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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A three and four-story Texas pink granite capitol building modeled generally on the United States Capitol with central dome, cross plan with wide flanking end pavilions. It was designed by Elijah E. Myers, a professional capitol architect who won a competition over eleven entries, and also designed the capitols of Michigan, Colorado, Idaho, and Utah. The first plans were drawn up for local limestone, but after the building had been begun it was discovered that the supply was both insufficient and uneven in grade, and a shift was made to the granite of neighboring Burnet County. Because of the additional cost of the granite the two end porticos were eliminated, and because of its hardness the Corinthian capitals of the pilasters and other more complicated carvings were replaced by simpler detailing. Upon its completion the Texas Capitol was one of the handsomest of the Victorian period. The deep giant arch of the main entry is visible almost as soon as the capitol is sighted from the south. The proportions of dome to the builda ing, and of the dome itself, the fine expansive interior and exciting circular shaft of the rotunda area, and the unity of the entire building will leave this Capitol impervious to shifts in taste.

C The two central pavilions are four stories high with a Rem 0 Renaissance pedimented parapet, raised rusticated basement, and paired and single pitasters with intermediate cornices. The front entry is emphasized by a deep three-story arch and the 0 rear entrance by applied three-bay portico. The dome is some-Z what like that in Washington with a colonnaded drum, but the proportions are more vertical. The interior is carefully detailed with woods of oak, pine, cedar, ash, cherry and walnut. There are cast iron Corinthian columns and massive wooden overdoors. The hardware is of bronze. The rotunda area, the corridors, and the legislative halls serve as a repository and display of pictorial Texana.



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When the State Constitutional Convention convened in Austin, November 20, 1875, they resolved to appropriate a 3,000,000-acre section of the public domain to use as payment for a new state capitol. February 20, 1879, the Legislature passed an act providing for the designation and sur-Veying of 3,050,000 acres of unappropriated public domain to pay for the Capitol and other necessary state buildings. Then, April 18, 1879, the Legislature passed the act which provided for the actual building of the Capitol, and for the surveying of the public land. They chose an area in northwest Texas, on the Llano Estacado, or Staked Plain, and considered that they would make a good deal by trading arid lands for a Capitol building.

The old State Capitol burned on November 9, 1881, and the State hastened its plans for the new building. The State appointed Joseph Lee and N.L. Norton Capitol Commissioners, and J.N. Preston was superintendant of construction. Supervisors included W.D. Clark and R.K. Walker. The State hired Napoleon Le Brun, a New York City architect, to choose the best design of those submitted. He selected the plans of E.E. Myers of Detroit, who furnished the completed architectural blueprints. Then the State advertised for bids from contractors, and despite the large amount of land offered, only two contracting firms submitted bids to build the Capitol. Mattheas Schnell of Rock Island, Illinois, was chosen over A.A. Burck of Rockdale, Texas. Schnell was a member of the Capitol Syndicate of Chicago, Illinois, which was composed of Col. A.C. Babcock, president; John V. and John S. Farwell; and Abner Taylor. Soon after Schnell was awarded the contract, he assigned all his interest in the agreement to Taylor, Babcock, and Co., and they in turn assigned the contract to Abner Taylor, who filed bond for \$250,000 to carry out the terms of the agreement. The State agreed to give the Syndicate the West Texas acreage as they fulfilled the contract and completed the Capitol building.

The ground-breaking ceremony was held on February 1, 1882,

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8 (cont d) and by the fall of that year, a small town had grown up on the grounds to accommodate the workers. A year later the excavation had become such a curiosity that a wire fence had to be erected around the site and permits issued to watchers at the entrance. On March 2, 1885, the 49th anniversary of Texas independence, the 16,000-pound cornerstone was laid with day-long ceremonies and a crowd of nearly 20,000 people.

