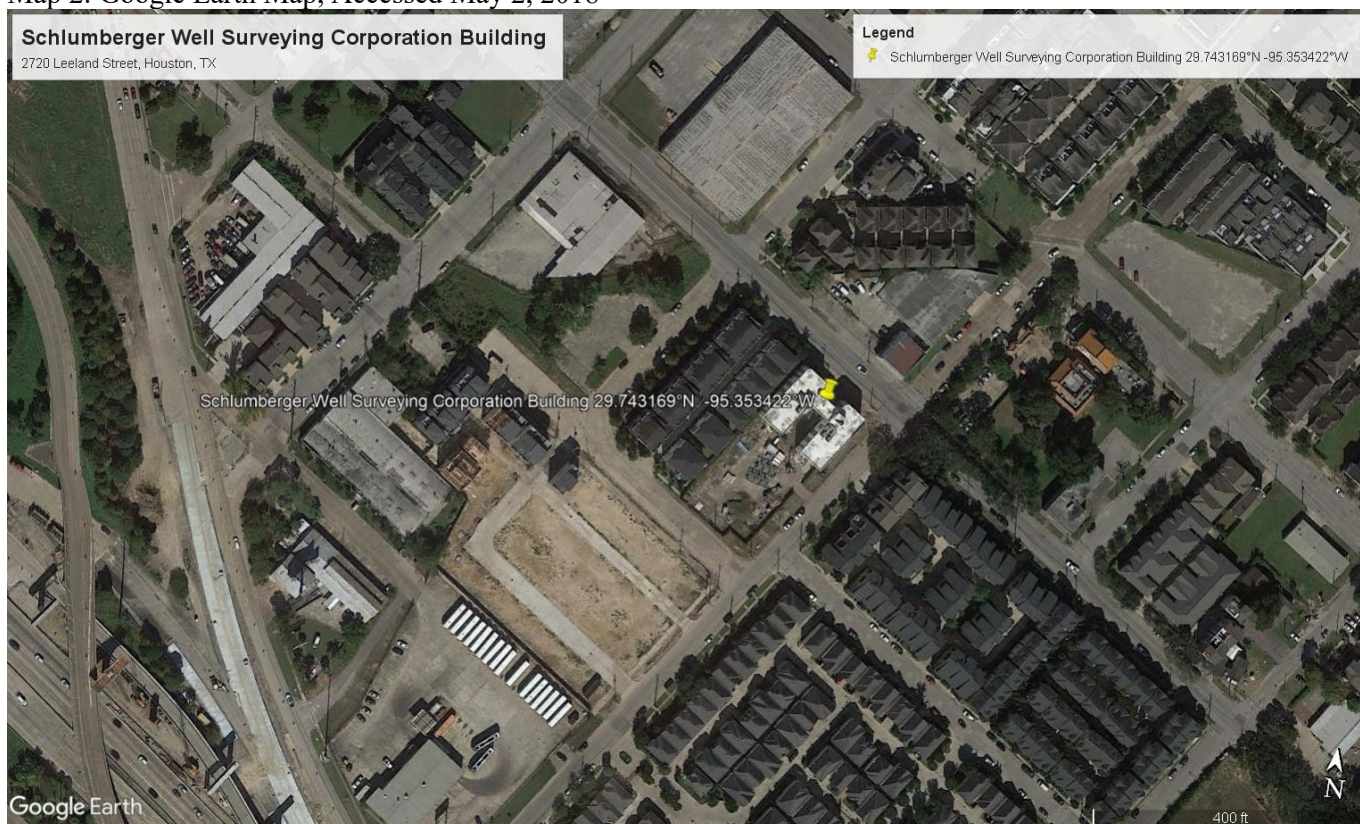
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Map 1: SWSC Building at 2720 Leeland Street, Google Location Map, Accessed September 26, 2017



