

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Spanish Governor's Palace

AND/OR COMMON

Spanish Governor's Palace

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 105 Military Plaza

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

20th

STATE

Texas

CODE

48

COUNTY

Bexar

CODE

029

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME City of San Antonio, adm. by Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET & NUMBER

950 East Hildebrand

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Bexar County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

South Main Street 1 block south of Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

STATE

Texas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spanish Governor's Palace is a long one-story, U-shaped building with three-foot thick walls of stone covered in lime plaster. The walls rise in a parapet above the flat roof with projecting downspouts or canales to carry rain water off the roof. There are two rooms and a loft which was once used to store food. The rooms in the rear open out onto a patio and a large courtyard. The pebbled paving is a reproduction, designed from a Spanish patio, but one similar to this is mentioned in historical documents.

By the 1920s, the building had long been neglected, and the rooms had been leased for various commercial purposes. It was saved only after it became unsafe for its tenants. The entrance hall was once the "Hole-in-the-Wall Bar" advertising nickle beer. The room to the right--the chapel--was used as a clothing store. The long room to the left, the ball room, was once a produce market; and the room beyond it was a tailor shop. It had also been used as a school at one time. The will of Jose Ignacio Perez from 1849 aided in the restoration as he had bequeathed each room separately to members of his family.

The building was purchased in 1928 by the city and was restored in 1929. The architect and contractors tried to preserve as much of the original building as possible. The rock and brick walls were in tact for the most part. Those walls that were replaced were done so on the basis of existing foundations. The lime plaster covering the walls now had to be added since the original had deteriorated over the years. The wooden lintels over the doorway are the originals. The tile floors in several of the rooms are the original; but had to be relaid since they were badly warped. The native flagstone was laid in place of that which was in the building at the time of the restoration and are said to have been used at one time as parts of the city streets. The doors were put on in 1929, but all were hand-carved according to the design of one remaining original door. The corrugated tin roof that covered the building was replaced with an authentic reproduction. Old telegraph poles and railroad ties were used for the ceiling. Because they look like telegraph poles rather than hand hewn vigas it produces a less than desirable result. The interior is furnished with authentic period pieces and is used as a museum of Spanish Colonial history.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1749

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Erected in 1749 as the residence of the commanding officer of the San Antonio presidio, the Spanish Governor's Palace is a restored example of a large Spanish Colonial town house. It is also the only remaining example in Texas of an aristocratic 18th-century Spanish residence.

## HISTORY

The city of San Antonio was founded in 1718 by the Spanish Viceroy, the Marquis de Valero. It was a midpoint between the presidios of northern Mexico and those of the early Texas capital, Los Adaes, in the eastern part of the State. The East Texas settlements were not permanent, but they had been established as a buffer along the border of French territorial possessions.

The San Antonio Mission--San Antonio de Valero--(later known as the Alamo) was established at the city's founding. The accompanying fort--one half mile west--was called the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar.

The present structure of the Presidio was begun in 1722. All that remains is now called the Spanish Governor's Palace. This building was originally intended as the residence of the presidial commander, but it was later used as the home of several of the Spanish governors who resided in San Antonio. The presidio was built for the protection of the area Missions, because of the constant threat from the various Indian tribes of the region.

The original thatch buildings, by 1749, were replaced with permanent fire-proof structures including the walls, ramparts, warehouses, officer's quarters, soldiers' barracks, and the Commandancia which was located along the west side of the fortification. The Commandancia, the residence of the Captain of the Presidio, came to represent the seat of Government, when the Villa of San Fernando (San Antonio) was made the capital of the Province of Texas in 1772. After this, the Spanish governors resided in the Commandancia of the Presidio, which became known as the Governor's Palace. There were thirty-two governors between 1722 and approximately 1804.

