



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Sister Columkille Administration Building

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 4301 Broadway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A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 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.)

Mark Wolfe
Signature of certifying official / Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 3/29/10

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 the property is:

- 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
 - See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 - See continuation sheet.

Robert H. Beal
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

Date of Action
5-17-10

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: PRIVATE

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: BUILDING

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

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

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION / college

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION / college = university administration

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Italian Renaissance

MATERIALS:	FOUNDATION	CONCRETE
	WALLS	BRICK
	ROOF	CONCRETE, BUILT-UP MEMBRANE
	OTHER	

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-10)

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building was designed by Frederick B. Gaenslen in the Italian Renaissance style and completed in 1922. The five-story building originally had a U-shaped plan, but a 1962 chapel now occupies most of the inner courtyard. The building, also known as the Sister Columkille Administration Building, is situated on the southeastern portion of the 280-acre university campus and is positioned with its main elevation facing east to Broadway, a major street that connects the campus to downtown San Antonio. The building is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C, in the areas of Education and Architecture, as a good local example of Italian Renaissance Revival design by a regional architect; the resource meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties.

The University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) is located at Broadway and Hildebrand Avenue approximately five miles north of downtown San Antonio. To the west of campus, the McAllister Freeway (U.S. Highway 281) connects the university to all of Bexar County. The City of Alamo Heights is north of the campus and an AT&T corporate office building is immediately across Hildebrand Avenue to the south. Light commercial buildings are across Broadway to the east and a new high-rise residential condominium is under construction on the southeast corner of Broadway and Hildebrand.

The UIW Administration Building, with a veneer of red brick and cast stone trim, appears today much as it did when it opened in 1922. Its plan consists of three separate volumes arranged in a modified U-shape, although that original separation has been diminished by a 1962 addition. The central portion of the east elevation was originally designed as the administration building for Incarnate Word Academy and College, while the portions on the north and south ends were for the academy and the college. Today, the entire building is called the Sister Columkille Administration Building, named after the first president of the college.

The overall dimensions of the Administration Building are 234 feet across the east façade and 151 feet deep on the north and south sides for the top three floors. At the basement and first floor, on the west end of the south section, a mass extends 17 feet to the south, 9 feet to the north, and 10 feet to the west. The main public entrance on the symmetrical east side is elevated to the first floor *piano nobile* and accessed by a large cast stone stair. The building's ornamentation includes reticulated brickwork, cast stone trim, an elaborate intermediate cornice at the fourth floor line, and floriated pilaster capitals. At the time of construction, the building was completed using new fireproof technology, "with steel and concrete frame, the outer walls of red brick with white stone trimmings and curtain walls of hollow tile."¹ The overall aesthetics and massing clearly indicates the architect's Italian Renaissance design, following the formal horizontal sections typical of an Italian *palazzo*, with basement, piano nobile, shaft, and attic story. Similarly, the vertical divisions of the building's bays are revealed by the fenestration pattern. Cast stone coping along the decorative parapet exhibits Mission influences appropriate to this region of Texas.

¹ *Southern Messenger*, Vol. XXXI, No. 17, June 1, 1922

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Three-Dimensional Form and Building Site

The massing of the Administration Building consists of three primary rectangular volumes. All of the elements are five stories in height with a basement at natural grade and four floors above it. The longer dimension of the center section faces east and is the connector between the sections on the north and south ends. These end sections are oriented so their longer dimension faces north and south. From the east side, the two end sections and the center section are clearly articulated. On the west side of the complex, a concrete gallery on the first and second floors surrounds all three sides of the U-shaped outdoor space. The east, north, and south sides of the building are unified by the use of two shades of reddish-brown brick, various window patterns and groupings, a horizontal band of cast stone trim at the first floor line, and a decorative cantilevered intermediate cornice at the fourth floor line. The horizontal cast stone trim at the first floor and the decorative cornice do not occur on the west side nor in the U-shaped outdoor space; this is because the west side, which once faced toward an open field, was considered to be the back of the building. A parapet of various heights on all sides of the roof enhances the formal arrangement of building elements and is penetrated at different locations around the perimeter to drain the roof to downspouts.

The architect sited the buildings to respect the rectilinear geometry of the chapel and motherhouse that were built on a higher portion of the site to the north in the early part of the twentieth century. The Administration Building features more Mission-influenced elements such as the curvilinear parapet, but the massing and fenestration patterns of both buildings are similar. This similar massing along the shared triangular open space between the building and Broadway creates a unified campus feel. The generous green space separates the Administration Building and the street for privacy and provides a suitable setting for a structure of this stature. Placing the building farther west also preserved the view of the chapel and motherhouse from the entrance that was at the southeast corner of the site. This entrance is now closed because of the congested intersection at Broadway and Hildebrand Avenue.

East Elevation

The main elevation of the building faces Broadway, the major street to the east of the campus that connected the college and academy by streetcar to the city of San Antonio in 1922. Today, the view of the east side is somewhat restricted by the mature trees of the green space that separates the building from Broadway. The accreditation requirements for the schools required that the academy be separated from the college, and the symmetrical east elevation—designed in three distinct sections—is an expression of this requirement. The central portion, which housed the administration, is wider and is framed by end sections to the north and south. The end sections, one for the college and one for the academy, project 7 feet forward (east) of the central section and are separated from it by a 10-foot wide connector. These connectors are set back 17 feet from the east face of the central portion to provide a more distinct articulation between the three masses. The connector on the north end extends to all five levels, but when the building was constructed the connector on the south end extended only between the basement and the first floor.

The central section of the east elevation, visually separated from the two end sections, is a symmetrical composition divided into three parts. The middle portion of this section features the greatest amount of ornamentation to identify and enhance the main entrance, which is raised 10 feet above the basement floor

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and placed on the axis that defines the middle of the entire width of the east elevation. The more elaborate ornamentation includes cast stone wall treatments that extend from the ground to the bottom of the windows on the second floor, an arched opening to frame the main entrance doors, and a cast stone balustrade. Four cast stone engaged columns with Corinthian capitals extend from the window sills on the second floor to the window lintels on the third floor. Above these engaged columns, the cantilevered intermediate cornice that wraps around three sides of the building is constructed entirely of cast stone and supported with decorative cast stone ancones, or scrolled brackets. Above the windows on the fourth floor, the raised parapet in this section is higher than at any other portion of the building and is crowned with a segmented arch and massive cast stone cross. The letters LVI are engraved in three tall cast stone panels below the arch and cross, in abbreviation of the Latin *Laudatur Verbum Incarnatum*, or "Praised Be the Incarnate Word."

The end portions on the east side are symmetrical about the central axis. Each is divided into three sections horizontally and vertically. The horizontal divisions consist of a wide central section with four tall double-hung windows; the central section is accented by a raised decorative parapet at the top. On each side there is a more narrow section with a pair of windows. At the basement, there are two pair of smaller windows in the middle section, with segmented arches that span the openings. The basement is further distinguished on the east and all sides of the exterior by the use of a darker reddish-brown brick.

North and South Elevations

The north and south elevations are subordinate to the east elevation's elaborate main entrance and its classically symmetrical arrangement of masses. Each of these two elevations is dominated by large windows of varying height that are arranged horizontally in various rhythms that include single windows, pairs, and groupings of three and four frames in one opening. The basement windows have segmented arches over the openings like those on the east elevation. The windows on the fourth floor are smaller single openings and have semi-circular arches and decorative cast stone trim. The spacing of the windows matches the patterns and groupings of the windows on the lower floors. Both elevations are visually integrated with the east elevation by a two-foot projection that begins at the southeast and northeast corners and extends 59 feet and 6 inches to the west. The design of this projection includes a symmetrical arrangement of window groupings and a raised portion of the parapet that is centered on the width of the projection. This raised parapet matches the raised parapet that is centered on the end sections of the east elevation. The cantilevered intermediate cornice at the fourth floor line continues around the north and south sides of the building and unifies the three primary elevations.

To accommodate the kitchen in the basement and the chapel on the first floor, the south elevation extends to the south, north, and west, creating a rectangular mass that is two stories in height; this two-story mass is treated as a secondary element in the overall composition of the south elevation. The architect used the same brick and cast stone on the exterior, but no attempt was made to integrate the pattern of openings into the overall rhythm of the five-story structure. On the south side there is also a large brick and cast stone stair. This stair is visible from the southern approach to the building and provides access to the first floor from this side.

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West Elevation

When completed in 1922, the U-shape of the building defined a large courtyard space on the west side. Concrete columns and beams support galleries at the first and second floors on all sides of the space. The shadows they created when the building was completed defined the character of the west elevation. The decorative treatments and the intermediate cornice above the third floor windows that enhance the north, south, and east sides do not occur on the west side, which originally faced toward open fields. This less public side was given a more functional purpose, with walkways as well as large windows in various groupings to promote natural ventilation of the interior spaces. At the west side of the south section, window openings in the basement are designed to match the other windows on the west side but the windows at the chapel are larger and have semi-circular arches to span the openings. A narrow gallery occurs on the west side of the chapel over a portion of the kitchen.

A first-person account of the space indicates its historic appearance and use:

Each year when the annual Spring Tea Dance was held in the quadrangle, the columns and open railings were decorated. Tables and chairs were placed on the first floor gallery overlooking the activities below. When I attended Incarnate Word High School during the late 1950s, we occasionally participated in events at the College. One I recall was a spring dance which was held in the area now occupied by the chapel. Then, there was a grassy space between the wings of the U-shaped College. Tables and chairs were set up on the ground floor walkways and also on the first floor balcony. The band was situated at the middle of the first floor balcony, overlooking the dance. Colorful streamers were strung above the dance, from side to side from the second floor balconies. Decorations were also attached to the ground floor level pillars and draped along the balcony. The cool evening breezes, the music, and the colorful decorations made a very festive atmosphere.²

Use of the courtyard changed dramatically in 1962 when the school filled the majority of that space with an addition. Designed by Julian and White, a San Antonio-based architectural firm, in a more contemporary style characteristic of that period, the addition has a reinforced concrete structure with a slab on concrete piers and exposed concrete columns. The addition has a brick exterior that consists of a blend of red, brown, and gray bricks with gray mortar, cast stone panels, and natural aluminum double-hung windows. The primary function of the addition is a large basilica-style chapel with a two-story interior space. The chapel aligns with the first floor of the Administration Building and is centered on the east-west axis of the original building; the entrance to the chapel is centered on the main entrance doors on the east side of the Administration Building. Doors from the gallery west of the first floor of the Administration Building provide access to a small vestibule at the east side of the chapel. The basement level in this building is used for administrative office space. Today this 1962 addition obscures all historic courtyard elevations. Its different brick color distinguishes it from the original building, however, and its lower height and spare ornamentation keep its impact to a minimum.

² Sister Eilish Ryan, personal account

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Exterior Modifications

When the Sister Columkille Administration Building was built in 1922, it was only the third major structure on the large campus. Over the last 86 years, the exterior of the building has been refurbished, repaired, and renovated but the modifications do not substantially detract from its original appearance. The wood double-hung windows were replaced in the 1960s with natural aluminum windows on the entire exterior of the building. The decorative cast stone stairs at the main entrance on the east side were modified because they were in need of repair; their modified design is more elaborate than the original design but entirely consistent with the character of the building. A few window air-conditioning units are scattered around the building at the basement and upper floors; when the central heating and air-conditioning systems were first installed in the 1960s, the third and fourth floors were not a part of the project.

Interior Characteristics

Formal occupancy of the Incarnate Word College took place on August 30, 1922. In addition to a four-year college course, there were eight grades of primary school including kindergarten, a three-year commercial course, a three-year high school course. The five-story building, built in three sections, provided all of the facilities required for education and living within its 110,000 square feet. "The effect throughout the buildings was one of spaciousness, fresh air, soft and abundant light, comfort and convenience."³ The interior was constructed of plaster partitions, with terrazzo floors in the kitchen, dining rooms, and restrooms, and hardwood floors in the remainder of the building. Ceilings in the building were exposed concrete construction from the floor above. On the first floor, a decorative ceramic tile floor enhanced the main corridors; this floor is still in place today.

The basement, which had entrances at grade around the building, provided space for communal functions for the school. In the south section there was a large kitchen on the west side. Along the south side were a dining room for the sisters, a dining room for boarders, and a dining room for the college students. In the north section there were a large gymnasium with dressing rooms and an art classroom. The central section included a veil room, storage spaces, a science room, a candy store, and an elevator that served all five floors. All three sections of the building are connected on this basement level.

The first floor was accessed directly from the large stairway on the east side of the building, and spaces on this floor reflected its public character. The central section included a reception room, school offices, a museum, and a community room. The south section contained a chapel above the kitchen, a social hall, classrooms, and the college dean's office. The north section housed a kindergarten classroom, primary school classrooms, a study hall, and additional offices. On the west side of the building, a gallery wraps around the three sides of the open space defined by the U-shaped configuration of the structure. An exterior stairway appears on the south side. All three sections of the building are connected on the first floor.

³ *A History of Incarnate Word College Part I*, 60

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The second floor provided space for the college library, a biology classroom, and offices in the south section of the building. An interior stair connected this level to the floors above and below it in the south section, but the only access to the other parts of the building on this floor was from the gallery on the west side. The central section had an infirmary, staff bedrooms and classrooms. In the north section there were classrooms for physics, chemistry, and art, and a study hall for high school students. The elevator connected the central and north-end sections to the other floors of the building. The central section and the south section are connected on this floor by the gallery that extends to the east between the south and center sections on this floor.

The third and fourth floors consisted mostly of bedrooms and dormitory rooms. On the third floor in the north section there were music classrooms and practice rooms. In the central section there was a linen room and a small private devotional room. The bedrooms in the south section on these floors were large enough for several women; bathrooms were shared between two adjacent bedrooms. On the third and fourth floors, metal stairs led down to the gallery on the second floor. Additional metal stairs connected all of the galleries to the ground level.

The interior of the building has been transformed considerably over the last 80 years. Today its functions include administrative offices, conference rooms, faculty offices, classrooms, computer rooms, a small cafeteria, and dormitory rooms. The first floor has retained its character as a public space and provides access to a reception room, administrative offices, and the 1962 chapel addition. Many of the rooms have retained their original configuration, but most have been remodeled to accommodate the demands of a late twentieth-century university.

Building Use

The Administration Building remains the focus of the UIW campus almost nine decades after its construction, serving many primary functions for faculty, staff, and students; it is still used as the center for course registration. Located on the first floor are offices for the deans, directors, and staff of different departments and programs including the Registrar, Student Financial Aid, the Learning Assistance Center, two programs that aid in student retention--McNair Scholars and Student Support Services--and the Office of the Title V Comprehensive Program. The latter three programs are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Also located on the first floor are the offices of Mission Effectiveness; Human Resources: the Business and Bursar's offices; the office of the Dean of Graduate Studies & Research, and the Dean of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences. The first floor also includes an elegantly appointed lunch and dining room for visiting dignitaries and current and prospective donors.

The sub-grade floor or basement houses the mail room, a lunch room annex with faculty and staff dining room, the Graphic Design department, the printing plant, the Chief Information Officer and the central computer system. The second, third, and fourth floors are dedicated almost exclusively to classrooms and faculty offices and also include guest rooms for overnight visitors.

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 VALUES, 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: A: Religious Properties

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Education; Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1922-1960

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1922

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Frederick B. Gaenslen, Architect
N.H. Jones Construction Company, Contractors

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-11 through 8-14)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-15)

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, Austin
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building, constructed in 1921–1922 in San Antonio, Texas, is significant in the field of education, offering elementary, secondary and college level education throughout its history. It is nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Education in San Antonio, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good example of Italian Renaissance design with regional influences. Because the building is nominated for architecture and education, the Administration Building meets Criteria Consideration A for religious institutions. The period of significance extends from 1922, when the building was completed, to 1960, in correspondence with the National Register's 50-year criterion.

History of the University of the Incarnate Word⁴

The first Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word came to San Antonio from France at the request of San Antonio Bishop Claude Marie Dubuis, in order to nurse people with yellow fever and cholera. The sisters established the Santa Rosa Infirmary but soon found themselves caring for orphaned children as well, and so they established St. Joseph's Orphanage in 1874. This began the sisters' efforts to teach children basic academic subjects as well as religious education, similar to what was happening elsewhere in the United States. Samuel Huntington described this as "the Americanization of Catholicism," which included "the creation of a vast, intricate network of Catholic institutions—churches, seminaries, convents, charities, associations, political clubs, and schools."⁵

The orphanage classes were small until 1875 when, at the request of Bishop Anthony Pellicer, nuns also began teaching children of the local parish at what came to be called San Fernando School. A July 15, 1881 state charter authorized their operation of schools at all levels, from the elementary grades to college. For the next several years, sisters sought teaching certification to pass state requirements, although reported bigotry against the Catholic church made it difficult to operate within the state's public school system. In 1892, Bishop John Neraz pushed the sisters to start their own private academy, which opened as Incarnate Word School in a rented house on Avenue D. As the school grew and its co-educational programs extended through high school, the facilities changed over time, its reputation garnered community respect, and it eventually grew into the College and Academy of the Incarnate Word.

