

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED APR 29 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME** HISTORIC

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fort Worth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

CODE
048NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12

COUNTY
TarrantCODE
439**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tarrant County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fort Worth

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Inventory & Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

DATE

1975 & 1967

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Worth is located in north central Texas near the headwaters of the Trinity River. The famous Chisolm Trail crossed the Trinity River at a point near Fort Worth and the impetus of the cattle drives from south and central Texas through Fort Worth spurred the growth of that early settlement.

A rural site three miles north of the city was chosen for the first permanent stockyards in 1890 and this forms the nucleus of the current Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District. As Fort Worth gradually spread north, an effort was made to keep this rich industrial area composed of packing houses and stockyards from being annexed to Fort Worth. An area one mile square containing the industrial complex was laid out as Niles City in 1898. In 1902 when the large meat packing companies of Armour and Swift located at this site and brought prosperity to the industry, a new era of construction began which forms the basic style of buildings characteristic of the district today.

The boundaries of the historic district, as described in Item 10, encompass the original location of the Armour and Swift packing plants built in 1902, the Stock Exchange Building built in 1902, the Coliseum built in 1908, the Horse and Mule Barns rebuilt in the 1920's, the area of the stockyard pens, the commercial district that developed along the west end of the Exchange Ave. and N. Main in the early 20th century and the location of an early competing packing plant.

Individual sites and buildings located within the historic district are described below:

1. & 2. Armour and Swift Packing Plants

The entire east end of the historic district includes the original locations of the Armour and Swift Packing Plants. Located on a small hill overlooking the rest of the district, the 5-story main Armour plant building and the 7-story Swift building once visually dominated the industrial complex. However, these large structures no longer form the imposing terminal point of the district. The 5-story Armour building was razed after the packing plant ceased operations in the mid-1960's. Recently, the large Swift Building suffered fire damage and is currently being demolished.

Many original buildings associated with the plant operations still remain, however. At the north end of the Armour property (1) are two rectangular buildings both used for storage. The cluster of buildings at the south end are all part of the original complex and now contain a fat refinery and edible oil processing plant. The old Swift property (2) is bounded on three sides by a fence. An entrance gate at the southern border of the property has an attractive curved double stairway ascending at the center to the double iron gates. The concrete stairs display a large circular "S" medalion. Forming the fence supports are square concrete piers with recessed vertical panels in the shaft, molded bases and capitals and a spherical finial. The west portion of the property is dominated by the ruins of the old Swift building. Visible at the south end of the building are the re-

(Continued on Page 2)

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mains of the wooden ramp, which once formed the transfer link between the stock pens and the slaughter house. East of the old Swift Packing Plant are several buildings once associated with plant activities and now used for storage.

3. Swift Main Office Building

At the northwest corner of the Swift property is a 2-story brick, hip roofed building with double gallery around two sides. On the main facade the red brick building has central double doors on the first and second level with transoms and sidelights. Six windows flank each side of the door and have segmental arched 2/2 light openings. An octagonal vent rises from the roof's center. This structure served as the Swift main office building. The building is in good condition and is currently being leased as a restaurant. To the north of the old Swift office building is a wide flight of stairs leading down to Packers Ave. Street cars once transported employees from Ft. Worth to the Packing plants along Packers Ave. terminating at the intersection with Exchange Avenue. In addition, the railroad tracks for the Fort Worth Belt run along the west side of the road.

4. Stockyard Pens

Immediately to the west of Packers Ave. are the stockyard pens. Originally, the pens covered a long narrow area stretching from Marine Creek at the south to 28th St. on the north. Since the decline of the livestock market, only the area east of the Exchange Building is utilized for pens. The pens once spread over 100 acres, but they now encompass only about 40 acres. All of the stockyard pens, as well as the streets, are paved with brick.

5. Live Stock Exchange Building

At the center of the historic district is the Live Stock Exchange building built in 1902. Designed in the Mission style, this structure is an early example of the design that was first introduced in California in the 1890's. The Stock Exchange Building is the oldest building in the district still in use. Basically a U-shaped, stuccoed brick structure, the building's main facade has two projecting hip roofed end pavilions displaying at the center "Alamo" style parapets with a Palladian window. At the intersection of the pavillion roofs and the ridge of the main rectangular section are octagonal cupolas capped by small octagonals and a weathervane. The base of the U-design is a pitch roofed rectangle with a central projecting hip roofed section. A curvilinear parapet at the center of this facade displays the raised lettering "Fort Worth Livestock Exchange" around a Longhorn steer's head. Rising from the roof is a large four-sided cupola with convex mansard roof capped with a small cupola and flagpole. Joining

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the three sides of the design is a T-shaped, 1-story, arcaded gallery.

6. Coliseum

Adjacent to the Stock Exchange is the 1908 Coliseum built to display the livestock on sale. The first indoor rodeo was held in this structure in 1918 and recently this sporting event has returned to the Coliseum. The Fort Worth Fat Stock Show was also a popular annual event and was held in this building until after World War II. The building is a rectangular structure with parapet gabled ends. At the first floor there are two one-story hip roofed wings at each end and a connecting arcade forming a gallery across the front. On the second level above the arcade are seven small segmental arched windows. In the gable is a large multi-lighted arched opening, identical in width to the combined width of the seven windows below. An arcaded ticket booth entry added at a later date now obscured the original facade. The sides of the building contain large rectangular windows on the first level and segmental arched openings on the second level and are divided into bays by brick piers. Minor alterations have occurred such as the removal of the central parapet and the corner turrets on the principal facade and covering the large arched windows.

Also associated with the stock shows and livestock trading are the two large buildings around the Coliseum. To the west is an odd triangular-shaped building which once served as exhibit barns and the rectangular building to the north of the Coliseum is the old auction barn. Clarks Discount Store now occupies the old auction barn.

7. Horse and Mule Barns

South of Exchange Avenue across from the Stock Exchange Building and the Coliseum are the Horse and Mule Barns. To the east of the Barns are covered, open frame pens once used for the horses and mules. Raised walkways by which the animals were transferred to the packing plants are still extant, but in poor condition. The original Barns, built before the first World War were destroyed by fire and the present Horse and Mule Barns were constructed in the late 1920's.

The entrance to the Barns is marked by two two-story towers each with a round arched opening at the base and three small round arched openings on the second level. A corbeled cornice and wide bracketed eaves embellish the structures and a flagpole rises from the peaks of the hipped tile roof. A pitched, tile roof links the entrance towers. On either side of the tower entrance a stuccoed brick wall with high rectangular windows, corbeled cornice and parapet wall forms the north wall of the barns. The complex includes two rectangular buildings. Inside the entrance gate is a wide road with the individual barn entrances on either side. Each barn entry is distinguished by a Mission-style parapet. The Horse and Mule Barns are currently vacant.

8. Old Stockyards Bank

West of the Coliseum is the Old Stockyards Bank. This structure is the western most building constructed in the early 1900's by the Armour and Swift Companies. The "Fort Worth Stock Yards" sign across Exchange Avenue next to the bank building officially marks the western boundary line of their original property. The old Bank maintains the Mission-style architecture with its two-story stuccoed masonry surface, its use of the arched openings on the main floor, the second floor balconies, the tile roof and the curvilinear parapets. A new bank building was recently constructed outside of the district and this structure is being used for a western wear shop.

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9. Commercial District

The western arm of the district contains blocks of one-, two-, and three-story early 20th century commercial buildings built chiefly along Exchange Avenue and N. Main Street. Old hotels, saloons, restaurants, leather shops, western clothing stores, etc. catering to the men of the livestock industry lined the streets. Many of the hotels and cafes are still in use and a variety of commercial enterprises occupy the buildings.

10. Old Post Office

Located on the south side of 24th Street between North Main and Ellis Street is a small 1-story brick structure that was built in the early 20th century and used as Niles City's first Post Office.

11. Old Packing Plant

North of the commercial district are two buildings along North Main Street between 26th and 27th Streets which served as a competing packing plant for a short while not long after Armour and Swift were established. A 2-story brick rectangular building at the corner of 26th and North Main served as the administrative office building and a 3-story, ell-shaped, brick structure at the corner of 27th and North Main functioned as the packing plant. Foundations are visible where additional structures were to be built, but the small plant was purchased by Swift before the expansion progressed. When the railroad failed to extend their tracks to accommodate the plant (due to pressure from Armour and Swift) the new packing plant floundered financially and sold out to Swift & Co.

The only major intrusions in the district, i.e. buildings not specifically related to the activities of the Stockyards are built within the same time period, are two buildings at the north end of the district along 28th Street. At the corner of 28th and North Main Street is a service station and adjacent to it is a modern rectangular structure built to house a furniture store.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

impetus to
community growth

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Worth Stockyards is one of the most significant sites in Texas representing the importance of the cattle and livestock industry to the state. The establishment of the Fort Worth Stockyard coincides with the beginnings of the cattle and livestock industries in the southwest. After the founding of the Armour and Swift packing plants at this location in 1902, the new activity assured Fort Worth's ascendancy as the major livestock market of the southwest. The Stockyards also provided the major impetus for the growth and early development of Fort Worth. As the city's first industry, the stockyards and later packing plants transformed Fort Worth from a small frontier community into a major Texas metropolis.

Fort Worth began as a tiny army outpost, Camp Worth, established by Major Ripley A. Arnold in 1849 and named for General William Jenkins Worth, a soldier in the Mexican War. Officially designated as Fort Worth on November 14, 1849, the post served to guard East Texas settlements from the Indians. No permanent fort was erected and after the army evacuated the post in 1853, the abandoned barracks were used as early stores and residences by the remaining settlers. A small ambitious Fort Worth population made a bid to change the county seat from Birdville to Fort Worth in 1856 and, after a bitterly contested election, finally won the county seat in 1860.

Fort Worth citizens began looking for new ways to attract people and money to their small city. The emergence of the cattle industry in Texas in the late 1860's offered the small farming village a chance to capitalize on the cattle trade. After the Civil War there was a scarcity of beef in the north. Descendants of the Spanish cattle, the Texas Longhorns, roamed wild in the region between the Rio Grande and Nueces River. With such a large supply of beef, Texas established its domain as the great cattle state and northern companies began to buy in large quantities. Cattlemen drove cattle as far as Illinois and Iowa to markets, until the railroad shortened the drives by establishing terminals in Dodge City and Abilene, Kansas.

Fort Worth was a natural stopping place for cattledrivers moving up the Chisolm Trail toward Abilene. While the cattle rested and watered at the Trinity River ford, the city offered drovers a rest and night on the town before pushing northward. Fort Worth was the last town of any size in the vicinity of the cattle trail and the opportunity to cater to the cowboys gave Fort Worth a new life.

With its new prosperity based on the cattle industry, the discovery of tick-infested Texas cattle in 1872 dealt a severe blow to the Fort Worth economy. Kansas residents were refusing to allow cattle to cross their land and some buyers refused to buy Texas cattle. Seeing rail shipment as a possible solution to this problem, Fort Worth citizens began to push for a railroad. The Fort Worth and Denver Railroad and the Texas and Pacific Railroad both received charters from the state legislature to build into Fort Worth. By 1873, the Texas and Pacific had built tracks within 24 miles of Fort Worth and the population of the city grew from 500 in 1872 to 3 or 4000 in 1873 in anticipation of the approaching railroad. But when the "Panic of 1873" hit, Texas and Pacific lost its financial backing and suspended construction. Realizing the importance of the railroad, the city raised funds and hired the local Tarrant County Construction Company to

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prepare the roadbed. Finally the Texas and Pacific rolled into Fort Worth in July, 1876.

