

(Oct. 1990)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

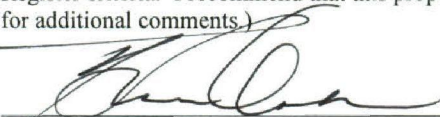
HISTORIC NAME: Heidgen, Johann and Anna, House
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 121 Starr Street	NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio	VICINITY: N/A
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Bexar	CODE: 029 ZIP CODE: 78205

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

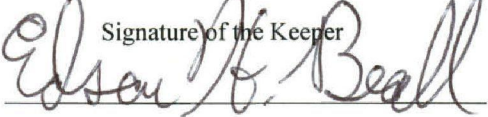
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (☒ nomination) (☐ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural 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 (☐ nationally) (☐ statewide) (☒ locally). (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 _____ Signature of certifying official	<u>1/30/2004</u> _____ Date
_____ State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission	
_____ State or Federal agency and bureau	

In my opinion, the property ___meets___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____ Signature of commenting or other official	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency and bureau	

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:	 _____ Signature of the Keeper	<u>6/9/04</u> _____ Date of Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	1	1 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	2	1 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE/professional

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER/I-plan, canal (*acequia*)

MATERIALS:	FOUNDATION	STONE/Limestone; CONCRETE
	WALLS	STONE/Limestone, CONCRETE
	ROOF	METAL/Tin
	OTHER	N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

The Heidgen House was built about 1882 at 121 Starr Street, three blocks northeast of the Alamo on the eastern edge of the central business district of San Antonio, Bexar County. Now flanked by motels and commercial buildings, the house was part of the Irish Flat neighborhood that was comprised of mostly one-story plastered rock dwellings built by Irish and German settlers. The vernacular limestone house is a rare surviving example of the two-story stone I-plan houses built by German immigrants, who were the dominant ethnic group in the city in the late nineteenth century. An additional historic element of the property is a section of the first *acequia*, or irrigation canal, built by the Spaniards in 1718 to supply water for the Mission San Antonio de Valero, later named The Alamo. The forty-five mile long *acequia* system, an elaborate network of dams, canals and gates, remained in use until a series of Artesian water wells were drilled, establishing a city water distribution in the early twentieth century. The Heidgen House served as a dwelling for ninety years, and has since served as a youth group headquarters, a restaurant, and currently a lawyer's office.

Setting

Bexar County, in central Texas, is bisected by the thirty-mile wide Balcones fault system. The City of San Antonio, at the head of the San Antonio River, has the limestone terrain of the Edwards Plateau on its northern fringes and the flat "lowland sandstone and mudstone terrain of the Coastal Plain south of town."¹ Founded by the Spaniards in 1718, with the establishment of the Mission San Antonio de Valero and the Villa de Bexar, the settlement of San Antonio later became a provincial capital of the Republic of Mexico in 1821. After the Texas Revolution in 1836, Bexar County was organized by the State of Texas, and in 1837, San Antonio was incorporated as a city. After Texas joined the Union in 1846, the town experienced rapid growth with waves of new settlers, mostly Anglo-Americans and Germans. By 1860, San Antonio was the largest town in Texas.

Shortly after arriving in San Antonio in 1852, German stonemason Johann Heidgen and his wife Anna Barbara purchased property northeast of the Alamo, on the eastern edge of the Irish Flat neighborhood, from Charles Edwards for \$200. The parcel was bounded on the east by Elm Street, on the north by Second Street (now Dawson) and on the west by a branch of the *Acequia Madre*, the main irrigation canal built by the Spaniards. The southern boundary was later delineated by an eastward extension of Houston Street (now Starr).² The lot was part of a large pasture that had been surveyed by Nat Lewis, S.S. McDonald, and Mr. McKeney for a subdivision in 1852. The City filed a lawsuit over "the right to hold lands outside the original Spanish land grants" and won.³ The City then sold at auction blocks 47, 48, 49 and the fractional lot 50 to Bryan Callaghan on February 19, 1852.⁴ Callaghan sold the property to Edwards on April 7, 1855,⁵ who subdivided it and sold the lot that measured 34 *varas* (about 100 feet) along Dawson Street and fronted 30 *varas* (about 90 feet) on Elm Street to Heidgen on August 13, 1855.

¹ Spearing, p. 87.

² Bexar County Deed Records: N1/167, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

³ Cruse, p. 1.

⁴ Bexar County Deed records: H1/399, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

⁵ Ibid: K1/491.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

It can be assumed that Johann Heidgen,⁶ an accomplished stonemason, built his first house, constructing a one-story *caliche*⁷ rock dwelling, plastered with lime wash, facing onto Elm Street. This circa 1856 house appears on an 1873 birds-eye map of San Antonio.⁸ A small structure also seen in the 1873 map was likely incorporated into the circa 1882 two-story house, as there is an interior rock wall on the first floor. Heidgen sold the north half of his property to August Proll, a blacksmith, in 1865.⁹ The Proll family would occupy their house until the early 1920s. The City Directories of 1880 and 1882 state the Heidgen's address as "Elm between Houston and North Second" and "NW corner Elm and East Houston." Remnants of the circa 1856 Heidgen house on Elm Street, and additional frame structures, became dilapidated and were demolished in 1972.

Between 1882 and 1884, Heidgen built a two-story rock house at 817 East Houston (now 121 Starr) to accommodate his large family. The 1880 census reveals that six of the eight Heidgen children were living with their parents at this address. The address changed from Elm Street to 817 East Houston in 1883, then 921 East Houston in the 1890s, and the street name was changed to Starr in the 1930s. The Heidgens likely occupied the older Elm Street house as well, as frame additions connected the two houses.¹⁰ An 1886 map documents the Heidgen's two-story house sited on the *Acequia Madre*.¹¹ The western wall of the house rests directly on the eastern curb of the *acequia*, which is an unusual placement. As of 2003, only one additional surviving historic residence, the "Servants' Quarters" at the circa 1857 Commander's House at 647 South Main Avenue, has been identified with a wall built on the edge of the *acequia*.¹²

The *acequias*, built under the direction Franciscan priests to supply water to the missions and their adjacent *labores* (fields), were a system of canals that diverted water from the San Antonio River. The *Acequia Madre*, later known as the Alamo Madre or Alamo Ditch, was begun ca. 1719 and brought water from near the headwaters in present day Brackenridge Park to Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo). The portion adjacent to the Heidgen house is a branch of this *acequia*. For almost two hundred years, inhabitants of the town relied on water from seven *acequias* for all their needs, including watering gardens and fields, bathing (unless they bathed in the river), drinking, washing, and cooking, until Artesian wells were drilled in the late 1800s and water was piped to individual houses.¹³ In 1905, the City Council voted to cover over the Alamo Ditch with street sweepings. By this time most *acequias* in the downtown area had been stone-lined by German settlers.¹⁴

The portion of the *Acequia Madre* adjacent to the Heidgen house is unique, as it is one of four remaining open portions that have survived in the central city area. Three of these additional sections have been extensively

⁶ Heidgen (also spelled Heitgen) was later known as John.

⁷ Caliche is a soft, porous type of limestone that hardens when exposed to air.

⁸ "Bird's Eye view of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas 1873." Drawn by Augustus Koch.

⁹ Bexar County Deed Records: T2/250, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

¹⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of San Antonio, 1912, and 1968 photograph of Heidgen/Zilker House, San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation, No. 03.0038.02.

¹¹ "Bird's Eye View of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, 1886 Looking northeast." Drawn by Augustus Koch.

¹² Cruse, p. 2.

¹³ Cox, Wayne. Lectures: April 7, 1998, April 30, 2003, e-mails to Patsy Light, January 27-30, 2003.

¹⁴ "Council in Tangle Over Fire Stations."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

restored. One section is in the green space behind the Embassy Suites directly north of the Heidgen house, one is in the garden behind the Alamo, and another is in HemisFair Park, east of the children's playground. A section remaining in the basement of the Menger Hotel is bricked over and not available for public viewing.¹⁵ The Starr Street section, which was excavated to a four-foot depth during the archeological investigation #41BX8A in 1968, is four and one-half feet wide and unaltered since the late nineteenth century.¹⁶ Archeologist Mardith Scheutz noted "...discovery of a sluice gate and notched curbstones with cedar posts (evidence that the *acequia* was fenced) has added immeasurably to our knowledge of the Spanish *acequias* system." In addition, she wrote "...the stonework is in excellent condition, and shows the beautiful Spanish construction."¹⁷ The circa 1718 *acequia* and circa 1882 house are contributing elements in this nomination. A low brick wall, built in 1971, is a noncontributing feature. A wrought iron fence (noncontributing) bounds the property.

Architecture

The house has been described as a surviving example of "a vernacular residential type once numerous in San Antonio, but now rare."¹⁸ As of 2003, no existing two-story rock residences of this style were found in San Antonio. Two neighboring one-story residences, the 1858 Engelman-Muench house at 415 Sixth Street and the 1854 Heinrich Beversdorff house at 305 North Alamo, possess stylistic elements found in the Heidgen house including gabled roofs of standing seam metal, covered porches and plastered and lime-washed rock walls.

Architect Eugene George¹⁹ describes the house as a "typical Texas German expression."²⁰ The two-story rock vernacular residence has a rectangular floor plan, long and narrow, and a symmetrical front (south) elevation with four doors, and four 6/6 double hung windows. The west elevation has two 6/6 windows. The rear elevation has a door, a 6/6 window, and a smaller window on the ground floor and two 6/6 windows and a smaller window on the second floor. The east elevation has a door on the ground floor and a 6/6 window on the second floor. The standing seam metal roof is side gabled and extends unbroken over the upper gallery. This portion over the gallery is supported by square wooden posts embellished with jig-sawn brackets that were popular in the 1880s. Because the western wall of the house is built along the *acequia* wall, the house forms a trapezoid, measuring 46'8" along the north wall, 18'2" on the east, 44'4" on the south, and 18'3 3/4" on the west. The large limestone and caliche walls average 16 inches in thickness.

Curtis Hunt, a third generation stonemason, identifies the ground floor of the house as being constructed of rubble limestone from the quarry near the present site of Trinity University (3 miles north), and the upper floor as being built of cut *caliche* block from the Powderhouse Hill quarry (1 mile southeast). Hunt says that the blocks are "German cut," with a hatchet that was used as a chisel to build the headers and shape the face of the

¹⁵ Cox, Wayne. Personal communication with Patsy Light, April 29, 2003.

¹⁶ Schuetz.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Garner, John. Written statement to representatives of the San Antonio Conservation Society, December, 1968, S.A.C.S. archives.

¹⁹ Eugene George is the Mary Ann Castleberry Endowed Professor of Historic Preservation at the School of Architecture at the University of Texas San Antonio.

²⁰ George, Eugene. Site visit and interview with Patsy Light, March 28, 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

rock.²¹ The use of two types of rock and the presence of the interior rock wall are evidence that the dwelling was built during different time periods.

Changes since 1882

An outside stairway appears in a photograph from 1906 and the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1912.²² The photograph also reveals that the house was plastered with white lime wash. In a 1968 photograph, the stairway appears to have been rebuilt or extended to cross in front of the door. Wooden inserts in the eastern wall are evidence that at one period there were also stairs on this wall.²³ When the house was restored for the Alamo Council of Camp Fire Girls in 1971, the architectural firm of Peterson and Williams designed a new stairway with a landing on the right side of the front elevation and a brick wall on the southern half of the property facing Starr Street. Other modifications included the replacement of the doors and windows, patching of the mortar of the exterior stones, the addition of an interior metal spiral stairway and a bathroom (the house had no inside bath), and construction of a new chimney. Floors of the upstairs gallery and the interior of the first floor were paved with Mexican Saltillo tile. A Mr. Lerma from Mexico was the contractor for the restoration work.²⁴ Inserted in the east exterior wall of the house is a small ceramic figurine that appears to be a likeness of the Virgin Mary. Eugene George suggests that a conservator should be consulted to date this figure.

The neighborhood, a residential area from the mid 1800s until the early 1900s, has become a mostly commercial zone. South of the Heidgen house is a large two-story masonry building at 901 East Houston Street, built in 1927 for the Gillespie Ford Company. Notable is the ornate exterior decoration on the eastern elevation that is credited to artisan Hannibal Pianta, who created the interior plaster decorations of the Empire and Majestic theatres. The building was later occupied by the Bimbi Shoe Company, where some of the tenants of 121 Starr Street were employed. Presently owned by Edgar Marwardt, it is utilized as storage for a family business at another site.²⁵ To the west is the Downtowner Motel, 902 East Houston Street, built in the early 1960s, to the north is the Hampton Inn, 414 Bowie Street, built in 1984 and to the east, the former Elm Street is now an access road for the elevated U.S. Highway 281.

As an example of a nineteenth century vernacular German house, and as the residence of an immigrant family that was important in the construction and the activities of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, the property is an important landmark in San Antonio. Between 1984-1987, the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office conducted a downtown survey of 4,000 properties, and 1,343 were deemed eligible for designation as historic landmarks. The Heidgen house was classified as a "Historic Exceptional Landmark."²⁶ In 2003 the Texas Historical Commission designated the Heidgen House a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark.

²¹ Hunt, Curtis. Telephone interview with Patsy Light, March 11, 2003.

²² See Heidgen family photograph in Figure 1.

²³ George, Eugene. Site visit and interview with Patsy Light, March 28, 2003.

²⁴ Peterson, Jack to Patsy Light. Personal communication, April 10, 2003.

²⁵ Markwardt, Peter. Telephone interview with Patsy Light, April 22, 2003.

²⁶ San Antonio City Council Ordinance 68210, case # Z88161, October 27, 1988.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☐ **A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- ☐ **B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- ☒ **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 VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- ☐ **D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1882

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1882

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Heidgen, Johann

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-15).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-16 through 9-20).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ 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*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government (*City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office*)
- ☒ University (*St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas; Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin; Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio*)
- ☒ Other -- Specify Repository (*San Antonio Conservation Society Library, San Antonio, Texas; Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio; San Antonio Central Library-Texana and Genealogy Department; Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio*)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Johann Heidgen, a German immigrant stonemason, was among a wave of new residents who contributed to the rapid growth of San Antonio in the mid-nineteenth century. Along with other parishioners, he contributed his labor for the construction of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, the church rectory, and St. Joseph's Benevolent Society Hall, which were all built of limestone from local quarries. The Heidgen family was very active in the construction and events at St. Joseph's. The two-story vernacular stone Heidgen House is a rare surviving example of an early German-built dwelling in San Antonio. It is also one of few remaining historic buildings in the Irish Flat neighborhood, an ethnic enclave of Irish and German immigrants on the east side of San Antonio's commercial core. The Heidgen House is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. It survives as an important landmark dwelling, recalling San Antonio's rapid growth in the late nineteenth century.

German Settlers in Texas

Settlers of German birth or descent were the largest ethnic group in Texas derived from Europe. By 1850, German settlers made up more than five percent of the population in Texas, and this proportion remained fairly constant throughout the nineteenth century.²⁷ Earlier German settlements in Texas, between 1831 and 1844, had been established in areas that comprise present day Austin, Fayette, Colorado and Medina Counties.²⁸

Between 1844 and 1847, over 7,000 German immigrants, recruited by a group called the *Adelsverein* (The Society for the Protectors of German Immigrants in Texas), sailed across the Atlantic in difficult voyages that lasted eight to twelve weeks. After landing on the Texas coast, they made an arduous journey to Central Texas, some of them dropping off along the way; others going on and settling Hill Country towns of New Braunfels, Fredericksburg, Comfort, Castell, and others.²⁹ Many of these recruited immigrants were from the Hesses, Hanover, Brunswick and other central German states.³⁰ When the *Adelsverein* went bankrupt, immigration continued in smaller groups, spurred on by chain migration and letters written back to Germany.³¹

San Antonio in the 1850s

By the mid 1850s, there were over 20,000 Germans in Texas,³² and approximately 3,000 of them lived in San Antonio.³³ The San Antonio Ledger of July 28, 1853 reported "...a large German emigration have also pressed themselves upon the town, and our German friends, from their industrious and temperate habits, have done much to add to the intrinsic values of the place...Daily do we hear of new arrivals. They come not only from foreign states, but from the Eastern section of our own State."³⁴

²⁷ Tyler, pp.141-144.

²⁸ Lich, pp. 189-195.

²⁹ Ibid, p. 190, 191.

³⁰ Fehrenbach, p. 293.

³¹ Tyler, p. 143.

³² Ibid, p. 142.

³³ Olmstead, p. 85.

³⁴ Everett, p. 24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Prussian immigrants from Cologne, Anna Barbara Heiman (1828-1913) and her husband of six years, stonemason Johann Engelbert Heidgen (1821-1915), arrived in San Antonio in 1852. Occasional raids by marauding Indians still threatened settlers living on the fringes of town, as evidenced by the 1867 kidnapping of the Heidgens' two-year-old daughter Mathilda. She was returned to her family by a posse of citizens from the neighboring Powderhouse Hill neighborhood.³⁵

San Antonio was a landlocked settlement that depended on four-footed animals for overland transportation, and freighting became one of the first lucrative businesses.³⁶ Mexican *carreros* (ox-cart drivers) brought goods and immigrants from the Texas ports, and hauled Mexican silver, chocolate, tobacco and other goods from the Mexican border. By 1859, mule and horse teams pulled U.S. Army prairie schooners with bright blue bodies and red wheels to the coast transporting supplies for the Quartermaster Corps, headquartered in San Antonio in the ruins of the Alamo, for shipments to the forts to the west. Stagecoaches began carrying mail and passengers to and from San Diego, California, in 1857 for a one-way fare cost of \$200 per person (\$3,100 in 2003).³⁷ Other German immigrants were starting businesses. Simon Menger established the first manufacturing enterprise in San Antonio, the Menger Soap Works. Dr. Julius Heusinger opened the first Apothecary and Drug Store and William Menger built a hotel and a brewery, with Charles Degan as his brewmaster. Dr. Adolf Douai founded a German language newspaper, The San Antonio Zeitung.³⁸

Landscape architect and travel writer Frederick Law Olmstead visited San Antonio in 1853. He commented about the German houses of "creamy-white limestone, mostly of single story and humble proportions," the Mexican *jacales*, "windowless cabins of stakes plastered with mud and roofed with river-grass," and the American homes, with "...gardens and jalousies and a garden picket fence against the walk..." Olmstead wrote about the Mexican ladies who bathed in the San Antonio River, the water system which was a series of canals (*acequias*) which diverted water from the river, and the fights and shootings throughout the city. He also said "we have no city, except perhaps New Orleans, that can vie in point of the picturesque interest that attaches to odd and antiquated foreignness with San Antonio. Its jumble of races, costumes, languages and buildings; its religious ruins...combine with the heroic touches in its history to enliven and satisfy your traveler's curiosity."³⁹

The Irish Flat neighborhood was originally known as "The Flat," because of its low, flat, damp terrain. The settlement was "built on fields once tilled by Franciscan priests and their Indian converts at the Alamo – where the Acequia Madre ditch ran through."⁴⁰ Numerous sources have speculated concerning the boundaries of this area which was home to not only Irish immigrants, but also Germans, Poles and Swedes. Research by the San

³⁵ "Mother of L.J. Gittinger Dies in Local Hospital on Sunday."

³⁶ Steinfeldt, p. 80.

³⁷ Fisher, p. 25.

³⁸ Heusinger, pp. 24-26.

³⁹ Olmstead, pp. 78, 79, 82-83.

⁴⁰ San Antonio Light, August 21, 1938.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Antonio Conservation Society historians reveals that the northern boundary was 10th Street, the Acequia Madre on the east, Alamo Plaza on the south and Broadway on the west.⁴¹

The influx of Irish immigrants has been attributed to arrival of refugees from the San Patricio Colony (120 miles southeast) who moved to San Antonio after their settlement had been repeatedly attacked by Indians, as well as migration of Irish settlers from northern states. Today the majority of the neighborhood's few surviving homes are German-built with low, sloping roofs and narrow porches. Former residents remember that when an Irish settler built his house, "neighbors gathered around a barrel of Irish whiskey when foundations for a friend's home were laid."⁴²

John Stevens, son of one of the first Irish settlers, recalled that the "Irish boys joined forces with Americans to fight the Mexican and German boys, and if they couldn't find Mexicans, they fought among themselves. Fighting was our principal diversion."⁴³ The fights ended with a shaking of hands. Baseball games typically with Irish versus German teams, Saturday night dances, and funeral wakes were also mentioned as part of the Irish settlers' entertainments. Charles Ramsdell wrote in 1938 that "not all the Irish in San Antonio lived in the Flat, and not any of the wealthier Irish."⁴⁴

Sanborn maps indicate that the neighborhood of "quaint little cottages with fenced in yards along streets shaded by old pecan trees"⁴⁵ was primarily residential from the 1850s through the 1900s, although there were some commercial properties. Thomas Mullaly and partner Henry Carter owned the Carter-Mullaly Transfer Company, bounded by East Houston, Bowie and Nacogdoches, which included undertaker and funeral services along with a livery sale and feed stable, and a transfer and baggage line. Among German-owned businesses were August Proll's blacksmith shop on the corner of 6th and Elm, John Kampmann's Planing Mill on Nacogdoches between Elm and 5th, and Gustav Uhl's store and home at the corner of Avenue E and 8th. Some of the Irish worked as teamsters for the Federal troops, helping to transport supplies to the frontier, others worked as clerks for the government, and still others were artisans, merchants and "essentially politicians."⁴⁶

By the turn of the century, "many of the original Irish settlers became successful, and moved into grander neighborhoods...this migration helped by the electrification of streetcar lines."⁴⁷ Although some of the houses built by the various ethnic groups were converted to commercial use, many were demolished, and few remain today.

⁴¹ San Antonio Conservation Society. The Newsletter, January-February 1979.

⁴² Williamson, James, "Flats Recall Early Irish Settlers," article in San Antonio Light, May 24, 1942.

⁴³ North San Antonio Times, May 5, 1983, p. 3.

⁴⁴ Greenberg, Mike, "The Old neighborhood," article in San Antonio Express-News, January 17, 1999.

⁴⁵ Everett, Don. North San Antonio Times, October 9, 1986.

⁴⁶ Stevens, A. T. "The Irish Flats."

⁴⁷ Peace Center, San Antonio, Texas, website viewed on November 2, 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

The Heidgen Family

The Heidgens had thirteen children, but City Directories and United States Census records indicate that only eight survived into adulthood. John August was probably born after the family's arrival in 1852 and, according to the 1877 City Directory, had a bakery and a confectionary along with his residence at Elm and Travis.⁴⁸ Philip (b. 1856) held a variety of jobs and vocations including theology student, clerk, stone cutter, assistant county assessor, stonemason, deputy assessor, driver for John August's store and city policeman. Charles (b. 1860) worked as a stonemason. The Heidgens had four daughters, Anna Kunigunda (b. 1862), Mathilda (b. 1865), Maria Magaritha (b. 1868) and Perpetua Catherine (b. 1871). The youngest child, Herman (b. 1873), was a clerk for the Southern Pacific round house and a substitute mail carrier.

Anna Barbara and John were Roman Catholic, and the dates of seven of the their children's baptisms parallel the early German Catholic population's parish affiliations in San Antonio. Prior to 1868, the Germans worshipped with the Hispanics at San Fernando Church. Philip was baptized there in 1856.⁴⁹ In 1856, St. Mary's Church was founded for English speakers, including Irish settlers and Germans, although the Germans insisted that their services be conducted in German. In 1860, Charles was baptized at St. Mary's, followed by Anna in 1862, Mathilda in 1865, and Maria Magaritha in 1868.⁵⁰

As the German population continued to grow, the German Catholics were encouraged by two Benedictine fathers associated with St. Mary's Church and Bishop Dubuis to rebuild the old Alamo mission for their church. The Army staff that was using the mission for storage of supplies agreed to the request of the parishioners, but other suitable buildings could not be found for the military. With funds collected from the German Catholics, friends and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the site was acquired where St. Joseph's Church stands today at 623 East Commerce Street. In 1868, the cornerstone for the church was laid, and by 1871, the building was completed, built of stone hauled by oxcart and wagons from the quarry at Powderhouse Hill.⁵¹ The two youngest Heidgens were baptized there, Perpetua Catherine in 1871 and Herman in 1873.⁵²

Five years after St. Joseph's was completed, the number of Germans in San Antonio had exceeded all other major ethnic groups. With a total population of 17,314, there were 5,600 Germans and Alsations, 5,475 Americans, English and Irish and 3,750 Mexicans.⁵³ The Heidgen family had a lifelong association with St. Joseph's Church. John, along with other parishioners, contributed his skills for the construction of the church. He was in charge of all carpentry work and he and a Mr. Vanderstratten constructed one of the stone walls. In 1884, John convinced the congregation that the priest, who was living in an uncomfortable room over the sacristy and using a crowded space at the rear of the church for his office, needed a separate rectory building.

⁴⁸ Gittinger, Leonard, Jr. Telephone interviews with Patsy Light, March 22, 2003, March 31, 2003, and April 22, 2003. Mr. Gittinger confirmed, through family records, that John August Heidgen was the son of Anna Barbara and John E. Heidgen.

⁴⁹ San Fernando Catholic Church Baptisms, Volume 6-7, 1826-1857.

⁵⁰ St. Mary's Catholic Church Baptismal Records, Volume 1, pages 27, 68, 122, 154.

⁵¹ Neumann, p. 6.

⁵² St. Joseph's Downtown Catholic Church, Baptism Indices, Volume 6, 1870-1899.

⁵³ San Antonio City Directory 1877, p.37.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Pledges were solicited to pay for the new building, and again, parishioners pledged to contribute their labor. John served as the foreman of the construction and his son Philip was one of the stonemasons. The San Antonio *Leiderkranz*, the all-male four-part harmony choral society, of which Hermann was a member, met in the rectory for seven years. After St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Benevolent Society built their first hall in 1888, under John's supervision, the choral group held their practices there.⁵⁴

Church records reveal the active participation of the Heidgen family through the years. Accounts for pew rentals reveal that during the years between 1877-1883, they rented a pew seating up to 10 people on the Epistle (right) side of the sanctuary. They contributed to special collections for the priest's residence and salary, the church debt, the new bells, the church ceiling and one of the ten double-figure stained glass windows made by the Emil Frei Art Glass Company in Munich, Germany. The Heidgen family window, a representation of the Holy Family, is sited over the East door and is inscribed "Anna Barbara and John Heidgen." Anna Barbara was a dues paying member of St. Anne Verein Society from 1885-1894 and Hermann and his father were members of St. Joseph's Society.⁵⁵

Marriages of six of the children were celebrated at St. Joseph's. John August married Marie Mann in 1877, Anna married Albert Ruhnke in 1880, Maria married Jacob Weissler in 1887, Mathilda married August Gittinger in 1891, Perpetua married Francis Jud in 1890, and Hermann married Berta Black in 1902.⁵⁶ Philip married Elizabeth Smith in 1881, but there is no record of the church where they were married. When the Heidgens celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in 1906, John was named an "Honorary Member of St. Joseph's Society with all the rights and privileges of full membership, and dues paid for life."⁵⁷ The Society presented the couple with a hand-drawn diploma of merit.⁵⁸

The Heidgens also were involved in service to the community-at-large. John was a member of the first volunteer fire department, the Ben Milam Company, which was organized in 1854,⁵⁹ and when he died in 1915, he was San Antonio's oldest living volunteer fireman. He also served as bugler for the Forty-Second Infantry Reserves.⁶⁰ Anna Barbara attended midwife training in Indiana and, and in the City Directories of 1891-1901 she is listed as a midwife. According to a family source, when she was summoned to help with a pending delivery, she would hitch up her own horse and buggy unassisted.⁶¹

⁵⁴ Neumann, pp. 7, 17 24, 27.

⁵⁵ St. Joseph's Downtown Catholic Church Building records, 1868-1953; Journal 22, 1897-1910; Journal 14, accounts for pew rents.

⁵⁶ St. Joseph's Downtown Catholic Church Index of marriages, Book 2 (Men's names); Book 1, 1868-1900 (by woman).

⁵⁷ Neumann, p. 38.

⁵⁸ *Souvenir Program of the Golden Jubilee and St. Joseph's Day Celebration*.

⁵⁹ Steinfeldt, p. 184.

⁶⁰ "Resident of City for 63 Years, Dies."

⁶¹ Weissler, Patsy. Interview with Patsy Light, February 24, 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

In 1907, the Heidgens sold their house to Californians Meta and F.A. Folkmann for \$6,650 (\$2,000 cash and a three year note)⁶² and moved to 120 Live Oak Street, later moving in with their daughter, Maria Weissler at 320 Live Oak. Anna Barbara died in 1913, and John died in 1915. They are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Successive Ownership

Shortly after buying the property, the Folkmanns sold the property to another Californian, John Francis Krauser, for \$3,200 and a note.⁶³ In 1909 Krauser sold it to San Antonio resident Charles A. Zilker for \$6,850 (\$2,200 cash and a note).⁶⁴ Zilker was president and general manager of Southern Ice and Cold Storage Company, Alamo Printing Company and Sunset Wood Company. At the time of the purchase of 121 Starr, Zilker and his wife, Pearl, lived at 516 Guenther Street; later, they moved to 519 West Ashby Place. By the 1930s, Zilker had become president of Sunset Wood and Coal Company and vice-president of Merchant's Ice and Cold Storage Company.⁶⁵ In 1935, The Zilkers established a trust for five of their descendents to be administered by the San Antonio Loan and Trust Company, which included the Heidgen property and numerous other parcels of real estate. Their nephew, Gilbert Denman, Jr. was to be gradually given 121 Starr between the ages of 25 and 45. The Zilker family never occupied the house, but Denman received income from rentals until he reached the age of 45, at which time the trust expired.⁶⁶

In 1968, San Antonio Loan and Trust Company and the Zilker heirs gave the property to the San Antonio Conservation Society (SACS),⁶⁷ who in turn deeded it to the Alamo Council of Camp Fire Girls and Boys in 1970.⁶⁸ This deed included a preservation easement which is binding to all successive owners. Founded in 1910, Camp Fire Girls and Boys is the oldest girls' non-sectarian, interracial service organization in the United States. The 450,000 members, ranging from kindergarten through high school, participate in activities "emphasizing the development of individual and character."⁶⁹

The Ewing Halsell Foundation contributed \$35,000 and other groups including SACS gave an additional \$7,000 to the organization to restore the historic buildings including the first Heidgen House for use as a headquarters and a meeting place.⁷⁰ As the work progressed, the parties realized that restoration of the first Heidgen house, which was cut in half in an earlier widening of Elm Street, was not financially feasible, and it was demolished in 1972.

⁶² Bexar County Deed records: 266/224, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

⁶³ Bexar County Deed Records: 265/420, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

⁶⁴ Ibid, 303/416.

⁶⁵ Cruse, p. 3.

⁶⁶ Bexar County Deed records: 1511/384, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

⁶⁷ Ibid: 6081/841.

⁶⁸ Bexar County Deed Records: 6295/354, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

⁶⁹ *Grolier Encyclopedia of Knowledge*, Volume 4, p. 60.

⁷⁰ "Camp Fire Girls headquarters progressing."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

When the local council of Camp Fire ceased operations in 1987, the organization gave the property back to SACS.⁷¹ Later that year, SACS deeded the parcel to the SACS Foundation.⁷² In 1990, the SACS Foundation sold the property to Alfred Andrade, Jr.,⁷³ who then sold it to Teresa Rodriguez in 1993 for \$41,650.⁷⁴ Rodriguez sold it to Diane Marie Zanzuowski for \$60,000 in 1994.⁷⁵ During the 1990s, the house served as a restaurant and catering facility.⁷⁶ The present owners, Hilary and Russell Noe, acquired the property from Zanzuowski in 2002, and Russell uses the Heidgen House for his San Antonio legal office.⁷⁷

Conclusion

The Heidgen House is a noteworthy landmark in downtown San Antonio. As a two-story vernacular I-plan house in its original location, the property demonstrates the growth of the city when it was the largest population center in the state. The house is also one of perhaps two surviving examples of a dwelling built directly along one of the *acequias* that provided water to early settlers. As a rare surviving dwelling in the Irish Flat neighborhood, the house is a landmark reminder of the ethnic enclaves that developed as the city absorbed more immigrant settlers. The house also demonstrates the work of a master stonemason who contributed to the built environment of the city, including the 1868 St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The Johann Heidgen family contributed much to the development of the neighborhood and community, including the construction of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The property retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling and association to a high degree.

⁷¹ Bexar County Deed Records, OPR/4070/514, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

⁷² Ibid: OPR/4126/121.

⁷³ Bexar County Deed Records: OPR/4814/557, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas.

⁷⁴ Ibid: OPR/5799/636.

⁷⁵ Ibid: OPR/6061/724.

⁷⁶ Shelton, Tom. Personal communication to Patsy Light, March, 2003.

⁷⁷ Ibid: OPR/9722/67.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 16

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary and Secondary Sources

Bexar County Deed Records: N1/167, H1/399, K1/491, T2250, 266/224, 265/420, 303/416, OPR/4070/514, OPR/481/557, OPR /5799/636, OPR /6061/724, OPR /9733/67.

"Buildings Reborn. New Uses/Old Places." Script accompanying Adaptive Use Exhibit at Witte Museum. San Antonio, Texas: San Antonio Museum Association, 1979

"Camp Fire Girls Headquarters Progressing." *North San Antonio Times*, May 20, 1971, n.p.

Carson, Chris and Bill McDonald, eds. *A Guide to San Antonio Architecture*. San Antonio, Texas: San Antonio Society of Architects, 1986, pp. 23, 68.

Chabot, Frederico. "Monument to the Indomitable Sprit of German Pioneers. in San Antonio." San Antonio, Texas: *San Antonio Express*, May 26, 1935.

Corner, William. *San Antonio de Bexar, A Guide and History*. San Antonio, Texas: Bainbridge and Corner, 1890.

"Council in Tangle Over Fire Stations." *San Antonio Express*, April 4, 1905.

Cox, Wayne. Lectures: April 7, 1998, April 30, 2003, e-mails to Patsy Light, January 27-30, 2003.

Cruse, Katherine. Research monograph for the San Antonio Conservation Society: "The Heidgen House/The Zilker Property." October, 1985, P. 1, S.A.C.S. files.

Davis, John L. *San Antonio: A Historical Portrait*. Austin, Texas: The Encino Press, 1978.

Everett, Donald E. *San Antonio, The Flavor of Its Past, 1845-1898*. San Antonio, Texas: Trinity University Press, 1975.

Fehrenbach, T.R. *Lone Star, A History of Texas and the Texans*. New York: Collier Books, 1968.

Fisher, Lewis F. *San Antonio: Outpost of Empires*, San Antonio, Texas: Maverick Publishing Company, 1997.

Garner, John. Written statement to representatives of the San Antonio Conservation Society, December 1968, S.A.C.S. archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 17

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)

George, Eugene. Site visit and interview with Patsy Light, March 28, 2003.

Gittinger, Brother Eugene. Personal files, St. Mary's University Archives, San Antonio, Texas.

Gittinger, Eugene. Video, 2000-2001 (courtesy of. Mrs. Marjorie Gittinger).

Gittinger, Leonard, Jr. Telephone interviews with Patsy Light, March 22, 2003, March 31, 2003 and April 22, 2003.

Gittinger, Marjorie. Interview with Patsy Light, February 19, 2003.

"Gittinger Rites Set for Tuesday." *San Antonio Light*, October 21, 1940, p. 10 B.

Greenberg, Mike. "The Old neighborhood," article in *San Antonio Express-News*, March 17, 1999.

Grolier Encyclopedia of Knowledge, Volume 4, C-Cit. Danbury, Connecticut: Grolier Incorporated, 1991, p. 60.

Heimsath, Clovis. *Pioneer Texas Buildings: A Geometry Lesson*. Austin, Texas and London, England: University of Texas Press, 1968.

Heusinger, Edward W. *A Chronology of Events in San Antonio, Being a Concise History of the City Year by Year*. San Antonio, Texas: Standard Printing Company, 1951.

Hunt, Curtis. Telephone interview with Patsy Light, March 11, 2003.

Lich, Glen. *The German Texans*. San Antonio, Texas: The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 1996.

Markwardt, Peter. Telephone interview with Patsy Light, April 22, 2003.

"Mother of L.J. Gittinger Dies in Local Hospital on Sunday." *San Antonio Light*, October 21, 1940, p. 10B.

"Mrs. Anna B. Heidgen Dies at Age of 65." *San Antonio Light*, May 22, 1913, p. 2.

Neuman, Charles W., S.M. *The Casper Sobeczek Family in Texas*. San Antonio, Texas: Mary's University, p. 51.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 18

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)

Neumann, Ray. *A Centennial History of St. Joseph's Church and Parish, 1868 to 1968, San Antonio, Texas*. San Antonio, Texas: Clemens Printing Company, 1968.

Neumann, Ray, Sr. and Julie Rohmer. *St. Joseph's, a 125-Year History of St. Joseph's Church and Parish, 1868-1993*. San Antonio, Texas: St. Joseph's Church.

North San Antonio Times, issues of May 5, 1983 and October 9, 1986.

Olmstead, Frederick Law. *Journey Through Texas in 1853-1854; A Saddle Trip on the Southwestern Frontier* (edited by James Howard). Austin, Texas: Von Boeckmann-Jones Press, 1952.

Parker, James. Conversation with Patsy Light, February 17, 2003.

Peace Center, San Antonio, Texas, website viewed on November 2, 2003,
<http://www.salsa.net/peace/irishflats.html>.

Pederson, Jack. Personal communication with Patsy Light, April 10, 2003.

"Resident of City for 63 Years, Dies." *San Antonio Light*, San Antonio, Texas, April 17, 1915, p. 3.

San Fernando Catholic Church: Baptisms. Volume 6-7, 1826-1857. Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas.

St. Joseph's Downtown Catholic Church: Brochure, 2003.

St. Joseph's Downtown Catholic Church: Baptism indices, Volume 6, 1870-1899; Building records, 1868-1953; Journal 22, 1897-1910; Journal 14, accounts for pew rentals. Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas; Index of marriages, Book 2 (men's names); Book 1 (by woman). Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas.

St. Joseph's Society Cemetery. Compiled and indexed by, Polly Grona Sheridan, 1999.

St. Mary's Catholic Church: Baptismal Records, Volume 1, pages 227, 68, 122, 154. Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas.

San Antonio City Council Ordinance 68210, case #Z88161, October 27, 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 19

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)

San Antonio Conservation Society: archives, vertical files and minutes. S.A.C.S. Library

San Antonio City Directories: 1877, 1879-1880, 1881-1882, 1883-1884, 1884-1885, 1886-1887, 1888-1889, 1897-1898, 1899-1900, 1900-1901.

San Antonio Express-News, January 17, 1999.

San Antonio Liederkrantz, Hundertjahfeier: A Celebration of One Hundred Years, 1892-1992. (personal papers of Mrs. Marjorie Gittinger).

San Antonio Light, issues of August 21, 1938 and May 24, 1942.

San Fernando Catholic Church Baptisms, Volume 6-7, 1826-1857. Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas.

Schuetz, Mardith K. *Excavation of a Section of the Acequia Madre in Bexar County, Texas and Archeological Investigations at Mission San Jose in April 1968.* Austin, Texas: Texas Historical Survey Committee, Archeological Report Number 19, July 1970.

Shelton, Tom. Personal communication with Patsy Light, March 2003.

Souvenir Program of the Golden Jubilee and St. Joseph's Day Celebration. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Benevolent Association. San Antonio, Texas. March 19, 1935.

Spearing, Darwin. *Roadside Geology of Texas.* Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1991.

Steinfeldt, Cecilia. *San Antonio Was: Seen Through a Magic Lantern, Views from the Slide Collection of Albert Steves, Sr.* San Antonio, Texas: San Antonio Museum Association, 1978.

Stevens, A. T. "The Irish Flats," an interview from the vertical files of San Antonio Central Library, Texana and Genealogy Department.

Tyler, Ron, ed., et al. *The New Handbook of Texas.* Austin: The State Historical Association, 1996.

United States Census for Bexar County. 1880, 1900.

Weissler, Patsy. Interview with Patsy Light, February 24, 2003.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 20

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)

Map Sources

"Bird's Eye view of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas 1873." Drawn by Augustus Koch. R.H. Holland Publishers. Reproduced from the collection of San Antonio Museum Association. San Antonio Conservation Society Library.

"Bird's Eye View of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, 1886 Looking northeast." Drawn by Augustus Koch. San Antonio Conservation Society Library.

San Antonio City Map. Dallas, Texas: Mapsco, Inc.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of the City of San Antonio: 1896, 1904, 1911, 1912, 1935, 1952. Microfilm at San Antonio, Texas Central Library-Texana and Genealogy Department.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of the City of San Antonio: 1924, Updated 1935. The University of Texas at San Antonio Institute of Texan Cultures Library.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre (approximately 0.106 acres)

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	550211	3255317

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: (see continuation sheet 10-21)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The boundary includes all property historically associated with the resource.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Bob Brinkman, historian, Texas Historical Commission)

NAME/TITLE: Patsy Pittman Light

ORGANIZATION: N/A

DATE: June 20, 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 300 Argyle Avenue

TELEPHONE: (210) 824-5914

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS (see continuation sheets FIGURE-24 through FIGURE-28)

MAPS (see continuation sheets MAP-22 through MAP-23 and topographic map)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet PHOTO-29)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Hillary and Russell Noe

STREET & NUMBER: 614 East Olmos Drive

TELEPHONE: (210) 822-1322

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78212

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 21

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description

A certain Lot or Site containing 0.1059 of an Acre, being LOT A-2, in BLOCK 50, CITY BLOCK 866, in the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a steel rod on the north line of Starr Street, being the Southeast Corner of said Lot A-2;

THENCE with north line of Starr Street, South 78 degrees - 39 ½' West, 70.4 Feet to a steel rod on the east line of Madre Ditch, the Southwest Corner of this Lot;

THENCE with east line of Madre Ditch, North 09 degrees - 14' West, 69.0 Feet to a steel rod, the Northwest Corner of this Lot;

THENCE parallel with south line of Dawson Street, north 89 degrees - 46' East, 80.1 Feet to a steel rod on the west line of Elm Street, the Northeast Corner of this Lot;

THENCE with west line of Elm Street, South, a distance of 54.6 Feet to the Place of BEGINNING.

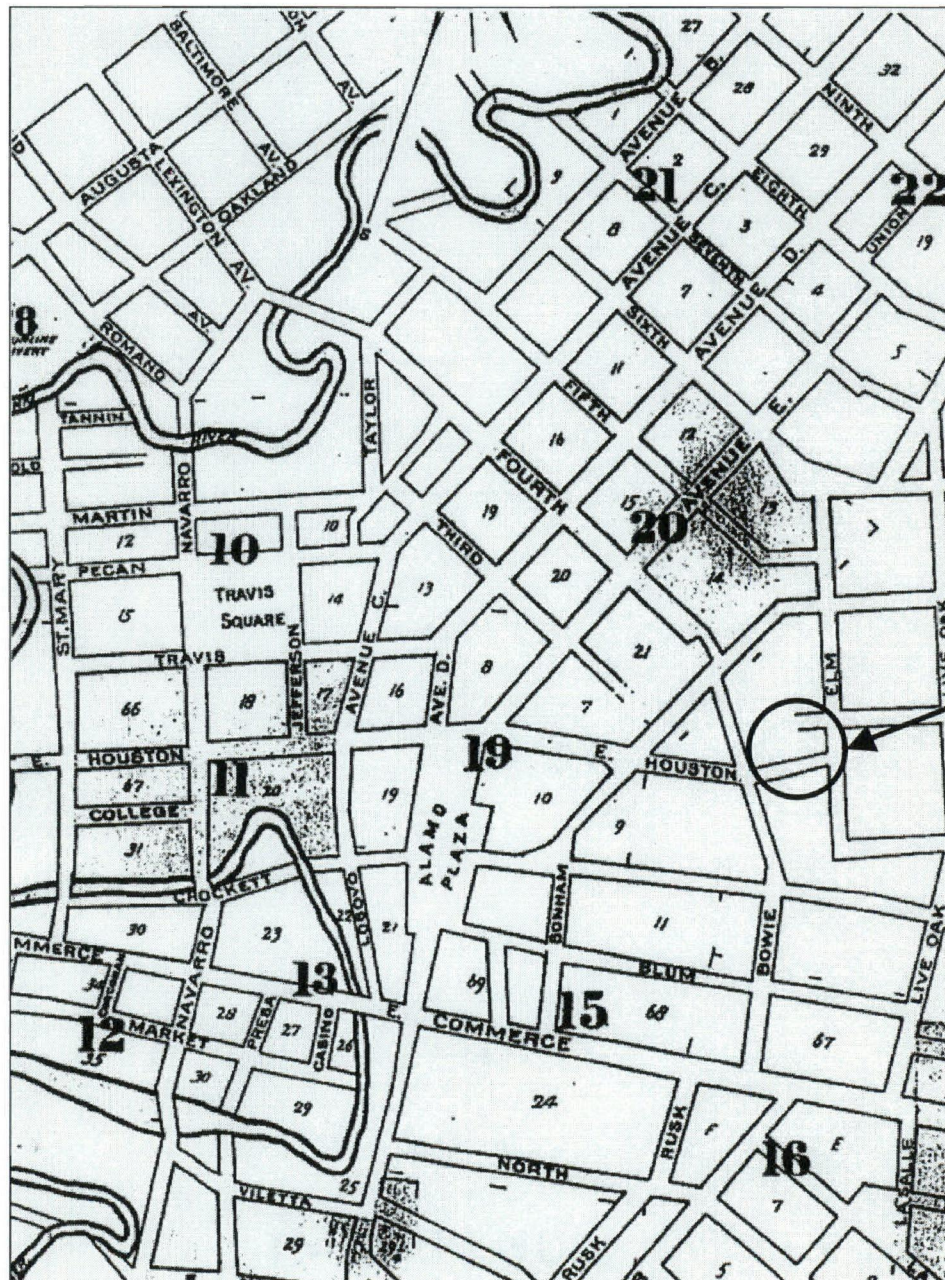
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 22

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Street map of San Antonio, showing, from left to right, bend of San Antonio River, Alamo Plaza, and Heidgen House. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of San Antonio, Texas, 1892.



Heidgen
House

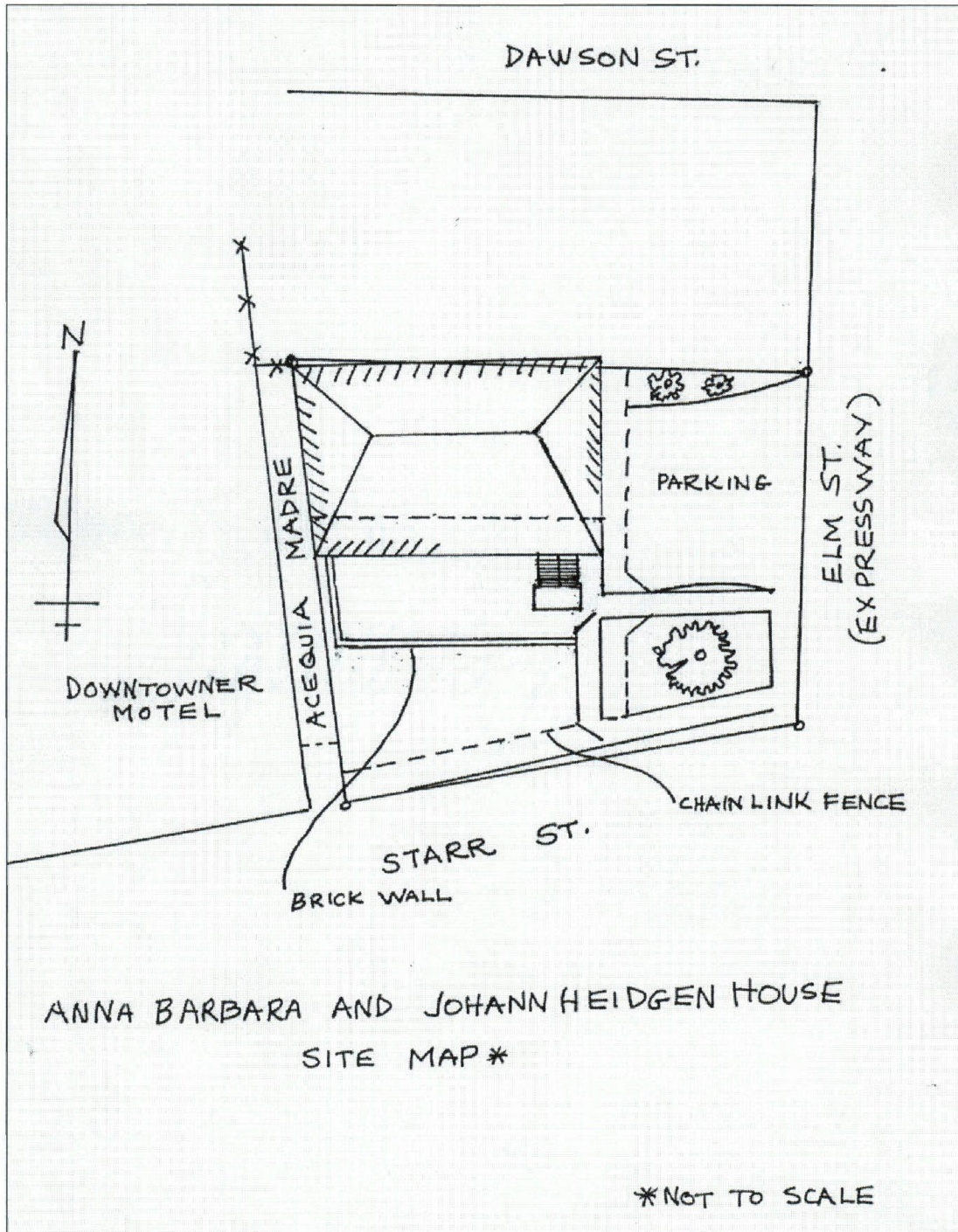
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 23

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Site plan of Heidgen House. North at top, not to scale.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 24

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 1. Heidgen family at 921 East Houston Street (later 121 Starr Street). Back row: Frank Gittinger, Ed Jud, Leonard Gittinger, Della Weissler, Alma Jud. Front row: Agnes Jud, Anna Heidgen, Eugene Gittinger, Johann Heidgen. Photograph dated November 16, 1906 on the Heidgens' 60th anniversary. Note stairs at left. Source: San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation, No. 87.1130.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 25

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 2. Heidgen House, south elevation, 1968. Source: San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation, No. 03.0038.02, Zilker House.



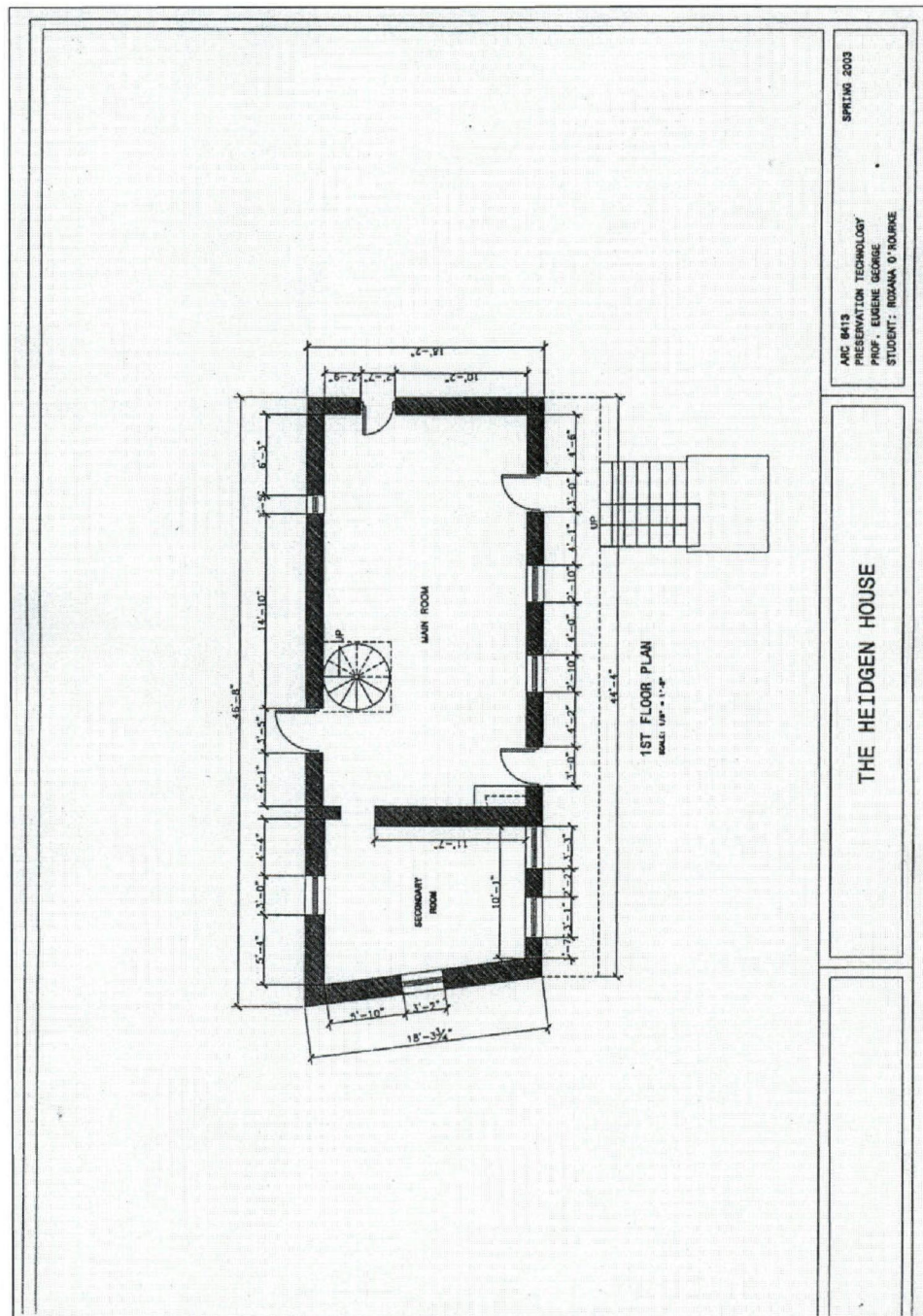
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 26

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 3. Heidgen House, first floor plan.



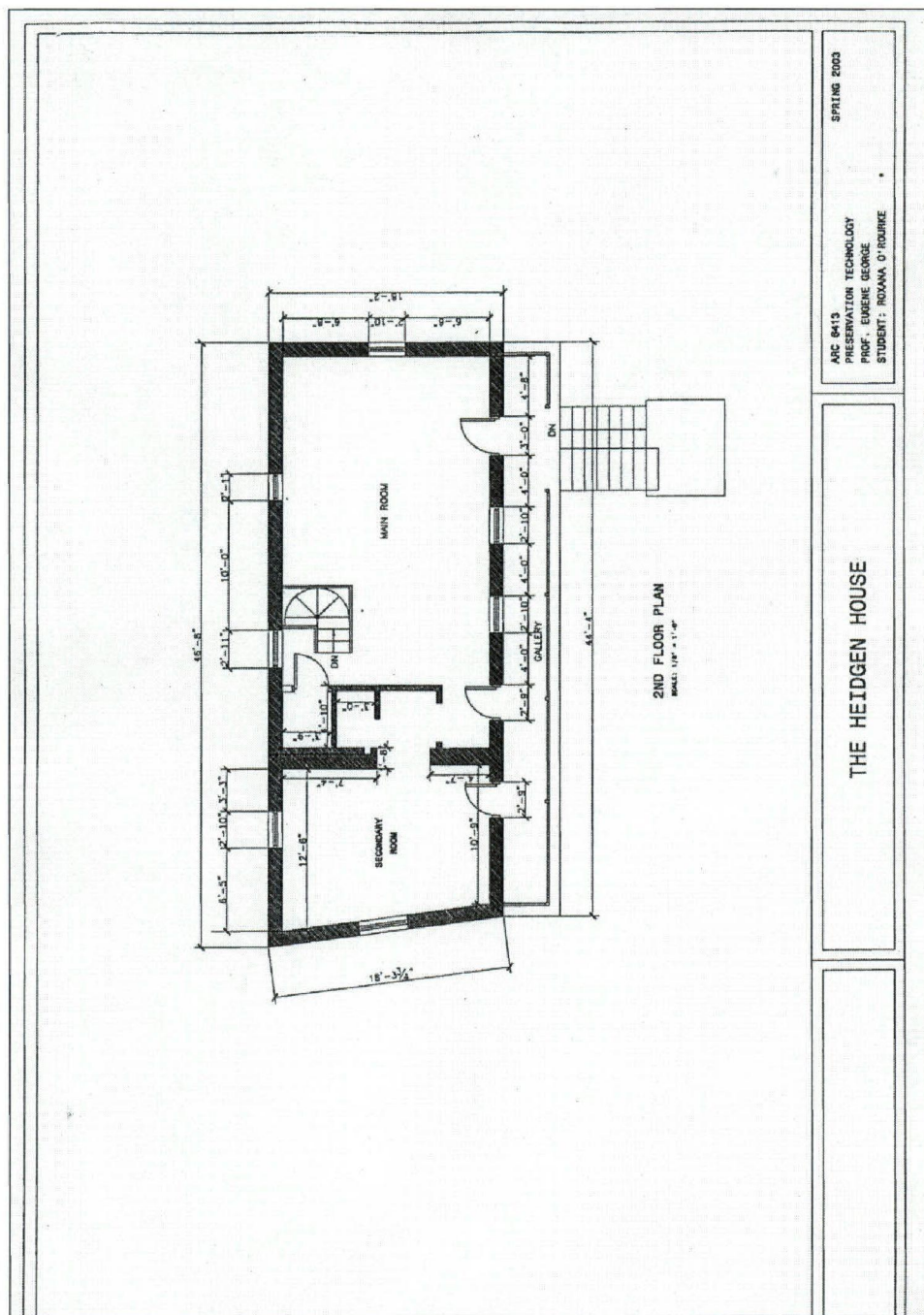
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 27

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 4. Heidgen House, second floor plan.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 28

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 5a. View of *acequia*, showing sluice gate on left and house wall built on *acequia* wall on right (looking north). Figure 5b. Close-up of sluice gate. Figure 5c. Notched curbstone with cedar post *in situ*. Figure 5d. Notched curbstone on left side of sluice gate. Source: Schuetz, July 1970.



Figure 5a.



Figure 5b.



Figure 5c.



Figure 5d.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 29

Heidgen House
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

**Johann and Anna Heidgen House
121 Starr Street
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
Photographed by Bob Brinkman, February 2004.
Negatives on file at Texas Historical Commission.**

Photograph 1 of 5
South elevation
Camera facing north

Photograph 2 of 5
Southeast oblique
Camera facing northwest

Photograph 3 of 5
Northeast oblique
Camera facing southwest

Photograph 4 of 5
South elevation detail
Camera facing north

Photograph 5 of 5
South elevation detail, showing *acequia* running along west side of property
Camera facing north

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Heidgen, Johann and Anna, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/12/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/27/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/09/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000591

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/9/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



HEIDGEN HOUSE
121 STARR STREET
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 5



HEIDGEN HOUSE

121 STARR STREET

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 5



HEIDGEN HOUSE

121 STARR STREET

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 5



HEIDGEN HOUSE

121 STAR STREET

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO, TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 5



HEIDGEN HOUSE

121 STAR STREET

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO, TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 5



DMA 6342 IV NW-SERIES V882



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rick Perry • Governor

John L. Nau, III • Chairman

F. Lawrence Oaks • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

TO: Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Heidgen House, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

DATE: April 22, 2004



The following materials are submitted regarding: Heidgen House, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted nomination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence
	Other:

COMMENTS:

☐ SHPO requests substantive review

☐ The enclosed owner objections (do ☐) (do not ☐) constitute a majority of property owners

☐ Other _____