Map 2: Google Earth Map, Accessed May 2, 2018



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

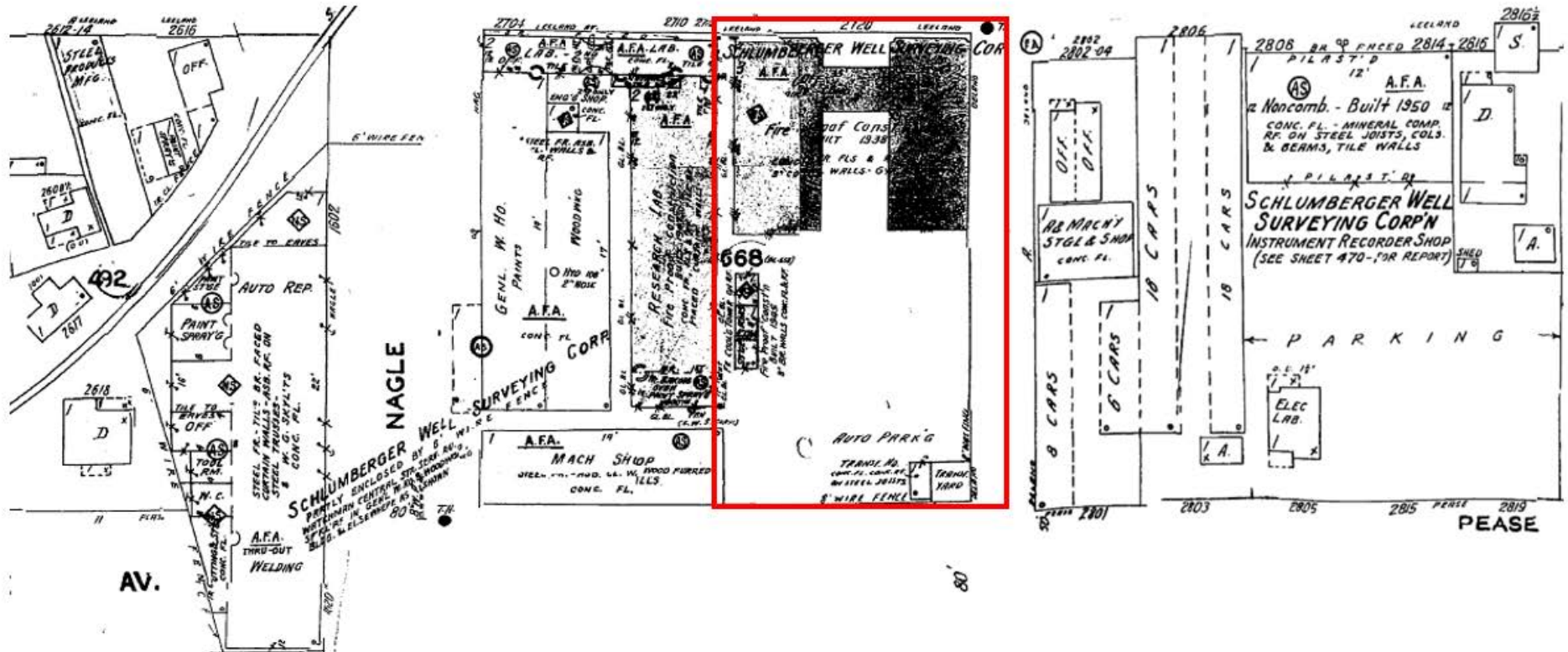


Figure 1: 1924-1951 Sanborn Map, Vol. 4, Sheet 470 (left) and Sheet 464 (right) showing nominated parcel with larger complex, which spanned blocks 492, 668, and 674 between Leeland and Pease Avenues. (ProQuest).