With the arrival of the first train in Fort Worth, rail transportation replaced the cattle trail in importance in the development of the cattle market. During the 1880's Fort Worth became an important railroad center and by the end of the decade six major railroads served the growing cattle market. However, with the increase in the cattle business, Fort Worth citizens realized there was an immediate need for a permanent stockyards and in 1888 several local businessmen decided to finance the construction of facilities for the boarding and trading of livestock. In 1890 work began on the Fort Worth Union Stockyards, located north of the city at the crossroads city of North Fort Worth. With the extensive yards, Fort Worth business leaders hoped to attract all the business from the west.

The major drawback of the Fort Worth stockyards, however, was the lack of a packing house. The railroad had not solved the tick problem and the shipping of live cattle proved to be very costly. The first packing plant was established in Fort Worth as early as 1881 by a man named Richardson. Designed only for the slaughter and refrigeration of hogs, Richardson's plant failed because Texas did not produce enough hogs to return a profit. A second plant, the Continental Meat Packing Plant, was built in 1883 in southeast Fort Worth by A. F. Higgs. The depression in the cattle market at this time created such a slow market that the plant closed in shortly over a year. Isaac Dahlman of Fort Worth bought the plant and attempted to refrigerate carcasses, but his venture also ended in failure. Finally, after the establishment of the Fort Worth Union Stockyards in North Fort Worth, thirty Fort Worth businessmen agreed to contribute \$10,000 each to purchase the Old Continental Meat Packing Company and move the location to the Union Stockyards. Under the management of H. C. Holloway, they purchased land adjacent to the stockyards and named the industry, Fort Worth Dressed Meat and Packing Company.

Due to a severe financial depression in Fort Worth beginning in 1892, the businessmen of the community found it impossible to continue local operation of the stockyards and packing plant. In 1893 the Fort Worth Stockyards Company was formed and G. W. Simpson, a Boston capitalist, became President of the Board. This new corporation assumed operation and control of the old Union Stockyards. The Fort Worth Stockyards Company removed the stockyards operation out of the hands of local citizens for the first time.

Other problems affected the packing plant in the 1890's. By 1895 the directors of the Stockyards Company leased the packing house to the Chicago and Fort Worth Packing Company. This company suspended operation in 1898, but packing activities resumed again in mid-1899 when L. V. Niles, a businessman from Boston, organized the Fort Worth Packing and Provision Company. In 1898 this industrial area composed of packing houses and stockyards was laid out as a separate community and named Niles City, in honor of L. V. Niles.

By 1900 the Fort Worth Board of Trade began trying to encourage one of the major U.S. packing companies to locate in the city. As a bonus Fort Worth offered to subscribe \$100,000 to the firm that established at the stockyards. After Niles had assumed management of the stockyards company, J. Ogden Armour, son of the founder of Armour Packing Company in Chicago, visited the yards several times and began to negotiate with the Fort Worth Stockyards Company. But a second firm, Swift and Company soon learned of the agreement and requested to participate in the venture. When Armour vetoed the plan, Swift threatened to build a competing stockyards in Dallas. Finally Armour agreed to admit

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Swift into the project. Niles then negotiated a contract between the Stockyards Company and the Armour and Swift firms. As the city promised, each company received a bonus of \$100,000, and the companies began building their packing plants in 1902. Railroad tracks were built to the packing house site and the plants finally opened for business in 1903.

The volume of trade increased so much in the first month that the yards and pens had to be immediately enlarged. A new exchange building was built in 1902-03 and in 1907-08 a Coliseum was built to house livestock shows and indoor rodeos. The small industrial community of Niles City, a one mile square area containing the stockyards and packing activity, quickly became a financial giant and was known at one time as the richest per capita city in the nation. Surrounding the industrial activity, a commercial community developed which provided businesses, entertainment and lodging for those trading and working in the area. The heyday of cattle barons swelled the local economy with millions of dollars and neighboring Fort Worth benefited from the increased commercial activity. To escape Fort Worth jurisdiction, Niles City incorporated in 1911, but by 1922 Fort Worth was finally able to annex the community.

The establishment of Armour and Swift in the city began a new era in the livestock industry and the growth of Fort Worth. From the turn of the century until the late 1950's the Fort Worth Stockyards was the major livestock market of the southwest. It operated at a multi-state scale and provided a major stimulus to the economy of Fort Worth and Texas. Over 10,000 persons were employed at the Stockyards and adjacent packing houses and related livestock industries. The continued success of Fort Worth's first industry, made Fort Worth a business success. Between 1900 and 1920 the population of the city rose from 26,688 to 106,482.

During the 19th century cattle was the only source of livestock for the Fort Worth Stockyards. However, after the establishment of the Armour and Swift plants in 1902, horses, mules, hogs, and sheep added to the total financial success of the Stockyards. The cattle trading and packing increased after the turn of the century and by 1916 Fort Worth ranked 5th among cattle markets, after Chicago, Kansas City, and almost equal to St. Louis and Omaha. The biggest runs in the cattle business occurred right after World War I and in the 1930's. During these periods of financial problems and low prices, more cattle came to the Fort Worth Stockyards than at anytime in its history.

The horse and mule department, which started in 1902 as an added form of livestock, soon experienced a phenomenal growth and established the Fort Worth stockyards as the nation's leading market for this species. During World War I Europe became an important customer at the horse and mule market. From 1916-1925 Fort Worth was the largest horse and mule market in the world. Business was good from 1900-1935, but a crash came after the depression when farmers were able to replace workstock with tractors. The last contracts were awarded during World War II, and late in the 1940's, Fort Worth stopped the horse and mule auction.

The hog and sheep business were markets that received prominence for short periods. The Fort Worth Stockyards increased the hog business prior to and during World War I. Between 1925-1930 Fort Worth became one of the best hog markets in the United States. But hog prices declined in the 1930's and were never important to the total livestock market at Fort Worth after this period. The best years for the sheep market was between 1937-47. In 1943-45 lamb sales peaked and during this period the Fort Worth Stockyards became the largest sheep market.

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The Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 caused a mandatory divorce of packing companies from all financial interest in and/or control of operations of stockyards and retail outlets. Thus, Swift and Armour sold their interest in the Fort Worth stockyards and a corporation formed in Chicago initiated public ownership of the yards, removing ownership from Fort Worth. Later more stock was accumulated by Union Stockyards Company and the Fort Worth Stockyards became in 1944 a division of United Stockyards, now owned by Canal-Randolph Corp., with headquarters in New York.

Changes in technology within the livestock and transportation industries began to change and diminish the role of the Stockyards in the mid-1950's. Decentralization of the sheep market and later in the cattle market contributed to the decline. Trucking began to replace rail shipment and regional feed lots further diminished the need for a centralized packing house. As the popularity of small local packing plants increased, centralized multi-story operations such as the Swift packing plant with over 4,000 employees and 1,000,000 sq. ft. of floor space became functionally obsolete. Armour and Co. closed their plant in August, 1962, and Swift and Co. closed down eight years later in July, 1970.

While the Fort Worth Stockyards still operates a successful livestock market, it is regional rather than multi-state in scale. Economic activity has slowed considerably since the Armour and Swift plants closed. Much of the financial and commercial space that was used during the first half of the century, now sees little activity. However, there has been a renewed interest in restoration of the area's economy. In 1974 the City of Fort Worth was awarded an EDA Public Works Impact Program grant to restore the Northside Coliseum and to beautify Marine Creek from 28th Street through the Stockyards. In June, 1974, the city received another EDA grant to provide staff to coordinate the local restoration activities, to conduct additional studies and to develop a functional long term restoration and redevelopment program. In the past year private interest has stimulated new activity in the area. A private developing firm, sensitive to historic preservation, has bought the Coliseum and several buildings within the Stockyards and hopes to revive commercial activity in the area. The firm has returned the indoor rodeo to the Coliseum and has reserved the facility, once notorious only for Friday night wrestling matches, for various concerts and Spring performances of the Fort Worth symphony.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 98 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 14 | 654350 | 3629580 | B | 14 | 655400 | 3629580 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | 14 | 655400 | 3628540 | D | 14 | 654350 | 3628540 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the southeast corner of the Fort Worth Stockyards District the boundary extends north along the fence marking the Swift property and then follows the railroad tracks along the old Armour boundary until reaching 28th St. The northern boundary extends west from 28th St. to N. Main St. The western boundary follows south along N. Main St. until 27th St. where the line extends west to Ellis St., then south to 26th St. and east back to N. Main. Continuing south down N. Main, the boundary line

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marie D. Landon, Historian
Mike D. Yancey, Draftsman Joe Williams, Project Director
 ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission DATE 3-31-76
 STREET & NUMBER Box 12276 Capitol Station 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 X LOCAL X

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.

SIGNATURE *Marie D. Landon*
 TITLE Texas State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 4-7-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 Acting *Tom Samuels* DATE 6/29/76
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST *Charles A. Harrison* DATE 6-23-76
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Verbal
Boundary

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PAGE 2

then turns east just before Exchange Avenue to include the row of commercial structures along the north side of Exchange Avenue. The district line continues west across Houston St. on the north side to include the structure on the northeast corner of the block. The boundary then turns south a few feet down Houston, and extends east along an alley for a block to include the buildings on the south side of Exchange Avenue. At Ellis St. the boundary again extends south to 24th St. and then goes east along 24th for a block jogging in the center of the south side of the street to include the old Post Office building. At N. Main the district line continues south for half a block to the end of a row of commercial buildings. The southern boundary extends the few yards to Marine Creek, follows Marine Creek to the intersection with 23rd and then continues east along 23rd until reaching the southeast corner of the Swift property.



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Skeet Richardson Photos, Ft. Worth
October, 1961

Skeet Richardson Photos

Aerial view of the Fort Worth Stockyards
Historic District looking southeast
from 28th & N. Main toward the
Armour (1) and Swift (2) Packing
plants. At the right of the photo,
the ell-shaped building at N. Main &
27th is the old competing packing
plant (11).

Photo #1 of 16

APR 29 1976

JUN 29 1976 Due

SKEET RICHARDSON PHOTOS
1326 No. Main St. - MA 4-4500
Fort Worth 6, Texas

OCT 25 1961

FOR ADDITIONAL PHOTOS

Order No. 1958G-131

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Swift Packing Plant Entrance
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Steve Smith November, 1975
Texas Historical Commission

South elevation of the South entrance
to the Swift Packing Plant (2).
Photo #2 *H16*

JUN 29 1976 Doc

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Swift & Co. Main Plant Building (2)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Steve Smith, November 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique of the old Swift
Packing Plant (2) presently being
razed. Ruins of livestock walkway
still visible.

Photo #3 of 16

JUN 29 1976 Doc

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



No Car Park
KEEP OUT

Swift Main Office Building (3)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Steve Smith, November 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Northwest facade of Swift Office
Building (3) taken from Packers
Avenue. Packing Plant ruin in
the background.

Photo #4 of 16

APR 29 1976

JUN 29 1976 DGE

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ARMOUR & COMPANY

ARMOUR



Stockyard Pens (4)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Bill Wood Photo, ca. 1949
Bill Wood Photo, Fort Worth

Looking east across the Stockyard Pens (4)
With Armour Packing Plant in back-
ground. Note brick floors of pens.
Photo #5 *26*

APR 29 1976

JUN 29 1976 *DOG*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ca. 1949
BILL WOOD PHOTO

No. 13474-14-3



Livestock Exchange Building (5)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Unknown photographer, ca. 1908
Fort Worth Stockyards Area Restoration
Committee--negative filed

Southwest oblique of the principal(south)
facade of the Livestock Exchange
Building (5).
Photo #7 *MLG*

JUN 29 1976 *DOE*

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Livestock Exchange Building (5)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Steve Smith, November 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique of the principal
facade of the Livestock Exchange
Building (5).

Photo #8 *mk 16*

APR 29 1976

JUN 29 1976 *Dug*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Coliseum (6)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Unknown photographer, ca. 1908
Fort Worth Stockyards Area Restoration
Committee---negative filed

Southeast oblique of the Coliseum(6).
Photo # 9 *up 16*

JUN 29 1976 *DOE*

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Coliseum (6)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Steve Smith, November 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique of the Coliseum (6).
Photo #10 *416*

APR 29 1976

JUN 29 1976 *Doe*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Horse and Mule Barns (7)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Mike Yancey, January 1976
Texas Historical Commission

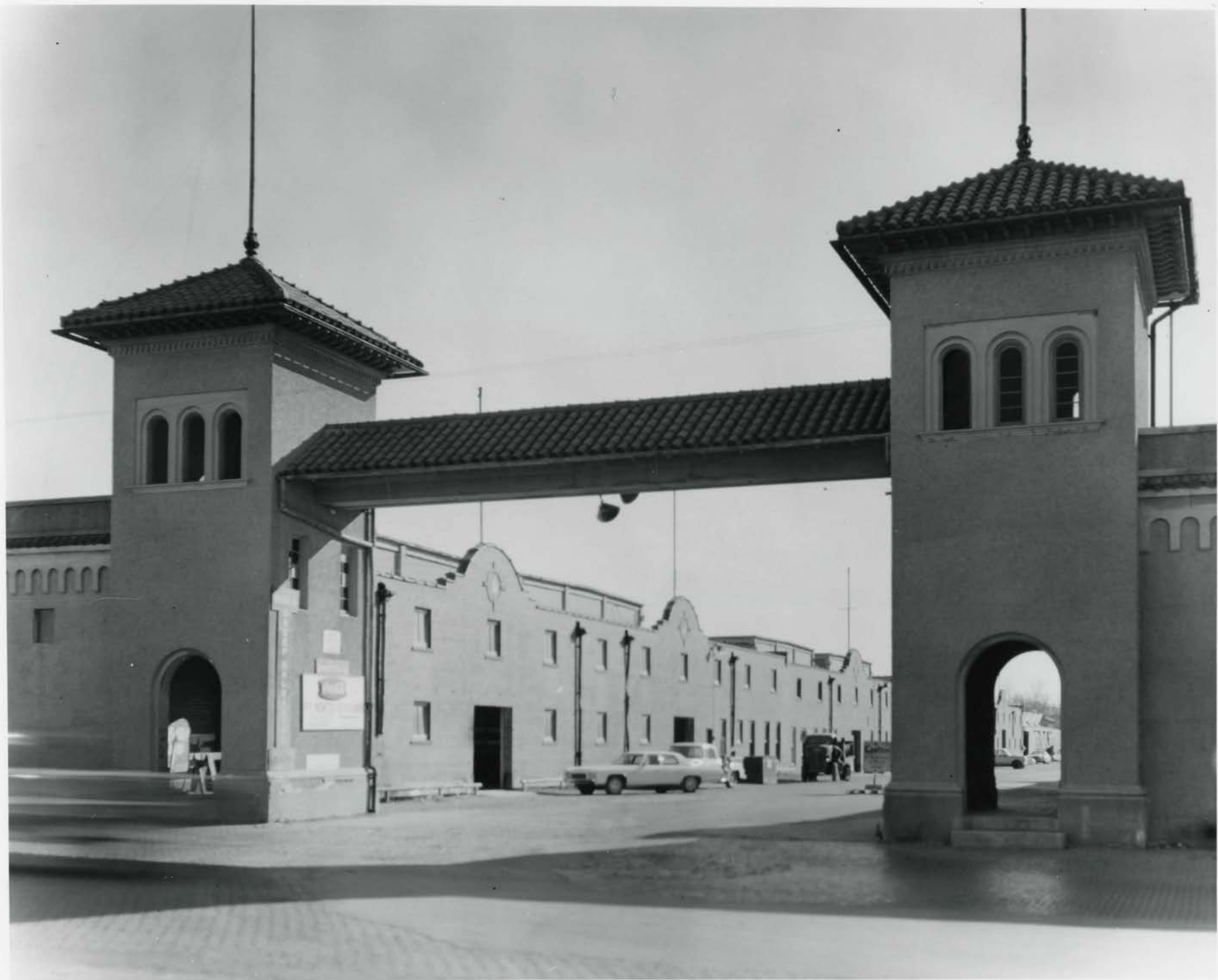
Northwest oblique of the gates and
north wall of the Horse and
Mule Barns (7).

Photo #11 of 16

APR 29 1976

JUN 29 1976 DUE

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Horse and Mule Barns (7)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Mike Yancey, January 1976
Texas Historical Commission

Looking south through the gates of the
Horse and Mule Barns (7) revealing
the individual units.

Photo #12 *AK16*

JUN 29 1976 Doe

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Horse and Mule Barns(7) and Livestock
Exchange Building(5)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Mike Yancey, January 1976
Texas Historical Commission

Looking north through the gates of
the Horse and Mule Barns(7) toward
the Livestock Exchange Building(5).
Photo #13 416

JUN 29 1976 DOE

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Old Stockyards Bank (8)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Steve Smith, November 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique of the Old Stockyards
Bank(8). The adjacent building to
the west is one of the oldest hotels
in the district.

Photo #14 *wh/16*

APR 29 1976

JUN 29 1976 *DoE*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Commercial District (9)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Steve Smith, November 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique of the Right Hotel
located at the northeast corner of
Exchange & N. Main St. This marks
the beginning of the commercial
district that grew up to the west
of the Stockyards.

Photo #15 *216*

JUN 29 1976 *D&E*

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Commercial District (9)
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Steve Smith, November 1975
Texas Historical Commission

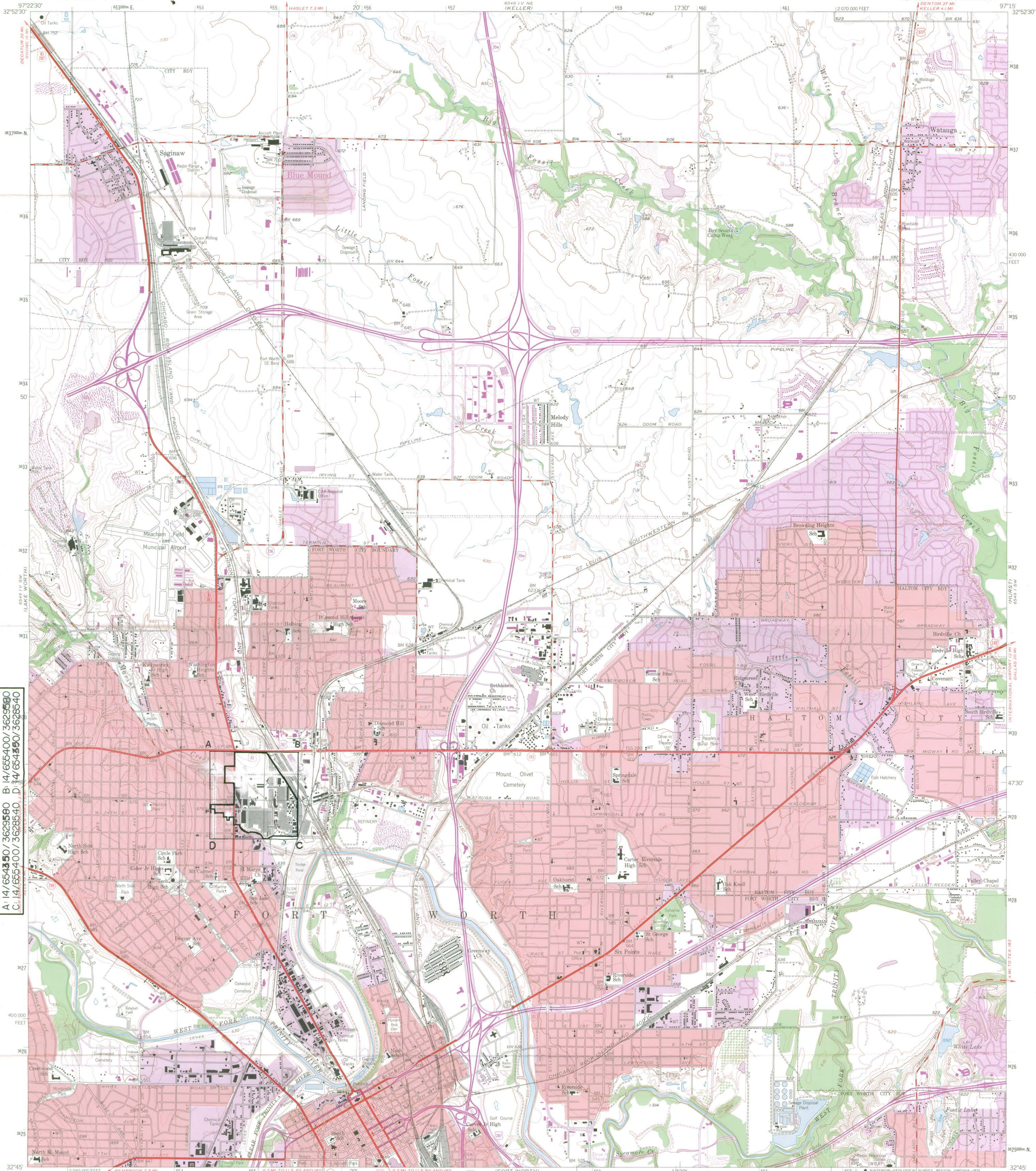
Typical view of the commercial district
looking eastward from the inter-
section of Ellis & Exchange Ave.

