

PH0675067

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 9 1979  
DATE ENTERED JUN 11 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 Main and Military Plazas Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER roughly bounded by San Antonio River,  
E. Nueva, Larado and Houston Sts.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN San Antonio

VICINITY OF

20

STATE Texas

CODE 048

COUNTY Bexar

CODE 029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Bexar County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER Main Plaza

CITY, TOWN San Antonio

STATE Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Austin

STATE Texas

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE		
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Main and Military Plaza district is an area in downtown San Antonio comprised of thirteen whole blocks, the two plazas, and portions of two additional blocks, including 36 contributing structures, 24 compatible structures and an open green space (Main Plaza). Contributing structures include the primarily 19th and early 20th-century two- and three-story masonry structures, punctuated by the 18th century Spanish Governor's Palace (1), with the architectural focal points consisting of the 19th century City Hall (3), County Courthouse (6), and Cathedral (4). In cases where an altered structure, still in scale, is an essential element in a facade row (such as the Commercial Row at 134 Houston including the Soledad Block) with alterations consisting of removable facade elements, the altered building is included in the block as a whole contributing member. Three recent 20th-century structures (a restaurant on Commerce St., the 28-story story Frost Bank, and the new City Rail annex) that are inconsistent with the scale and architectural styles of the district are considered as intrusions. It is hoped that a district listing on the National Register will halt any additions to the numerous parking lots in the district. Individual 19th and early 20th-century structures with removable facade additions are listed as compatible to the district, in that they are in scale with the contributing structures and could feasibly be restored.

A portion of the 18th-century Pajalache Acequia (San Pedro Ditch) runs under Main Avenue and veers off under block 100, appropriated by the County to investigate and interpret the site of the acequia before building county offices and a parking garage on the site. The acequia had been covered by 1849.

A wide variety of architectural styles are represented in the district covering a time span of over 200 years. This variety illustrates through the built environment San Antonio's evolution from Spanish Presidio in the 18th century to 19th-century cow town, to solid commercial city center in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, giving the area an organic, eclectic flavor not found in many downtown areas of this size.

Representative of the Presidio period of the two plazas is the Spanish Governor's Palace (1740), a one-story Spanish Colonial town house. Originally used as the comandancia, headquarters, and residence of the captain of the presidio of San Antonio de Bexar (the ranking representative of the Spanish king in the absence of the governor), the building has continued in use for residential (19th c.) and commercial (20th c.) purposes for 238 years. The Palace is now a city museum.

The Melchoir de la Garza house (ca. 1800), a small one-story caliche block cottage, is the one remaining example of the type of homes that once ringed the two plazas during the Presidio period, through the Republic, Statehood, and the Confederacy. These houses were replaced during the post-Civil War boom in the late 19th century by the primarily two-story masonry commercial structures, such as the Vogel Belt Complex (ca. 1880), as the emphasis in the area shifted from total community functions to primarily business and local government functions. This change was intensified by the

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ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

OWNER

MAP REFERENCE

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| ✓ Bexar County<br>Bexar Co. Courthouse<br>Main Plaza<br>San Antonio, TX 78205      | 12, 40, parking lots |
| Parking Inc. A Texas Corp.<br>✓ 825 Mellie Esperson Bldg.<br>Houston, TX 78242     | Parking lot          |
| ✓ Jennie E. Simmang<br>8830 FM 1560 West<br>San Antonio, TX 78228                  | Parking lot          |
| ✓ Ernest Hoenig<br>8038 Broadway, apt. 206F<br>San Antonio, TX 78209               | Parking lot          |
| ✓ Manuel Davila<br>226½ Dolorosa<br>San Antonio, TX 78204                          | 42                   |
| ✓ A. N. Zupan<br>220 Dolorosa<br>San Antonio, TX 78205                             | 41                   |
| ✓ Barrett Investment Co.<br>P. O. Box 21070<br>San Antonio, TX 78221               | 41 & Parking lot     |
| ✓ Estate of Ethel F. Kincaid<br>1914 Alamo National Bldg.<br>San Antonio, TX 78205 | 43                   |

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<u>OWNER</u>	<u>MAP REFERENCE</u>
✓ City of San Antonio City Hall Military Plaza San Antonio, TX 78205	6, 29, 32, 34, 48
✓ San Antonio Savings Assoc. 111 Soledad San Antonio, TX 78205	21, 33, & Parking lots
✓ Alamo National Bank of S. A. c/o John Ferrell Co. 154 E. Commerce San Antonio, TX 78205	Parking lot
✓ Daughters of St. Paul Inc. 114 E. Main Ave. San Antonio, Tx 78205	33
✓ The Lexington Co. 801 N. St. Mary's St. San Antonio, TX 78205	27, 28
✓ Frost National Bank c/o John L. Ferrell Co. 1117 Milam Bldg. San Antonio, Tx 78205	11, 17, 25, 27, 30, Parking lot
✓ Groos National Bank Trustee Laura Wise National Trust P. O. Box 1300 San Antonio, TX 78205	28

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✓ Edith Liebmann 417 Ridgemont San Antonio, TX 78209	26
✓ William W. Atwell 306 N. Presa San Antonio, TX 78205	25
✓ Donald B. & Betsy Harrell, trustees 801 N. St. Mary's San Antonio, TX 78205	26, Parking lot
✓ Leah Brenner 104 Shook, apt. 145 San Antonio, TX 78212	25
✓ John Carson 1408 Wiltshire San Antonio, TX 78209	24
✓ Brenner, Trust 2099 & 2100 c/o Frost National Bank exc. P. O. Box 1600 San Antonio, TX 78206	23, 24
✓ Morris Adelman 101 W. Commerce St. San Antonio, TX 78205	18
✓ Perry Kallison P. O. Box 9303 San Antonio, TX 78205	35, 44, 46, 47, Parking lot

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✓ E. E. & Virginia Shiner 1919 N. Flores San Antonio, TX 78202	44, 45, Parking lot
✓ Isabel & Beatrice Chapa c/o 8425 Ahern, apt. 406 San Antonio, TX 78216	44
✓ I. P. Elizondo c/o Morris Kallison 124 S. Flores San Antonio, TX 78204	Parking lot
✓ Plaza de las Armas, Inc. 301 Skyview San Antonio, TX 78228	4, 5, 6
✓ Urban Renewal Agency Houstin & Urban Development 410 S. Main Ave. San Antonio, TX 78205	1, 3, 6
✓ Rosendo L. Gonzales 310 W. Commerce St. San Antonio, TX 78205	7
✓ David P. Carter 200 Main Plaza San Antonio, TX 78205	36, Parking lot
✓ Legal Professional Bldg. Inc. 222 Main Plaza San Antonio, TX 78205	37

