

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 THE STRAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Bounded on the North by Ave. A, on the East by 20th St., on the South by the alley between Avenues C and D, and the West by Passenger Depot, North to Ave. A, including lots 5,6,7 of block 685 between Ave. A and New Strand Street.

CITY, TOWN Galveston VICINITY OF _____ COUNTY Galveston CODE _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

STATE Texas

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Galveston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Galveston STATE Texas
722 21st Street

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Many, but not all buildings have been listed in Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1966 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington, D.C. STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Strand District of Galveston was a thriving, energetic, and prosperous business area close to the shipping channel. It was particularly active during the seventies and eighties of the last century. The blocks between Mechanic and Strand and 20th and 26th streets contain at least forty-five buildings of architectural interest as representative illustrations of the types of commercial structures used and preferred in their era. It is their preservation en masse that is of real architectural significance as a still extant visual segment of the business life of the latter third of the nineteenth century.

The buildings show the span of popular architectural styles from the Greek Revival to the Beaux Arts with the bulk representative of the Gothic, High Victorian, French and Italianate styles in their vernacular and usually modest expressions. The frequent arcades at the first floor level are still generally apparent and relatively unaltered. The common materials are stuccoed brick or red brick with cast iron or stone details. The buildings are often handsome with nice proportions.

At the time when the area was at its most active the street level was four to five feet lower than it is at present, permitting drays and wagons to load and unload at the level of the raised sidewalks. After the tremendous devastation of the September 8, 1900 hurricane the whole island was raised with fill and the street is now almost flush with the first story entrances. The hurricane also ripped off a very large number of the cast iron cornices and this destruction probably also accounts for the removal of many of the flat canopies that were originally nearly universal in this sunny southern climate. However, enough cornices and canopies still remain to demonstrate the original character of the street.

The Greek Revival buildings that remain are generally handsome simple four-story brick structures with brick cornices, nicely proportioned six over six windows with cap-molded lintels of iron or stone, and sills with end brackets. The first floor openings may be either arched or trabeated, and piers rather than columns are the usual supports in the facade. These may be ornamented with cast iron applied capitals. The Washington Hotel at 2218-22 Mechanic has fine paneled French doors with fan lights in its arches.

Several fires in the seventies razed whole blocks of commercial structures, many of frame but many also probably of the Greek Revival type. New buildings were begun at once and it is modest versions of the Victorian styles of the seventies that now are the predominant types in this district. The first story was usually designed as an arcade (not the French type with deep openings forming a walkway, but just a flat series of arched openings). Most of the buildings still retain their cast iron one-story fronts. Many still have their double doors. Piers with large rectangular areas of glass between them were sometimes used. Hood moldings were the principal choice for decorating the upper story windows. Rusticated pilasters were often used to give vertical organization to the facades. The standard treatment of the brick was a stucco covering frequently scored to resemble

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The principal commercial area in Galveston from the 1850's to the early 1900's was called The Strand. Located near the wharf on Galveston Bay, The Strand District included the businesses of the most prominent, prosperous, and influential men in Texas. Such men as John Henry Hutchings, J. J. Hendley, Henry Rosenberg, and John Sealy were well established entrepreneurs by the late 1850's. They accumulated fortunes and exerted commercial and political control over much of Texas through their financial ties with northern business interests and local harbor and transportation facilities as well as through their political connections in the state legislature.

Representative of the commercial houses on The Strand in the 1850's was the Hendley Company, founded by William and Captain J. J. Hendley along with John Sleight and Philip Gildersleeve. The firm was a cotton and commission house. By 1858, the year in which construction on the Hendley Building began, it was the leading company in Galveston. "The Hendley Building enjoys the distinction not only of being the first pretentious business building in Galveston," said Howard Barnstone in his book The Galveston That Was, "but also (of) having been constructed at a greater proportionate cost than any other building in the city." The brick in the building was imported from Boston via the Hendley line vessels.

The Hendley Building was guaranteed a place in history during the Civil War when the first shot in the Battle of Galveston, January 1, 1863, was fired from a cannon on its roof. A large hole in the cornice on the 20th Street side caused by a cannonball from a Federal gunboat left signs of the Battle. The result of that conflict was that Southern forces regained control of Galveston Island for the remainder of the war. The Hendley Company was one of several firms forced out of Galveston by the War, but it was moved back from Houston and reestablished when the Federal blockade ended.

Hendley, like Henry Rosenberg, John Sealy and other Galveston businessmen, got his start in capitalism during the 1850's while transportation facilities, principally ports and railroads, were inadequate to meet bustling Galveston's needs. He became a director of the Galveston Brazos Navigation Company in 1850 and then began to acquire his own shipping line. Rosenberg and Sealy also secured part of the water passage profits for themselves as part owners of the Galveston Wharf and Cotton Press Company. Even through great amounts of money were made during the decade before the Civil War, the buildings which testify to that wealth and signify the prominence of the Strand did not appear until after the War.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 15 | 326160 | 3243350 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | 15 | 326130 | 3242700 |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B | 15 | 325420 | 3242900 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | 15 | 325420 | 3243360 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

2/11/76

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

The Strand Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

ashlar masonry. Unfortunately the original cast iron cornice is now usually missing and some of these buildings once had elaborate mansard roofs that are now gone also.