Photo #16 *of 16*

JUN 29 1976 *Doc*

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS HISTORIC DISTRICT
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE:
A: 14/654350/3629560 B: 14/654400/3629590
C: 14/654450/3629620 D: 14/654500/3629650

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1952-1954. Field check 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system
north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1968 and 1972. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



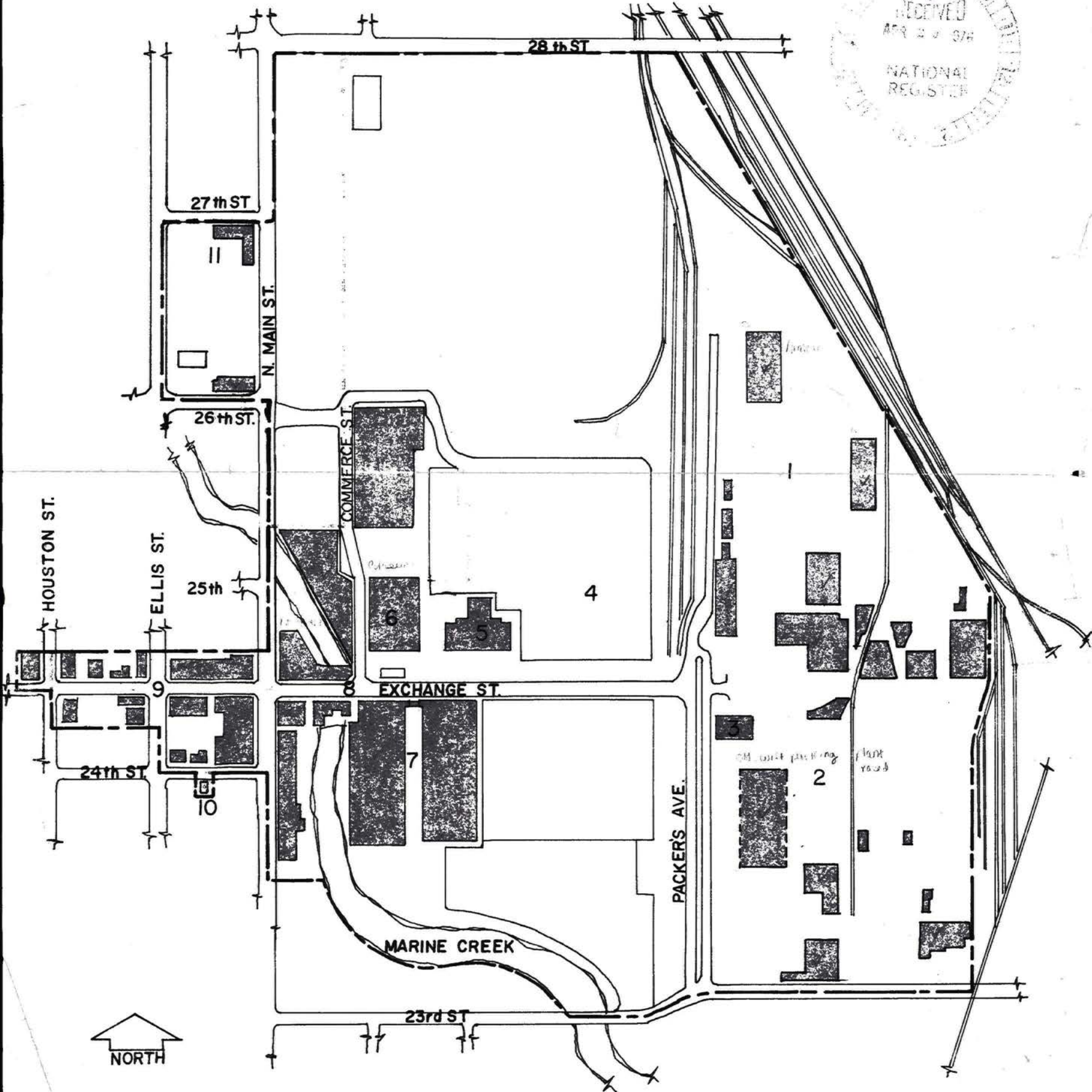
SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ Interstate Route □ U.S. Route ○ State Route

HALTOM CITY, TEX.
SE/4 HALTOM CITY 15' QUADRANGLE
N3245-W9715/7.5
1955
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1972
AMS 6549 IV SE-SERIES V882

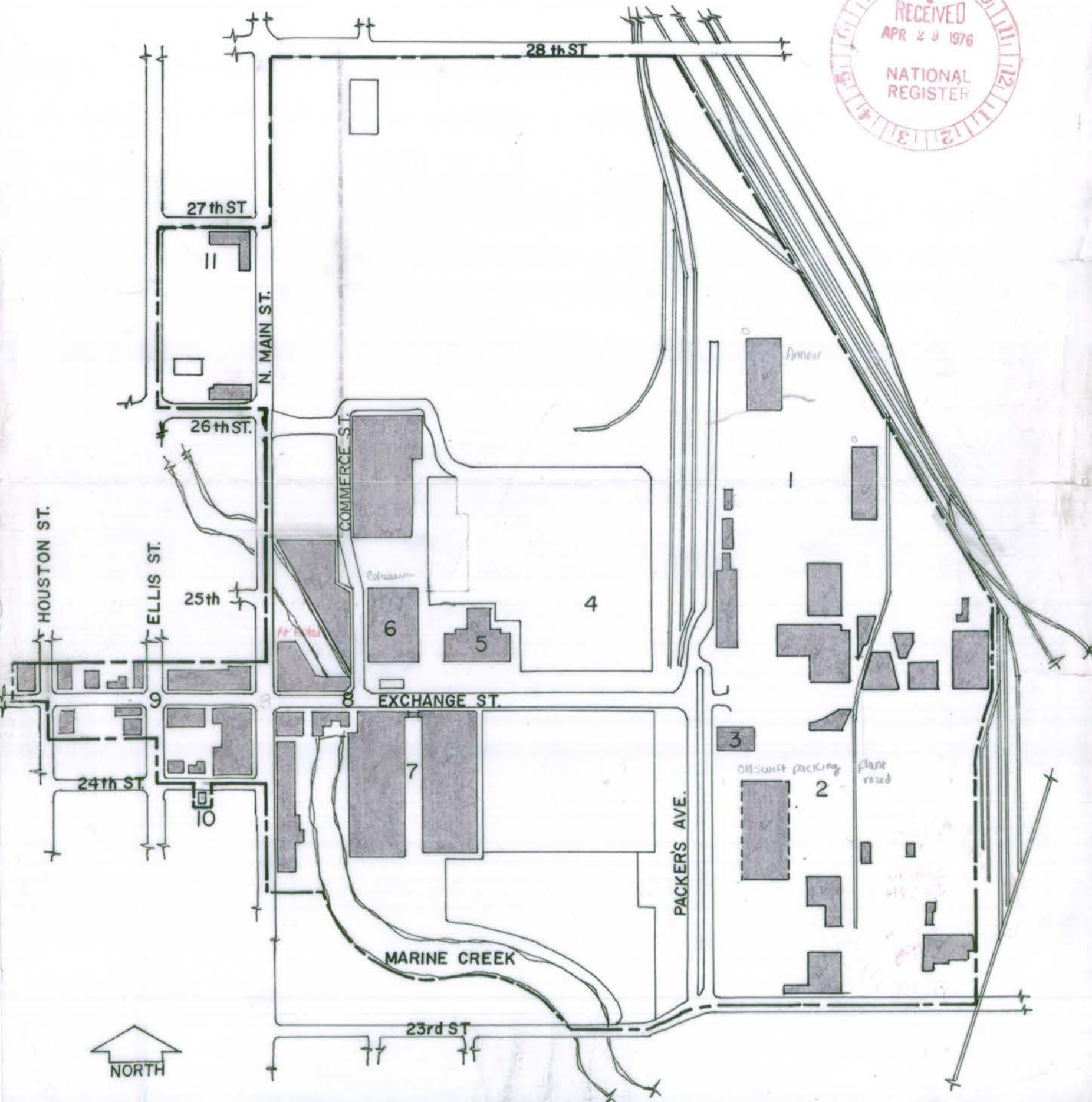
FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCALE: 1" = 300'



FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCALE: 1" = 300'



National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2018

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



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment)
Other name/site number: New Isis Theater
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 2403 N. Main Street
City or town: Fort Worth State: Texas County: Tarrant
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

Signature of certifying official / Title: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 10/9/18
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: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action: 11/21/2018

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant 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: NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Recreation and Culture: Theater

Current Functions: Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Moderne Movement: Moderne

Principal Exterior Materials: Stucco

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6 through 8)

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|
| <input 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: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1936-c.1954 (New Isis Theater only; 1900-c.1926 in original district nomination)

Significant Dates: 1936

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

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

Architect/Builder: Unknown.

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 9 through 11)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 12)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. (*Approved December 15, 2017*)
- 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

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 0.203 acre

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 32.788241° Longitude: -97.349533°

Verbal Boundary Description: The legal description for the nominated parcel is:
"Ellis, M G Addition, Block 20 Lot 1R1"

Boundary Justification: The nomination includes all property historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Arthur Weinman, AIA, with Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator
Organization: Arthur Weinman, Architects
Street & number: 550 Bailey Avenue, Suite 332
City or Town: Fort Worth State: Texas Zip Code: 76107
Email: art_wa@swbell.net
Telephone: 817-737-0977
Date: October 2018

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheet 13)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 14 through 17)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 18 through 26)

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.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photograph Log

New Isis Theater
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photographed by Arthur Weinman, September 2017

Photo 1
Southeast oblique
Camera facing northwest

Photo 2
Southeast corner
Camera facing north

Photo 3
Marquee and blade sign
Camera facing northwest

Photo 4
Canopy detail
Camera facing west

Photo 5
South elevation
Camera facing northeast

Photo 6
South elevation detail
Camera facing north

Photo 7
Stage
Camera facing west

Photo 8
Looking towards stage from mezzanine
Camera facing southwest

Photo 9
Back of auditorium from stage
Camera facing southeast

Photo 10
Stair to the mezzanine
Camera facing east

Photo 11
Seating in segregated section of mezzanine
Camera facing north

Photo 12
Projection room
Camera facing south

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Summary of Previous Nomination Efforts and the Goal of this Amendment

The purpose of this nomination amendment is to establish the significance of the New Isis Theater, at 2403 N. Main Street, within the Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (NR 1976) in Fort Worth, Texas. The period of significance for the district extends from 1900 to c.1926 (assumed to the 50-year point at the time of listing), and this amendment proposes to add an additional period (1936-c.1954) to reflect the completion of the New Isis Theater and its integration into the neighborhood, as well as recognize a significant architectural movement before World War 2. The district nomination contains little information about individual buildings in the commercial portion district (the entirety of which is identified as a single entity (Property #9)). The building falls outside the period of significance noted in the nomination, as the nomination was prepared in the 1970s, but it falls clearly within the historic period (which should be extended into the 1950s or later) and the building stands as one of the most important landmarks in the commercial end of the district. The building is in poor condition but retains a sufficient degree of its historic integrity. The building clearly contributes to the district due to the quality of its architecture, as an excellent local example of modernistic design applied to a movie theater in the 1930s. As such, it meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance, and CONTRIBUTES to the significance of the district. The district has not been resurveyed.

Description

The Moderne Style New Isis theater was built in 1936 from the remains of the 1914 Isis Theater that had been ravaged by fire. The primary east-facing elevation on North Main Street is white stucco, as is the smooth south-facing 24th Street side. The rear alley elevation is red common brick. The overall front has an off-center vertical projection, with subordinate setbacks of about four inches, two on the south and one on the north, of the off-center primary bay. The same scheme is executed vertically, with a high off-center vertical element, with subordinate lower stepped elements, two on the south and one on the north. Two upper level small windows look out the façade, one in the stair on the north, and one in the projection storage room at the south. Three louvers in the three central panels, all at the same level as the two windows, ventilate the projection room.

A blue enameled steel projecting canopy with red trim extends over the sidewalk. This canopy is about one foot tall for the most part, with the center section about two feet tall for the width of the center façade element. The center section features the name "ISIS" in Art Moderne stylized letters over the theater main entrance. Above that is the theater marquee, separately attached to the façade. About four feet tall and 26 feet wide, also on the primary bay, it is internally-illuminated and has removable letters for announcing the theater offerings. Above that is a blade sign attached to the façade. The blade sign projects about four feet above the parapet and carries small horizontal letters spelling "New" at the top, and similar Art Moderne vertical letters spelling "ISIS." All enameled metal and signage is dark blue with red trim and red letters. The blade sign and its lettering were originally outlined with neon. The east parapet has a one-foot-high enameled steel trim strip that breaks at each of the height changes in the parapet. The trim strip matches the dark blue and red design of the canopy.

The entrance level was originally black and white ceramic tile in alternating horizontal bands, but these were replaced during the historic period with 4¼-inch square cream and turquoise tile, also in alternating horizontal bands. The lower tile elements corresponded to the bays flanking either side of the entry, and each carried three aluminum poster cases, with a larger central case between two smaller cases. They have all been removed. The tile followed side walls from the street face on either side of the entry to the recessed two pair of entry doors into the theater. The doors appear to be replacement clear aluminum narrow stile glazed doors. The central element in the entry way, directly under the blade sign, is a freestanding hexagonal ticket booth. The booth has vision glass above four feet height on all sides, and with the white and turquoise ceramic tile below and above the windows. Ticket sales are from the front, with entry to the booth through a narrow door at the movie entry side.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

The south elevation facing 24th Street is a plain, flat, off- white stucco wall. The wall includes part of the south brick wall of the former corner drug store. At Main Street, the parapet decor continues around the corner onto the south elevation about another eight feet or so. On the lower portion of the south wall, some stucco has fallen to reveal a portion of a painted Dr. Pepper advertisement. Fire stairs to two mezzanine exits were added over the sidewalk on the south elevation. These stairs were painted aged copper color and have some of the red primer now showing through. There is an exposed lamp and reflector goose necked out from the wall above the stairs. As with similar period fire stairs, the descending section is held up with a cable to counterweight off a bracket on the wall above. There is a grade level double door exit from the back of the main seating level of the theater onto the sidewalk about midway on this elevation. All exit doors have fabricated sheet metal rain shields. The top of the wall is stair stepped from the back up to the front. Other features on this wall include three attic vents equally spaced, and two roof drains through the wall to sheet metal downspouts and cast-iron sidewalk collector heads. The downspouts have been pulled off by vandals.

A horizontal line on the south side can be seen at 2/3 wall height where a material change, paint line, or addition to the wall may have been made. It appears to traverse from near the front all the way to the rear of the building. This is reinforced by the Sanborn Map image of the site from 1926-27, which shows a continuous façade on 24th Street. The Map indicated businesses in the strip included the Drugstore at Main Street, an American Railway Express Office at the alley face, with rooms for rent on the second floor.

The rear (west) wall of the theater faces a 20-foot-wide alley. This façade is unpainted red brick. There are two pairs of doors, one at the south end next to 24th Street and one at the north end of the building. Doors are metal-covered solid wood fire doors, common in older buildings. Evidence in-filled windows on the first and second levels can be seen on the interior. There are two large ventilation louvers in the second level center. One metal covered opening to the south upper center appears to be a second-level single door. Old wall mounted insulators remain from earlier overhead electrical feed, with new electrical feed to a weather head at the north corner of the west wall, with meter base below.

The north wall is a common wall with the existing Sullivan's retail store, constructed as a new building in 1993, after a fire destroyed the prior Sullivan's. It is difficult to view from the street or alley, but it is red brick, partially painted white. The enameled metal parapet decoration also extends back about three feet on the parapet. Attic vents can be seen on the north exterior elevation.

Interior

The interior of the former corner drug store does not appear to have been occupied for that use for quite some time. The lay-in ceiling and grid have been removed. Ductwork and diffusers hang into the spaces. Plywood paneled partitions remain in place, there is flower-patterned wallpaper on the north plaster wall, and vinyl asbestos tile flooring. A table in one corner appears to have been used for film editing, and still has a reel and stand at one end.

The New Isis Theater lobby is entered from the exterior through three pair of three-foot-wide glazed silver aluminum narrow stile doors. It is a small, cramped, low ceiling lobby, not what one would expect for such a large theater. Current flooring is vinyl asbestos tile. Walls are finished in plywood panel over the plaster. The plaster ceiling has a raised center running north and south, with east and west thirds having a 3-in-12 slope down to the wall. Acoustic tiles were glued to black paint previously applied to the ceiling. Where the tiles have come loose, fragments of the original paint stencil design can be seen. An off-center ramp leads up into the main theater floor from the west of the lobby. A partially open, utilitarian concrete stair at the north end of the lobby takes patrons to the mezzanine and continues up to the office and projection room. The theater is unusual in having such a large, accommodating projection room interior, and such cramped lobby and lobby access.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

The main theater floor is expansive with high-stepped ceiling and broad expanse leading to the unusually large screen. The screen is within a proscenium, with angled approaches on both sides that extend about 18 feet into the main theater. Seating has all been detached and is in a jumbled, confused pile on the main level. The original access arrangement appears to be two double loaded aisles from a large, eastern cross aisle entered from the lobby ramp. Seating aisles dead end against the side walls from the north and south aisles. Two emergency exit stairs proceed through the angled approach walls on either side of the proscenium to double doors into the alley.

Interior theater décor includes pilaster columns on the walls with corresponding steps in the ceiling, coinciding with exterior steps in the parapet. The roof follows the slope defined by the trusses with ridge in the center, sloping to the west. Air supply grilles are in these ceiling steps, with returns in the north side wall. The ceiling between these sloped steps is constructed of large four-by-eight-foot painted panels on an oversize suspension grid. The wall faces between the pilaster columns have a cork-like acoustic material installed, painted with a large geometric design after the 1942 flood. These were later covered with pleated acoustic fabric in 1952 or 1953. Original interior photographs show stacked, multi-element wall mounted light fixtures, spaced between the pilaster columns. These provided dramatic up-lighting against the ceiling. There were originally two audience access stairs from the main level up to the mezzanine, later abandoned and seating built over them. The current seating arrangement places all access to the mezzanine from the concrete stairs at the north end of the lobby. The concrete stair then continues up to the third level to access the projection booth.

The segregated seating for African Americans at the extreme east end of the mezzanine was served by a separate entrance from the sidewalk and separate stair. The segregated seating was all located under the projection booth. The acoustics for these seats would not be as good as the rest of the theater, but as the risers are designed properly, and the sight lines are comparable to those of the other seats toward the back of the mezzanine.

The projection booth has deteriorated considerably as the roof has gradually been lost. The projector stands, arc lighting, motor generators from 1936 are dirty, rusted and the paint deteriorated. The two Simplex XL projectors were probably installed in 1952 or 1953, as were the Simplex magnetic sound heads and optical sound heads. These correspond with the screen, masked top and bottom, for the Cinemascope movies introduced at this time. The large 4,000 feet supply and take-up reels were probably installed to allow the theater to play 3D movies. The projection booth is filled with trash. With current advent of digital projection and demise of acetate film, there is no more need for a projection room such as this in a current theater. The projectors were among the finest design ever available, and it is possible they could be restored, the arcs replaced with Xenon lamps, and the equipment reused.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The 1936 New Isis Theater is a prominent and significant historical landmark in the Fort Worth Stockyards Historical District. The New Isis is one of three extant Moderne movie theaters in Fort Worth.¹ Although its design was subdued than the highly decorated downtown movie palaces, it very successfully fulfilled its function as a large neighborhood theater providing both entertainment as well as a congregating place for adults and young people in the neighborhood during its active life of over 70 years. The exterior is well-proportioned, balanced, and imposing on North Main Street, and features a colorful marquee and giant blade sign. In 1936 the screen was touted as one of the largest in Fort Worth. The building's interior was designed to enhance the theater experience, with good acoustics, a properly-shaped room that provided excellent sightlines. As a theater or live performance location, the building needs only proper and sensitive rehabilitation for reuse. The building is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, and contributes to the significance of the district, with a period of significance 1936-c.1955, a period which begins with the theater's opening and continues to the mid-1950s, when the last historic changes were made.

The 1914 Isis Theater

The Isis was the first theater on the north side of Fort Worth. Tarrant County tax records show that the property was purchased on December 31, 1900 by the North Side Amusement Company and was re-valued on March 5, 1914 for \$17,500.² Meredith Carb and J.J. Parker organized the company, with Parker as president.³ The Isis Theater was likely designed by Ludwig Bernhard Weinmann in 1914.⁴ Opening night was May 21, 1914. An early photo of the Main Street facade of the first theater shows four employees and a girl outside the theater with playbills for two movies; both movies were released in 1914.⁵ City directories carry the first listing for the Isis Theater in 1916, with Mrs. J.C. Davis, Proprietor. (The 1915 directories are not available). The address listed in the City Directories, 2403 North Main Street, remains correct from 1916 through present.

Although there is no record of the sale in the tax records, the North Side Amusement Company was probably sold within three or four years of the theater opening to L.C. Tidball, the second owner. This would not appear in the tax records as the taxed owner of the building, the Corporation, remained unchanged. Mr. Tidball remained the defacto owner and operator of the theater for the next 54 years. The second listing of the theater in the 1918 City Directory shows L.C. Tidball as Proprietor. According to later Directories, Mr. Tidball became Manager in 1920 through 1945, after which his title was deleted. He was listed as the contact person at the theater through 1955.

According to Tarrant County property tax records, the property was sold by the North Side Amusement Company to Harold James Griffith on January 29, 1970.⁶ Griffith was from an Oklahoma City family that owned several interlocking companies with over 300 movie theaters in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico from 1900 to the present.

¹ The New Isis is the largest of the three. The 1938 Grand Theater (1110 Fabens) was built for African American audiences and seated 500; The 1941 White Theater (renamed the Berry Theater in 1961, 3033 Hemphill) seated just under 700. <http://cinematresures.org/theaters/united-states/texas/fort-worth?page=1&status=closed>.

² "Ownership History Browse Screen", Tarrant Appraisal District; Account 00829188; August 13, 2007; "Assessor's Abstract of City Property"; M.G. Ellis Addition, City of Fort Worth, Abstract No. 886; Lot No. 1 – S 12-1/2'2, Block 20, Map No. 6730; Numbers - Control 20, Lots 24, Lot 1 Pt.

³ "The Show World," *Fort Worth Star Telegram*; Fort Worth, Texas; March 27, 1936.

⁴ As told by Arthur O. Weinman to his son, Arthur W. Weinman, about 1977. He changed his name during WWI to Louis B. Weinman.

