GaG 194
8,9,10,pl1

Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
(7uly 1969) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Bishop's Palace
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Gresham House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1402 Avenue J (Broadway)
CITY OR TOWN: Galveston

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION: (Check One)
- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes:
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The Catholic Diocese of Galveston-Houston
STREET AND NUMBER: 1700 San Jacinto
CITY OR TOWN: Houston

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Galveston County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Galveston

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1966-67
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

(cont'd)
The Bishop's Palace is a three-story masonry mansion on a partially raised basement. It is of rusticated limestone with granite and sandstone trim. The roof is of glazed tile. The main portion has a high pitched hip roof with a short ridge parallel to the front facade, but there are numerous towers, dormers, and gables each separately roofed and creating a picturesque and irregular roof line.

The plan is visually asymmetric, but is in fact essentially central, with central entrance and hall and a grand open stairway of curved plan located in a rotunda at the rear center of the main block. Round and polygonal bays swing out from the principal rooms creating interesting interior spaces and an irregular front facade. There are gabled ells on both sides and there is a two-story rear wing. A one-story veranda wraps around the southeast corner of the house. There is a one-story apse-shaped glassed-in conservatory on the east side. There are five chimneys: one on the east facade and one on the west opposite each other on the central block, one on the north wall of the west parlor extension, one on the north wall of the rear ell, and one on the east gable of the dining room extension. All of the chimneys are carried up to great height and are highly ornamented.

The front entrance is approached by a grand flight of stone steps. The veranda railing is of delicately proportioned cast iron with slender columns and lacy brackets. The cast iron balustrade at the main level is repeated to form a balcony railing at the second level. A matching small bracketed cast iron balcony forms a canopy over the central second story door.

The windows of the two main stories are double hung with single lights and those of the second-story chapel are of stained glass. Each window has a single pane transom and these vary in treatment, some decorated and some opaque. There are carved lintels above the transoms. The third-story windows are varied; those of the round tower are treated as a Romanesque arcade. There is a tall barbican beside the round tower. The entire building is richly ornamented but the most elaborate stone work is concentrated near the roof line. Large cast iron griffins and stone finials cap the roof apexes.

The interior is richly finished with ornate paneling, wainscots, and wallpapers and the first-story floors are of parquet. The house is furnished throughout with elegant period pieces.
6. (cont'd)

Texas State Historical Survey
1967    State
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street
Austin    Texas    042
The Bishop’s Palace in Galveston, Texas, has received national attention as an extreme example of the exuberance of the eclectic late Victorian taste in America. The architect was Nicholas J. Clayton of Galveston, who created bold effects and strongly modulated facades in many of his churches and commercial buildings of the period, and here released all restraints. There is an emphatic irregularity to the building, emphasized by an energetic and varied facade, and the roof line is crested with towers, tall chimneys, and heavy ornament. Fine craftsmanship is evident in the stonework and also in all the detailing throughout the mansion.

The house was built by Walter Gresham, a prominent lawyer, Texas Legislator, and Representative to the fifty-third Congress. Gresham was born July 22, 1841, in King and Queen County, Virginia, into a family of planters and notable lawyers. He was the grandson of Thomas Gresham, who practiced law in Essex County, Virginia, and the son of Edward Gresham, who was trained in law, but devoted his time to the family plantation.

Walter Gresham received his early education in private schools. Between 1861 and the end of the Civil War in 1865, he fought with Lee’s Rangers in the Army of Virginia, and earned an L.B. degree at the University of Virginia. When family fortunes were ruined by the war, he moved to Texas, and landed in Galveston December 31, 1866 with $5.00. He opened a law office, and in October of 1868 he married Josephine Mann.

In 1872 Gresham was elected District Attorney for Galveston and Brazoria Counties. In 1875 he became involved in the railroad business. He was one of the active leaders in the organization of Galveston citizens who acquired the charter of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Company. He was a stockholder in the company and served as director, attorney and second vice-president.

(cont’d)
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Texas State Historical Survey Committee, marker files.

John Garner, Director.

AIA listing of the 100 most significant buildings in the U.S.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .41 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wayne Bell, Project Director
Roxanne Williamson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
Texas State Historical Survey Committee

STREET AND NUMBER: 108 W. 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: Texas

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name:

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 6-2-70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: AUG 25 1970

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: JUN 2 3 1970
8. (cont'd)
In 1887 Gresham's interests turned again to politics. He was elected to the Twentieth Texas Legislature, a position he held for six years. During that time he served as chairman of the House Financial Committee. In 1892 he was elected as a Representative of the tenth Congressional District to the Fifty-third Congress.

Gresham also worked actively to secure a deepwater harbor for Galveston, as well as good water transportation systems for all of Texas. From 1901 to the outbreak of World War I, for example, he was active in such groups as the National Rivers and Harbors Congress and the Inter-Coastal Canal Commission.

Gresham's affluence increased as his participation in civic affairs developed. In 1887, the same year he was elected to the Texas Legislature, he commissioned the Galveston architect, Nicholas Joseph Clayton, to design a grand mansion. Cost estimates of the Gresham mansion vary from contemporary guesses of $250,000 to $500,000. In 1887, however, reporters were more conservative, and the lowest cost reported, $75,000, was the public figure released by Gresham during the construction of the building.

Clayton was at work on the design early in 1887, and construction was reported to have begun in the spring of that year. Building activity continued for the following six years, and although the house was unfinished in some minor details, the Greshams formally opened their home on January 1, 1893.

In 1923 the Galveston-Houston Diocese of the Catholic Church purchased the Gresham House for $40,500. The mansion became the Bishop's Palace when the Most Reverend Christopher C.E. Byrne lived there until his death in 1950. The Most Reverend Vincent M. Harris, Chancellor of the Galveston-Houston Diocese, and later Bishop of Beaumont Diocese, also occupied the Palace.

The Catholic Church turned the Palace over to the Newman Club in 1963, and three months later, the diocese opened the building to the public.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark—1967.
<table>
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NPS Number  70-8-43-0012
Title:  The Bishop's Palace
Loc.  Galveston Co., Texas
Front elevation from the south

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** The Bishop's Palace

**AND/OR HISTORIC:** The Gresham House

---

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 1402 Avenue J (Broadway)

**CITY OR TOWN:** Galveston

**STATE:** Texas

**CODE:** 042

**COUNTY:** Galveston

**CODE:** 167

---

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Texas State Historical Survey Committee

**DATE OF PHOTO:** March, 1969

**NEGATIVE FILED AT:**

Texas State Historical Survey Committee

108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

---

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

Describe view, direction, etc.

Front elevation from the south
NPS Number: 70-8-42-0012
Title: The Bishop's Palace
Loc. Galveston Co., Texas
Showing the Conservatory

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
1. NAME
COMMON: The Bishop's Palace
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Gresham House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 1402 Avenue J. (Broadway)
CITY OR TOWN: Galveston
STATE: Texas
 CODE: 042
COUNTY: Galveston
CODE: 167

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1969
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Side elevation from the east, showing the conservatory.
NPS Number: 70-8-45-0012
Title: The Bishop's Palace
Loc: McLennan Co., Texas
Front & side elevations
1. NAME

COMMON: The Bishop's Palace
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Gresham House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1402 Avenue J (Broadway)
CITY OR TOWN: Galveston
STATE: Texas

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1969
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Front and side elevation from the southeast
NPS Number: 70-8-42-0012
Title: The Bishop's Palace
Loc. Mulvysterious Co., Texas
Rear elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
1. NAME
COMMON: The Bishop's Palace
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Gresham House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 1402 Avenue J (Broadway)
CITY OR TOWN: Galveston
STATE: Texas

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1969
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIPTIVE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Rear elevation from the northeast
Bishop's Palace (Gresham House)
Galveston County, TX
1981

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Photo
P. Andrews
7/24/91
By periodically looking at such issues, Review Board members with their independent perspectives can determine the effectiveness of a State program in reaching the broadest possible constituency.
**1. NAME**

COMMON: The Bishop's Palace
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Gresham House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 1402 Avenue J (Broadway)
CITY OR TOWN: Galveston
STATE: Texas

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE: United States Department of Interior Geological Survey
SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1943 (revised 1952, 1954)

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

Texas Map Reference #2994-231
Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas State Historical Survey Committee  
Post Office Box 12276  
Capitol Station  
108 West 15th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  

Dear Mr. Latimer:

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

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ernest Allen Connally  
Ernest Allen Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosure  
Entered in the National Register  
-AUG 25 1970-

cc:  
HR  
RGamble:mm 8/13/70 BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR
Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Bishop's Palace
Old Land Office Building
Barker History Center
Neill-Cochran House
Old Post Office and Federal Building
Woodlawn
The Governor's Mansion
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Hollamon House (Erskine House #1)
Carrington-Covert House
Klein (Stephen) House
Schubert House
Tinmen House
Sedberry House
Sebastopol (Zorn House)
Littlefield House
Old Galveston Custom House
Captain Singleton House
Lindheimer Home
Captain William Perry House
Beard House

Galveston, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Seguin, Texas
Austin, Texas
New Braunfels, Texas
Caldwell, Texas
Georgetown, Texas
Jefferson, Texas
Seguin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Galveston, Texas
Jefferson, Texas
New Braunfels, Texas
Jefferson, Texas
Jefferson, Texas
SEP 16 1970

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.
Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register

AUG 25 1970

cc:
Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, 108 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78701

Duplicate letter sent to:
Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

**TEXAS**

- Bishop's Palace
- Old Land Office Building
- Barker History Center
- Neill-Cochran House
- Old Post Office and Federal Building
- Woodlawn
- The Governor's Mansion
- Gethsemane Lutheran Church
- Hollamon House (Erskine House #1)
- Carrington-Covert House
- Klein (Stephen) House
- Schubert House
- Timmen House
- Sedberry House
- Sebastopol (Zorn House)
- Littlefield House
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SEP 16 1970

Hon. Jack Brooks
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John C. Tower have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, 106 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.
Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register AUG 2 5 1970

cc:
Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, 106 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78701

Director, Southwest Region
Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Old Galveston Custom House  Galveston, Texas
Bishop's Palace  Galveston, Texas