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas



Figure 3: N façade and W elevation, view SE, c. 1938.
(Photo courtesy of Schlumberger Corporate Communications)



Figure 4: Partial N façade, view SE, c. 1938. (Photo courtesy of Schlumberger Corporate Communications)

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

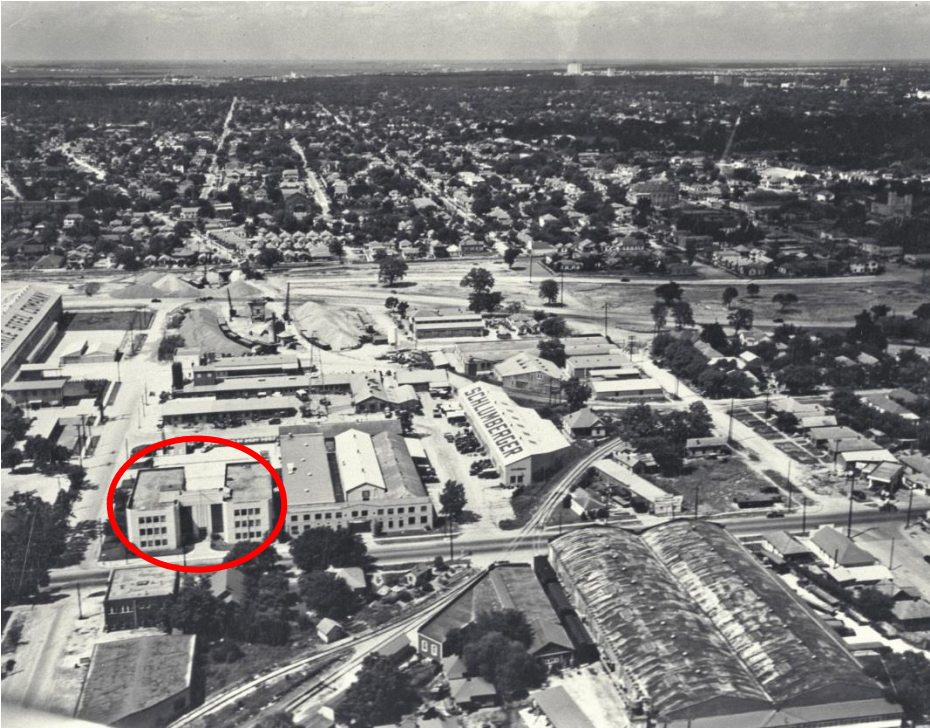


Figure 5: Aerial of SWSC campus, c. 1940.
(Photo courtesy of Schlumberger Corporate Communications)



Figure 6: Interior SWSC corner office, c. 1940. (Photo courtesy of Schlumberger Corporate Communications)

Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 1 – North façade, view south, with original glass block, exterior fluting, and fenestration pattern.



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 2 – North façade and partial view west elevation, view southeast.



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 3 – East elevation and north façade with original fenestration pattern, view southwest.



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 4 – South and east elevations, view northwest. Original fenestration patterns and exterior materials remain.



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 5 – Detail of entrance on north façade, view south. Original fluting, glass block, dentils, and flag pole remain in place.



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 6 – Interior, first floor hallway in east wing, view north. Original structure and terrazzo flooring remain in place.



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 7 – First floor lobby, view northeast. Original recessed ceiling details and front door openings remain in place with the glass block.



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 8 – Third floor lobby, view northeast. Original fossilized limestone wainscot and black stone baseboard remain in place.



Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 9 – Stair detail, view east. Original handrails, fossilized limestone wainscot, and black stone stringers remain in place.





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building

Multiple Name:

State & County: TEXAS, Harris

Date Received:
5/11/2018

Date of Pending List:
5/30/2018

Date of 16th Day:
6/14/2018

Date of 45th Day:
6/25/2018

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100002601

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 6/25/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

The Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce, Industry, and Architecture. Built in 1938, the steel-frame and concrete tilt-slab, office building is a handsome local example of Depression-era, stripped classical Modernist design (Modern Classical). The building served as the main office for the prominent oil industry survey and supply firm Schlumberger. Once part of an extended industrial complex, the office building is the last remaining company building from this early era and was the corporate face of the innovative firm from 1938 to 1956.

Recommendation/
Criteria Accept NR Criteria A and C.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 06/25/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION*real places telling real stories*

TO: Paul Lusignan
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas

DATE: May 4, 2018

The following materials are submitted:

	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk.
X	The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation Building, Houston, Harris County, Texas
	Resubmitted nomination.
X	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.
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination 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:

