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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED 2280
JUN 27 2005
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Fence at Alamo Cement Company
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 7300 Jones Maltsberger Rd. **NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio **VICINITY:** N/A
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Bexar **CODE:** 029 **ZIP CODE:** 78209

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x 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 (x meets) (_ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (_ nationally) (_ statewide) (x locally). (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____ 6.23.05
Signature of certifying official 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 Date of Action

____ entered in the National Register _____ _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register _____ _____
___ See continuation sheet
____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____ _____

____ removed from the National Register _____ _____

____ other (explain): _____ _____ _____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Structure

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

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

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: *The Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture / work of art = fence

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture / work of art = fence

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: Faux bois sculpture

MATERIALS: **FOUNDATION**
WALLS
ROOF
OTHER CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 5).

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.
_x_ **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:

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Art

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c.1926

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c.1926

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Dionicio Rodriguez

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 5 and 6).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 6).
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:
x State historic preservation office *(Texas Historical Commission)*
_ Other state agency
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other -- Specify Repository:

Description

Dionicio Rodriguez's sculptures at the Alamo Cement Company are to the east and west of the old company office building. The 125-foot-long concrete faux wood fence (to the east of the office) is laid out in an irregular plan (approximating a "C" shape), and features an elaborate entranceway formed by two sculpted trees. The 1-story stuccoed Mission Style office building, and 1-story concrete laboratory building have been modified with additions, and are not included in this nomination. The fence is centered with an elaborate arched entryway, formed by two large "tree trunks" which overlap at the apex, on three sides of the cement company office. The entry is 8'4" tall and the opening is 6" wide. "Branch" handrails are connected to the entryway, and border the steps that provide transition from the fence level to the lower level of the office grounds. Fence rails are "logs" that imitate at least twenty-four species of tree bark, including Eucalyptus, a species prevalent in Mexico. The top rails of the fence are 3'3" high, and are supported by vertical "trunks" spaced every 4'. Each section is filled with intertwined "branches" of different angles. Some areas of color remain, and peeling bark texture, split wood areas, knotholes and wormholes provide surface interest. Because he did not always sign his work, the "Made by D. Rodriguez" signature prominently etched into a smooth area of the east side of the archway, is an unusual feature.

Statement of Significance

Dionicio Rodriguez's sculptures for the Alamo Cement Company (c.1926), in San Antonio, Texas, consist of a 125-foot faux bois fence with an arched entrance and a concrete pond covered by a concrete palapa style roof. They are nominated individually to the National Register under Criterion C, in the area of Art as distinctive works by noted artist Dionicio Rodriguez as part of the multiple property submission *Sculpture by Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*.

Alamo Cement Company[1]

Englishman William Loyd, with the help of chemist George H. Kalteyer, organized a group of investors to form the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company in San Antonio. The company was the first portland cement plant west of the Mississippi, and one of the earliest in the United States. The original plant, in what is now Breckenridge Park, was powered by steam engine, and ground ten barrels of cement daily. The company quickly diversified, selling building stone and constructing sidewalks, obtaining patent rights for segmented sidewalks that could better tolerate seasonal changes in temperature. The company's principal product however, was Alamo brand cement, which was widely used for large and small building projects throughout the state. In 1897, Charles Baumberger became president of the company, which in 1908 was reorganized under the name San Antonio Portland Cement Company. After the material at the Breckenridge location was exhausted, the plant was relocated to a place that came to be known as "Cementville," where the nominated properties stand.[2]

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[1] Adapted from "ALAMO CEMENT COMPANY." The Handbook of Texas Online. <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/AA/dlauy.html>

[2] The smokestack and kilns of the original plant (NR 1976) remain in Brackenridge Park, adjacent to the Japanese (also *Chinese*) Sunken Gardens.

Dionicio Rodriguez's Sculpture for Alamo Cement Co.

Rodriguez's work for Charles Baumburger's office complex at the Alamo Portland Cement Company at its second location north of the city at 4300 Jones-Maltsberger Road was the earliest of the small number of commissions he received to embellish commercial sites. The 1925 San Antonio City Directory lists Dionicio Rodriguez as "wks at Alamo Cement Company," which probably was during the period that he was constructing the sculpted works for Bamburger's office and laboratory and the trolley stop which Bamburger gave to the City of Alamo Heights. It seems appropriate that the owner of a cement company would commission a cement artist to decorate his corporate headquarters and to construct a gift to the neighboring city. Bamburger also hired Rodriguez to make pieces for the garden of his home, but those works were sold and now belong to private collectors.

It is believed that Dr. Urrutia introduced Rodriguez to Baumberger (Schmidt to Pfeiffer and Light). Rodriguez completed several projects for Baumberger, including the trolley stop for Alamo Heights, his personal residence and the company headquarters, including the *faux* wood fence and *palapa* roofed fountain with a pond. When the Alamo Cement Company moved again in 1985, the entire 468-acre site was sold to investors for a mixed use development, which now includes the Quarry Market. Some of the original buildings were remodeled, and three smokestacks were retained. In 1993, the company office and laboratory, across Jones-Maltsberger Road from the shopping center, were purchased separately and remodeled.

Rodriguez's *faux bois* fence is similar to other work by Rodriguez at the "Old Mill" in Arkansas (NR 1986) and at the Froman residence in Clayton, New Mexico, but the *palapa* roofed fountain is unique among his known works. Many of his structures had *palapa* roofs, but as of 2003, no similar fountains have been located. In comparison with some of his other projects throughout the United States, where clients dictated their own ideas for the designs of the work, it appears that Rodriguez was afforded the chance to use his own creativity for Mr. Baumberger. These two sculptures were the earliest of a small number of commissions Rodriguez received through the years to embellish commercial sites and it seems appropriate that the owner of a cement company would hire a cement artisan to decorate his corporate headquarters.

Bibliography

Lambeth, Laura. "Old Cement Plant Site Rescued." *San Antonio Express News*, San Antonio, Texas, February 11, 1993, Section G, pp. 1,8.

Schmidt, Stanley. "Dionicio Rodriguez" (monograph), February, 29, 1980.

Schmidt, Stanley. Interviews with Maria Pfeiffer and Patsy Light; San Antonio, Texas, March 7, 1996 and February 6, 1998.

Schmidt, Stanley. "The Concrete Art of Dionicio Rodriguez" (monograph based on interviews with J.R. Kagy and Rihard Rodriguez, Sr.), n.d.

Tibbits, Ann Cain, "Stone Werks-A Successful Adaptation." *San Antonio Conservation Society News*, October, 1995.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	550528	3263040

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nominated property is a rectangular parcel occupied by the fence and the area it encloses, approximately 85 feet wide and 35 feet deep, as illustrated on the accompanying map. The fence is in the southern portion of Lot 1, Block 8, NCB 18208, City of San Antonio (Legal description: STONE WERKS CAFE & BAR 007300 00 JONES MALTSBRG and CEMENTVILLE LABORATORY LTD 007310 00 JONES MALTSBRG.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The nomination boundary is drawn to include only the fence and the area it encloses. The adjacent buildings are have been altered and are not nominated at this time.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patsy Light and Maria Pfeiffer, with Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION: **DATE:** January 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 300 Argyle **TELEPHONE:** (210) 824-5914

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 78209

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet 7)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheets 8 through 10)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

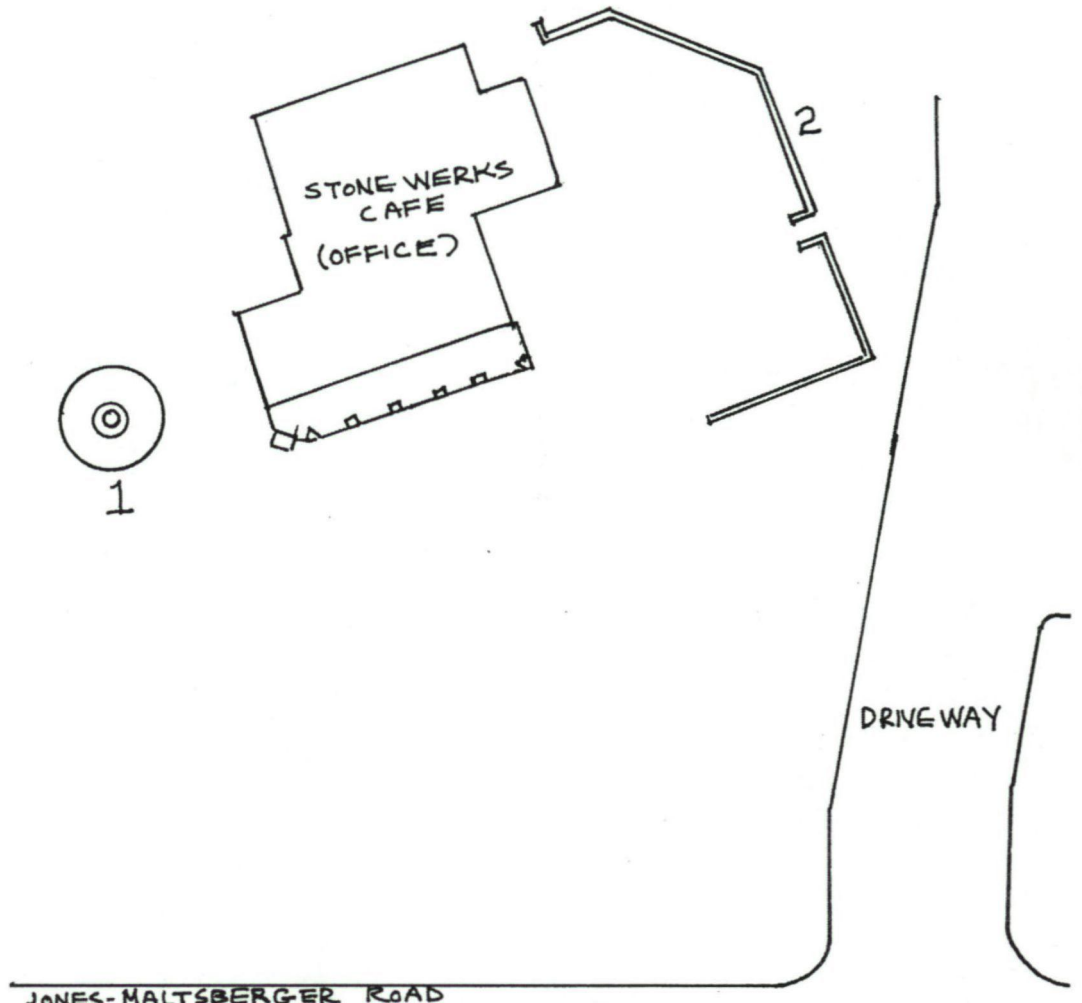
PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Los Coyotes Joint Venture (ATTN: John Colglazier)

STREET & NUMBER: 1000 E. Basse Road, Suite 100 **TELEPHONE:** (210) 821-5644

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 78209

Alamo Cement Company
No scale



DIONICIO RODRIGUEZ'S
SCULPTURES FOR
ALAMO CEMENT COMPANY

1 POND AND FOUNTAIN

2 "LOG" FENCE

Alamo Cement Company office with Rodriguez fence in foreground, c1930 (photographer unknown)
Courtesy Alamo Cement Company archives, San Antonio.

Alamo Cement Company fence, c1930.
Photographed by Harvey Patterson
From the collection of Stanley Schmidt

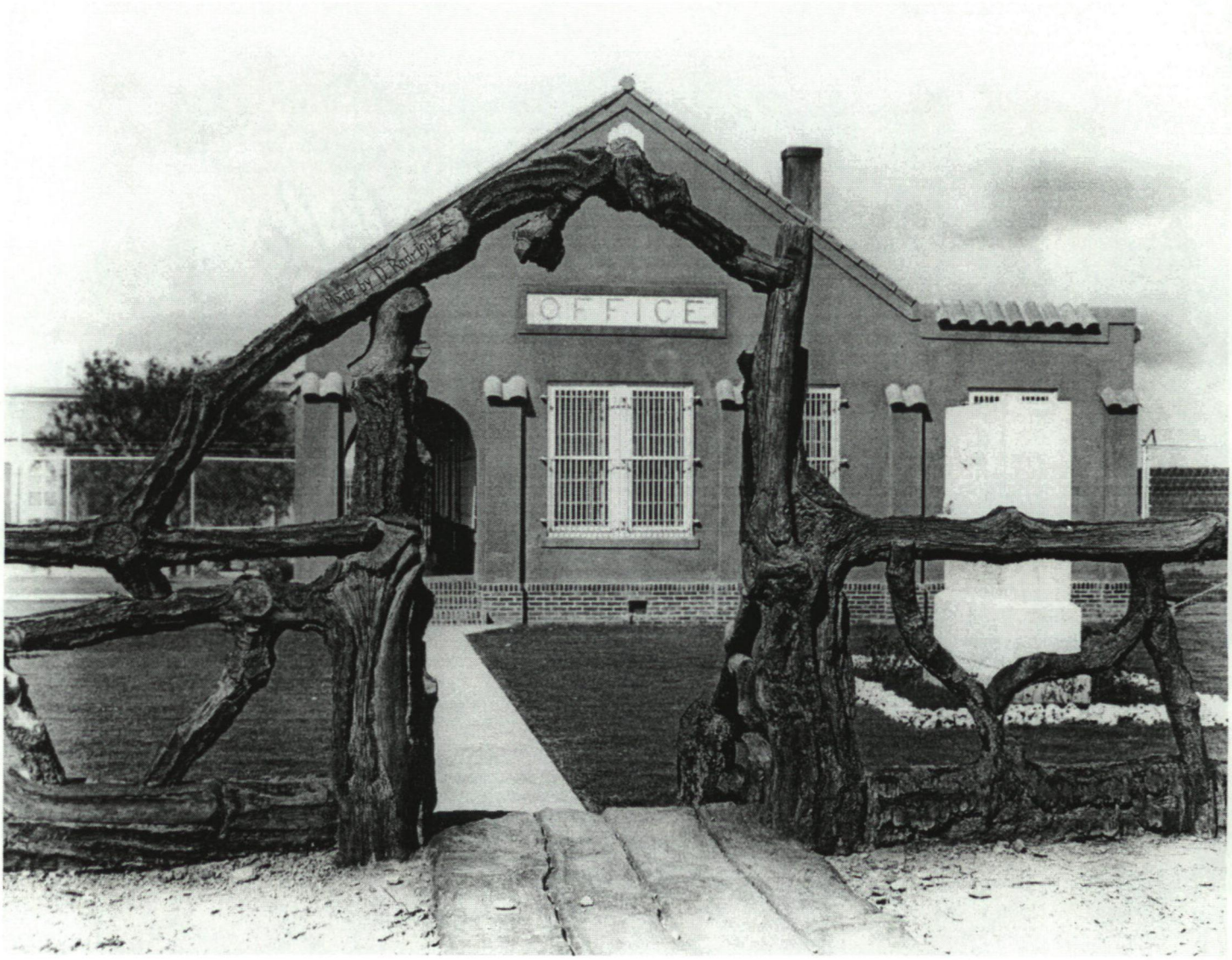


PHOTO LOG

Fence at Alamo Cement Company
7300 Jones Maltsberger Rd.
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Fence
Camera facing west
Photograph by Patsy Light
July 1996
Negative on file with Patsy Light
Photo 1

Detail, fence
Camera facing southwest
Photograph by Patsy Light
July 1996
Negative on file with Patsy Light
Photo 2

Dionicio Rodriguez's signature on fence
Camera facing west
Photograph by Patsy Light
July 1996
Negative on file with Patsy Light
Photo 3

NPS Form 10-900a
(Aug. 2002)

OMB Approval No. 1024—0018
(Expires Jan. 2005)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05000861

Property Name: Fence at Alamo Cement Company
County: Bexar State: Texas

Multiple Name: Sculpture by Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas MPS

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Linda McClelland August 9, 2005
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 7: Description
Accompanying Documentation: Photographs

The following statement is, hereby, added to the nomination to verify that the condition of the resource remains unchanged since the photographs were taken:

"The sculpture at the Alamo Cement Company (fence and fountain), as well as their immediate setting, are unchanged from the time the NR photos were taken in 1996."

The Texas Historic Preservation Office was notified of the need for this amendment and subsequently provided the above statement.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fence at Alamo Cement Company

MULTIPLE NAME: Sculpture by Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 6/27/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/25/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/09/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/10/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000861

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:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This fine bois fence and entry arch is an excellent intact example of the environmental context in which Rodriguez's polychrome concrete sculpture are often found. It is a functional yet aesthetic feature of the landscape ~~surrounding~~ a garden leading to the cement company offices.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER LMCClellan DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 8/9/05

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.

OFFICE

Fence at Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas
Photo 1

Fence at Alamo Cement Co.
San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas
Photo 2

MADE BY E RODRIGUEZ

Fence at Alamo Cement Company
San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas
Photo 3

Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500904

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rick Perry • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
F. Lawerence Oaks • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RECEIVED 2280
JUN 27 2005
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TO: Janet Matthews, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

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

RE: Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas MPS, Texas

DATE: June 23, 2005

The following materials are submitted regarding: *Fountain at Alamo Cement Company*, and *Fence at Alamo Cement Company*, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form (2)
	___ Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property nomination form
X	Photographs
X	USGS map (1)
	Correspondence
	Other:

COMMENTS:

____ SHPO requests substantive review

____ The enclosed owner objections (do__) (do not__) constitute a majority of property owners

_X_ Other: One USGS map is submitted for 2 adjacent properties nominated individually (NRHP approved MPS in 2004)

P.O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276 • 512/463-5853 • Fax 512/475-3122 • TDD 1-800-735-2989