Several buildings designed by the Galveston architect Nicholas J. Clayton are a much stronger statement of the same general style. His buildings of the seventies and eighties are usually exposed red brick, often laid in patterns, and with contrasting trim. Considerable movement in what is essentially a flat facade is created by the use of brick pilasters and panelling. Clayton used high relief cast iron details, most cast in Galveston, and the cornices are still intact on some of his work.

By the middle of the eighties the influence of Richardson shows up in a few buildings with their facades organized by monumental applied arches and Romanesque motifs in the small arcade windows of the upper story and also in some use of granite. One commercial structure with rich Beaux Arts detail completes the styles represented in the Strand District and signals the termination of Galveston's most prosperous days.

The above data is from the National Register form prepared by Roxanne Williamson, Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

A listing of the more important structures follows:

1. The James Fadden Building, 2410-2412 Strand. 1898 Nicholas Clay on, architect. James Fadden and Company were wholesale dealers in liquors, wines and cigars. The small structure is interesting for the intricacy of its brickwork, and for a half-story added to its front facade.
2. P. J. Willis and Brother Building, 2402 Strand. 1869. Once a three-story brick building which housed the large dry-goods concern of P. J. Willis, the building is now a modernized one-story structure.
3. Isidore LeClere Building, 2417 Strand. 1872. This small, plain structure was erected by Isidore LeClere, brother-in-law of Michel Brindamour Menard, founder of Galveston and a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.
4. Wallis, Landes and Company Building, 2411 Strand. 1877. Originally three stories high, the upper floors were lost in the 1941 hurricane and tornado. It was built by a wholesale grocery firm, whose trade territory included Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico and the Indian Territory.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

The Strand Historic District 7 3
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER PAGE

5. Hutchings, Sealy and Company Building, 2326-2328 Strand. 1895. Nicholas Clayton, architect. These two buildings were designed to appear as a single unit. The structures are of pressed brick, made to resemble stone. Yellow brick and granite are used throughout. The date, "1895", appears in a shield which surmounts the entablature on the west side. Below this is "1854", which represents the date of the founding of the firm.
6. Greenleve, Block and Company Building, 2310-2314 Strand. 1882. Nicholas Clayton, architect. Greenleve, Block was among the three largest wholesale dry-goods firms in Galveston, supplying merchants throughout the Southwest. The structure was originally four stories high, with a cornice giving the appearance of a fifth floor. The facade is made up of three large bays. The initials of the builders appear in circles above the second floor windows.
7. Mrs. Mirabeau B. Lamar's Building, 2304 Staand. 1882. Henrietta Lamar was the widow of the second president of the Republic of Texas. After his death, she made Galveston her residence, and built this small structure as an investment. Commission merchants were located here for many years.
8. The Phoenix Building, 2325 Strand. 1870. Once a three-story brick with an iron front, the building was almost destroyed by the 1941 hurricane. It was built by Brian M. McDonnell.
9. J. F. Smith and Brothers Building, 2321-2323 Strand. 1870. J. F. and Edwin Smith built this building following the disasterous fire of December 2, 1869. The supplied Texas and adjacent states with builders' supplies and hardware. The three story brick once had a cast iron front on the ground floor.
10. Merchants Mutual Insurance Company Building, 2317-2319 Strand. 1870. Donald McKenzie and Fritz Weinherner, architects. The present structure is the facsimile of the original which was destroyed by the 1869 fire. It had the finest Mansard roof in the city, which still exists but is partially hidden by cement used as a preservative for the cornices. The attic, which is thirteen feet high, contained water tanks for supplying water closets and washstands.
11. The J. F. Magale Building, 2313-2315 Strand. 1870. John Magale was a wholesale liquor dealer. After the 1869 fire, he and Henry Rosenberg erected two buildings similar enough to appear as one. Both are three-story bricks with cast iron fronts on the ground floors, and heavy hood-moulds over the windows.
12. Roseberg Building, 2309-2311 Strand. 1870. P. M. Comegys, architect. This three-story brick and iron-front building once had a galvanized cornice. Large cisterns, on the roof, provided every office with water.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| |
|------------------|
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| RECEIVED |
| DATE ENTERED |