⁵ Photograph in the archives of North Fort Worth Historical Society Museum. The movie posters are for "A Mix-up on The Plains" and "Above the Law".

⁶ Assessor's Abstract of City Property; M.G. Ellis Addition, City of Fort Worth, Abstract No. 886; Lot No. 1 – S 12-1/2'2, Block 20, Map No. 6730; Numbers - Control 20, Lots 24, Lot 1 Pt.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

The family is still in the movie theater business in Oklahoma. Griffith's ownership of the New Isis was late in the active life of the theater, and he had no recall of earlier events in its history. According to Mr. Griffith, he purchased the theater directly from L.C. Tidball.⁷

A 1946 newspaper article published at the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the New Isis states that L.C. Tidball purchased the Isis from the North Fort Worth Amusement Company in 1916 and "has owned it since."⁸ But County property records don't show any change of ownership for 1916, and the land remained in the ownership of the Amusement Company from 1900 through January, 1970. We assume the transaction was L.C. Tidball's purchase of the North Fort Worth Amusement Company. If incorporated, this would also include ownership of the property and theater. The article also states that initial employment at the theater when it opened in 1914 was four; peak employment at the New Isis in 1946 was twenty-three.⁹

Tindall reflected on his start in the theater business, explaining that "I thought I'd fool around with the theater for a few months just for fun."¹⁰ The first equipment was silent, with a hand-cranked projector. John H. Sparks, the first projectionist, recalled the memorable first night the theater was open:

When the storm scene went on the screen, it was raining cats and dogs outside... Lightning flashed. Thunderclaps shook the theater... We had the best kind of sound for the storm on the screen – by nature itself. The effect was unforgettable.¹¹

The original building was small, shown as 18 ft. by about 61 ft. in the Sanborn Map plan, with the projection booth hung as an appendage on the back.¹² The movie was projected from the rear onto the screen located at the street face of the theater. The nephew of the first projectionist, Winston Sparks recalls:

Before that building burned, I used to sit in the alley and talk to my uncle, right behind the Isis... When they built that they did not build a projection room... There was a room built onto the back of the building almost as an afterthought – that was the projection booth and turn everything on. I remember many summer afternoons sitting out there on a sandbag talking to him after he got everything going. He had on his undershirt. He had his trousers cut off to the knees because with that big arc light burning in there – it was hot.¹³

1936 New Isis Theater

The original building burned in 1935, and the name of the reconstruction architect is unknown. The reconstruction included the adjacent lot to the south, which became part of a new replatted lot, and allowed for the construction of a much larger theater. Construction started about October 21, 1935. The final cost was \$29,800 and the theater reopened as the New Isis on March 27, 1936.¹⁴ The reopening was celebrated with a "Hollywood Premiere" with Ginger Rogers invited to attend, but who instead participated in a telephone interview broadcast to the audience in the capacity-filled building, with many people in the streets.¹⁵ The New Isis Theater is a fine example of the Modeme style, especially as

⁷ Telephone interview with Mr. Harold J. Griffith by Arthur Weinman on August 27, 2007.

⁸ "New Isis Theater History Recalled on Birthday Eve," *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, March 28, 1946.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Schroeder, Richard. *Lone Star Picture Shows*; Texas A&M University Press, College Station; 2001; p. 41.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Map 316, Vol. 3, 1926-1927; Sanborn Insurance Maps; Sanborn Map Company of New York; 1926-1927.

¹³ Schroeder, p. 76.

¹⁴ "Remodeling of Theater Starts." *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, October 21, 1935.

¹⁵ "The Show World." *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, March 27, 1936.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

applied to movie theaters, with minimal, streamlined architectural details playing a minor role when juxtaposed with dominant, colorful, energetic signage. This focus on signage was probably most vividly expressed in the movie theaters of the era. The local newspaper described the new theater:

The New Isis has a white exterior and a vari-colored interior. Black and white (tile) is used in the entrance. Metal furniture in the foyer and ladies' lounge is in the modern manner. A modern electric sign 26 x 4 feet strikes a new note when one first sees the building, which was altered at a cost estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Thick new carpets, smart electrical fixtures, one of the largest screens in Fort Worth, the most modern projecting equipment, a washed air cooling system, 10 hearing units for theatergoers with defective hearing, and unusually wide space between rows of seats are some of the things of which Manager Tidwell is proud.

Three rows of seats are provided for Negroes. They are in the rear of what Tidball calls the mezzanine, as distinguished from the usual theater balcony. The mezzanine begins where the seats on the main floor end and is only about eight feet higher. Comfortable lounges, office space and a store on the corner are provided.¹⁶

At the time of the fire, the Roseland Theater (about 0.7 mile south at N. Main and 14th streets) had been closed because of declining business.¹⁷ L.C. Tidwell also managed the Roseland Theater, and he re-opened it after the fire. When the New Isis was complete, business was sufficiently brisk to allow both theaters to remain open.¹⁸

When Marine Creek flooded in April 1942, water rose five feet inside the New Isis, reaching the bottom of the screen.¹⁹ No records of the repairs, painting and restoration have been found, but the work required was extensive, as period photographs show water level about three or four feet high on the Main Street facade. A ten-year celebration in 1946 during the war was equally well attended, but because of postwar rationing, had to be held without the cake. All were newsworthy events and covered by the newspapers.

Later changes were made at the New Isis as the movie industry changed. A photo published in the *North Fort Worth News* shows that the current marquee and awning in place. The screen is of CinemaScope proportions, suggesting that the theater was probably renovated in 1954 or 1955. New projection equipment (Simplex-XL Projector, with magnetic sound head and optical sound head) was installed and the screen format modified at that time to accommodate magnetic sound film and the CinemaScope projection format. Large, 6,000 ft. film magazines (reels) were also added to allow showing 3D films. The original, 1936 five-point projector stand and carbon arc projection illumination were retained. These, along with motor generators and resistor banks for the arcs, remain in the projection room. The screen remains in place, stretched on a steel tube frame, with the size 18 ft. by 36 ft. clearly written in the corner.

Like most movie theaters of its era, the New Isis faced dwindling audience numbers as larger movie complexes opened later in the 20th century. The theatre closed in 1988.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ "The Show World"; Fort Worth Star Telegram; Fort Worth, Texas. March 27, 1936.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Pate, J'Nell; North of the River; Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth; 1994; p. 107; "New Isis Theater Recalled on Birthday Eve"; Fort Worth Star Telegram; Fort Worth, Texas. March 28, 1946.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Bibliography

Cohen, Judith Singer; *Cowtown Moderne, Art Deco Architecture of Fort Worth, Texas*; Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas; 1988.

Pate, J'Nell; *North of the River, A Brief History of North Fort Worth*; Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, Texas; 1994.

Sanders, Leonard and Tyler, Ron; *How Fort Worth Became the Texasmost City, 1849-1920*; Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, Texas; 1973, 1986.

Schroeder, Richard; *Lone Star Picture Shows*; Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas; 2001.

"Remodeling of Theater Starts." *Fort Worth Star Telegram*; Fort Worth, Texas; October 21, 1935.

"The Show World – New Isis Theater Will Open Tonight; Speaking Program Will Precede Presentation of 'In Person.'" *Fort Worth Star Telegram*; Fort Worth, Texas; March 27, 1936.

"No Cake for This Year - New Isis Theater History Recalled on Birthday Eve." *Fort Worth Star Telegram*; Fort Worth, Texas; March 28, 1946.

Star Telegram special photo article on the New Isis Theater; *Fort Worth Star Telegram*; Fort Worth, Texas; October 24, 1983.

"Accessor's Abstract of City Property"; M.G. Ellis Addition, City of Fort Worth, Abstract No. 886; Lot No. 1-S 12-1/2'2, Block 10, Map No. 6730; Numbers – Control 20, Lots 24, Lot 1 Pt.

Polk's Fort Worth City Directory. R.L. Polk & Co., Pub.; Dallas, Texas; Vol. 1900 thru 1955.

MAPS

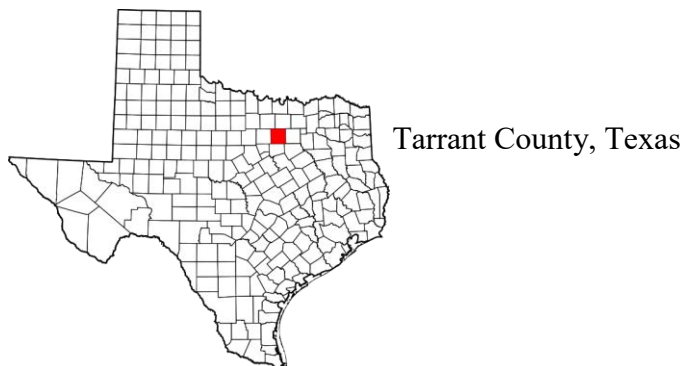
Map 316, Vol. 3, 1926-1927; Sanborn Insurance Maps; Sanborn Map Company of New York; 1926-1927.

Portion of the Sanborn Insurance Map showing the original Isis Theater plan, Main Street frontage, side exit alley, and rear projection booth, along with the adjoining drug store with second floor rooming house, as originally constructed in 1914.

Map 316, Vol. 3, 1951; Sanborn Insurance Maps; Sanborn Map Company of New York; 1951.

Portion of the Sanborn Insurance Map showing the New Isis Theater plan, basic interior space divisions, and how the new plan included the adjoining property, as reconstructed in 1936.

