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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The church of Nuestra Señora de Candelaria y Guadalupe was begun in 1728 and completed in 1749. The original structure was built of rough limestone and mortar on a cruciform plan, facing east, with a single bell tower, vaults spanning the apse, nave, and transept, and a cupola placed on pendentives over the crossing. The structure, win the Spanish Baroque style, had little decoration and an architectural character of strength and severity. By 1840 the original structure was almost in ruins, and was renovated in that year under the direction of Vice-Prefect Father John Odin.

The present structure, now called the San Fernando Cathedral, was built over the colonial church, incorporating the apse and transept as the sanctuary of the new church. Work commenced in 1868 and was completed in 1873. Designed by Francis Giraud, the present church, constructed from cut limestone block, is Gothic Revival style, with lancet openings, twin towers, triple portals, and gabled roof, and elaborated with quatrefoils, pinnacles, and moldings. A chancery designed by Leo Dielman was added to the west end of the structure in 1922.

The church is located in downtown San Antonio between South Main on South Flores Streets. Dimensions for the 18th century and the 19th-20th century churches are shown on the attached architectural plans.



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cathedral of San Fernando (Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria), the remains of which are now part of San Fernando Cathedral, was the original parish church of the Villa San Fernando de Béxar, the first civil settlement (1731) in the Spanish Province of Texas. It is one of a few structures dating from the Spanish colonial mission period in Texas (1690-1821) and one of two surviving structures of the 18th century Villa de Béxar.

The church of Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria y Guadalupe was begun in 1738, and completed in 1749. Although damaged by fire in 1828, it was still the parish church of San Antonio at the beginning of the Texas Revolution.

The church is associated with several events of the Texas Revolution and the men who were involved in it. In 1831 James Bowie, who died five years later at the Alamo, married Ursula de Veramendi in the church. After the Battle of Concepcion on December 12, 1835, the victory flag was raised in the tower of the church. A few months later Santa Ana had the flag of "no quarter" raised in the same place at the seige and fall of the Alamo.

In February, 1837, Colonel Juan Seguin, instructed by General Sam Houston to give the cremated remains of the defenders of the Alamo a burial with military honors, brought their remains to San Fernando for part of the ceremony. In 1889 Juan Seguin stated that he indeed had buried the casket containing the remains outside the sanctuary railing, near the steps.

Other sites have been recorded as the burial place of the defenders of the Alamo; however, Habig (1968:264) states that "Workmen, doing some repair work in the cathedral in 1936, were digging in this very spot when they came upon a box containing charred bones, particles of coal, rusty nails, shreds of military uniforms, buttons and crushed skulls." No records of this find are available, and the identification of the burial cannot be considered certain, but it is considered possible that the remains of the defenders of the Alamo are still buried in the old part of San Fernando Cathedral.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Alamo Chain of Missions

Marion A. Habig. 1968. Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago.

the Diocese of San Antonio, Texas Carrico and Bowen, San Antonio.

History of the Catholic Church in P.F. Parisot and C.J. Smith. 1897.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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No. 8 SIGNIFICANCE cont.

By 1840 the church was "almost in ruins and was renovated to look as it has in former days" (Habig 1968:265). By 1868 the community of San Antonio had grown to be many times its original size and Candelaria v Guadalupe, by now called San Fernando, was no longer large enough to accommodate the parishioners. The cornerstone of a new church was laid on September 27, 1868. The new church was designed by Francis Giraud. architect of several other notable buildings in the area. The tower and facade of the old church were torn down, together with the choir loft and baptistry, and the new structure added. In 1872, before the completion of the new church, the original cupola collapsed and was rebuilt. The new church was considered completed in 1873, although only the north tower of the new facade had been built. The south tower was constructed sometime after 1890. In short, most of the old church was incorporated within the sanctuary of the new one, and the foundations of the sanctuary walls and bell tower of the old church may still be extant beneath the present floor.

In 1874 the church became a cathedral when it became the center of the new Diocese of San Antonio.

Just after the turn of this century the two towers of the facade were raised some thirty feet, and pinnacles added. In 1922 a chancery and rectory, designed by Leo Dielman, were added to the west end of the cathedral.



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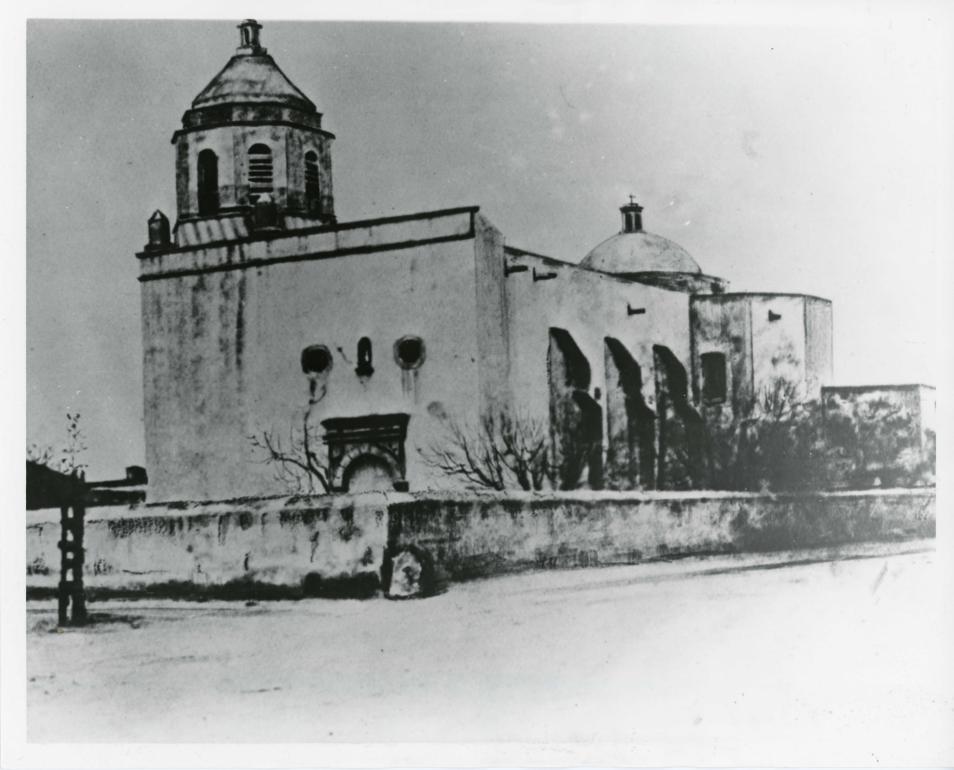
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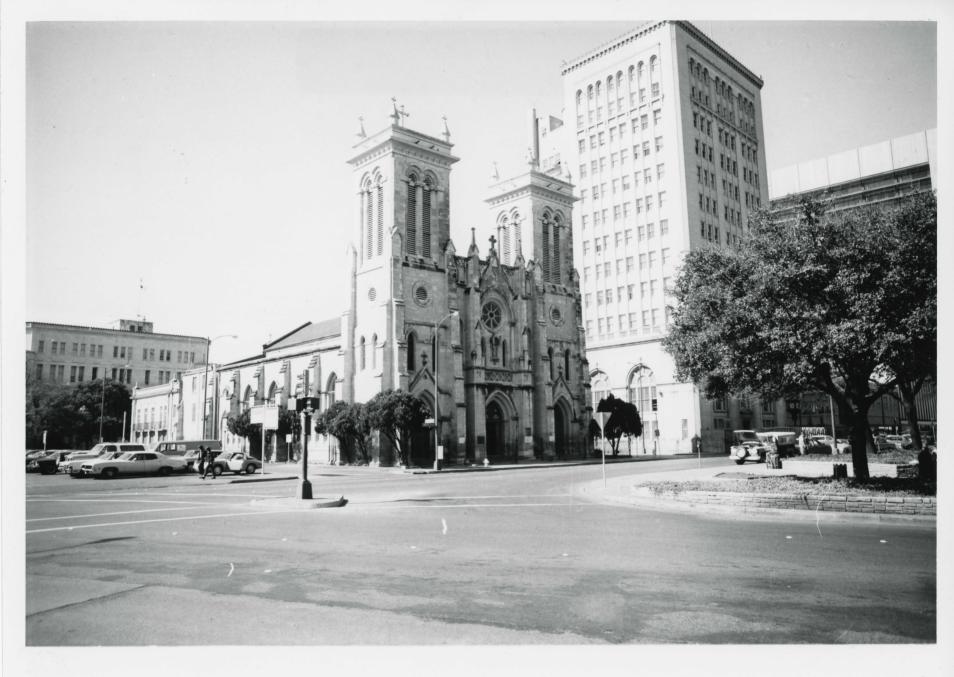
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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
Photo taken from the Southeast

