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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

| STATE: | |
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| TEXAS | |
| COUNTY: | GLT NOTHER |
| Travis | |
| FOR NPS USE ONL | Y |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| MADULA ADAR | 0/10 |

| | (Type all entries | | | | 10.8.42,00 | $\alpha / 1$ | 100 | |
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| | AND/OR HISTORIC: | (O'Henry | Hall) (| RECEIV | EU | | | |
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| | CITY OR TOWN: | Austin | | NATIO REGIS | STE | | | |
| | STATE | Texas | 042 C | 18 Kingo | Travis | | 453 | _ |
| 3. | CLASSIFICATION | | | | | | | |
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| | ☐ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object | Public Private Both | Public Acquisition In Proces Being Co | ss | Occupied Unoccupied Preservation work in progress | Yes: Res Unre | tricted | |
| | PRESENT USE (Check One or | More as Appropriate) |) | | | J. 31 19 | | |
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| 4. | ☐ Entertainment ☐ M | lilitary [| Religious | | | | | |
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| DESCRIPTION | | | | | |
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| COMPLETION | Excellent X G | ood Fair | Deteriorated | Ruins | ☐ Unexposed |
| CONDITION | (Che | ck One) | OLEGEN STREET | (Che | ck One) |
| | ☐ Altered | ■ Unaltered | THE MAN THE MINT | ☐ Moved | Original Site |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old (old) Federal Building is a three story limestone ashlar masonry structure on a sloping site and with a rusticated basement and flat roof. The major facade faces Colorado Avenue; the minor facade is more frequently noticed and is on 6th Street. The casino of the Villa Borghese in Rome, although tremendously different in materials and details, seems to be the prototype for the massing of the main facade. The segmental arches of the first floor and galleries, however, are a nineteenth century choice, seen in the Ecole des Beaux Arts and a few New York buildings by George Post, but never with such sure simplicity as in Austin, The architect played with the three different forms he used for openings until he reached a marvelous balance in the main facade.

The building is symmetrical. The major facade has two end pavilions with graduated openings in each bay, the large first story window is segmentally arched, the two second story windows are round arched and the five third story openings have lintels. The pavilions are connected by a two story arcade (the glazing is later) with broad segmental arches. The attic is set back with a terrace, rises above the mass of the rest of the building, and has a tall arcade and cornice. The minor facade has an attached three bay double arcade with the same wide segmental arched openings of the major facade.

The building is now in the possession of the University of Texas and is being restored on the exterior and remodeled in the interior to be used as office space.

| PERIOD (Check One or More as | Appendiate) | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | | □ 184L C | 20th Century |
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | 19th Century | The territory was all |
| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab | le and Known) 18 | 78 | |
| AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch | eck One or More as Appropria | nte) | |
| Abor iginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | Religion/Phi- | Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | |
| ☐ Agriculture | Invention | Science | |
| ★ Architecture | Landscape | Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | Architecture | Social/Human- | |
| Commerce | Literature | itarian | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Theater | C. Carlona and C. Carlona |
| ☐ Conservation | Music | ☐ Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old (old) Post Office and Federal Building in Austin is of national significance because it is an architectural sport. It is easily overlooked even by local architectural historians because in style it seems to be an adequate but not especially outstanding modified Renaissance revival building from any time from about 1910 on. In fact the building was designed at the height of the Second Empire style, in 1877, and construction was begun the following year. There is no cornerstone and no mention of the name of the architect in the local press, beyond the statement that it would be designed in Washington. At this date the use of the Italian High Renaissance palace as a prototype was not very common and probably unique in Texas, but it is the utter simplicity of the detail that makes it possibly unique nationally.

In London the clubs of Sir Charles Barry were built from 1829 to about 1860 using Renaissance palaces as models. The London Foreign Office and hundreds of British colonial buildings all were more closely related to the Italian High Renaissance than to any other style, although again with the vertical squeeze of the nineteenth century. The Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève in Paris, 1845-50, came externally from this same source. New York had imitations of the London clubs and many of the New York commercial buildings chose the arches, applied columns, and detail of sixteenth century Italy. The Peabody Institute in Baltimore, 1861, by E.G. Lind had a full High Renaissance facade. McKim, Mead, and White would turn with growing frequency to Italian palaces for inspiration in the last decades of the century, and had had one competition plan in this style published in the American Architect and Building News in the late seventies, Duban's Ecole des Beaux Arts had been built in 1860, and in the lower portion of the facade it shows some of the simplicity of the Austin building. comparison with most architecture of the late seventies, these are rarities. Many elevations of Federal Courthouses were published in this period but they were highly decorated buildings

| 9. | MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFER | ENCES |
|----|-----------------------------|--|
| | Williamson, Roxanne. | Victorian Architecture in Austin. (Austin, |
| | | 1967) copywrited - in Library of Congress |

| | RAPHICAL DATA | JDE COORDINATI | FS | 1 | ATITUDE | AND LON | GITUDE CO | ORDINA | TES |
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| STATE | |
|------------------|------|
| TEXAS | |
| COUNTY | |
| Travis | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | Y |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
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70.8142.0027

(Number all entries) 8 (cont'd)

usually in the most extreme form of either High Victorian or Second Empire-General Grant styles.

In 1877, therefore, the Austin Federal Building is exceptional in that it has the horizontal lines and exact symmetrical massing of an Italian palace. But it is most unusual in its details. With the exception of molding strips, the only applied ornament on the whole large building is to be found in the simplified cornices and balustrades.



(Abner Cook, Austin's Greek Revival Master Builder and builder of the Governor's Mansion, Pease Mansion, Woodlawn, Sweetbrush and other fine Greek Revival buildings was the contractor for this building.)

Duplicate

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ref.# 70000771

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

| U.S. Post Office and Federal Building | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Austin, TX | |
| Hosim | Working No. |
| Travis Co. | Fed. Reg. Date: |
| 110015 | Date Due: |
| | Action:ACCEPT08-25-70 |
| resubmission | RETURN |
| nomination by person or local government | REJECT |
| owner objection | Federal Agency: |
| □ appeal | |
| Substantive Review: sample request appeal | □ NR decision |
| Reviewer's comments: | |
| | |
| | Recom./Criteria |
| | Reviewer |
| | Discipline |
| | Date |
| | see continuation sheet |
| Nomination returned for:technical corrections cited belowsubstantive reasons discussed below | |
| 1. Name | garanta and Sign see to the first of |
| 2. Location | |
| 3. Classification | |
| Category Ownership Status Public Acquisition Accessible | Present Use |
| 4. Owner of Property | |
| 5. Location of Legal Description | |
| 6. Representation in Existing Surveys | |
| Has this property been determined eligible? | |
| 7. Description | |
| Condition Check one | Check one |
| excellent deteriorated unaltered | original site |
| good ruins altered | moved date |
| air unexposed | |
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| Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance | |
| summary paragraph | |
| □ completeness | |
| □ clarity | |
| ☐ alterations/integrity | |
| dates | |
| boundary selection | |

| 8. Significance | MEMORIAN CONTROL OF DET UND CONTROL OF THE CONTROL |
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| Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | |
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| Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) | |
| Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) | |
| summary paragraph | |
| completeness | |
| clarity | |
| applicable criteria | |
| ☐ justification of areas checked☐ relating significance to the resource | |
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| relationship of integrity to significance | |
| ☐ justification of exception | |
| other | |
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| 9. Major Bibliographical References | |
| 10. Geographical Data | |
| Acreage of nominated property | |
| Ouadrangle name | |
| UTM References | |
| Verbal boundary description and justification | |
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| 11. Form Prepared By | |
| 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification | |
| The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: | |
| national state local | |
| | |
| State Historic Preservation Officer signature | |
| | |
| title date | |
| 13. Other | |
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| Maps | |
| ☐ Photographs ☐ Other | |
| - Other | |
| Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Signed Date | Phone: |



NPS Number 70.8.42.0027

Title: Old (old) Post Office

and Inderal Building

Loc. Travis Co., Texas N.E. elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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| STATE | |
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| TEXAS | |
| COUNTY | |
| Travis | |
| FOR NPS USE ONL | Y |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 70,8,42,0027 | 8/25 |

| 1. NAME | | 1018, 92,0021 | 1/25 |
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| STATE: | | CODE COUNTY: REGISTER | CODE |
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| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | V STTDV | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: | Texas State His | torical Survey Committee | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: | January 10, 197 | 0 | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: | Texas State His | torical Survey Committee | |
| | 108 W, 15th Stre | eet, Austin, Texas 78711 | |
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Title: Old (ald) Post Office

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

SEE

| STATE | | | | |
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| TEXAS | | | | |
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| 1. NAME | , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , | | | | |
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| AND/OR HISTORIC: | | | | | |
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| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | Variable | | | | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: | Texas State Historical Survey Committee | | | | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: | January 10, 1970 | | | | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: | Texas State Historical SurveyCommittee | | | | |
| | 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711 | | | | |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION | · · | | | | |
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| NPS Number 70.8.42.0027 |
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| Loc. Travis Co. Texas |
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| South elevation, Sixth It |

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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| | | Texas | 042 | Travis | 453 | | |
| 3. | 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | | | | | |
| | PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee | | | | | | |
| | DATE OF PHOTO: January 10, 1970 NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711 | | | | | | |
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Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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2. North arrow.

3. Latitude and longitude reference.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

| STATE | 1 22-4 |
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| TEXAS | |
| COUNTY | |
| Travis | |
| FOR NPS USE ONL | Y |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 70.8.42.0027 | 8/25 |

| | | 1000 | | | | 70.8.42 | 2.0027 | 8/25 |
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| 1. | NAME | | | | | | | |
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| 3. | MAP REFEREN | NCE | | | 0 | | | • |
| | SOURCE: U1 | nited St | ates Dep | artmen | t of Interi | or Geolog | ical Surv | ey |
| | scale: 1:24000 | | | | | | | |
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AUG 2 5 1970

H30-HR

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 G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

| Marini. | - | | |
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AUG 2 5 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc: HR

8/13/70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

RGamble:mm

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Flaces

TEXAS

Beard House

Bishop's Palace Old Land Office Building Barker History Center Meill-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 Tinnen House Sedberry House Sebastopol (Zorn House) Littlefield House Old Galveston Custom House Captain Singleton House Lindheimer Home Captain William Ferry House

Calveston, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas

Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Seguin, Texas Austin, Texas New Braumfels, Texas Giddings, Texas Georgetown, Texas Jefferson, Texas Sequin, Texas Austin, Texas Galveston, Texas Jefferson, Texas New Braunfels, Texas Jefferson, Texas Jefferson, Texas

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Man. Relph W. Ye amenda United States Server Fachiagton, f. C.

SEP 16 1970

* C. R. C. 187 T. ASSOCIA TOLK

We are pleased to inform you that the locale provides listed on the encludant between noninoted by the indicate Chicer appointed by the over rour for the inflammation of the actional Mistoric freservation regram a forms the law beer emered into the ballocal Register of Listoyie Alacan. Done of dolo 3. Town and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided wish this information. By our of this letter, the hard like a difficer, hr. Truett addies, imentim disector, filling a see Materical Euryes Consistee, Fort ... to Box half, together total, the West 1;th Street, Austin, Terms fifth, and likevi e been notified. A leaflet explaining the Intional Register is encluded.

sincerely, nes

(SCIDE OFORCE B. HARTZOG, JR.

LATTIC OF

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Entered in the Relicust Register AUG 35 6 m

Mr. Truett Latieer, Exceptive Director, Texas State Misterial Survey Consisted, P.O. Box 1227t, Capital Station, 108 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78701

Duplicate letter sent to:

don. John G. Towns United States Square Washington D. C.

Ofrector, Southwest Region

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Bishop's Palace old Land Office Building Barker History Center Beill-Cochron House Old Post Office and

Federal Building Roadlawn The Covernor's Muncion Gethsenone Lutheren Courch Hollason Bouse (Drokine House gl) Seguin, Texas Cerrington-Covert House Mein (Stephen) House Schubert House Tinnen House Sectionry House Sebastopel (Zorn House) Littlefield House Old Galveston Custom House Captein Singleton House Mandhedmer Hose

Captain William Perry House

Beard House

Onlyeston, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Anotin, Texas

Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Toxes Now Braunfels, Texas Giddings, Texas Ceorgetown, Texas Jefferson, Texas Seguin, Texas Austin, Texas Galveston, Texas Jefferson, Texas New Braunfels, Toxes Jefferson, Tezas Jefferson, Texas

H3O-III

SEP 16 1970

Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle House of Representatives Weshington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Picklet

the enclosure have been nominated by the State Limited Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the Sational Electric Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the Sational Register of Sistoric Places. Senators Ralph W. Yorborough and John G. Tower have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Limited Officer, Mr. Truett Letimer, Executive Director, Texas State Mistorical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capital Station, 105 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the Sational Register is enclosed.

3/13/70

FILE RETAINED

Bincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

LL-Mr. Melvin F IR KGemble:mm

Inclosures

AUG 2 5 1970

Intered in the Mational Register_

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, P. O. Bex 12276, Capitol Station, 100 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78701

Director, Southwest Region

Properties sided to the National Register of Mistoric Places

TEXAS

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Tiamen House
Littlefield House
Old Land Office Building
Berker History Center
Heill-Cockran Acuse
Old Post Office and
Federal Building

Woodlash The Governor's Memoion Getheemane Lutheran Church Carrington-Covert House Giddings, Texas Georgetoen, Texas Austin, Texas

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Austin, Texas



Texas State Historical Survey Committee

Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 Truett Latimer

Executive Director

May 13, 1971

converted to offices

National Register of Historic Places 801 19th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mrs. Marusin:

We have a couple of changes to be made in the information given on the National Register property call the Old (old) Post Office Building in Austin, Travis County, Texas (048-453). The name of the building has been changed to:

O. Henry Hall

The address is to be corrected to:

126 West 6th Street

We would appreciate your making these changes for us.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Suzanne B. Duncan

Sugarne Duncan

Secretary

SD/s