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

The Strand Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

13. Mrs. Esther G. League's Building, 2301-2307 Strand. c. 1870. The clothing house of Bernstein and Company not only occupied "The League Building" in 1874, but also the upper floors of the two adjoining buildings. The three-story brick has cast-iron columns and cornice on the ground floor. The upper floors have cast-iron window labels.
14. J. S. Brown Hardware Company Building, 2226-2228 Strand. 1870. The second oldest hardware firm in Galveston was a major supplier of hardware for the interior of Texas, and later became the largest hardware concern south of the Mason and Dixon Line. The present building includes two other buildings to the east. It was made of the best quality of Texas brick, and its foundation, also of the same material, was laid in a bed of solid cement several feet below the bottom of the Bay.
15. W. L. Moody Building, 2202-2206 Strand. 1884. Nicholas Clayton, architect. This building replaces a larger building, which was destroyed by the fire of January 13, 1882. Once a four-story brick with a large mansard roof, the building lost its upper floor, cornice and roof in the 1900 storm. The lower floor is decorated with cast iron columns, brick and terra cotta give a polychrome effect to the facades, which are further enhanced by intricate brickwork.
16. John Berlocher Building, 2221-2223 Strand. This building forms the western portion of a row of identical-appearing structures. Destroyed by the fire of February 24, 1870, it was rebuilt in 1871. Blum Hardware occupied the site until 1910, when the Black Hardware Company bought this and the adjoining structures.
17. The T. W. House Building, 2219 Strand. 1871. Col. T. W. House was a commission merchant and important cotton factor, who moved to Houston during the Civil War. The lower floor of this building consists of cast-iron clad brick piers, and were originally filled with double-leaf doors.
18. The E. S. Wood Building, 2213-2215 Strand. 1859. The fire of February 24, 1870, which destroyed all the buildings on this block, only partially damaged this structure; consequently, this building is second in age to the commercial buildings on The Strand. It forms the eastern two bays of this row. Originally, all three of its floors were covered with an elaborate iron front and topped by an iron cornice.
19. The Mensing Brothers and Company Building, 2118-2128 Strand. 1882. Gustave and William Mensing, came to Galveston in 1868 and formed a firm of cotton factors in 1873. One of the large upstairs rooms was used for a cotton sample room, where cotton factors displayed their samples, and the season's crops were

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

The Strand Historic District 7 6
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER PAGE

27. J. S. Brown Building, 2111 Strand. 1878. Nicholas Clayton, architect. This building is two stories high with an iron front decorating the ground floor. The upper floor has paneled details and cast-iron hood moulds over the windows.
28. Mrs. Clara Lang's Building, 2109 Strand. 1878. John Moser, architect. The building is made of pressed brick and artificial stone. It has a cast-iron front on the ground floor, and patterned brickwork on the second story facade. Cotton factors and commission merchants used the building until 1898.
29. Ball, Hutchings and Company Building, 2101 Strand. 1878. Nicholas Clayton, architect. The building replaces the original J. S. Brown Hardware Building, which owned this and adjacent sites to the west before the fire of 1877. The building is a two-story brick, stuccoed and decorated with a simple cornice. The ground floor is treated as an arcade, with flat, pointed arches. The upper floor's paired windows are interesting.
30. The Hendley Row, 2000-2016 Strand. 1858-1859. These buildings are four adjoining structures; three of them are the oldest surviving commercial structures in the city. The building on the extreme west, although built at the same time, was burned in 1866 and rebuilt in 1867. The Row was erected by William and Joseph Hendley, Thomas Massey League and Francois Guilbeau. During the Civil War, a wooden cupola on the roof, served the Confederates as a watch tower to spy on the movements of the Federal gunboats, which constantly blockaded Galveston.
31. The Jockusch Building, 2025 Strand. 1866. John Jockusch, who came to Galveston in 1840, was the Prussian Consul to the Republic of Texas. In 1849, Galvas made a partner in the powerful commission house of R. and D. G. Mills. The iron front was supplied by a Baltimore firm, and the contractors were from the same city.
32. The Nichols Building, 2021-2023 Strand. Antebellum. Ebenezer B. Nichols, who built the structure, moved to Galveston in 1850, when he first opened a hardware store, and later became a cotton factor and commission merchant. The Nichols Building is undecorated and made of stuccoed brick. There are moulded architraves over the lower floor openings. Inside, cast-iron columns support the second floor.
33. The Rogers Building, 2013-2019 Strand. 1894. The initials, "J. D. R.", and the date, "1894", are inscribed in the facades of two parapets at the top of the building. John D. Rogers, a commission merchant probably built this structure as an investment since it was immediately occupied by C. Nicolini and Company, ship chandlers and importers.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| |
|-------------------------|
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| RECEIVED |
| DATE ENTERED |

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

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------|---|
| The Strand Historic District | 7 | PAGE | 7 |
| CONTINUATION SHEET | ITEM NUMBER | | |

34. Rosenberg Building, 2005-2011 Strand. 1875. This two-story brick building was built by Henry Rosenberg at a cost of \$20,000. Its ground floor is treated as an arcade, with round arches and square piers. Rosenberg, a wealthy banker, was one of Galveston's first philanthropists.

This material is extracted from The Strand of Galveston by Virginia Eisenhour.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| |
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| RECEIVED |
| DATE ENTERED |

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

CONTINUATION SHEET The Strand Historic District 8 PAGE 3
ITEM NUMBER

Only a few of the buildings along The Strand have been designated as historic Texas landmarks by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee; however, the Galveston Historical Foundation is in the process of establishing its own historic district in the area with the aid of a grant from the Moody Foundation. The buildings in the district are being restored not only to preserve them but to put them into use in an effort to revitalize economic activity in downtown Galveston. In an effort to define a district and terminate this important street, the Santa Fe Railroad Office building on 25th Street has been included within the boundaries.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

| |
|-------------------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED |
| DATE ENTERED |

The Strand Historic District
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9 PAGE 1

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