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<u>OWNER</u>	<u>MAP REFERENCE</u>
Villita Investments c/o Travel Lodge Corp. P. O. Box 308 El Cajon, Cal. 92022	38
J. H. Toudouze Jr., et al 304 Milam Bldg. San Antonio, TX 78205	Parking lot
Toudouze Realty Co. Box 12003 San Antonio, TX 78246	Parking lot
Ornsky Co. Inc. 707 Contour San Antonio, TX 78212	Parking lot
Chee Kunh Tong Chinese Freemasons, Trustees of 117 W. Nueva San Antonio, TX 78204	39
Mrs. Sol Dalkowitz Esther K. Dalkowitz 103 Devine Rd. San Antonio, TX 78212	16
Catarino M. Reyes 113 N. Flores St. San Antonio, TX 78205	15, parking lot

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✓ Joe Centeno Super Market Inc. 1802 W. Commerce San Antonio, TX 78207	11
✓ Arthur & Sam Sockler 143 E. Agarita Ave. San Antonio, TX 78212	Parking lot
✓ Rosendo & Petra C. Gonzales 250 Club Dr. San Antonio, TX 78201	13, 14, Parking lot
✓ R. L. White Co. Box 499 San Antonio, TX 78292	10
✓ Juanita S. Garza 244 W. Houston St. San Antonio, TX 78205	11
✓ Hyman Investment Co. 223 W. Commerce San Antonio, TX 78205	19, 20, Parking lot
✓ Herbert Bldg. Co. c/o Joe Hyman 223 W. Commerce San Antonio, TX 78205	13
✓ Bessie Walsh Rt. 5, Box 424 San Antonio, TX 78211	14
✓ Main Plaza Corp. c/o John L. Ferrell Co. 1117 Milam Bldg. San Antonio, TX 78205	Parking lot



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✓ Ferdinand P. Herff, et al  
c/o S. H. Kress Genesco Inc.  
P. O. Box 17  
Nashville, Tenn. 73202

15

✓ Rand Development Corp.  
711 Navarro, Ste. 410  
San Antonio, TX 78205

22

✓ Claretian Center  
c/o Claretian Missionaries  
1119 Westchester  
Los Angeles, Cal. 90019

31

✓ J. R. Bldg. Co.  
P. O. Box 2727  
San Antonio, TX 78229

2, Parking lot

San Fernando Cathedral  
Archdiocese of S. A.  
9133 Lorene  
San Antonio, TX 78216

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arrival of the railroad in 1877, further encouraging development of the cattle industry. The importance of this area as a center or hub of activity is further exemplified by the construction of the elaborate three-story Italian Renaissance Revival City Hall (1888-91), and Bexar County Courthouse (1892-96). The little parish church becoming an important Gothic Revival style cathedral (San Fernando Cathedral) with the appointment of a Catholic bishop to San Antonio after the Civil War is another indication of the importance of the area.

The next real boom period occurred from about 1915 to 1929, primarily because of the expansion of the military sector during World War I. San Antonio was also popular as a health resort at this time, with a large tourist trade from all over the country taking advantage of the pleasant climate and natural warm springs, with the cattle industry still an important factor in the economy. The Main Plaza Building (Old Frost Bank) (1922) is an excellent example of the spirit of this time period. This twelve-story Commercial style structure was San Antonio's tallest building in 1922. The bank was an outgrowth of Col. Tom Frost's wool business (built on the same location in 1867), which is symbolized in detailing on the building. Other examples of this period in the district would be the Rand Building (ca. 1920), an eight-story commercial structure showing Chicago Style influence, and the Kallison Block (ca. 1920), a two-story brick commercial row with Spanish Revival and Mission influences.

The district has continued in its importance as a commercial and governmental core area with the alteration and re-use of some of the older buildings, and the destruction of some of these buildings for parking space or construction of the newer and larger commercial structures of today. The architectural importance of the area, therefore, lies not in continuity or cohesive qualities of scale, materials or design, but rather in their diversity. Examples of the many changes in these qualities through time still remain as they are woven into the animated fabric of this vigorous city center.

Contributing Structures: (Numbers in parentheses refer to district map.)

1. Spanish Governor's Palace. 1740. 105 Military Plaza. (N.R., N.H.L., 1971) (6)
2. Vogel Belt Complex. Ca. 1880. 111-121 Military Plaza. (N.R., 1975) (5)
3. City Hall. 1888-81. Center of Military Plaza. This Italian Renaissance Revival structure was built in the center of Military Plaza. Otto Kramer, prominent architect of New York, Chicago and St. Louis, originally designed it as a three-story structure topped with an octagonal clock tower 135 feet

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high. The tower and corner turrets were removed in 1927, when a fourth floor was added. (29)

4. San Fernando Cathedral. 1738-1749 and 1868. 114 Main Plaza. (N.R., 1975) (31)
5. Main Plaza Building (Old Frost Bank). 1922. 103 S. Main. Constructed on the site of the original (1867) Frost & Bros. location, this is a twelve-story Commercial style structure with neoclassical elements. Contractor for the bank and office building was J.P. Haynes. Coin motifs are repeated throughout, as well as ram's head and hoof motifs symbolic of Col. Tom Frost's wool business from which the banking concern developed. (30)
6. Bexar County Courthouse. 1892-96. Main Plaza. (N.R., 1977) (40)
7. Kallison Block. Ca. 1920. 101-125 S. Flores. This two-story brick commercial row is illustrative of the mission influence with its classical Spanish detailing at the second level window moldings, tile roof, and elaborately detailed, angled entrance. First level has been altered. (44)
8. Kotula Building (Embassy Bar). Ca. 1870. This two-story, three-bay, stuccoed stone commercial building with crown molding at the cornice has deep apertures with double doors at the second level indicating removal of a detail, possibly a gallery. (45)
9. Heusinger Building (Visual Display Products). Ca. 1880. 408 Dolorosa. This two-story, three-bay brick commercial structure has segmental arched 4-over-4 sash windows, with quarry faced sill course and coping at the parapet. (46)
10. Faucett Building. Ca. 1900. 414-418 Dolorosa. This two-story brick store front building has three bays with varying fenestration in each bay. The second level openings have triple and quadruple rowlock arches and expressed extrados. The elaborate cornice includes corbeled brackets, reticulated brick panels and stone coping with modernistic stone sculpture at the parapet. (47)
11. Arana Building. Ca. 1920. This two-story brick commercial row shows mission influence at the parapet. There are decorative brick arches over the center and end bay windows and transoms over all the first floor windows. Stone coping follows the parapet lines, with belt courses above and below the second level openings. (3)