In 1899 the congregation of sisters began construction of a motherhouse on the estate of George Washington Brackenridge at the headwaters of the San Antonio River. The garden-like estate included the Brackenridge home, still on the campus today. The sisters' new facilities became the iconic motherhouse and chapel just north of the Administration Building. The sisters decided to transfer the school to the new location and to

⁴ The following "University History" section is largely adapted from Sister Margaret Patrice Slattery, C.C.V.I., *Promises To Keep, A History of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Volume Two, Historical Studies of Hospitals, Schools in Mexico, and Incarnate Word College* (San Antonio: University of the Incarnate Word, 1999), with permission from the university.

⁵ Samuel P. Huntington, *Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity*, 95.

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change it into an academy for girls and young women, with the west wing of the convent building used for classrooms and dormitories.

The academy opened in the motherhouse on September 13, 1900, with Sister Nicholas Stokes the principal over seven students—three at the secondary level and four at the elementary. As enrollment steadily increased, Mother Mary John O'Shaughnessy proposed that the high school should be expanded to the college level. Catholic higher education for women was just beginning to emerge throughout the country but there was not yet a Catholic college for women in Texas. At the general chapter held in 1909, the sisters introduced a proposal to extend the four-year curriculum of the academy to the college level, in part to give other sisters the opportunity at acquiring a degree. In 1910, they placed the following advertisement in the local newspaper:

COLLEGE AND ACADEMY OF THE INCARNATE WORD

An institution for the Higher Education of Young Ladies, conducted by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

Collegiate Department - Four years course leading to the degrees A.B. and B.L.

Academic Department - A three years course corresponding to the program of High Schools.

Commercial Department - A three years course affording a practical English and Commercial Education.

Preparatory Department - Comprises eight grades, equivalent to the eight grades of Primary Schools.

FINE ARTS AND MUSIC STUDIOS

THE COLLEGE AND ACADEMY are situated on a picturesque villa of 283 acres. Health record unsurpassed. Buildings new and thoroughly equipped, Steam Heating, Electric Light. The Alamo Heights' car line connecting with all car lines of the city passes the College every seven minutes.

The college curriculum offered three degrees: a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Literature, and a Bachelor of Science. Although no professional degree program was yet established for the preparation of teachers, Sisters Mary Philip Falwell and Bernadette Synon offered courses in education. By 1918, the school had completed its first step toward approval by the Texas State Department of Education to seek accreditation by the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States, an effort that continued until 1930.

With an increase in Academy enrollment and in the number of novices and sisters at the motherhouse, the congregation decided in 1921 to separate the College and Academy from the convent. Local architect Frederick B. Gaenslen, who had designed the motherhouse chapel, drew plans for what was described as "a group of three buildings"—one for the College, one for the Academy, and one for administration. The cost of construction was estimated at \$500,000, and the congregation borrowed money from banker Dan Sullivan for the project. The cornerstone was laid on December 3, 1921, and the building opened on June 1, 1922, described in the *Southern Messenger* as "the greatest Catholic educational enterprise in the State." In 1923 Mother Columkille was appointed president, and her long tenure in the office (1923–1960) contributed to the school's continued growth, as it constructed new facilities and added new programs and degrees, including

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nursing degrees tied to training at the sisters' Santa Rosa Infirmary. Although UIW graduated its first male nursing student, Pete Navarro, in 1960, the school became fully coeducational more than a decade later, in 1971.

Today, UIW's Administration Building is a tie to that early era in Texas education and the long process of providing higher educational opportunities to women—and Catholic sisters. As the primary school and office building for several years, the Administration Building's significance cannot be undervalued. When the sisters finally separated the convent facilities from its educational functions, this building represented the latter just as the chapel and motherhouse represent the former.

Frederick B. Gaenslen, Architect

Little is known about Frederick B. Gaenslen (1869-1941), the architect of the nominated property. He attended St. Mary's College in San Antonio and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied architecture. Gaenslen was a prominent member of San Antonio's Catholic community, and he had a distinguished career designing houses and churches throughout south Texas. His projects include the chapel on the campus of Incarnate Word in San Antonio (1907), Our Lady of the Lake Convent in San Antonio (1907), St. Anthony Catholic School in San Antonio (1909), Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Brownsville (1913, RTHL 2001),⁶ All Saints Catholic Church in Houston (1926, NR 1983),⁷ and St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero (1931, NR 1988).⁸

Architectural Significance

In addition to its significance under Criterion A in the area of Education, the Administration Building is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a good local example of the Italian Renaissance Style with regional design influences. It is also eligible as a work of Frederick B. Gaenslen, one of the talented architects working in Texas during the early twentieth century.

The five-story building, built by N.H. Jones Construction Co. of San Antonio, Texas, is a reinforced concrete structure. This method of construction was first used in the early part of the twentieth century and liberated architects from the constraints of load-bearing masonry as a means of support for floors constructed above grade. Along with structural steel framing, it is regarded by many as "America's greatest single contribution to architectural development."⁹ It allowed for more and larger windows because the exterior walls were non-load-bearing and not as massive. Buildings constructed at this time were not air-conditioned, so the larger windows provided better ventilation as well as more natural light.

⁶ http://blue.utb.edu/localhistory/historical_landmarks_page%204.htm, (Accessed October 10, 2008)

⁷ <http://www.emporis.com/en/wm/bu?id=324420>, (Accessed October 10, 2008)

⁸ http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/common/viewform.asp?atlas_num=2088001971&site_name=St, (Accessed October 18, 2008)

⁹ Banister Fletcher, *A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method*, 1127.

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The unique application of Mission Revival elements on a formal Italian Renaissance design seems to speak clearly of Gaenslen's ties to south Texas. The formal arrangement of the volumes is lightened somewhat by the curvilinear parapet elements. The use of brick rather than rusticated stone, together with the large number of windows, also gives the building a lighter appearance, more transparent and less heavy than many Italian palazzo designs.

Summary

The Sister Columkille Administration Building at the University of The Incarnate Word is a building with a significant past: a long history of education and ties to the early presence of the Catholic Church in San Antonio. Its architect, Frederick B. Gaenslen, designed several ecclesiastical structures in central and south Texas. The building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Education, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of the Italian Renaissance style in San Antonio. The Administration Building meets Criteria Consideration A for religious institutions. The period of significance is from 1922, when the building was completed, to 1960. The latter year corresponds with the National Register's 50-year criterion.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section 9 Page 15

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(www.uiw.edu/mission/documents/Promises%20to%20Keep.rtf)

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<http://www.emporis.com/en/wm/bu?id=324420>, accessed October 10, 2008.

http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/common/viewform.asp?atlas_num=2088001971&site_name=St, accessed October 18, 2008.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Page 4

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES:	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	552099	3259800

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: NCB A52, LOT S IRR 752.12 PT, save and except for 0.0944 acre of 45.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The nomination includes all property historically associated with the building.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Linda Henderson, Texas Historical Commission staff)

NAME/TITLE: Jerry Theis, Architect

ORGANIZATION: DATE: February 2009

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 6818 TELEPHONE: (210) 828-7621

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

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheets Map-16 through Map-17)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheets Photo-24 through Photo-26)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheets Figure-18 through Figure-23)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: University of the Incarnate Word
(Robert Sosa, Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations)

STREET & NUMBER: 4301 Broadway TELEPHONE: (210) 829-6000

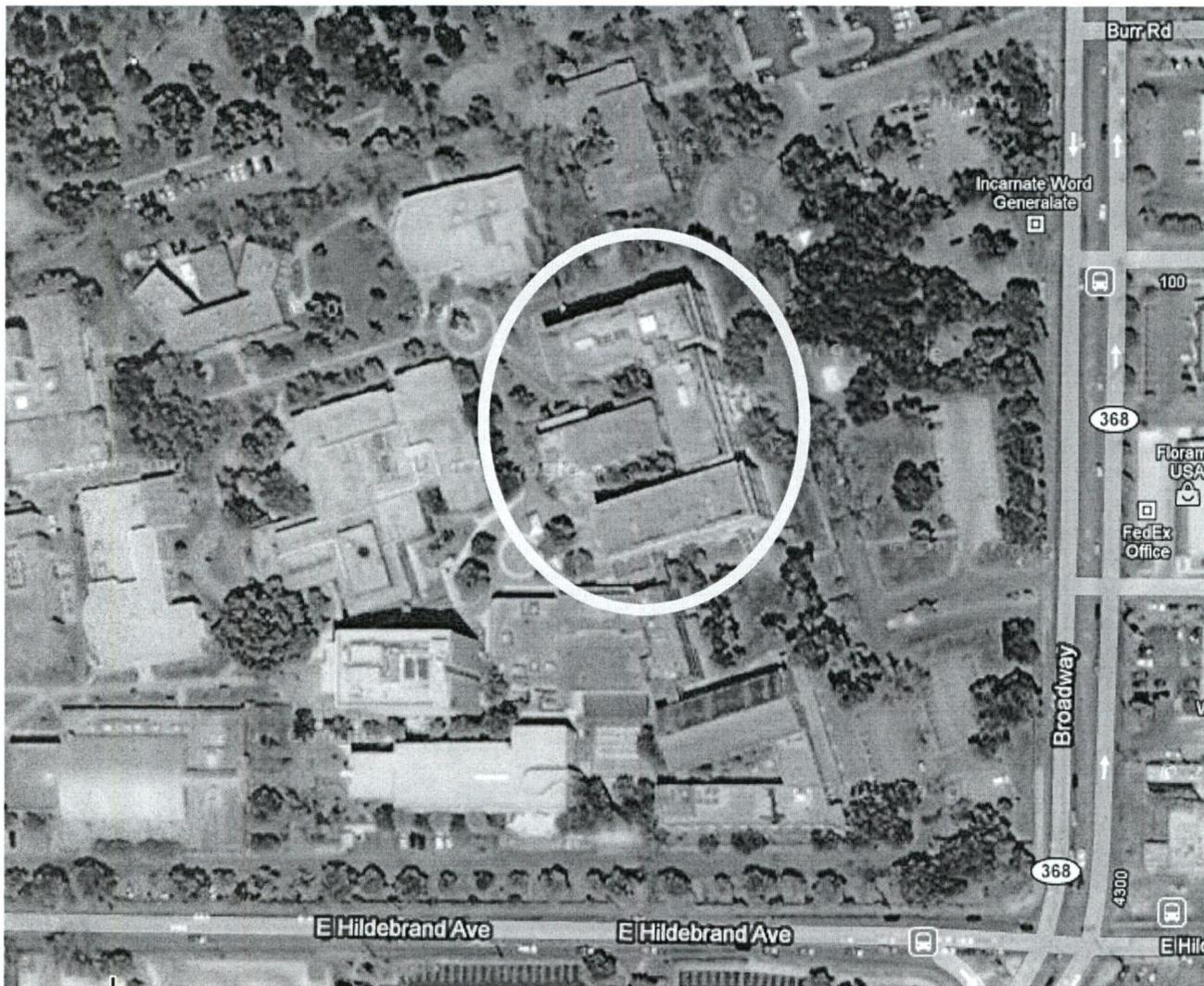
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78209

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section MAP Page 16



Aerial photo of the Incarnate Word campus, 2009.

The nominated building appears as an E in the approximate center of the image, facing Broadway to the east. The 1962 chapel addition in the courtyard forms the central leg of the E.

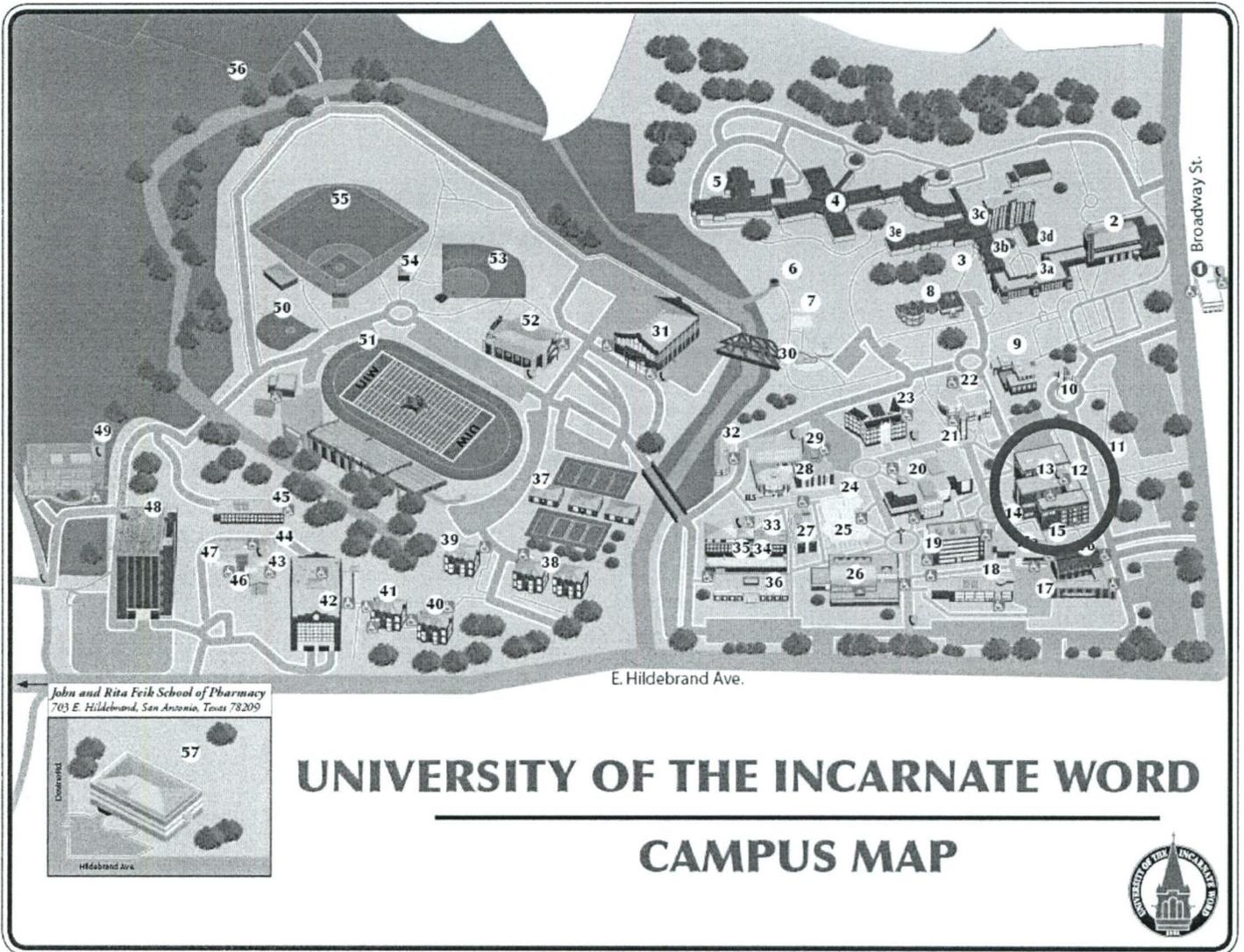
(Aerial photo from Google Maps, accessed on December 9, 2009.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section MAP Page 17



UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD
CAMPUS MAP

University of the Incarnate Word Campus Map (June 2009)

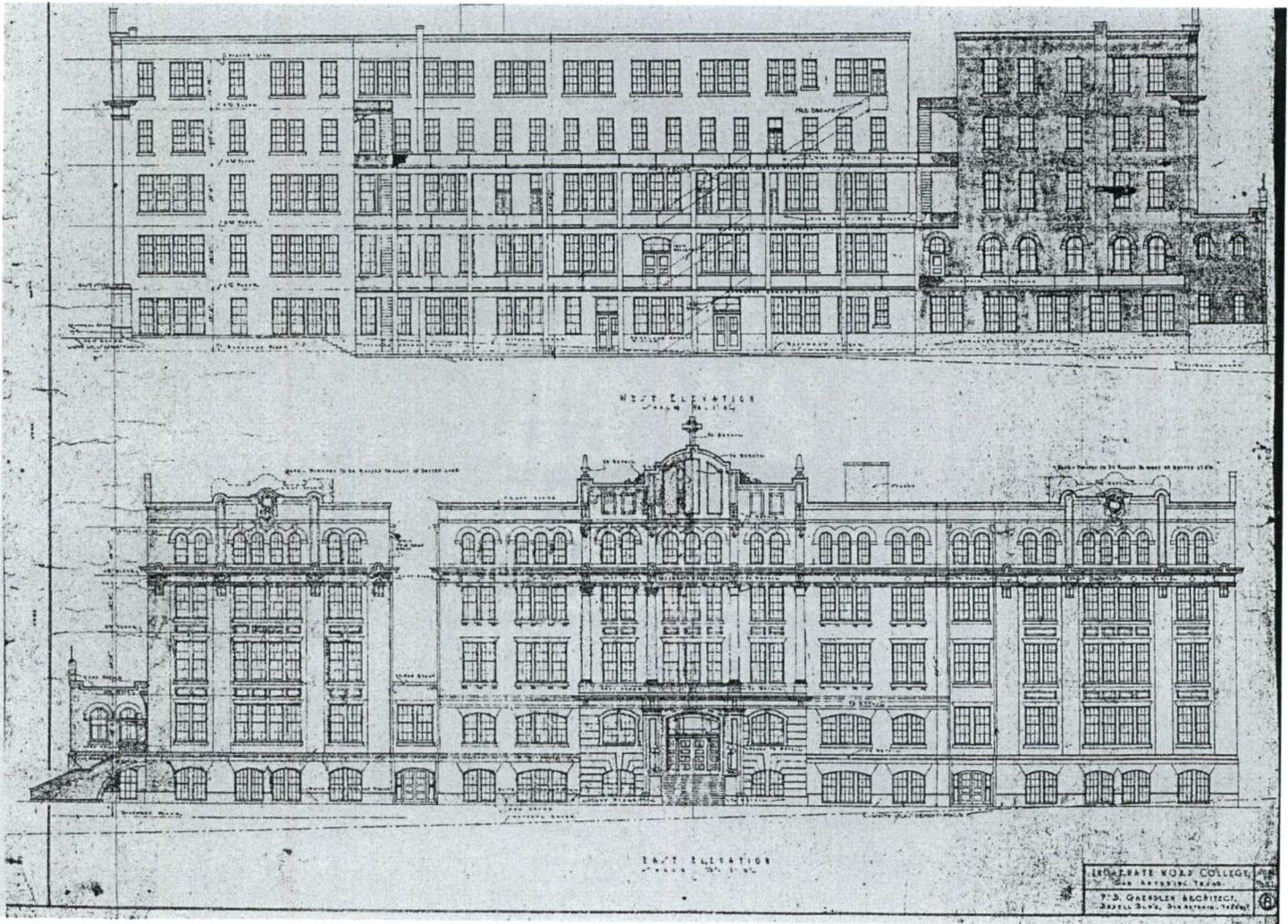
The nominated Administration Building is identified as number 12, and the chapel addition in the courtyard as 13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 18



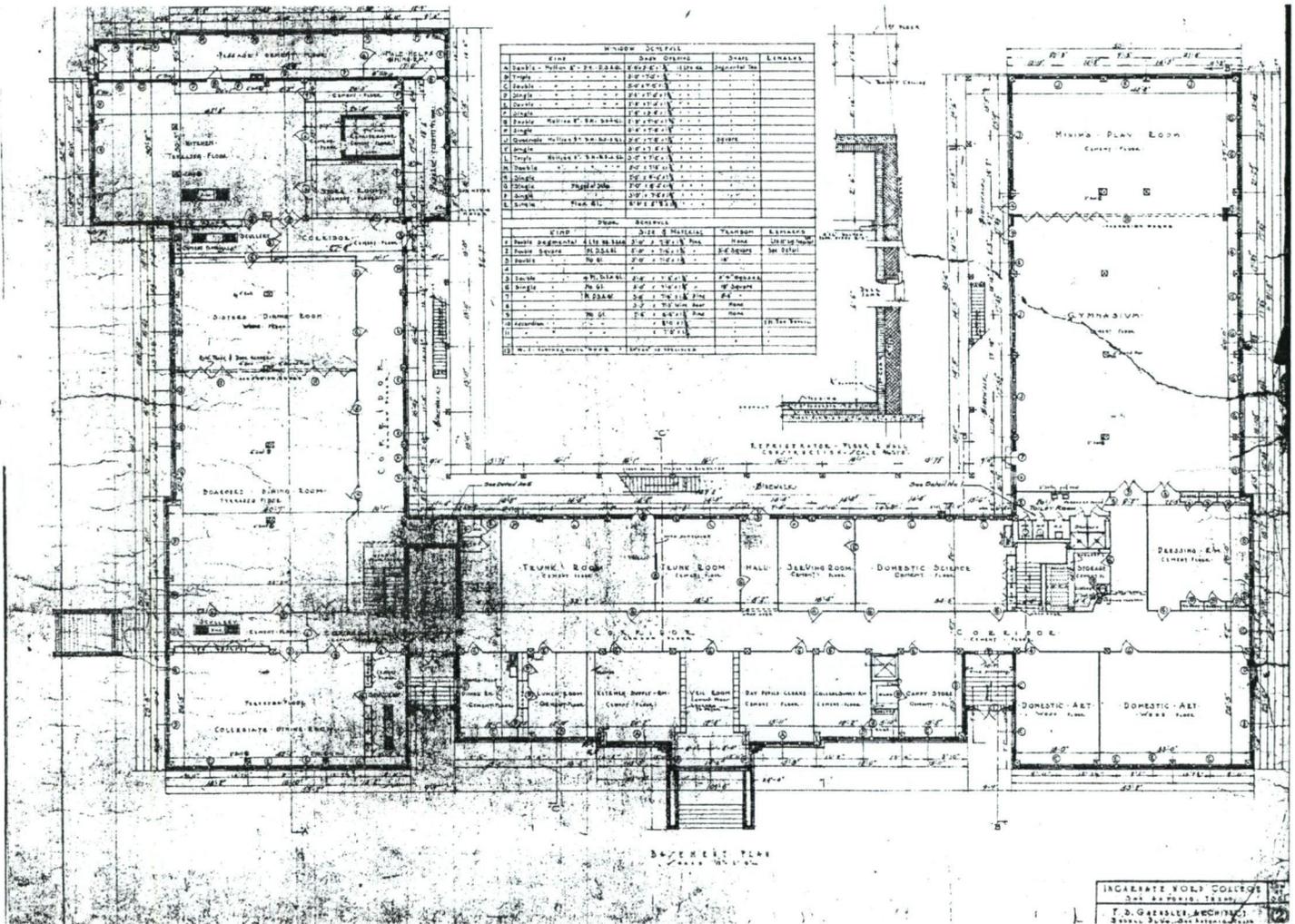
West and east elevations, drawings by Frederick B. Gaenslen, 1921 (no scale).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 19



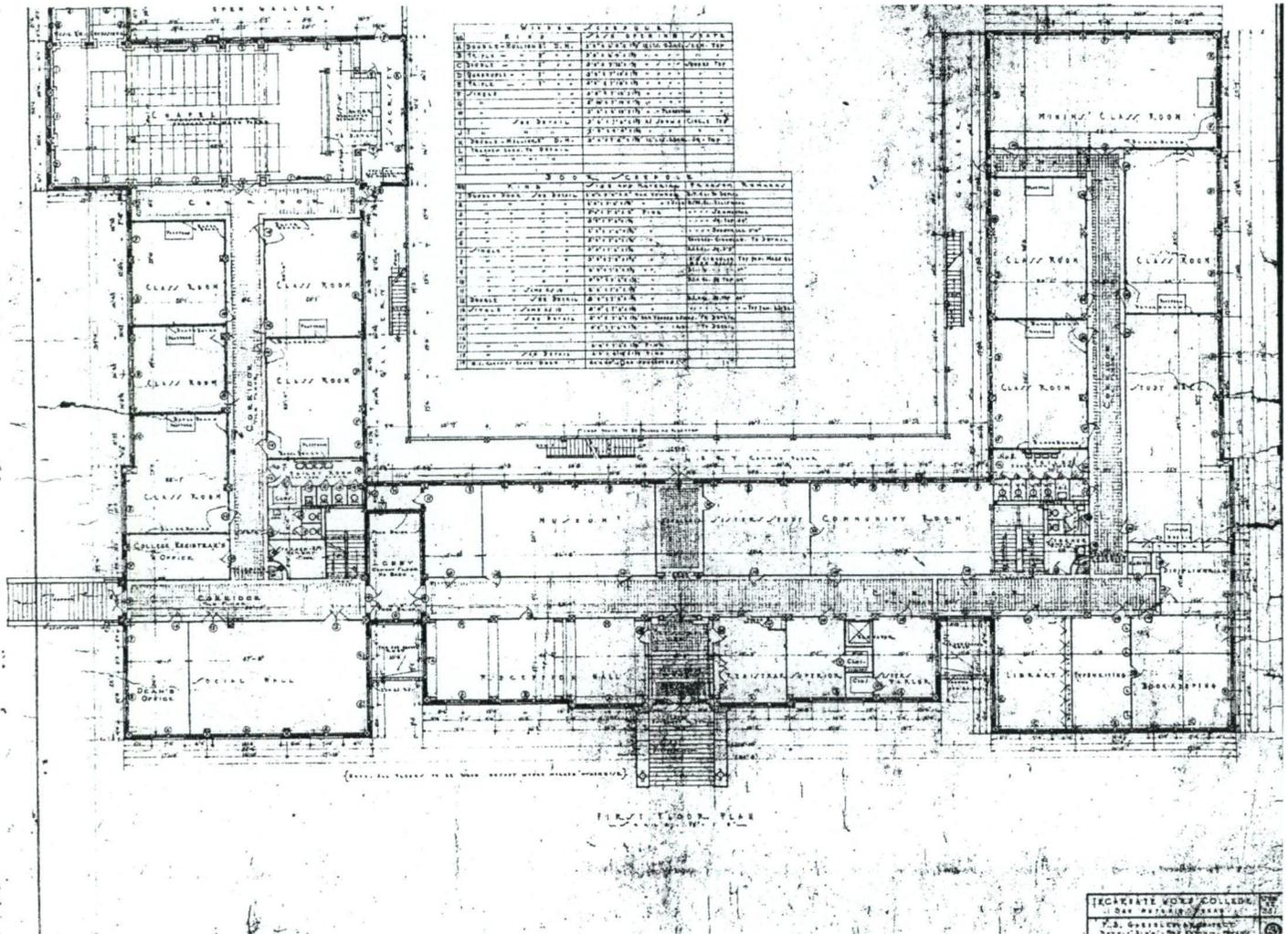
Basement plan drawn by Frederick B. Gaenslen, 1921 (no scale)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 20



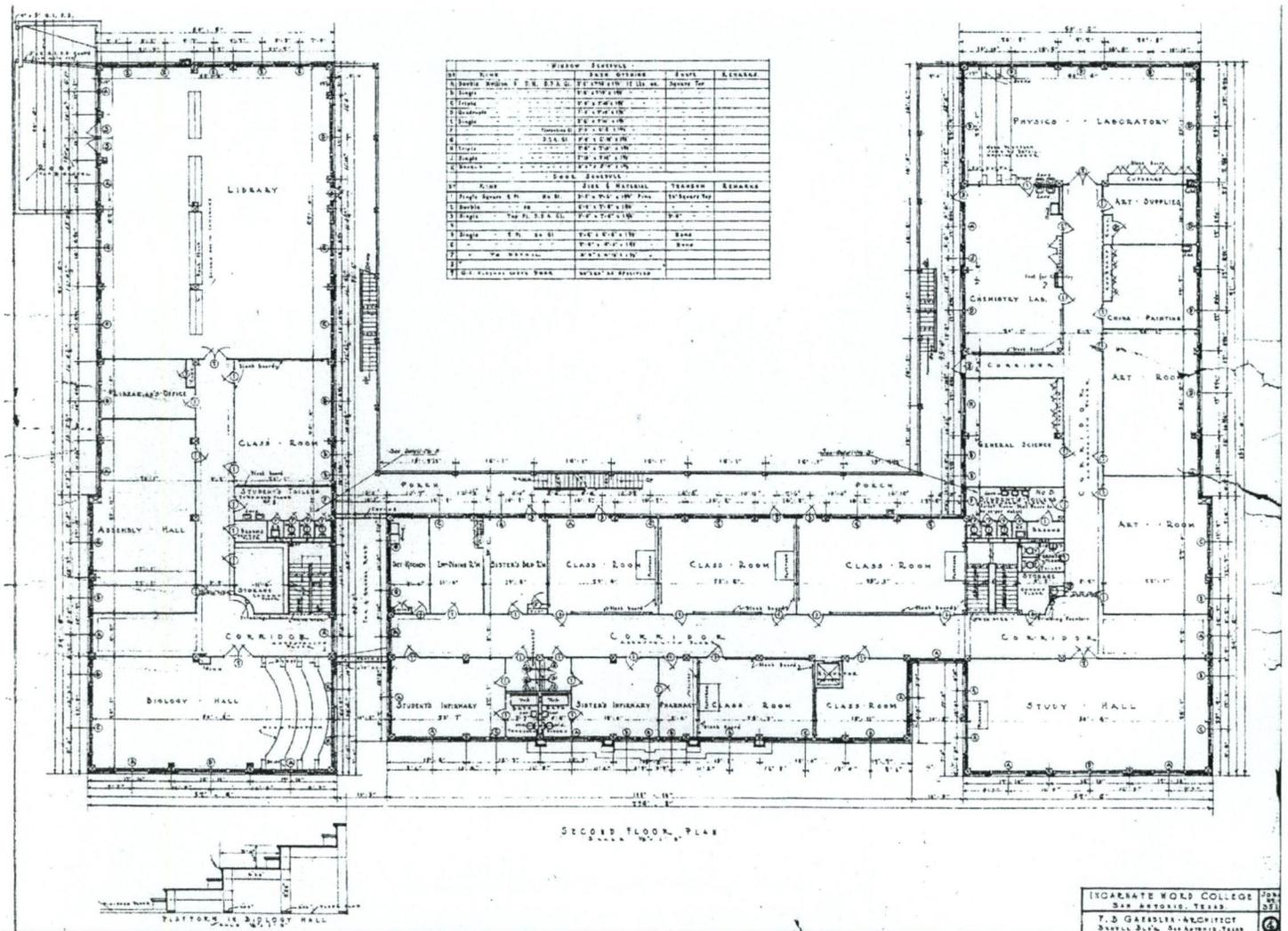
First floor plan drawn by Frederick B. Gaenslen, 1921 (no scale)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 21



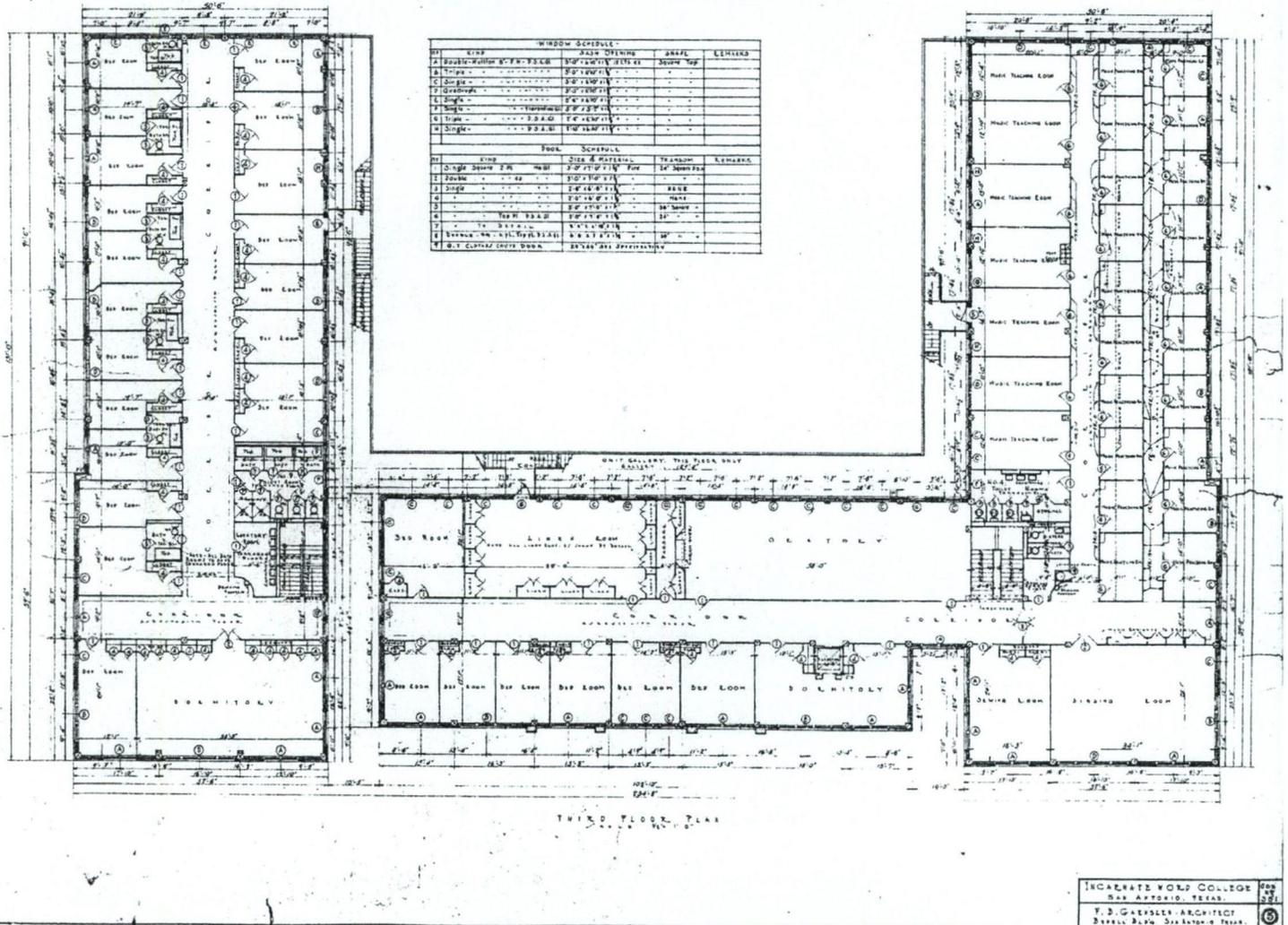
Second floor plan drawn by Frederick B. Gaenslen, 1921 (no scale)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 22



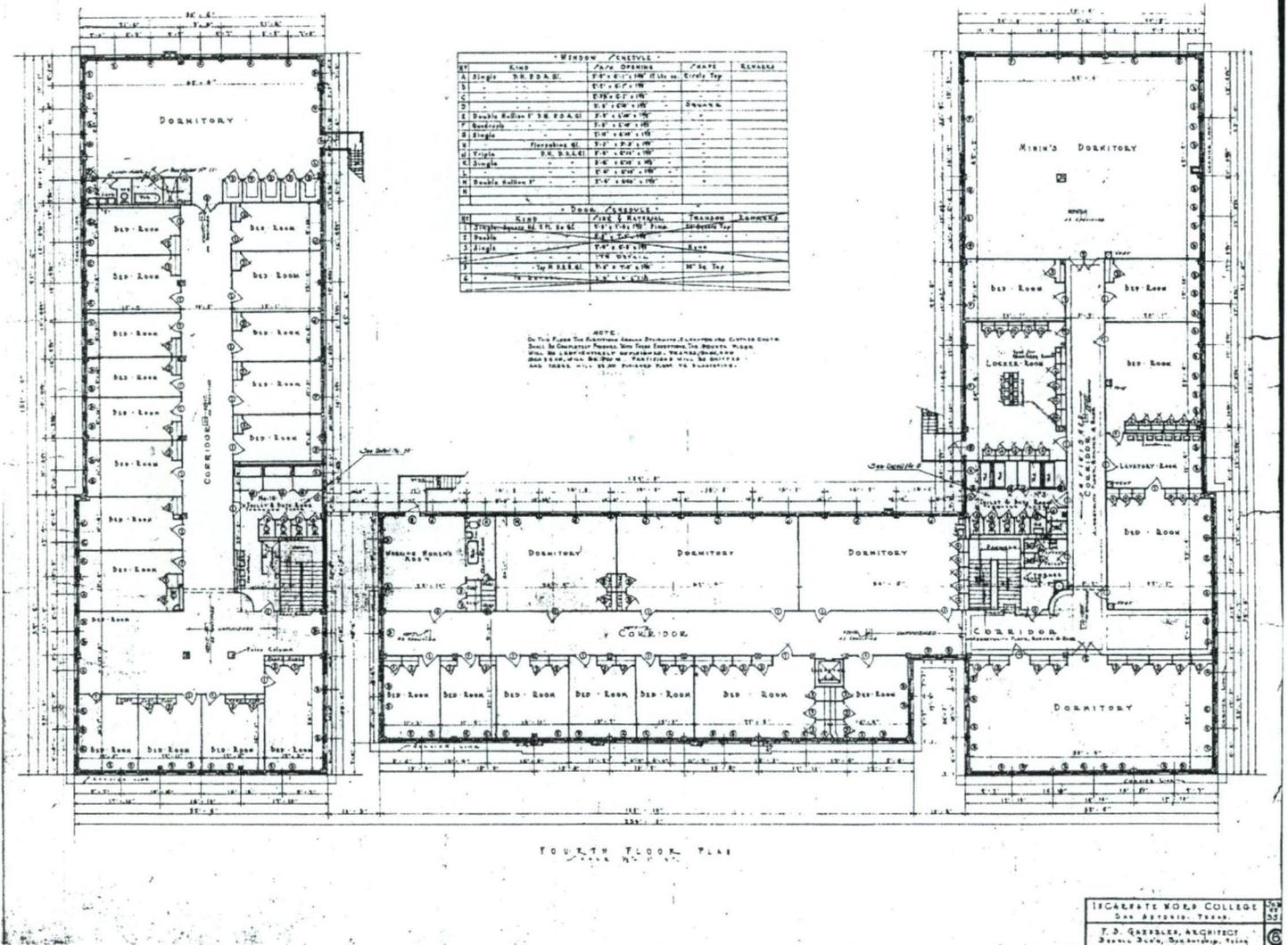
Third floor plan drawn by Frederick B. Gaenslen, 1921 (no scale)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 23



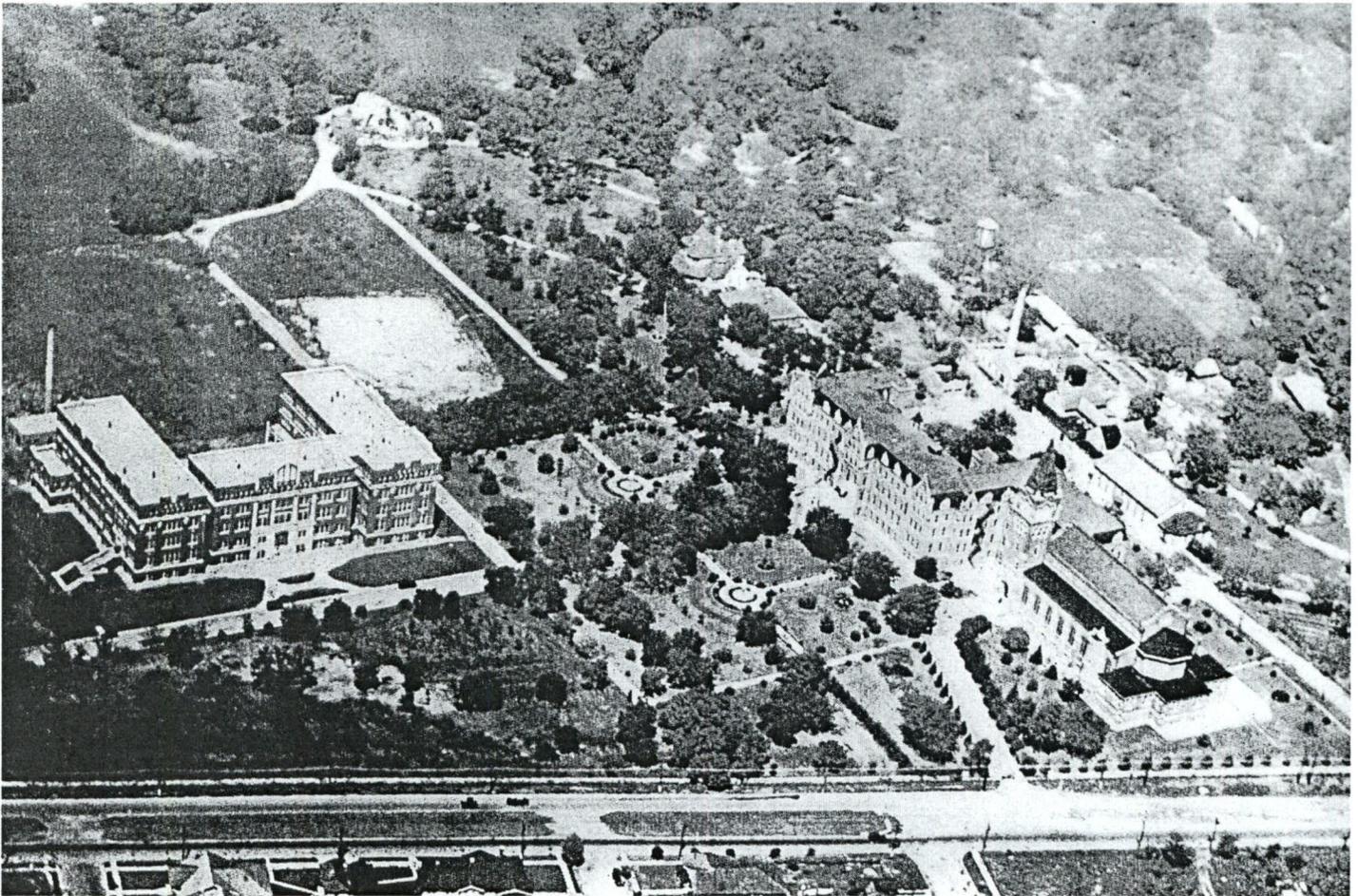
Fourth floor plan drawn by Frederick B. Gaenslen, 1921 (no scale)

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

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Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 24

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Historic aerial (above) and southeast oblique (below), with motherhouse and chapel in background, c. 1922

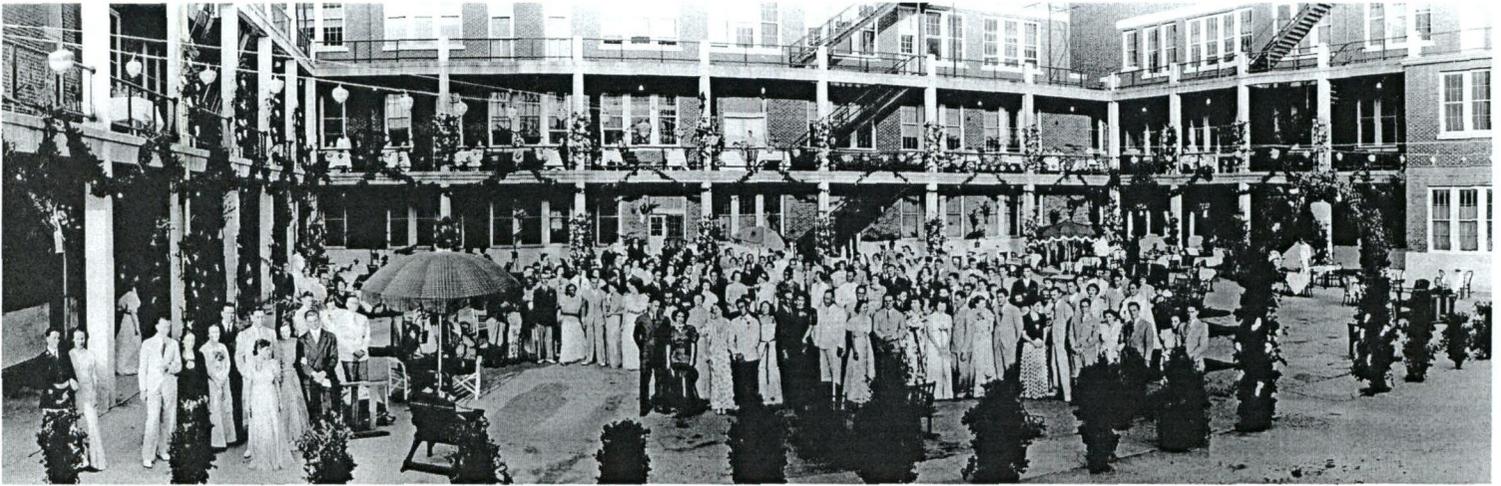


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Section PHOTO Page 25



Spring dance held in courtyard, ca. 1940s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 26

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

PHOTO LOG

All photographs credited:

University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
San Antonio, Bexar County, TX
Adela Gott, photographer
February 18, 2010
Original digital files with University of the Incarnate Word

East (major) façade
Camera facing west
Photo 1 of 6
UIWAdministrationBldg_BexarCounty_TX_001.tif

Southeast oblique view
Camera facing northwest
Photo 2 of 6
UIWAdministrationBldg_BexarCounty_TX_002.tif

Northeast oblique view
Camera facing southwest
Photo 3 of 6
UIWAdministrationBldg_BexarCounty_TX_003.tif

Northwest oblique view
Camera facing southeast
Photo 4 of 6
UIWAdministrationBldg_BexarCounty_TX_004.tif

Courtyard view with noncontributing chapel addition (detail)
Camera facing east
Photo 5 of 6
UIWAdministrationBldg_BexarCounty_TX_005.tif

West façade
Camera facing east
Photo 6 of 6
UIWAdministrationBldg_BexarCounty_TX_006.tif

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 4/02/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/07/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/17/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000267

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5.17.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AOC

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.



UNIVERSITY of the INCARNATE WORD
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BEXAR COUNTY, TX
PHOTO 1 OF 6



UNIVERSITY of the INCARNATE WORD
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BEXAR COUNTY, TX
PHOTO 2 OF 6



UNIVERSITY of the INCARNATE WORD

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

BEJAR COUNTY, TX

PHOTO 3 OF 6



UNIVERSITY of the INCARNATE WORD
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BEXAR COUNTY, TX
PHOTO 4 of 6

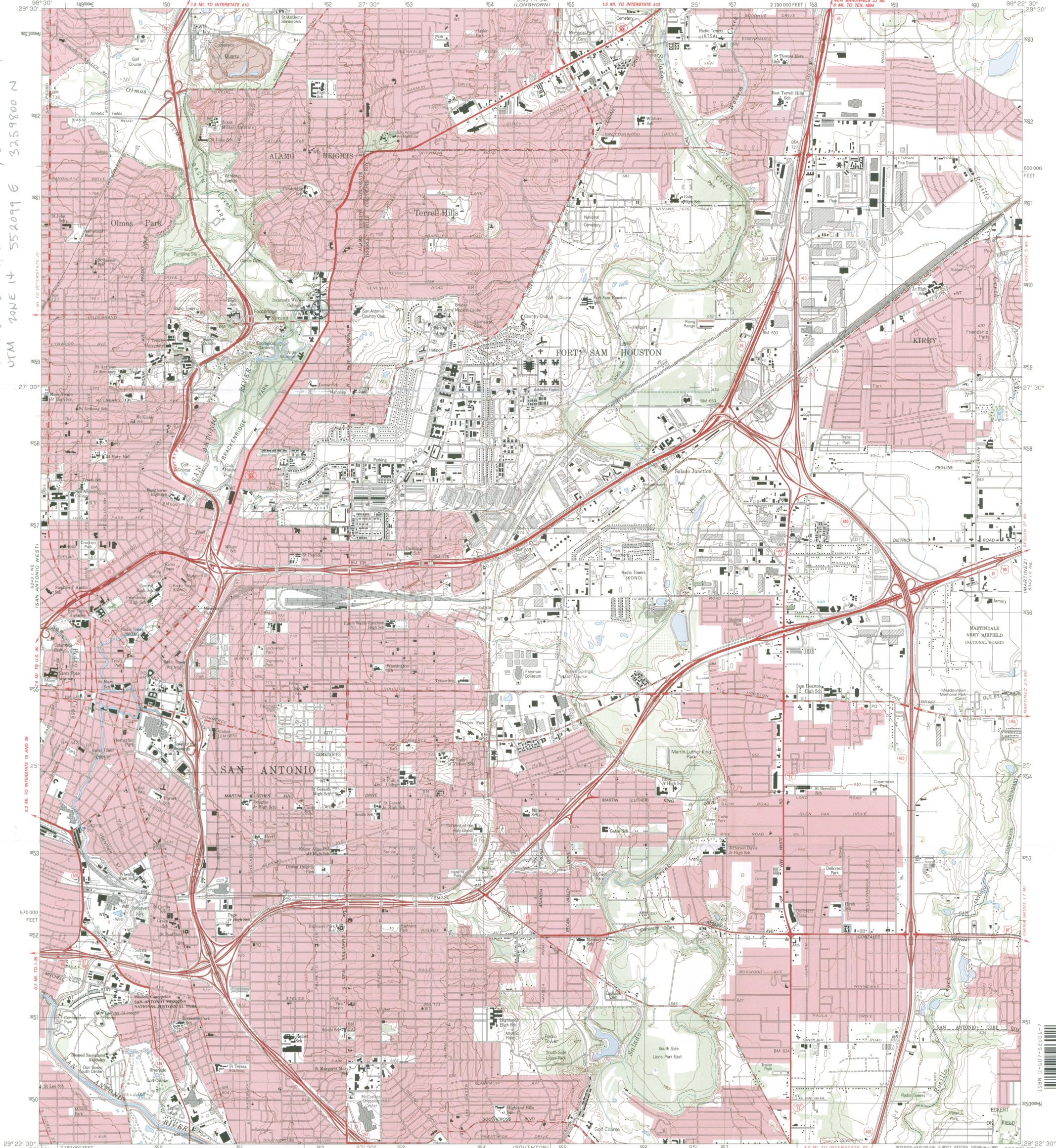


UNIVERSITY of the INCARNATE WORD
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BEXAR COUNTY, TX
PHOTO 5 of 6

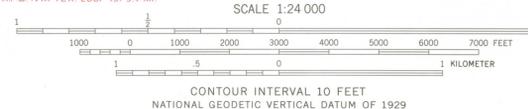
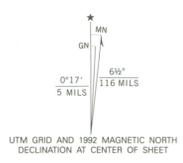


UNIVERSITY of the INCARNATE WORD
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BEXAR COUNTY, TX
PHOTO 6 of 6

UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 4301 BROADWAY, SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TX UTM ZONE 14 552099 E 3259800 N



Produced by the United States Geological Survey Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and USCE Compiled by Defense Mapping Agency from aerial photographs taken 1952. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1986 and other source data. Field checked 1987. Map edited 1992 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot grid ticks: Texas Coordinate System, south central zone (Lambert Conformal Conic) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14 The difference between NAD 27 and North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5 minute intersections is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION table with symbols for Primary highway, Secondary highway, Interstate Route, U.S. Route, and State Route.



SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX. 29098-D4-TF-024

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

2998-133

1992

DMA 6342 IV NW-SERIES V882



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



MEMORANDUM

TO: Linda McClelland
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Rachel Leibowitz, Historian
Texas Historical Commission

RE: University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building
4301 Broadway
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

DATE: March 30, 2010

The following materials are submitted regarding 4301 Broadway:

<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 maps
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Archival-quality CD with digital images

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review
- The enclosed owner objections (do) (do not) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