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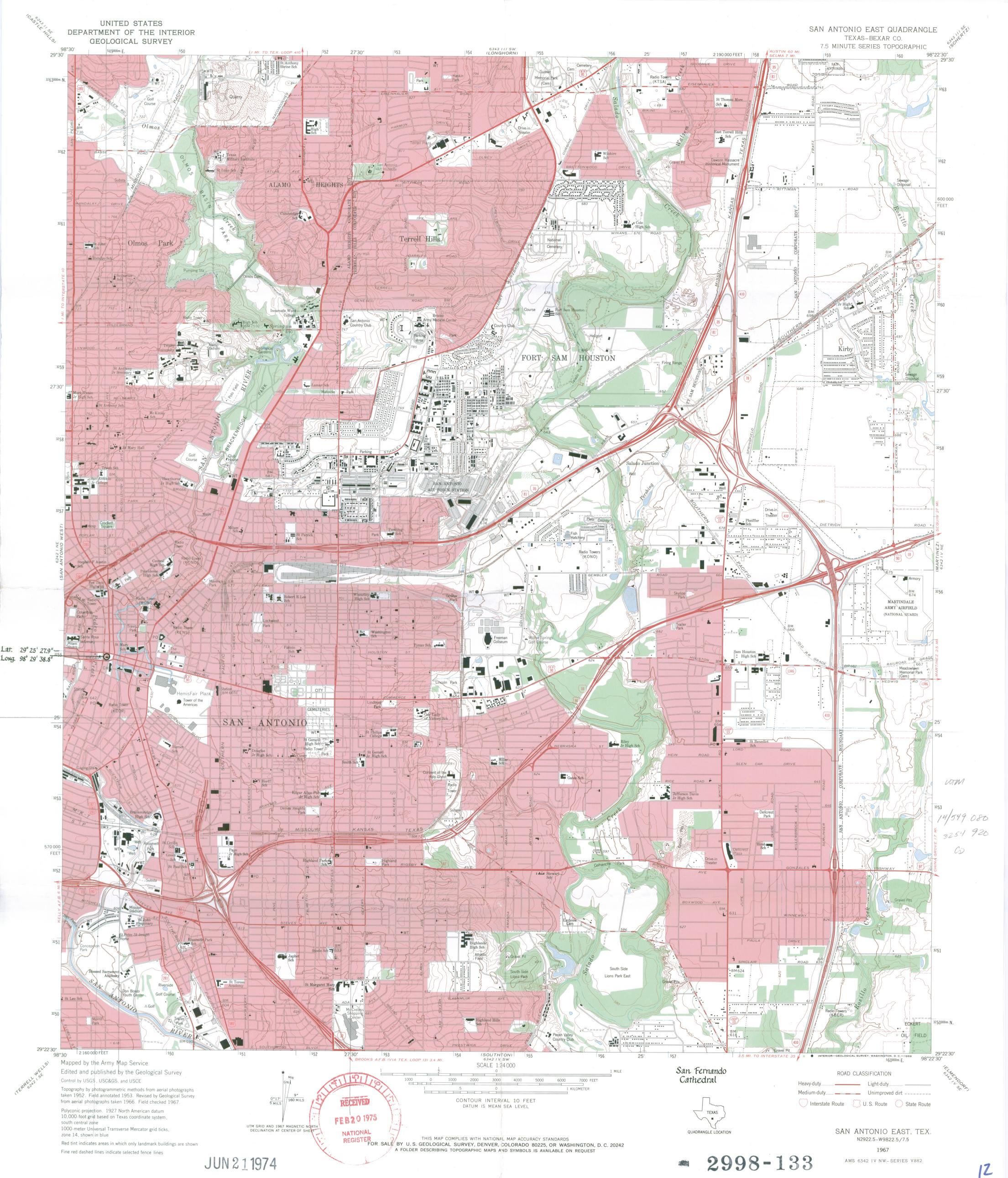
Form 10-301 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 9 1974

Mr. Killis P. Almond, Jr. Ford, Powell, and Carson Architects and Planners, Inc. 528 King William Street San Antonio, Texas 78204

Dear Killis:

It was a great pleasure to see you during my recent trip to San Antonio, and I very much appreciate the time you gave me at San Fernando Cathedral. It is extremely interesting to me to know of the restoration and rehabilitation work taking place there now. If any startling discoveries turn up in the course of your work, I should be very pleased to know about them.

Enclosed are two copies of a drawing which I made a number of years ago in an attempt to reconstruct the original plan of the parish church of San Fernando. Of course you will recognize that all of the structure west of the crossing has been demolished. However, the crossing, apse, sacristy, and entry represent a tracing of the original structure from drawings prepared by Leo Dielman in 1922, when he designed the existing Chancery. This is the best evidence I have from Dielman for the surviving original structure. If I recall correctly, I returned the blueprints to Mr. Dielman many years ago.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you. As you will see, I made estimates of the height of the vaults and the cupola. It was impossible to put up ladders at the time I made these drawings. If you have the opportunity to determine heights, especially from the original floor, I shall be very pleased to have a note of them.

Please accept my compliments on the work you are doing and my best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally Associate Director,

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Professional Services

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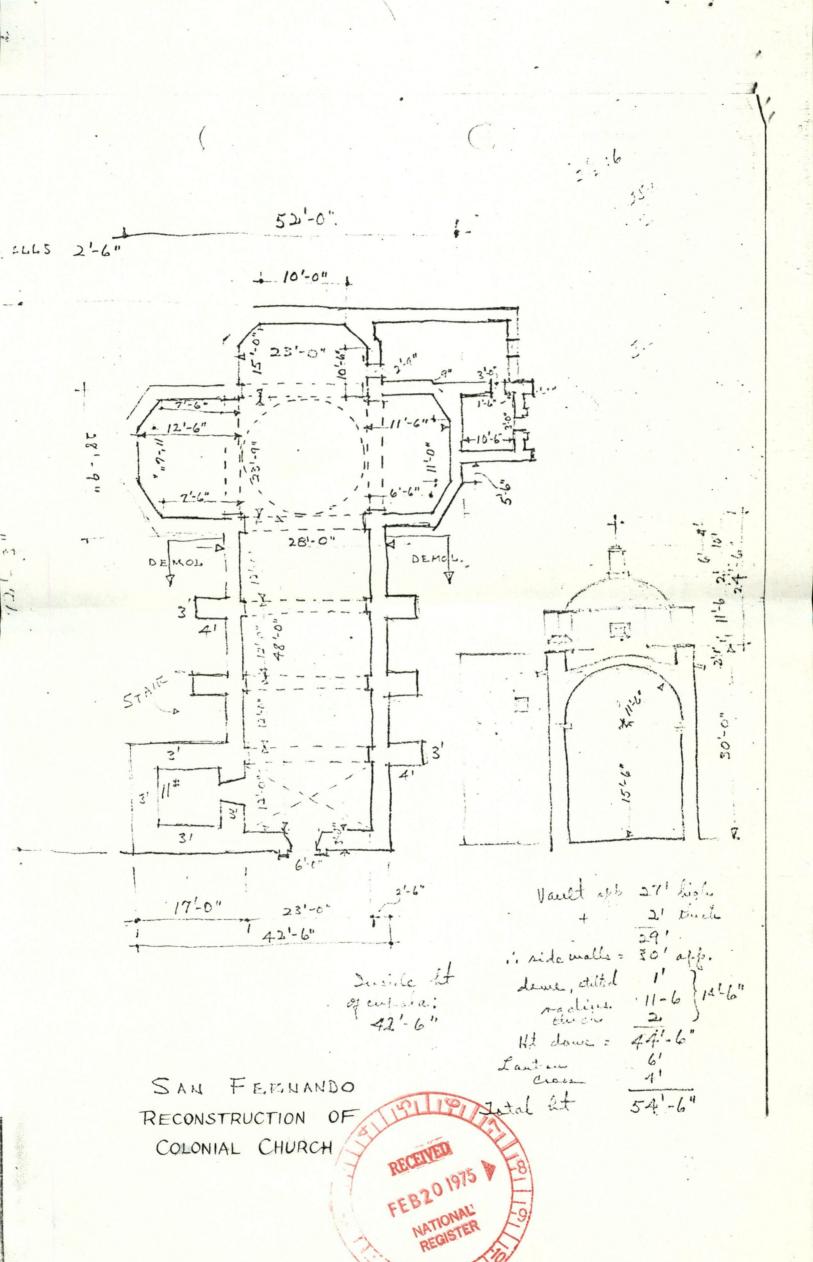
Let's Clean Up America For Our 200th Birthday

Form 10-301 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

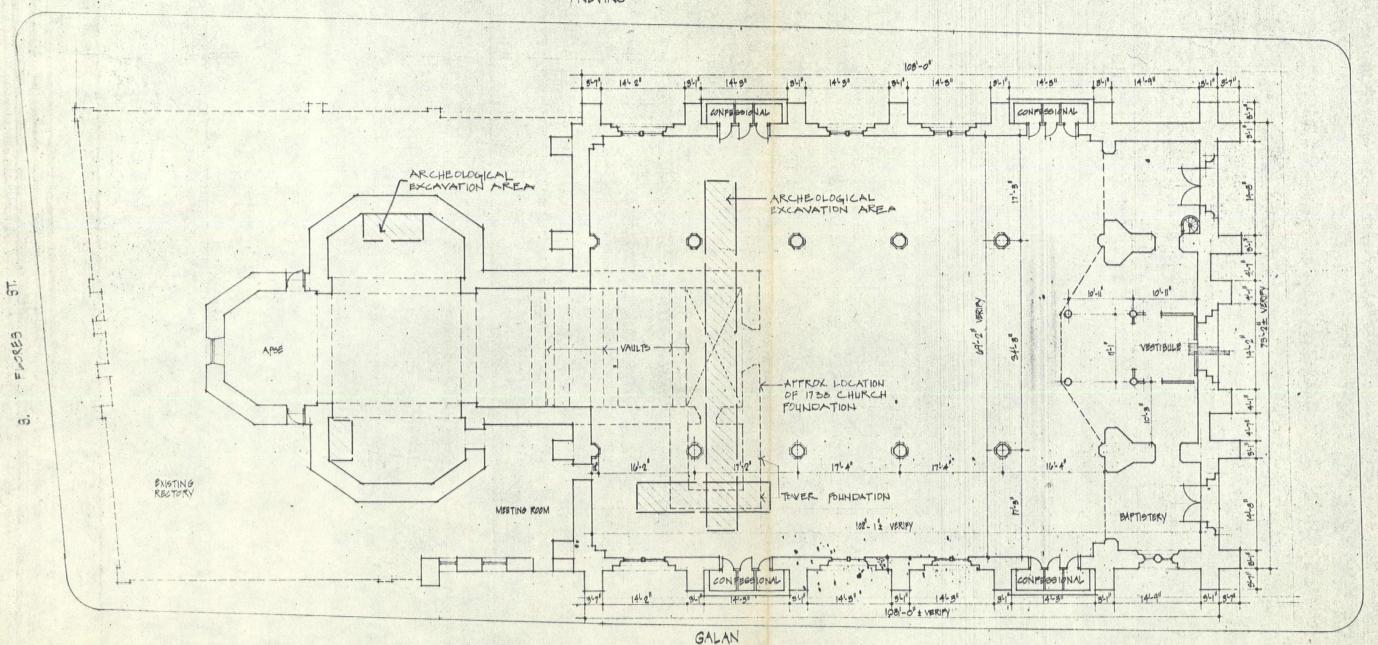
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FEB 2 5 1975

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Church of Muestra Senora de la Candelaria y Guadalupe

San Antonio Bexar County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen Hon. Henry B. Gonzales Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Mistoric Preservation Officer Mr. Truett Latiner Executive Director Texas State Bistorical Survey Conmittee Post Office Box 12276, Capital Station Austin, Texas 78711

DATE: 12. 16. 76 R Data Sheet Reviewer INITIALS: Wesland NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Church of Nuestra Senora de la Candelarie y Guadalupe OTHER NAMES: San Fernando Cathedral - secondau LOCATION: STREET & NUMBER din Town Main Avenue CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT San Antonio VICINITY OF COUNTY STATE TT Bexar OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME) : NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN PACIFIC NORTHWEST FEATURES: ENVIRONS EXTERIOR Substantially intact-1 Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3 _unknown.-5 _unknown -6 _ unknown - 4 _ not applicable - 7 _ not applicable - 8 _ Not applicable-9 -Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0 _UNALTERED LORIGINAL SITE _DETERIORATED __EXCELLENT CONDITION -LGOOD _RUINS ALTERED MOVED _Reconstructed _Unknown _FAIR UNEXPOSED _Unexcavated _Excavated ACCESS -Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown historic district? WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? NO IF YES, NAME: WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? IF YES, NAME: ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES MODHIN BOOK HIIM FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words) SHOOD HOTTEN- CHURCH HURCH OF THE VILLA SAN FERNAL now-SIGNIFICANCE: _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC RELIGION - 22 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __entertainment _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _LAW/Gov't/politics _science __CONSERVATION _health AGRICULTURE _ECONOMICS _LITERATURE recreation ARCHITECTURE -AMILITARY - 18 Lettlement -29 EDUCATION

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architect/m.builder: FRANCIS GIRAUD

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landscape/garden designer:

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artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal-(1) JUAN SEGUIN-(COLONEL)-CONDUCTED MILITARY FUNERAL FOR DEFEN

(label role ERS OF ALAMO (PEB. 1837)

PERNANDO CATHEDRAL. / FEB. 1837 - PART OF FUNERAL SERVICES OF DEFENDERS OF ALAMO HELD.
BURIAL OF CREMATED REMAINS POSSIBLY TOOK PLACE WITHIN CATHEDRAL PRECINCIS.

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1868-43 (1728-1749 - ORIGINAL BLDA.) DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: C. 1900; 1922

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): (83)

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE (to nearest tenth of an acre)

· gacie

Limestone, 2/2 stories, conciform plan, gabled and flat roof sections with shallow lanterned dome over crossing; front center lancet compound arched entrance surmounted by rose window, E twin bell towers with louvered oculi, and paired louvered belfry openings; buttresses, finials and statuary; chancel of original (1728) church incorporated into 1868 building; chancery addition, 1922; Gothic Revival. Domed crossing forms remains of original parish church of the Villa San Fernando De Béxar, first civil settlement in (181) incorporated into present church. the Spanish province of Texas One of the few structures dating from the Spanish Colonial period remaining in Texas. HABS. this is supposed to have a crucian stan

remove + que to bern.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: GOTHIC REVIVAL

architect/m.builder: FRANCIS GIRAUD

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal-(1) JUAN SEGUIN-(COLONEL)-CONDUCTED MILITARY FUNERAL FOR TEFEN (label role ERS OF ALAMO (FEB. 1837)

appropriate date) _

events-1831 - JIM BOWIE (OF MANO FAME) MARRIED VESULA de VERAMENDI IN SAN L. / FEB. 1837 - PART OF FUNERAL SERVICES OF DEFENDERS OF ALAMO HELD. BURIAL OF CREMATED REMAINS POSSIBLY TOOK PLACE WITHIN CATHEDRAL PRECINCIS.

institutional

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1867-43 DATES:

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: C. 1900 : 1922

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1837

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION)

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) LIMESTONE, 21/2 STORIES, RECTANGULAR, GABLED AND FLAT ROOF SECTIONS; E TWIN BELL TOWERS WITH LANCES LOUVE front owner larger compound orched entrance surmounted by ROSE WINDOW, BUTTRESSES, FINIALS CHANCEL INDIANGEMENT UNITED INTO 1868 (1728) CHURCH INCORPORATED INTO 1868 BUILDING I SHALLOW LANTERNED DOME OVER CROSSING; 1922, CHANCELY ADDITION; GOTHIC REVIVAL. DOMED CROSSING FORMS REMAINS OF ORIGINAL PARISH CHURCH OF THE VILLA SAN FERNANDO DE BÉXAR, . FIRST CIVIL SETTLEMENT IN THE SPANISH PROVINCE OF TEXAS. ONE OF THE FEW STRUCTURES DATING FROM THE SPANISH COLONIAL PERIOD REMAINING IN TEXAS. HABS.

This needs to be better organized - the entrance facade begin with the entrance and includes the towers -SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) dome needs to be discussed whosey treatment.

this is supposed to have a cruciform plan

rework + que to Beth.

as plans up