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12. Melchoir de la Garza House. Ca. 1800. 100 S. Laredo St. This is a stuccoed caliche block cottage with a three-bay facade and shed addition at the rear. The gabled roof shows wood shingles under the newer asbestos shingles. The house, though a type that was once common, is unique to the district. (1)
13. Continental Hotel. Ca. 1900. 332 W. Commerce St. This three-story brick masonry commercial building has Italianate Victorian detailing with brick corbeling at the cornice. It is divided into bays of two and three windows, with quarry faced stone lintels over second level windows and round arches with extrados over the third floor windows. The street level has been altered. (2)
14. Central Candy Co. Building (Artes Graficas). 19th century. 113-119 Cameron. This two-story commercial structure is constructed of limestone on the ground floor with round-arched openings and of brick on the second story with segmental arches and three bays articulated by brick pilasters. The facade at both levels is plastered and scored to simulate cut stone, with brick corbeling at the cornice and a brick coping along the parapet line. (8)
15. Old Bexar County Jail (Bexar County Election Center and Archives). 1878. 120 Cameron. Originally designed by Alfred Giles as a two-story stone structure with battlemented parapet, the old jail was altered in the 1930's. It is now a five-story brick veneered structure with an arched brick west portico and Romanesque influence at the attic level. The original limestone security walls still remain. (12)
16. Moke Building (Plaza Bridal Studio). Ca. 1880. This three-story brick commercial building has been altered at ground level. Four single pane, double hung sash windows span the second level facade with stone or terra cotta panels set into the wall above each. The third level is bracketed by stone pilasters with composite capitals. Round arched openings at this level spring from stone impost blocks. A stone string course runs between each level, with a stone coping at the parapet. (13)
17. Elmendorf Building (Plaza Furniture). Ca. 1910. 223 W. Commerce. This three-story brick commercial building has been altered at ground level. Two- and three-part double hung sash windows with transoms are separated by stone or terra cotta drop ornaments at the top of the third level and stone or terra cotta blocks at the base of the second level, with stone lintels and window sills. There is a dentilled string course above

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ground level and a stone cornice with brick parapet wall above. (14)

18. S.H. Kress & Co. Ca. 1920. 211 W. Commerce St. Pilasters separate coupled, single-pane, double-hung sash windows at the second level of this two-story brick commercial structure, with decorative brick panels above each pair of windows. Stone panels are set into the cornice line above the pilasters. (15)
19. Commercial Row. Late 19th and early 20th centuries. 134-144 W. Houston. These four late 19th and early 20th century three-story masonry commercial structures contribute to the architectural eclecticism of the district with their variety of compatible architectural details, such as the wide arches of the 20th century Book Building at 134 Houston to the narrower-arched 19th century Soledad Block structures which are thought to have been designed by Alfred Giles. (28)
20. Wolfson Building. Ca. 1880. 103 W. Commerce. This two-story Victorian stone commercial structure with elaborately bracketed eaves and segmentally arched windows at the second story has been altered at street level. It was designed by Alfred Giles for Wolfson's Department Store. (19)
21. Rand Building (Wolff & Marx Store Building). Ca. 1920. This eight-story brick and tile veneer commercial building shows Chicago Style influences in the fenestration and three-part commercial motif, with neoclassical details at the base and cornice. (22)
22. Morris Adelman Building. Early 20th Century. 101 W. Commerce. This two-story brick commercial structure with contrasting brick pilasters and cornice has been altered at ground level. It constitutes the only tie with the district in this block which is almost entirely covered by the multi-story Frost Bank Building. (18)
23. Chee Kunh Tong Chinese Free Masons, ca. 1920. 117 W. Nueva. This two-story brick structure with an A-B-A three-bay facade has decorative brick arches over end bay windows, string courses, and a corbeled brick cornice. Spanish influence is evident in the elaborate stone over-door treatment at the end bays and canales (roof drains) piercing the parapet. (39)
24. Ramsey and Ford Buildings. Late 19th century and early 20th century. 114 E. Main Plaza. This pair of two-story brick commercial buildings have been altered, but still maintain the scale of the district. Some

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of their earlier detailing at the cornice and molded window hoods at the second level remain. This was the site of the old Casas Reales in the 18th century. (33)

25. Legal Professional Building (Old City Jail and Police Building). Ca. 1915. 200 Main Plaza. This is a three-story red brick structure with raised basement and white stone or plaster detailing at arched openings, string course and parapet balustrade. Detailing indicates Renaissance Revival influences. (36)
26. Morris Hotel. Early 20th century. Dwyer Ave. at Dolorosa. This four-story brick hotel has been altered at street level. The upper three stories retain their rich architectural detailing, with a string course above second level, segmental arches above fourth floor windows of white limestone and a dentilled cornice of limestone. (35)

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Main Plaza and Military Plaza District has been the traditional hub of downtown San Antonio since the 18th century. Military Plaza was first established in 1722 as a parade ground and market square for the Spanish soldiers garrisoned there. While this plaza is associated with early Spanish colonialism, retaining to this day the 1749 Spanish Governor's Palace, it evolved over the years from a community gathering place and market place into the seat of government for the city when the Italian Renaissance Revival style City Hall was built in 1888-91. Main Plaza was the site of the first authorized Texas city when it was established as the market square for the Canary Island fundadores of San Antonio March 9, 1731. These early settlers built small, primitive jacal, palisado, or caliche block residences around the square, with their village church (now San Fernando Cathedral, N.R., 1975) and the Casas Reales (now 114 E. Main Plaza), their seat of government, as their focal points. A local government structure still shares the architectural focus of Main Plaza with the Cathedral, in the form of the 1882 Romanesque Revival style County Courthouse. Through the 18th and 19th centuries the two plazas have been the scene of everyday business and social events, as well as many skirmishes and battles, with the architecture changing to late 19th and early 20th century commercial and governmental structures as these functions became more important to the area. Many of these structures and facade rows remain today, with commerce, banking, government and the historic ambiance of the area combining to make the plazas popular with natives and tourists alike.