(Continued)



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In 1804 the house was purchased by Igancio Perez, whose heirs retained the title until the city of San Antonio bought it in 1928. In the 1860's the house was used as a school house and later as a second-hand clothing store, restaurant and bar. By the time the city acquired it in 1928, the building had been considerably altered. The house was restored in 1929-30 and is now a museum with Spanish Colonial period furniture.

Since the dedication in 1931, the Governor's Palace has been under the supervision of the Department of Parks and Recreation of the city of San Antonio.

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Brackens, Dorothy K. and Redway, Maurine W., Early Texas Homes, Dallas, 1956.  
Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.  
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Ramsdell, Charles, San Antonio, A Historical and Pictorial Guide, Austin,  
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Sanford, Trent E., The Architecture of the Old Southwest, New York, 1950.

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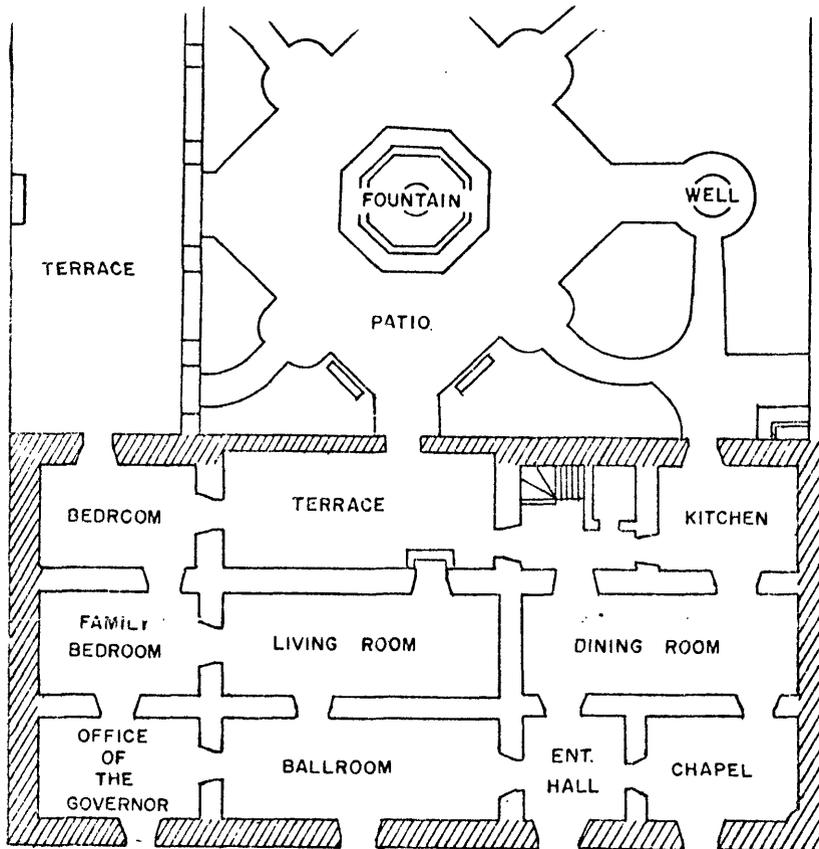
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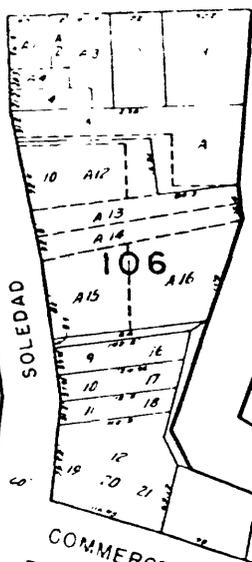
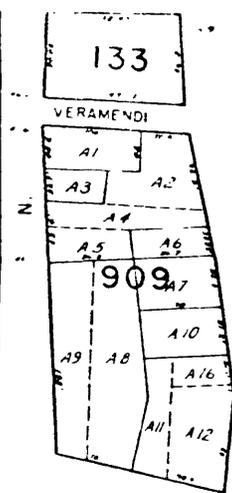
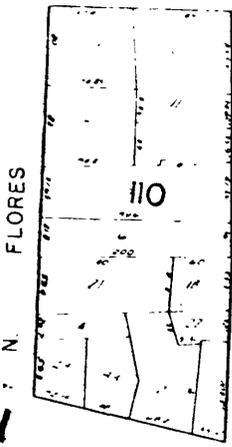
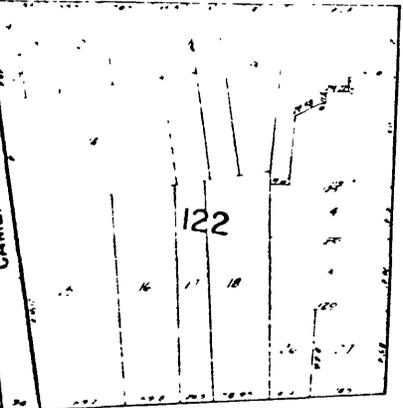
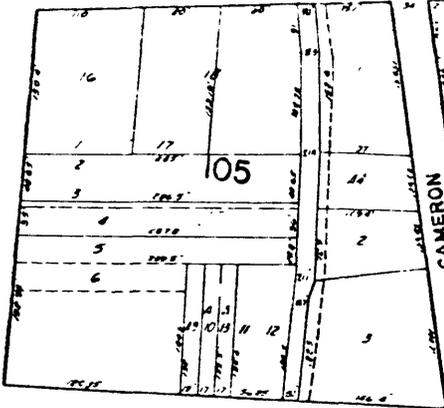
Floor plan for Governor's Palace, San Antonio, Texas

Item A.

HOUSTON

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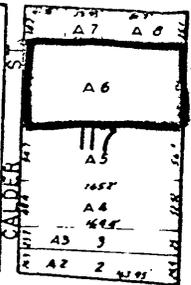
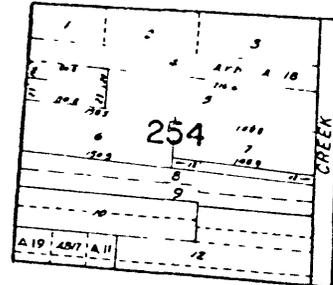
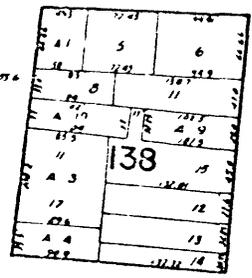
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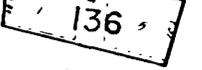
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Spanish Governor's Palace

N



MILITARY PLAZA



DOLOROSA

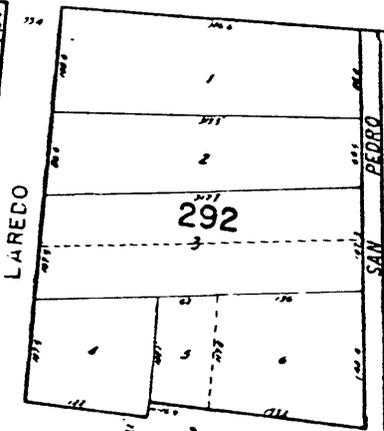
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GALAN ST

AVE

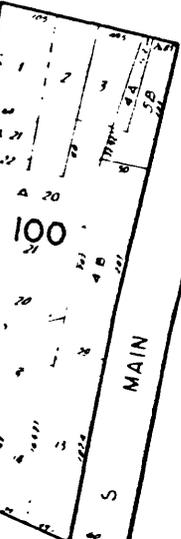
COMMERCE

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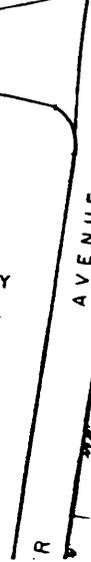
FLORES

ST.



MAIN

COUNTY COURT HOUSE



AVENUE

MARKET

146

DOLOROSA ST.

118

SAN

986

118