Construction of the building progressed using limestone for the exterior from the OakaHillie quarry nine miles southwest of Austin. In 1885 a controversy arose over the limestonewwhen the first large block to arrive was not up to the standards that had been decided upon. In addition, the contractor decided that the Oak Hill quarry was not large enough to produce all the limestone that would eventually be needed, and that the stone developed rust-colored streaks after several years' exposure. Taylor sub-itt mitted a limestone sample from Bedford, Indiana, but Governor John Ireland disagreed with Taylor's choice on the grounds that the change violatedd two principles. First, the use of Indiana limelimestonele would necessitate a change in the appropriation of state funds, and the original contract. Second, the building commission had voted to use Texas materials as much as possible. Ireland favored the use of red granite, and owners of a quarry at Marble Falls offered to donate the stone necessary to complete the exterior walls of the Capitol. At the insistence of the contractor, the State agreed to build a fifteen-mile tapline from Burnet and the Northwestern Railroad to the guarry, and to provide the service of 500 able-bodied convicts to work the guarry. The contractor agreed to furnish food, pay, quarters, and the transportation for the convicts. The state's agreement to hire convicts caused the International Association of Granite Cutters to boycott the construction. Gus Wilke, sub-contractor in charge, was unable to continue without stone cutters, and so he brought sixty-two trained cutters to Texas from Scotland for \$4.00 a day wages. Wilke's move was a violation of the Alien Contract Labor Law, and eventually the Capitol Syndicate had to pay a fine of more than \$8,000.

Construction of the Capitol walls continued without more difficulty. The exterior was red granite and the interior was native stone. The interior dome was made in Charleri, Belgium, for \$250,000 and the iron for the rest of the structure above the fourth floor was also imported from Belgium. It was necessary to call in B.M. Harrod of New Orleans, Nicholas J. Clayton of Galveston, and Eugene T. Heiner of Houston as consulting architects Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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in the last stages of construction. The brick work on the fourth floor and between the lower iron work of the dome was not adequately supported and the walls were structurally unsound. The architects concurred with the decision of Gus Wilke to eliminate some of the brick interlining, and the difficulty was solved. The State ordered a zinc statue of the Goddess of Liberty from the Friedley-Voshardt Company of Chicago, and in January of 1888, the roof was finished with the placement of the statue on the dome cupola. Opening celebrations were held in May.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark- 1964.

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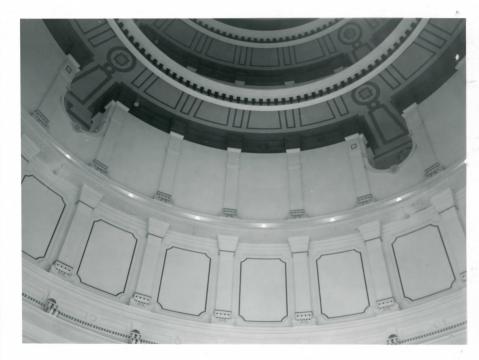
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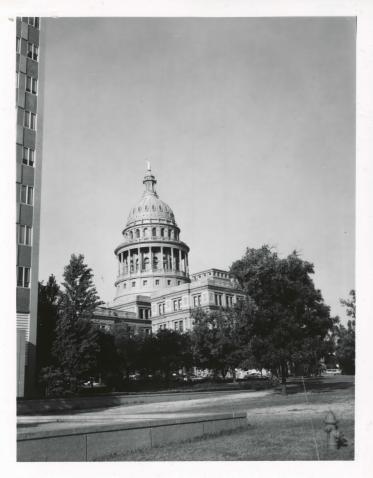


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z	3. PHOTO REFERENCE		· · · · · ·		//
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ш	NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Texas State His	storicalySur	vev Committee	10.1
ш		108 W. 15th St	reet. Austin	, Texas 78711	
	4. IDENTIFICATION	······································	<u> </u>	<u> rendb /0/11</u>	
	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIREC	Interior of don	ne		