The Main and Military Plaza area has been the scene of numerous historical events, as evidenced by the 34 commemorative markers and monuments recorded there (see Appendix 1). Eight of the structures immediately on the plazas are already on the National Register: the Spanish Governor's Palace, built 1749 (N.R. & N.H.L., 1971); the four Vogel Belt structures, built in the 1880's (N.R., 1975); San Fernando Cathedral, built as first parish church ca. 1738, rebuilt in 1868-1873 (N.R., 1975); and the Bexar County Courthouse, built in 1882 (N.R. 1977).

Military Plaza

Military Plaza (Plaza de las Armas) was established in 1722 by the Spanish Garrison which earlier had established its presidio on the site of San Pedro Park by San Pedro Springs. In 1749, the same year the Spanish Governor's Palace was built on the square, the Spaniards made peace with the Apache by burying a live horse with a tomahawk, a lance, and six arrows on

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 87

UTM REFERENCES

670							
A	1,4	54,8330	3,25,49,4,0	B	1,4	54,903,0	3,25,52,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,4	54,960,0	3,25,49,4,0	D	1,4	54,945,0	3,25,44,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the East Nueva St. crossing of the San Antonio River, a line extending north along the River to Houston St., then west along Houston St. to San Pedro Creek to Commerce St., then west along Commerce to Larado St., then south along Larado to Dolorosa St., then east along Dolorosa to San Pedro Creek, then south along the Creek to East Nueva St., then east along E. Nueva to starting point.

### 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 Binnie Hoffman Joe Williams, Project Director

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission DATE March 26, 1979

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 12276 TELEPHONE 512-475-3094

CITY OR TOWN Austin STATE Texas

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Stuart Johnson*  
DATE 4-1-79

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:   
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 6-11-78  
 DATE June 8, 1978



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	JUN 11 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

the Plaza.

Moses Austin came here in 1820 seeking permission from the Spanish governor to settle Anglo-American colonists in Texas. In this area the bloodiest battle in the siege of Bexas (The Storming of Bexar) in Texas' War of Independence from Mexico was fought in 1835. Davy Crockett came here in 1836 prior to the Battle of the Alamo seeking help "in our common cause." For more than fifty years following removal of the presidio from Military Plaza, it was headquarters for cattlemen, cowboys, saloons, gambling casinos and dance halls. Barbed wire was first introduced to ranchers here, and the "Chili Queens," vendors of individual servings of chili from large open pots, presided over their stalls in the open market. The "Chili Queens" were a regular institution on the Plaza until 1900 when they ceased operations. They were reinstated briefly in the 1930's until the health department closed them down permanently.

Construction of the Italian Renaissance Revival style City Hall in the center of the Plaza in 1888-91, designed by prominent New York, Chicago and St. Louis architect Otto Kramer, signaled a change for Military Plaza from an open market to the center of municipal government, reinforced by the substantial masonry commercial structures now ringing the square, such as the Victorian Vogel Belt Complex, the 1870's limestone vernacular Kotula Building, the brick two-story Heusinger Building (ca. 1880), the three-story brick Moke Building (ca. 1870's), the brick Victorian Elmendorf Building (ca. 1870's) and the mid-19th century Kalteyer Complex, including brick and stone Victorian and vernacular commercial buildings and a two-story stone residence.

Main Plaza

Although the first permanent Spanish residents founded Misi6n San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) and the presidio of San Antonio de Bexar in 1718, the title "first settlers" was bestowed by the Spanish crown on the sixteen Canary Island families who founded Villa de San Fernando on Main Plaza, March 9, 1731. This primarily residential plaza was ringed by the settlers' primitive homes, protected by their Spanish Baroque parish church, Nuestra Se1ora de Candelaria y Guadalupe, 1739-1749, and the Casas Reales, their "city hall." Main Plaza is also called "Plaza de las Yslas" for these Canary Island settlers.

The Islanders, all volunteers, were brought to settle the area on the recommendation of the First Marquis de San Miguel de Aguayo, appointed Governor of Coahuila and Texas in 1719. His assertion was that one Spanish

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

family would more effectively secure the area than 100 soldiers. Native Canary Islanders were chosen on the basis of their proven work records as small farmers and due to the ease of transporting them to the area.

People from all the settlements and missions gathered here for fiestas, marriages, funerals and marketing. Santa Ana made his quarters here during San Antonio's occupation by his army. Like Military Plaza, Main Plaza gradually evolved into more of a commercial center, with the advent of permanent masonry commercial structures around the square, such as the Wolfson Building (1880's), and the Ramsey and Ford Building (ca. 1876), site of the old Casas Reales. The Wolfson Building was designed by prominent San Antonio architect Alfred Giles. Giles was prolific in designing public and commercial buildings and homes in south central Texas and northern Mexico during the last quarter of the 19th century, such as the Gillespie County Courthouse (N.R.), the Sullivan Stable and Carriage House in San Antonio (N.R.) and the Bandera County Jail (N.R. nomination in process).

By 1868, the small parish church (by now called San Fernando) was no longer large enough to accommodate the parishioners, and a new church designed by Francis Giraud was built around the walls of the original building. In 1874 the church became a cathedral, as the center of the new Diocese of San Antonio.

The Chee Kunh Tong Chinese Free Masons Building was constructed near Main Plaza to serve the Chinese population which greatly increased in San Antonio after Pershing's expedition into Mexico searching for Pancho Villa just prior to W.W. I. The Chinese railroad workers in Mexico were sympathetic to the Americans and more than 500 had to flee to safety as a result. Most remained in San Antonio's Chinese community after special citizenship was granted by Congress.

Like Military Plaza, Main Plaza also became a governmental center with the addition of the Romanesque Revival Bexar County Courthouse (1892) designed by James Riely Gordon, evolving also into a banking center after construction of the Old National Bank of Commerce (ca. 1919) and Old Frost Bank, then San Antonio's tallest structure (twelve stories, 1920). James Riely Gordon, known as the "Courthouse Architect," specialized in the use of the Romanesque Revival style and Greek Cross plan as applied in the Bexar County Courthouse, with the central stair well used to provide ventilation in the hot Texas climate. Other examples of Gordon's work still in existence include the Victoria County Courthouse (N.R.), Wise County Courthouse (N.R.),

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JUN 11 1979

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

and Erath County Courthouse (N.R.).

The life of the city continues to center around the plazas. Business and banking, the Cathedral, County Courthouse and City Hall all continue to bring people into the old plazas where Texas' first city was founded.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries delineate the core area of the Plazas by enclosing the blocks immediately surrounding the two Plazas, with the San Pedro Creek and San Antonio River forming the natural east and west boundaries just as they did when the presidio was founded in 1722. The west boundary extends at one point past San Pedro Creek primarily to include the Melchoir de la Garza house as the only remaining example of the type of homes that were once numerous around the Plazas. While a number of parking lots in spaces which recently contained 19th century and early 20th century commercial structures are included in the district, enough of a representative sampling of the various growth periods of Main-Military still exists to warrant its nomination as a National Register District.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Appendix 1

Main-Military Plazas and the immediate area have thirty-four (34) markers and monuments commemorating historic events recorded by the State of Texas.

Included among these are the Statue of Moses Austin on City Hall Grounds, Military Plaza, which was a special Texas Centennial marker.

De Zavala and Texas Historical Commission markers commemorate the following:

J. A. de la Garza House and Garden -- Soledad Street at Veramendi, site of bank and mint where Spanish money was coined.

Residence of Governor Ramon Musquiz -- Southeast corner of Soledad and Commerce Streets, where women and children survivors of the Alamo were taken after the battle March 6, 1836.

Zero Milestone of Spanish Kings' Highway -- "Camino Real", marking center point of Spanish settlement in southwest between Atlantic and Pacific.

Spanish Governor's Palace -- In addition to Texas State Medallion and plaque, site also has National Historic Landmarks plaque and De Zavala plaque.

San Fernando Cathedral -- National Register property, two markers noting burial site for Alamo victims; first parish church and center of old City of San Antonio marker; Battle markers for Texas Victory in December, 1835, and Santa Anna flag of "no quarter" in 1836; Texas State Medallion. In addition the Knights of Columbus have erected markers commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone, dedicated May 11, 1938.

Confederate States of America Arsenal and Hospital -- Houston at Soledad, south east side 134 Soledad, marking site of arsenal and hospital for confederate troops in Texas.

Milam Headquarters -- West side of Soledad at Veramendi, headquarters for Ben Milam on his entry into San Antonio, December 5, 1835.

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(Appendix 1 continued)

Veramendi House -- Home of Governor Veramendi where James Bowie won hand of Ursula Veramendi and where Ben Milam fell victim to a Mexican sniper on December 7, 1835.

Civil War Centennial Marker -- Main Plaza Building, commemorating the surrender of Union Troops in 1861 under command of General D. E. Twiggs to Texas.

French Building -- Main Plaza at Dwyer marking site of Old San Antonio City Hall, 1859, and Bexar County Courthouse.

Perote Prisoner's Capture -- Southeast corner of Soledad and W. Commerce Streets, site of capture of San Antonions later taken to Perote Prison in Mexico.

Woll Invasion - West Commerce at Main Plaza commemorating invasion and battle with Mexican Army in 1842 when Texans lost to invaders.

First Protestant Church Service -- 100 Soledad -- site of Old County Clerk's Office where First Protestant Church Service was held by John McCullough, Presbyterian, and John Wesley DeVilbiss, Methodist, April, 1844.

Casas Reales -- 114 Main Plaza -- Site chosen July 2, 1731, as Royal Houses of Spanish Governors and seat of Spanish Government in Texas (last walls were destroyed earlier this year by demolition of buildings on east side of Main Plaza).

Barbed wire -- Military Plaza, City Hall Grounds -- In site of first demonstration of practical use of barbed wire in United States by John "Bet-a-Million" Gates in 1870's.

Ruiz Home -- Site of home of Jose Francisco Ruiz, one of two native signers of Texas Declaration of Independence, Dolorosa Street, south side of Military Plaza. (Home was moved to Witte Museum Grounds and reconstructed there in the 1940's.)

Plaza de Armas -- Military Plaza, City Hall -- Marker commemorating arrival of Spanish Military Garrison.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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(Appendix 1 continued)

San Antonio Met Mutual Aid Assn. -- Main Plaza -- Commemorating aid program and store for families of Confederate Army.

St. Anthony de Padua -- Statue to St. Anthony on Courthouse grounds erected by the Order of Alhambra.

Canary Island Settlers -- Commemorating settlers from Canary Islands who founded Villa de San Fernando in March, 1731, Courthouse lawn.

Bexar County Government -- Courthouse, commemorating Bexar County's unique position as oldest administrative government in Texas.

Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway -- Marker at Courthouse in honor of President of the Confederacy.

American Legion Memorial -- Courthouse, dedicated during Texas Centennial to the American Legion.

Erasmio Sequin -- Courthouse, commemorating famous early settler and civic leader.

San Jacinto Bell -- Courthouse, Bicentennial marker, with bell from U.S.S. San Jacinto.

Franklin Roosevelt Statue -- City Hall Grounds, erected in honor of late president, "The Good Neighbor", by Comite Mexicano de Accion Civica y Cultural.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Historical Association, 1952.

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Vol. III. Austin: The University of Texas, 1926.





24008

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

MELCHOIR DE LA GARZA HOUSE  
100 S. Laredo St.  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1979

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 1

Photo # 1 *418*

Southwest Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONTINENTAL HOTEL (COMMERCIAL ROW)  
322-338 W. Commerce  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 2

Photo # 2419

Northwest Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

APR 9 1979

*DOE*

JUN 11 1979



MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

ADELMAN BUILDING  
101 W. Commerce & Main  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1979

*Bexar County*  
Map Ref. # 18  
Photo #3418  
Northeast Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

FAWCETT BUILDING  
414-418 Dolorosa  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1979

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 47

Photo # 4 *418*

North Elevation

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



SMOKEHOUSE

VISUAL DISPLAY PRODUCTS

DOLOROSA

ONE WAY

SMOKEHOUSE

SMOKEHOUSE

VISUAL DISPLAY PRODUCTS

VISUAL DISPLAY PRODUCTS

VISUAL DISPLAY PRODUCTS



2400g

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

KALLISON BLOCK  
101-125 S. Flores  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas  
*Bexar County*  
Map Ref. #44  
Photo #5 *418*  
Northeast Oblique  
Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

APR 9 1979

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



24004

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

S. H. KRESS & CO. (KALTEYER COMPLEX)  
211 W. Commerce St.  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

*Bexar County*

APR 9 1979

Map Ref. # 15  
Photo # 6 *916*  
Southeast Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

*DoE*  
JUN 11 1979



24008

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

MOKE BUILDING (PLAZA BRIDAL STUDIO) &  
ELMENDORF BUILDING (PLAZA FURNITURE)  
223 & 221 W. Commerce  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1979

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 13  
Photo # *7418*  
Southwest Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

*POE*

JUN 11 1979



24008

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

COMMERCIAL ROW

134-144 Houston

San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 28

Photo # 8 *718*

Northeast Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC

May 12, 1978

APR 9 1979

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



CANADA

LOADING THIS SIDE IN THIS BLOCK



24007

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

CHINESE FREE MASONS

117 W. Nueva

San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 39

Photo # *9418*

South Elevation

Danny Hardy, THC

May 12, 1978

APR 9 1979

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



LEGAL PROFESSIONAL BLDG.

24001

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

LEGAL PROFESSIONAL BUILDING  
Dwyer & Villita

San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 37

Photo # 10 *418*

Northwest oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

APR 9 1979

*DE*  
JUN 11 1979



24008

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

CITY HALL  
Military Plaza  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 29

Photo # 11 *of 13*

West Elevation

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

APR 9 1978

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



HARRIS COUNTY ELECTRIC CENTER  
AND  
ARCHIVES BUILDING

NO  
PARKING  
THIS  
SIDE  
10-8-82 2784

24007

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

OLD BEXAR COUNTY JAIL (BEXAR CO. ELECTION  
CENTER & ARCHIVES)

120 Cameron

San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1978

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 12

Photo # 12 *418*

Southwest Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC

May 12, 1978

*DoE*  
JUN 11 1979

CENTRAL CANDY  
COMPANY

PRINTERS

ARTES GRAFICAS

LITHOGRAPHERS

ARTES GRAFICAS  
PRINTERS LITHOGRAPHERS

115-117

113

GRAPHIC ARTS  
MOVED  
TO 715 N. CHERRY  
IN BLOCK NORTH OF HICKORY ST.  
226-6187

CABRITO  
AL PASTOR  
PIN FRIED RABBIT





24008

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

CENTRAL CANDY CO. (ARTES GRAFICAS)

113-119 Cameron

San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1979

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 8

Photo # 13 *4/18*

Northeast Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC

May 12, 1978

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



GHT.  
ARK

BAR-B-Q

ARTHUR'S  
BAR-B-Q

Blair  
UNIFORMS

Blair Uniforms  
FILM DEVELOPING

OFFICE SPACE  
AVAILABLE  
FOR INFORMATION  
222-2282  
BARTO & CO.

CHURCH'S  
FRIED  
CHICKEN

ALLRIGHT  
BATH PARK

GW

50  
PARK 2

2400g

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

RAND BUILDING

South side of Houston, bounded by  
Soledad & Main  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

*Bexar County*

APR 9 1979

Map Ref. # 22

Photo # 14 *718*

Northeast Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

MAIN PLAZA BUILDING (behind San Fernando Cathedral)  
103 S. Main  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

*Bexar County*

Map Ref. # 30

Photo # 15 *918*

Southeast Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

APR 9 1979

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979



MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

COMMERCIAL ROW  
100-180 Soledad  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1978

*Bexar County*  
Map Ref. # 23, 24, 25, 26, 27  
Photo # 16 *of 18*  
Southwest oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979

24008





MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

WOLFSON BUILDING  
103 W. Commerce  
San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1979

*Bexar County*  
Map Ref. # 19  
Photo # 17 *418*  
Southwest Oblique

Danny Hardy, THC  
May 12, 1978

*DoE*  
JUN 11 1979



1890

View across Main Plaza

D.R.T. Library

Grandjean Collection #110

MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

MAIN PLAZA

San Antonio, Bexar, Texas

APR 9 1979

*Bexar County, Texas*

Map Ref. # 32

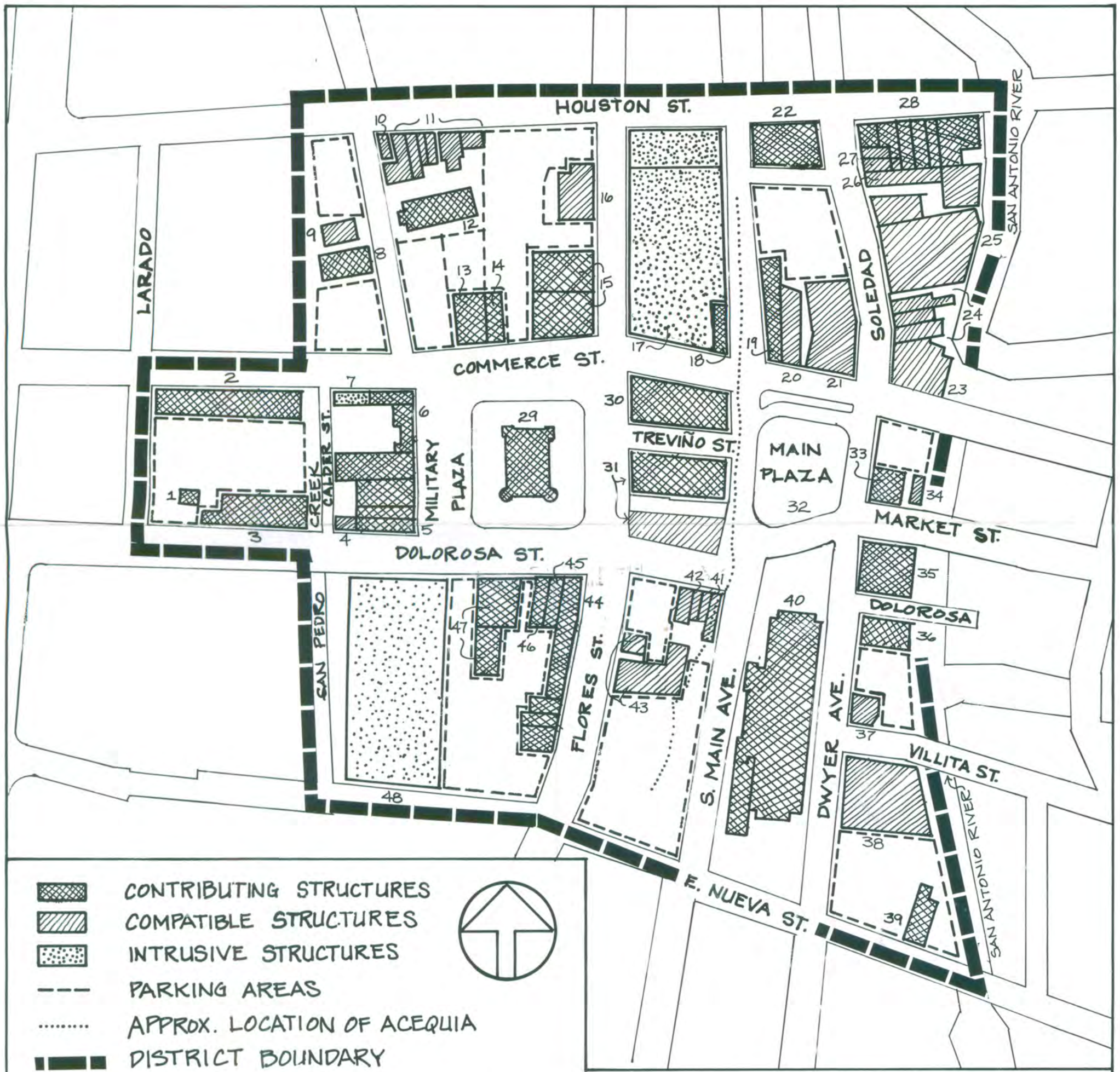
Photo # 18 *418*

View across Plaza toward the Southwest

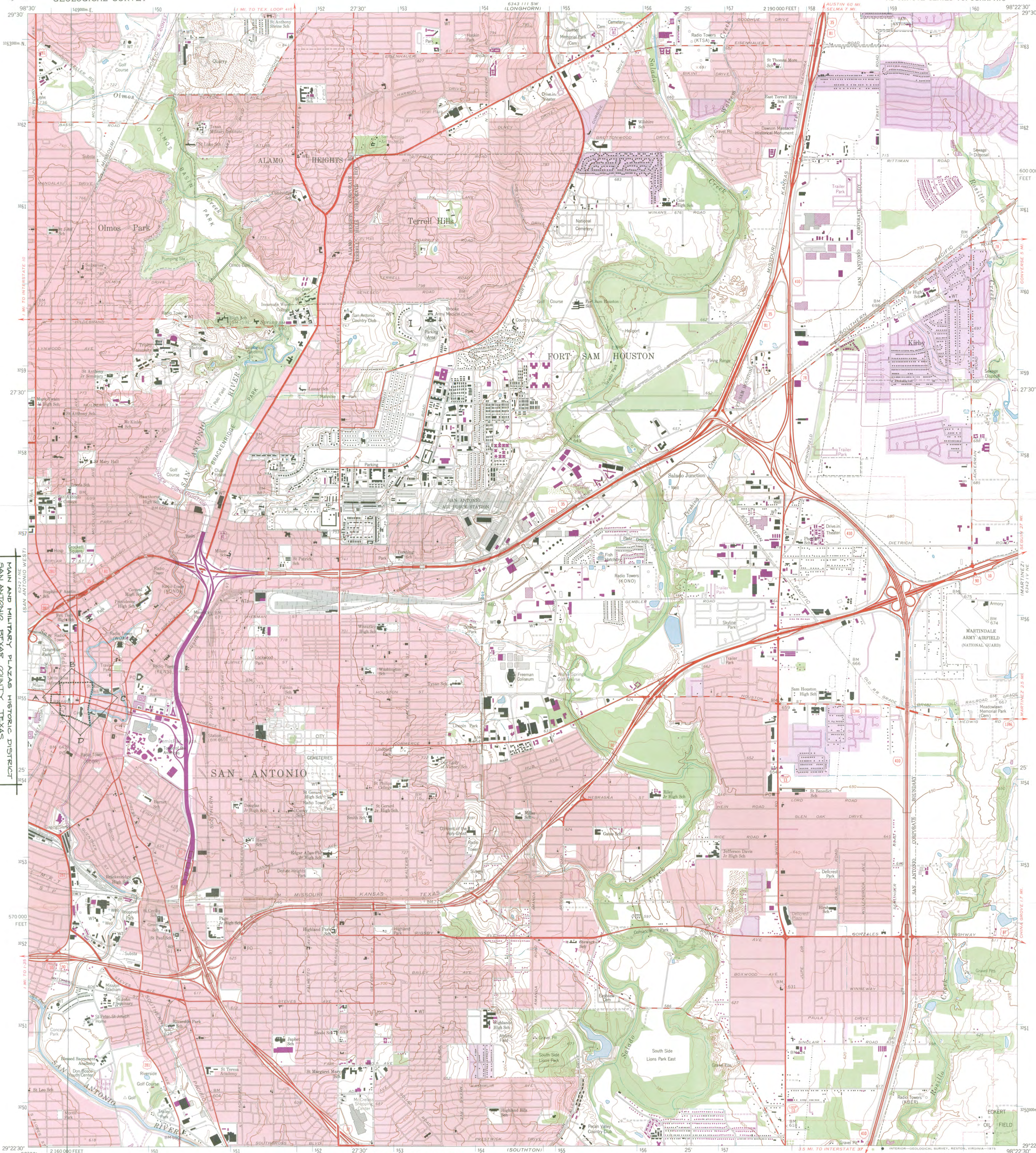
DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS LIBRARY,  
Grandjean Collection #110  
1890

*DOE*  
JUN 11 1979

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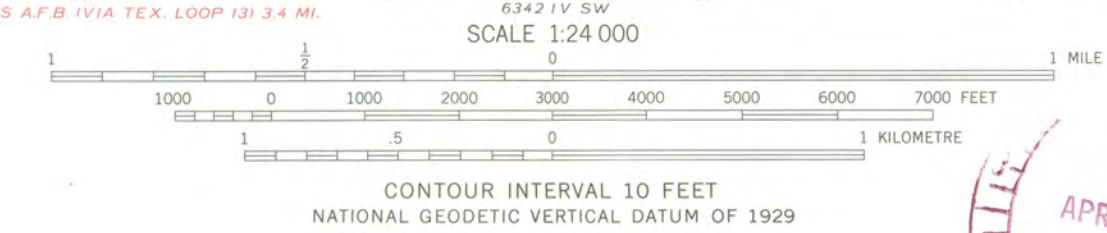
**Main & Military Plazas Historic District  
 San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas**



MAIN AND MILITARY PLAZAS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCES:  
A 14/548330/3254140  
B 14/549030/3255280  
C 14/549680/3256440  
D 14/549450/3254490

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

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET  
89° 15' 15.11" N  
0° 17' 5.5" E  
5 MILS



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

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

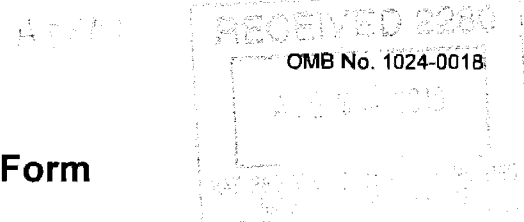
2998-133  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1973  
AMS 6342 IV NW - SERIES V882

# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2019

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Main and Military Plazas Historic District (Period of Significance and Boundary Increase)  
Other name/site number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by San Antonio River, and Nueva, Santa Rosa, and Houston Streets  
City or town: San Antonio State: Texas County: Bexar  
Not for publication:  Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
( nomination  request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my  
opinion, the property ( meets  does not meet) the National Register criteria.

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 8/19/19  
Signature of certifying official / Title Date  
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: ACCEPT ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION + BOUNDARY INCREASE

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 10/7/2019 Date of Action

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Additional Documentation

Property Name: Main and Military Plazas Historic District

Multiple Name:

State & County: TEXAS, Bexar

Date Received: 8/22/2019      Date of Pending List: 9/12/2019      Date of 16th Day: 9/27/2019      Date of 45th Day: 10/7/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: AD79002914

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      10/7/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The documentation provides updated information regarding the historic status of the extant buildings within the 1979-listed historic district, including re-evaluations of contributing status, an expansion of the period of significance, and additional context. The documentation assesses and incorporates additional buildings, as approved under Boundary Increase BC100004489. Significant under Criteria A and C.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept Additional Documentation

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan      Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229      Date: 10/7/2019

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.



National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

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

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

Property Main and Military Plazas Historic District

State Tex. (Bexar)

Working Number 4.9.79. 781

Ref. # 79002914

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 18  
Maps 1, sketch

*Gastings incassent*

**CONTROL**

*pl*  
**OK-4.10.79**

The development of these squares as commercial, religious, + political centers of the city spans the entire history of TX, from Spanish colonization + founding of present day San Antonio, to the late 19th century commercial architectural development of a Modern U.S. city. These 2 squares are individually significant, but as a district <sup>historical</sup> display the continuity of development for San Antonio.

**HISTORIAN**

*B. Frandsen*  
**accept**  
**6-5-79**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

known archeological resources limited to remains of 18th c. Acequia, whose full extent is not known, but excavation is planned by county in near future. Acequia is considered to be part of district. Not enough info. at present time to evaluate archeologically.

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

*Refer*  
*Joy Beul*  
**6-7-79**

~~These 2 squares are individually significant, but as a district display the continuity of development for San Antonio.~~

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

This district has been the hub of downtown San Antonio since the 18th century. Important State historical association spanning the entire history of Texas is reflected in one archeological resource about which little is known and a diverse collection of public and privately owned buildings, eight of which are already listed on the NR, representative of Texas architectural history from ca. 1740 to the early 1920's. One owner objected to the listing of their property, but the property they referred to appears to be outside the district.

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Case / Accept*  
*Case Brooks*  
**6/7/79**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_

**7-3-79**

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JUN 11 1979



# United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. [REDACTED] 20243

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H32-NR

MAY 1 1979

Dear Property Owner:

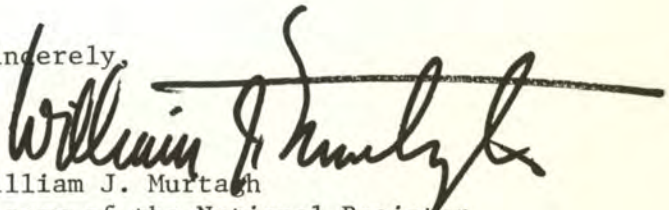
The property you own is located in a historic district that has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the government's official list of historic buildings and other cultural resources worthy of preservation. This nomination is pending in our office.

If your property is depreciable and the district is listed in the National Register, there are certain benefits and provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 that may apply to you. We are enclosing information about this law and a general description of the National Register program.

Soon we will be considering whether the district should be listed, using as our guidelines the "Criteria for Evaluation" shown in the enclosed material. If you wish to comment on whether the district should be listed, we would be pleased to hear from you. Send your comments within 30 days of the date of this letter to me, Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior, Pension Building, 440 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243 (Attn: NOM). Please include the name of the district (as shown on the address label on this letter) and property address. If you have questions about the National Register program or the enclosed material, you should also address them to me.

In the enclosed material you will note references to standards for rehabilitating old buildings. These standards are a list of do's and don'ts for people who are fixing up old buildings. If the owner of a building listed in the National Register, either individually or as part of a district, wishes to take advantage of the Tax Reform Act benefits, these standards must be followed. A copy of these standards is available from Technical Preservation Services, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior, Pension Building, 440 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243. Questions about the standards should also be addressed to that same office.

Sincerely,

  
William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register

A. N. Zupan  
220 Dolorosa  
San Antonio, TX 78205

RE: Main & Military Plazas Historic District

NA and effects

Main and Military  
Plaza's Historic District  
(TX)

4-24-79

**CLARETIAN  
MISSIONARIES**

PROVINCIAL OFFICE

May 15, 1979

Mr. William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

This letter is in reference to the property owned by the Claretian Missionaries as described by your letter to us in the Main and Military Plaza's Historic District, San Antonio, Texas. The property is known to us as Immaculate Heart Church and the address is 617 South Santa Rosa Boulevard, San Antonio, Texas.

We understand our property has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

It is our desire to not include our property in the National Register since we are a tax exempt (501C3) corporation. There are no tax advantages in terms of rehabilitation or depreciation for our structures. Although we plan to continue our use of the property in its current form, any restrictions placed upon us by the Department of Interior, will significantly hamper our financial flexibility in the years to come.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Cordially,



Dominic Ferrante  
General Manager

DF/ms

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **MAY 22 1979**

\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

\_\_\_\_ INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS *lo 5/29*

## Telephone Report

To Binrose Hoffman  
Tx SHPO Staff

6-7-79

Jay Bush

Asked about hist. arch. potential.

Only archeological resources known within the district are the remains of the Azequia. The county has covered it, and ~~will~~ intends to excavate it in the near future. No more info. at present time. Mapped path of azequia is extent of current knowledge - it may go beyond.

Azequia is considered to be a part of the district.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JUN 11 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Alamo Methodist Church	San Antonio Bexar County
↳ Main and Military Plazas Historic District	San Antonio Bexar County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas State Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

↳ NR Byers/bjr 6/12/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.