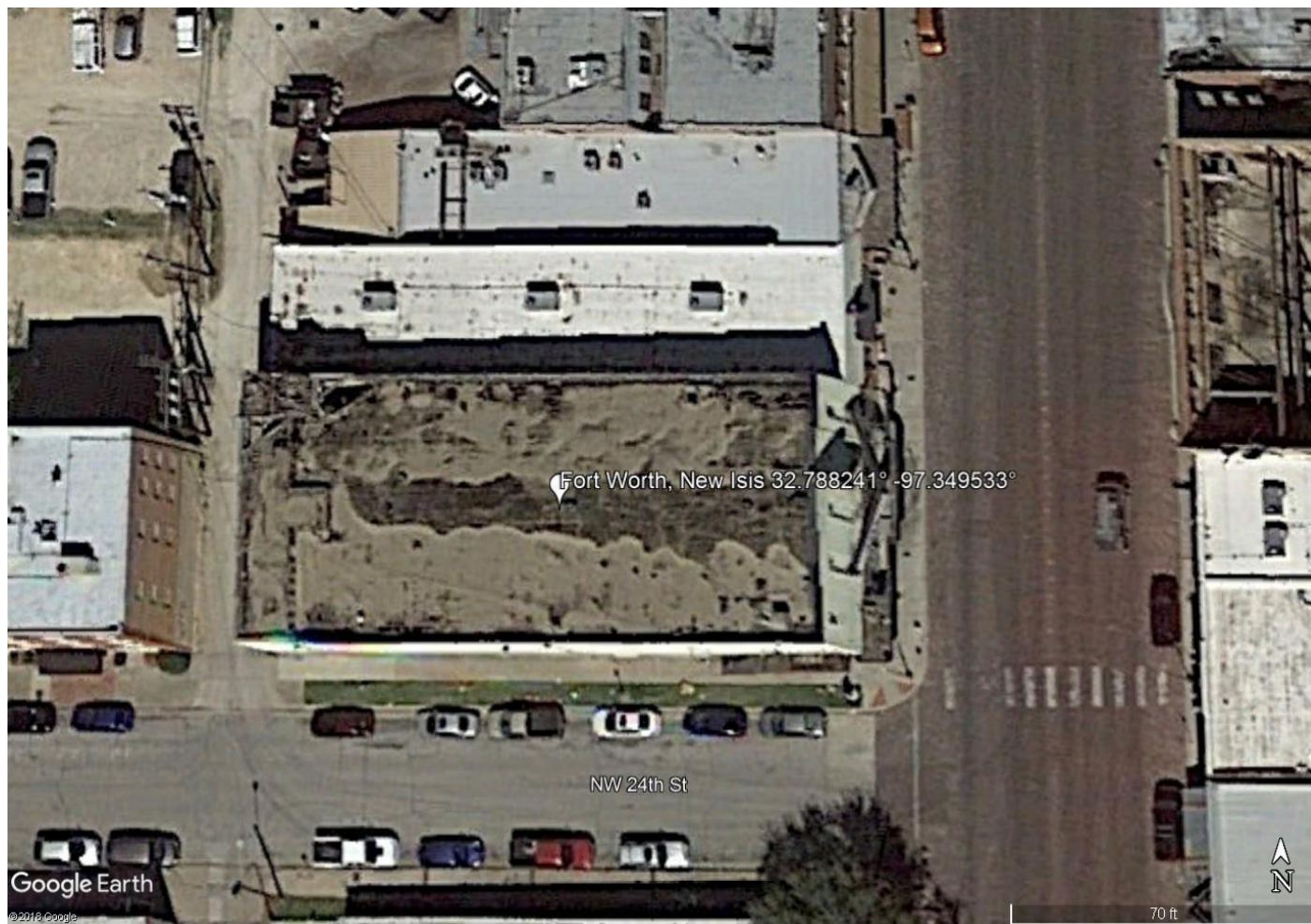
Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



Google Earth Map (accessed October 4, 2018)

Acreage of Property: 0.203 acre

Latitude: 32.788241° Longitude: -97.349533°



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Postcard Photograph of the New Isis Theater on Opening Day, 1936



Moving Pictures Are Your Best Entertainment

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

North Fort Worth News, November 27, 1953

**THE
NEW
ISIS
THEATRE**

ENTERTAINMENT AT ITS BEST

Just as in 1914 when we opened the Isis Theatre you see below . . . we have always kept pace with progress for entertainment at its best. The Isis in 1914 was the last word in fine Movie Houses . . . Just as today we are happy to announce the installation of one of the city's largest—the 38 foot Vitamatic Screen and late designed sound equipment.

L. C. Tidball
Owner

W. A. Dub Wallace
Manager

Today movies are your best dependable entertainment — you will always find the top entertainment brought to you at your own ISIS Theatre.

The above is the Isis theatre as it opened in 1914 one of the most modern of its day . . . remodeled many times is the present day Isis at the left

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

New Isis Theater, c.1984
(Fort Worth Star Telegram Collection, University of Texas Arlington, Special Collections)²⁰



²⁰ “[Untitled],” *UTA Libraries*, accessed October 8, 2018, <https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/items/show/8655>.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

New Isis Theatre, c.1984

(Fort Worth Star Telegram Collection, University of Texas Arlington, Special Collections)²¹



²¹ “[Untitled],” *UTA Libraries*, accessed October 8, 2018, <https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/items/show/8648>.

Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 1
Southeast oblique, Camera facing northwest



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 2
Southeast corner, Camera facing north



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 3
Marquee and blade sign, Camera facing northwest



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 4
Canopy detail, Camera facing west



Photo 5
South elevation, Camera facing northeast



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 6
South elevation detail, Camera facing north



Photo 7
Stage, Camera facing west



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 8
Looking towards stage from mezzanine, Camera facing southwest

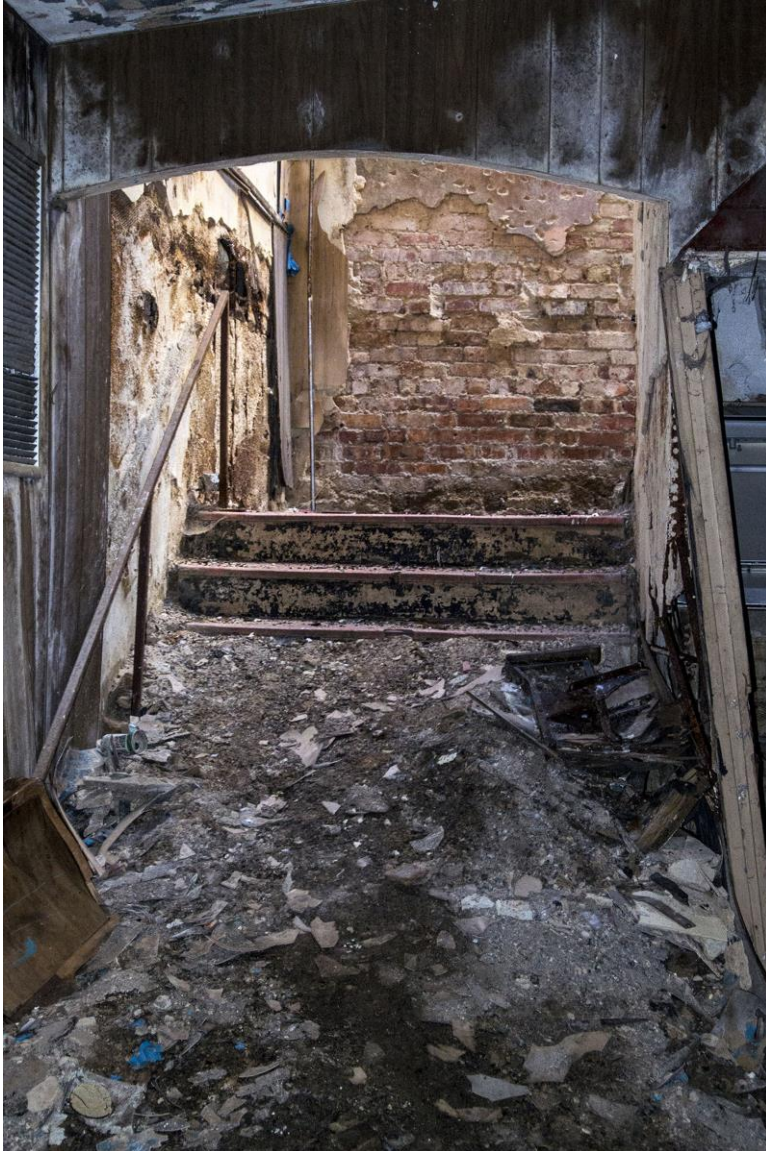


Photo 9
Back of auditorium from stage, Camera facing southeast



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 10
Stair to the mezzanine, Camera facing east



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 11
Seating in segregated section of mezzanine, Camera facing north



Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 12
Projection room, Camera facing south



- end -



New
ISIS

WELCOME TO
TET K RD I
NEW PERM

HISTORIC STOCKYARDS

Annie's

ISIS



New
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WELCOME TO
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HISTORIC STOCKYARDS



New
TIVOLI

WELCOME TO
TIVOLI

ENTRANCE

PR



ISIS





HISTORICAL SOCIETY CENTER

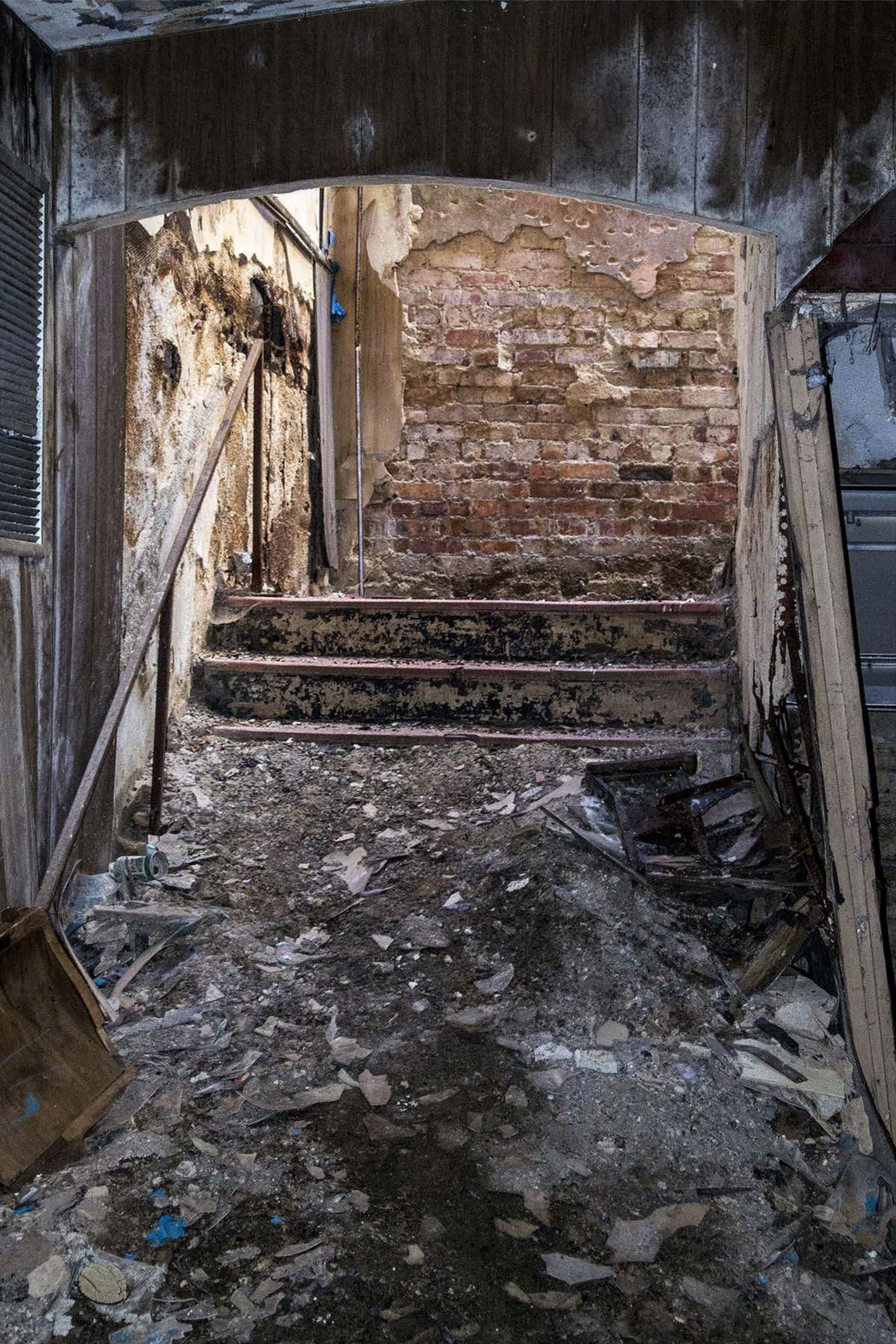


CS6-8559













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 Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District