NPS Number 70-6-42-0008 Title: Seras State Capital

Loc. <u>Iranis Courty</u>, Jexas <u>View of dome from the</u>

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE		TEXAS		
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES			COUNTY	
				Travis	
	PROPER	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM			_Y
S	(Type all entri	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)		ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
Z	I. NAME				16/22/70
0	COMMON:	Texas State Cap	ital Buildi	M (5110)	
	AND/OR HISTORIC:	Texas state cap	DICOL BUILUI		>
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2	CITY OR TOWN:			Tel PAIN IN	P
		Austin		12 1 12 M	7
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-	PHOTO CREDIT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee			
	DATE OF PHOTO:	June, 1969	1		
Ш	NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee			
ш	4. IDENTIFICATION	108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711			
S	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.				
	View of dome from the northeast				



NPS Number 70-6-42-0008 Title: Jexas State Capital Loc. frames County, Jevas Marth Jacade PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	TEXAS			
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Travis			
	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY			
S	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)	ENTRY NUMBER DATE			
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ш	4. IDENTIFICATION	n, Texas 78711			
S	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.				
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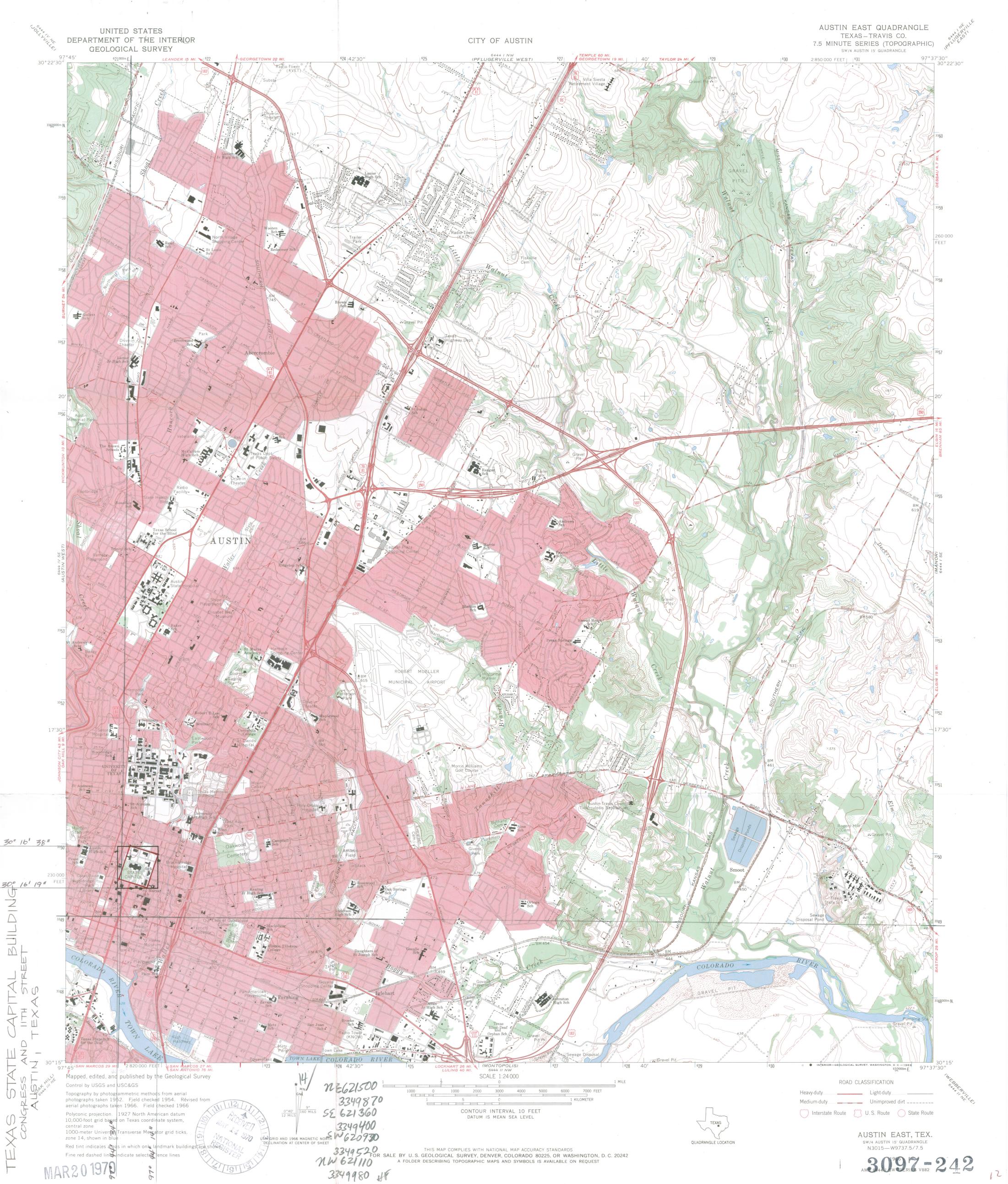


NPS Number 70-6-42-0008 Title: Jexas State Captal

Loc. Iranis County, Seras tenor of rotunda, Showing 1 ackets

PROPERT	Y OF	THE	NATIONAL	PEGST
				A Gabor Wall B C. B B

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES		TEXAS COUNTY Travis FOR NPS USE ONLY		
	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM				
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	. NAME				
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נכ	STREET AND NUMBER:	Congress and lith Street			
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	DATE OF PHOTO:	June, 1969		ULE	
1 1	NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711			
, 4					
	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.				
	Interior of rotunda, showing brackets				



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Charles Steen, Southwest Regional Office

JUN 3 0 1970

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Hon. Olin E. Teague House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Teague:

We are pleased to inform you that the Texas State Capitol Building in Austin, Texas, has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Flaces. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John G. Tower have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Thomas F. Flynn DEPUTyDirector

Enclosure

JUN 2 2 1970

ce:

1 B

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Director, Southwest Region

Entered in the National Register

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JUN 22 1970

Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 West 15th Street Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Latimer:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Ernest Allen Connally Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register

JUN 2 : 1970

cc: HR

RGamble:mm

6/22/70

BASIC FILE REVAINED IN HR

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Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

TEXAS

3

Texas State Capitol Building Waco Suspension Bridge Winedale Inn Austin, Texas Waco, Texas Winedale, Texas

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FILE REPAINED IN

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JUN 3 0 1970

Hon. Ralph W. Yarborough United states Senate Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National ec: Director, Southwest Region Mr. Charles Steen, Southwestern Regional Office LL-Mr. Melvin RGamble:mm 6/2 T HR a g g g r r r r r r Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Sed) Thomas F. Flynn DEPUTY Director

Enclosures

JUN 22 1970

cc:

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Duplicate letter sent to:

Entered in the National Register

Hon. John G. Tower United States Senate Washington D. A.

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

TEXAS

1

Texas State Capitol Building Waco Suspension Bridge Winedale Inn Austin, Texas Waco, Texas Winedale, Texas

Form 10-301 (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE		TEXAS	
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTY MAP FORM		COUNTY Travis FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE	
ALC: RAL	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose	with map)	70.6.42.0008 6/22/	
1. NAME				
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AND/OR H	ISTORIC:		(B)	
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SOURCE:	United States Departme	ent of Int	terior Geological Surve	
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4. REQUIREN				
1. Pr 2. No	CLUDED ON ALL MAPS operty broundaries where required. Texas th arrow. titude and longitude reference.	Map Refe	erence #3097-242	

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL (Resource Name) TRAVIS (County)	70 000 770 (Reference Number[s]) TEXAS (State)	(Date form completed) OSAPENKO (Completed by)
STATUS: 1. MISSING 2. REMOVED/ 3. NHL / 4. TR 5. MRA DEMOLISHED	_ 6. OVER 7. NPS 8 SIZED UNDOCUMENTED	. DOE 9. RESTRICTED OWNER OBJECTION
EXPLANATION: 1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ()	()	
2. (Cause for removal)		, (Date Removed)
 3. (NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name) 4. (If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location) 		(Date Designated)
(TR or MRA Name)		-
 5. (If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location) 6. (Location of oversize file) 		-
7. (Current source of partial documentation)		(Target Date)
COMMENTS:		/ / (Date Found/Replaced)
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE National Register of Historic Locator Card	Places	- WASO 21 JAN. 1986