Surrent
76002067
~~Montague~~

State Texas

Working Number 4.29.76.3245

TECHNICAL

Photos 16
Maps 2

CONTROL

OK pl
5.3.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
W.R. Luce
5/31/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Architecturally - not too great

Should go to HAER

Accept
M. J. H... 5.25.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

Interesting nomination **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept
Cole
6.3.76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Restoration and rehab.
in progress -

Hunt
6.23.76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered **JUN 29 1976**

Federal Register Entry 8-3-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JUN 29 1976

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Kendall Inn | Boerne vicinity Kendall County |
| Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District | Fort Worth Tarrant County |
| Eckhardt Stores | Yorktown DeWitt County |
| Hoxey, Asa, House | Independence Washington County |
| Panola County Jail | Carthage Panola County |
| J. Thiele Building | Miles Runnels County |
| Draughn-Moore House | Texarkana Bowie County |
| Davidson, Frank B., House | Texas City Galveston County |
| Goliad County Courthouse Historic District | Goliad Goliad County |

Also Notified

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Hon. John G. Tower | |
| Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| Hon. Robert C. Krueger | Mr. Truett Latimer |
| Hon. James C. Wright, Jr. | Executive Director |
| Hon. Abraham Kazen, Jr. | Texas Historical Commission |
| Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle | P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station |
| Hon. Sam B. Hall | Austin, Texas 78711 |
| Hon. Jack Brooks | |

Regional Director, Southwest Region

7/7/76

Mott

PR

Tarrant Co. Texas

August 1, 1978

Mr. John E. Hansel
Special Assistant for the Environment
Economic Development Administration
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Mr. Hansel:

On July 24, 1978, the Council received a determination from the Economic Development Administration that the Fort Worth Stockyard Project, Fort Worth, Texas, would not adversely affect Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Executive Director does not object to your determination.

A copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be kept in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320).

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

Louis S. Wall
Assistant Director, Office of
Review and Compliance, Denver

cc: Chairman
AC Member-Kennedy
SHPO:TX
FLO:EDA
HCRS:NR
ORC:MJKING
FILE:TX/FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS H.D./106/EDA/Economic Development
MJK:DRS 08-01-78

131 E. Exchange Ave. Fort Worth, Tx. 76106

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Fort Worth Stockyards

STATUTE

STATE

Texas

COUNTY

Tarrant

NAME OF OWNER

Stockyards Development Corp.

ADDRESS OF OWNER

232 Livestock Exchange Bldg.
131 E. Exchange Ave. Ft. Worth, Tx. 76106

DATE CERTIFIED AS:

JUL 21 1978



CONTRIBUTING



NON-CONTRIBUTING

REMARKS:

DATE OF REQUEST

7-5-78

SHPO OPINION:



CONTRIBUTING



NON-CONTRIBUTING



NO COMMENT

REHABILITATION CERTIFICATION

USDI - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER TAX REFORM ACT CERTIFICATION

WASO-155
(9/77)

Exposition Buildings

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROPERTY **245 & 2501 N. Commerce St.**

HISTORIC DISTRICT **Fort Worth**

STATUTE **Fort Worth Stockyards H.D.**

STATE **Texas** COUNTY **Tarrant**

NAME OF OWNER **F F F Corporation**

ADDRESS OF OWNER **100 E. Lancaster Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102**

DATE CERTIFIED AS: **OCT 31 1979**
 CONTRIBUTING NON-CONTRIBUTING

REMARKS:

DATE OF REQUEST **9/26/79**

SHPO OPINION:

CONTRIBUTING

NON-CONTRIBUTING

NO COMMENT

REHABILITATION CERTIFICATION

JUN 30 1980



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
600 AMERICAN BANK TOWER
221 WEST 6TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

CONCUR

JUL - 3 1980

June 27, 1980

Mr. Louis Wall
Advisory Council on Historic
Preservation
Lake Plaza-South, Suite 616
44 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

BF Stoney

Tarrant

Re: City of Ft. Worth, Texas
Proposed 23rd Street Improvements

COPY

Dear Mr. Wall:

The City of Ft. Worth, Texas has requested that EDA provide grant assistance to fund various improvements in Ft. Worth, Texas. Some of the improvements are located near the Ft. Worth Stockyards Historic District.

The proposed improvements have been coordinated with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO, by letter dated June 24, 1980, has determined that the proposed project would have "no adverse effects" on the Historic District. It is also EDA's determination that the proposed project would have "no adverse effects" on the Historic District.

We, therefore, request your review and concurrence of approval of the project. We suggest that the following Special Condition be provided as a requirement of the Grant Offer:

" Prior to proceeding with any phase of construction on the project, the Grantee shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Government that the final plans and specifications for the project have been reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer. "

Should you have any questions on the proposed project, please contact me at telephone number AC 512/397-5849 or FTS telephone number 734-5849.

Sincerely,

John W. Faris

John W. Faris
Acting Regional Environmentalist

200 West Exchange Avenue (Fort Worth)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Forth Worth Stockyards Historic
District 1976

STATUTE

STATE

Texas

COUNTY

Tarrant

NAME OF OWNER

Joseph K. Dulle
Ellis Avenue Partners

ADDRESS OF OWNER

108 East Exchange Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76106

DATE CERTIFIED AS:

APR 23 1980



CONTRIBUTING



NON-CONTRIBUTING

DATE OF REQUEST

3/24/80

SHPO OPINION:



CONTRIBUTING



NON-CONTRIBUTING



NO COMMENT

REHABILITATION CERTIFICATION

REMARKS:

NATIONAL REGISTER TAX REFORM ACT CERTIFICATION

WASO-155
(9/77)

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 5-25-76
Reviewer INITIALS: MJL

KP

1

NR DOE

JUN 29 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS HISTORIC DISTRICT

OTHER NAMES: Miles City

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER Roughly bounded by 23rd, Houston, and 28th Sts., and rr tracks

CITY, TOWN Fort Worth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 12th

STATE Texas

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Tarrant code 439

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <u>INTERIOR</u> | <u>EXTERIOR</u> | <u>ENVIRONS</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-3 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unknown - 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable - 9 |

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

| | | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| CONDITION - | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | <input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructed | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexcavated | <input type="checkbox"/> Excavated | |

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then - stockyard, store, post office, exchange, recreational area

now - warehouses, market, ~~warehouse~~ (rodeo), store, post office, food industry (factory), recreational area

SIGNIFICANCE:

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | <input type="checkbox"/> settlement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban & commun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | | planning |

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: N/A

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: N/A

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

Richardson - designed 1st packing plant in Ft. Worth area - but only for hogs - therefore failed (1881)

A.F. Higgs - built 2nd packing plant (Continental Meat Packing Plant) 1883 failed

events

H.C. Holloway - after failure of 2nd plant, managed new operation which absorbed Continental Meat Packing Plant to form the Ft. Worth Dressed Meat and Packing Company, early 1890's

institutional

✓ Late 19thC

-- early

20thC

G.W. Simpson - President of board of new company - Ft. Worth Stockyards Company, 1892-5

DATE(S):

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

organized new company, Ft. Worth Packing and Provision Co. -> successful enough to create new community - Niles City

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

J. Ogden Armour, son of Armour Co's founder } packing plants to area 1902 - Swift

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

stockyds built 1888 to serve growing needs of Ft. Worth as major rr/cattle center (Ft. Worth Union Stockyds)

stockyards - 1890's

1890's - 1900 - random buildings

1902-3 - new exchange bldg

1907-8 - Poliseum built - to house livestock shows, indoor rodeos

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Ft. Worth - major town on cattle trail N; rr to Ft. Worth in 1876 led to more activities; became rr center, 1880's; early packing company attempts were impetus to growth of Ft. Worth.

Major livestock market in SW until 1950's.

Armour closed plant - 1962

Swift " - 1970

Today - regional livestock market -

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: N/A

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: N/A

NAMES:

personal

(label role & appropriate date)

Richardson - designed 1st packing plant in Ft. Worth area - but only for hogs - therefore failed (1881)

A.F. Higgs - built 2nd packing plant (Continental Meat Packing Plant) 1883 failed

events

H.C. Holloway - after failure of 2nd plant, managed new operation which absorbed Continental Meat Packing Plant to form the Ft. Worth Dressed Meat and Packing Company, early 1890's

institutional

DATE(S):

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

J. Ogden Armour, son of Armour Co's founder } packing plants to area 1902 - Swift

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

livestock industry

complex including livestock exchange, coliseum, cattle pens, horse and mule barns, and packing plant sites; commercial district of hotels, saloons, and stores; ornate entrance to Swift Co. area. Armour Packing Co., Swift Co. and stockyards provided major impetus to city's development, established as 1st leading livestock center of southwest; declined 1950's; restoration begun, 1974.

became a center, ... using packing company attempts were impetus to growth of Ft. Worth.

Main livestock market in SW until 1950's.
Armour closed plant - 1962
Swift " " - 1970

Today - regional livestock market -

USE original INDUST./MANUF. intermediate _____ new INDUS./MANUF.
 ESTIMATED COST 90,000. FINAL COST _____
 HOUSING UNITS before N/A after N/A FEDERAL FUNDS no yes _____
 NHL NHL District NR NR District State/local District Proposed
 Name of district FORT WORTH STOLKYDS. Date listed/certified 6/29/76
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER FFF CORPORATION
100 EA. LANCASTER ST.
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

SIGNIFICANCE

| | |
|---|---|
| PRELIMINARY | FINAL |
| Date received _____ | Date received _____ |
| Date info requested _____ | Date info requested _____ |
| Date info received _____ | Date info received _____ |
| Date of action _____ | Date of action _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> contributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> non-contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> non-contributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conditional | |

REHABILITATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| PROPOSED WORK | COMPLETED WORK |
| Date received <u>7/30/80</u> | Date received _____ |
| Date info requested _____ | Date info requested _____ |
| Date info received _____ | Date info received _____ |
| Date of action _____ | Date of action _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> approved | <input type="checkbox"/> approved/ conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> withheld | <input type="checkbox"/> denied |
| Reviewer _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> plans |
| | Reviewer _____ |

APPEAL

Date received _____ Date of action _____
 sustained overturned

APPEAL

Date received _____ Date of action _____
 sustained overturned

TX-80-0055.0056 2445 : 2501 N. COMMERCE ST. (EXPOSITION) FORT WORTH
 BUILDS. TARRANT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Additional Documentation

Property Name: Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: TEXAS, Tarrant

Date Received: 10/11/2018 Date of Pending List: 10/25/2018 Date of 16th Day: 11/9/2018 Date of 45th Day: 11/26/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: AD76002067

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 11/21/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Additional Documentation supports the individual significance and contributing status of the New Isis Theater in the Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District. The building is a fine local example of Moderne style theater design and was a major entertainment venue in the Stockyards commercial area during the early twentieth century.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept Additional Documentation

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 11/21/2018

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 Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment), Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

DATE: October 10, 2018

The following materials are submitted:

| | |
|---|--|
| X | Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the <i>Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (New Isis Theater Amendment)</i> |
| | 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:

