

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 29 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC *ph* Clarksville Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Bounded by West Lynn, Waterston, W. 10th  
and Mo-Pac Expressway

CITY, TOWN Austin VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 10

STATE Texas CODE 048 COUNTY Travis CODE 453

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Travis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Austin STATE Texas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historical Subject Marker & Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1973 & 1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Austin STATE Texas

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set in the rolling hills of West Austin is a small enclave of Blacks, whose ancestors founded a rural settlement in this undeveloped wooded land of the 19th century. In early accounts, Clarksville was described as a "dense, impenetrable cane thicket". The landscape of this area is rough and broken and has been difficult to develop.

Originally the community was composed of a wide scattering of subsistence farms with a few cattle, chickens, and hogs and some light agriculture. As the white neighborhoods grew westward, the density of the community greatly increased. People no longer depended on their farms for subsistence, but were able to find work as laborers and domestics and buy food from nearby stores that appeared in the 1920's and 1930's. Although it is difficult to pinpoint, Clarksville probably reached its peak in number of residents in the 1930's. Since that time the acreage and population of Clarksville have been constantly reduced. Never much wider than its current north/south boundaries, Clarksville originally scattered west as far as a mile or two beyond the Missouri-Pacific railroad tracks. When white suburbs began developing west of the Mo-Pac tracks, Black residents began selling out and moving further east. Clarksville housing still existed west of the tracks until construction began in 1971 on an expressway, which followed the Mo-Pac tracts. The expressway obliterated the western end of the Clarksville community destroying over 60 homes and displacing more than 30 families.

Another critical factor in the reduction of the size of Clarksville was the plan for an east-west crosstown expressway to connect with the north-south expressway. The route was planned to cut through the middle of the Black community. Although the plan for such a thoroughfare has recently been tabled, many Clarksville residents displaced by Mo-Pac felt it would be useless to relocate in Clarksville with the eventual crosstown expressway planned. Of the many families, only 5 or 6 relocated in the west Austin community.

The current boundaries of the historic district enclose a two-block wide strip between Waterston and west 10th, extending the approximate three blocks from West Lynn to the Mo-Pac expressway. The area has continued to be somewhat isolated from the commercial and residential area surrounding it, for until last summer the streets were narrow, gravel roads and did not serve as through streets. The city resurfaced the streets with an oil base surface for the first time last fall.

Housing also displays a different economic level from the encircling neighborhoods. Within Clarksville all of the houses are small,

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one-story, frame or board and batten construction. Most houses show influences of the Victorian period, for instance in their narrow 2/2 or 4/4 light windows, the steep roof pitches, simple Victorian porch trim or turned posts. Some show early 20th century bungalow influences in the porch and column shapes. But none of the houses display a stylistic mode characteristic of wealthier homes. Most were constructed cheaply with available 19th and early 20th century building materials. Additional rooms and porches were added with affordable materials, regardless of design. Of the 98 remaining houses in Clarksville most appear to have been built in the late 19th and early 20th century. Probably a few were built in the mid-20th century, and two houses are of recent construction (within the last 10 years). The housing condition has reached a critical state in Clarksville. Many of the homes have leaking or collapsed roofs and walls, insufficient electricity, poor plumbing and, in some cases, no indoor plumbing at all.

Open spaces within the community are many. Along 10th street residences are located on both sides of the street except for a large green, terraced open space on the south side between Charlotte and Toyath. This vacant land forms the back of the property which once belonged to the Old Confederate Home and is now owned by the University of Texas for married student housing. Because the land rises, however, the student housing is not visible, and the well-kept open land forms an attractive boundary. The only designated park area is the Clarksville playground, operated by the City Parks and Recreation Department, on vacant property between 10th and 11th streets in the 1800 block near the expressway. There are several other open spaces within the community as indicated on the sketch map. Some of the vacant land is undeveloped and other areas are lots bought up by the city in anticipation of the crosstown expressway. An attractive wooded, hilly area on the east end of the 1800 block bounded by west 10th, Toyath, and west 11th is being considered as a city park. A vacant lot at 1004 Charlotte is known as the "tot lot", for its owner, Seymour Washington of the community, allows it to be used by little children as a play area.

Clarksville is made up entirely of residential structures and the community church. In a few cases businesses have periodically located in homes, but there are no commercial buildings in the district. Along West Lynn some houses were torn down in the 20th century to accommodate small commercial structures, but these are excluded from the district boundaries.

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Dominating the district is the wood frame Sweet Home Baptist Church, designed by a Clarksville builder, W. S. Edmerson, the exterior design reflects the simple interior basilican plan. Sheltering the nave is a two-story pitch roofed rectangular mass, creating a tall central space on the interior. Shed roof wings on the east and west facades enclose the side aisles. The shed roofs are attached below a clerestory of five small windows on each side. Built on a sloping lot, the basement level with windows is visible on the east and west facades and the side entrances to the church are reached by raised wooden stairs. On the north (main) facade an attached, one-story gabled porch, with enclosed end bays and an inset gallery between them shelters the central double door. A simple louvered belfry with a low hipped roof rests on the pitch of the porch roof and rises above the roof of the nave. The south (rear) facade displays two full levels. On the ground level are two windows and two double door entrances which enter into the "Fellowship Hall". On the church level are four windows across the back of the nave and a lower flanking window on each side at the end of the aisles. A square vent is located under the gable pitch. The church presently has major foundation problems. Telephone poles grounded in cement are angled against the foundation wall at the rear to stabilize a large bulge in the sliding foundation.

Drainage is a severe problem in Clarksville. The area is traversed by creek washes which carry waste from open storm sewers. Drainage is a major problem, primarily because Clarksville is a receptical for the watershed and storm sewer runoff from adjoining developed areas. Many homes are built in low areas of Clarksville before these surrounding residential areas developed and now often find their houses flooded during period of heavy rainfall.

Aware of the critical situation in the community and the lack of previous services, the City of Austin voted this year to expend \$100,000 of HCD funds toward emergency housing rehabilitation, and \$750,000 toward street engineering and drainage improvements and \$50,000 for park improvements.

There are a few intrusions in the district. The most unsightly one is a mobile home recently moved onto a vacant lot at the corner of 11th street and Charlotte by a local Austin musician. The existence of community

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pride is evident by the number of complaints by local residents regarding his unkept grounds and wandering goats. Another mobile home is located behind a West Lynn street commercial building on an alley between 11th and 12th streets, but the structure is not visible unless one travels down the alley. Located to the east and adjacent to the Haskell House, 1703 Waterston, is the garden lot of a Horticultural Center, a mercantile business located on near-by West Lynn. The lot is not unattractive, simply inconsistent with the regular pattern of residential housing in the district.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clarksville is an historic Black neighborhood, founded as a rural settlement west of Austin in the 1870's. Despite the growth of white suburban neighborhoods surrounding Clarksville in the early 20th century and despite the fact that the predominant Black settlement is now concentrated in the eastern part of the city, the community has survived as a small Black enclave in west Austin. Clarksville represents one of the oldest continuous neighborhoods in the city. Unlike the eventual decline of some older neighborhoods, Clarksville has been occupied continuously by new generations, maintaining a sense of lineal stability. The settlement has been the home of working class and farming Blacks, in addition to prominent Black leaders. Set apart from the rest of west Austin by its narrow unpaved streets, extremely modest frame and board and batten, one-story houses, and wooded undeveloped lots, the area is a visually identifiable district. More important, however, is the fact that this neighborhood, symbolizing the struggle of Black families in 19th century Austin to create a new life and community of their own, remains intact despite 20th century threats. Clarksville represents an epoch of ethnic history that figures prominently into the development of Austin.

Following Emancipation in Texas many Blacks deserted the plantations and entered cities in search of employment, educational opportunities and military protection. In Austin, as in other cities, this situation created a desperate need for affordable housing. Black leaders, such as Rev. Jacob Fontaine, an Austin minister, went to white land agents seeking to get large portions of property subdivided and sold to freedmen so they could build their own houses. One of the most influential aids to the Blacks was the Freedman's Bureau, established by Congress in 1865 to assist the newly-freed slaves and impoverished whites. Operating in Texas for four years, one of the organization's consistent pleas was to urge Black families to avoid the oppressive rent system.

On August 11, 1871, Charles (Griffin) Clark bought two acres of land from N. G. Shelly west of the city of Austin on what is today west 10th street. A former slave, Clark had chosen the surname as his freeman's name. The community was later named in honor of this man who founded the Black community. His land formed the nucleus of the community that Clark, according to tradition, wanted to found for newly-freed men and women,

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giving them the opportunity to direct their own lives with the support and encouragement of their friends.

The land on which Clark settled was about a half a mile south of an 1850's Greek Revival Mansion on an adjoining plantation owned by E.M. Pease, the Governor of Texas from 1853 to 1857, a Union sympathizer during the Civil War and later a Reconstruction Governor. Local residents contend that in the 1870's Pease gave several lots in Clarksville to some of his former slaves. It is possible that part of this area could have been used for slave quarters prior to the Civil War, for the boundaries of the old Pease property are adjacent to the Clarksville community. The friendly relationship between Pease and Clarksville residents continued over the years. A Christmas party for Clarksville children was given annually on the Pease Estate and frequently the Juneteenth (Texas Emancipation Day) festivities would be celebrated there.

Many black settlers followed Clark in the 1870's to the location west of Austin. Essex Carrington bought land on Waterston street from Max Mass on December 9, 1872. Mr. Carrington worked on the Negro staff of the Washington Hose Company, an early fire department. The Carrington family members have been continuous residents of Clarksville. Essex's grandson, Rev. H. J. Carrington, a longtime minister and a community organizer and leader, died just a few years ago and his wife resides at 1715 Waterson. Jim Morris moved into Clarksville in 1876 and his house stood until just recently on west 11th street. Morris worked for Governor Pease on the Pease Estate.

In 1875 Rose Walker bought land in the area of west 11th and Essex Ave. When Mrs. Walker and her husband died they deeded the property to their foster daughter Bettie Bryant. Mrs. Bryant's husband, Reason, was employed at the Round Rock stone quarry and was also trustee of the community church. Reason and Bettie Bryant, in turn, willed their property to their daughter Lillian Bryant Edmerson. In 1921, Willis S. Edmerson, a contractor, settled in Clarksville after marrying Lillian. Edmerson later drew up the plans for rebuilding the present Clarksville church, in addition to building several homes in the community.

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He was also responsible for several other buildings in Austin, including the First New Mount Olive Church, Rosewood Church, St. Peter's Methodist Church and McKinley Heights Church. Mrs. Edmerson still lives at the corner of west 11th and Old Essex Avenue.

Perhaps the oldest house in the district is at 1703 Waterston. The property was purchased January 1, 1875, by a former slave named Peter Tucker, and the house was probably built shortly afterward. The house was owned by a succession of residents until Hezekiah Haskell, a former Union soldier from Baltimore, married into the family that lived there in 1885. Haskell had come to Texas as a "Buffalo Soldier", and member of the Black Cavalry Units that were brought to Texas in the 1870's and 1880's to fight the Indians. His son, also named Hezekiah, continued to reside in the house until his death in January, 1976, at the age of 93.

One of the most prominent Black leaders to live in Clarksville was Elias Mayes, who served two terms as a State Legislator from Brazos County. Elias Mayes was one of 8 Black Legislators to the 16th Legislative session in 1870 and one of only 2 Black Legislators to the 21st session in 1889. Mayes was born in Conecuh County, Alabama, in 1831. He came to Texas in 1863, settling first in Montgomery County. In 1866 he moved to Brazos County where he farmed and served as pastor of his neighborhood church. Elias purchased two lots on west 10th street in Austin from Charles Clark in 1884. His son, Ben May (at some time the last two letters were dropped on the name) lived on the original property at 1624 west 10th until his death in 1975.

Until the 1930's Clarksville was surrounded by a wooded area. White families began building in west Austin as early as the 1880's, but the main housing area was still about a mile east of the black community and there were no through roads to Clarksville. Just to the south of Clarksville a home for Confederate veterans was built in the 1880's and was in continual use until the last residents died in the late 1960's. The home provided employment for some Clarksville residents, and according to local stories, the two groups proved compatible neighbors.



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Probably the most significant force binding the community together since the 1880's has been the community church, Sweet Home Baptist Church. As soon as people began settling in Clarksville, they informally organized the church. Edmund and Mary Smith began holding prayer meetings in their home. These became the basis for community interaction and exchange. On July 1, 1882, land for the church was bought by the Clarksville residents for \$50.00 cash. The first meetings on the church property were held under a brush arbor and the church was built shortly afterward. The church building has been rebuilt three times, the last time in 1935. According to the plan of local resident, W. S. Edmerson, the 1935 structure faces north on 11th street. The church has bound the Clarksville together throughout its history. Serving as the meeting place for community organizations, as well as for religious purposes, Sweet Home serves as the focal point of the neighborhood.

The minister of Sweet Home has always played a central role in the political, social and religious life of the community. Many of these ministers have become recognized leaders outside of the community, as well. Rev. Jacob Fontaine, an early organizer of Sweet Home Baptist Church was a leader in unifying the Negro Baptist churches in Austin and founded the first Austin Black newspaper, "The Gold Dollar". In the late 1940's and 1950's the pastor of Sweet Home Baptist Church, Rev. W. L. Holland, won national fame as a welfare worker and organizer. He founded the West Side Community House, whose goal was to train and find employment for Negro domestics. In the late 1950's he helped organize a neighborhood child care center, clinic, etc.

Another important element in Clarksville was the Clarksville school. The first school classes were taught by Maggie Mayes, wife of Elias Mayes. Known as "Pay School", classes were first held in the Mayes Home and later in the church building. In 1917 a structure was built on the lot now serving as the Clarksville playground and this public school was called the Clarksville Colored School. It served grades 1-6, after which Clarksville children were bussed to East Austin to attend Junior and Senior High School. Periodic enrollment counts taken in 1924, 1934, and 1940, respectively, show 69, 66, and 70 students. The school, for those years staffed by all Black teachers and a Black principal, served as an important educational and unifying element in the growing

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community. The school was moved in the 1960's and the children were absorbed into surrounding schools.

The semi-rural atmosphere that surrounded and isolated Clarksville during the first 50 years of its existence began changing dramatically in the 1920's and 1930's. During the 1920's R. Niles Graham, inheritor of the Pease Estate began to subdivide the former Pease land into an exclusive subdivision known as the "Enfield Addition". Large two-story mansions and wealthy residents began appearing in this area while more modest homes were built immediately to the east of Clarksville. New employment advantages existed for Clarksville residents, but city improvements to the surrounding subdivisions were not extended to the Black neighborhood. In fact, by 1928 the city accepted a Master Plan which recommended "that all the facilities and conveniences be provided the Negroes in East Austin, as an incentive to draw the Negro population to the area". While this Master Plan was eliminated in favor of a new one in 1954, only a minimal amount of city services have been provided to Clarksville.

Prior to 1971 the Clarksville community spread several blocks west of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad tracts. Many residents sold their property west of the tracts as white suburbs spread further west. But the most devastating force to the community came in 1971 when a north-south expressway began construction on either side of the Mo-Pac tracks and nearly 1/3 of the Clarksville houses were razed to accomodate the transportation route. Another major threat came when the City voted in 1972 to build an east-west crosstown expressway to connect with the Mo-Pac expressway. The route was planned to cut through the center of the narrow Clarksville district, effectively eliminating the neighborhood. Due to a sympathetic study done by The University of Texas Architecture department, adverse public reaction, and sharp inflationary price increases, the plan has been tabled, but has not yet been eliminated from the City Master Plan.

Courageously, Clarksville has withstood the innumerable 20th century encroachments. Of the 6 or 7 comparable Black enclaves that survived through the early 20th century in various locations throughout the city, only Clarksville and a small Black neighborhood in northeast Austin remain. Now the most critical threat to the community's survival is the deteriorating condition of its homes and the terrible condition of its

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streets and drainage system. With the increased publicity about Clarksville's heritage and a growing awareness of the community's pride and unity, the city has committed itself to a major effort at rehabilitation. Housing and Community Development funds for 1976 have been voted to the area for housing rehabilitation, street and drainage improvements, and park improvements. By working closely with Clarksville residents and historical groups, the city hopes to assist the neighborhood in achieving a new vitality without losing its old identity.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brewer, J. Mason, Negro Legislators of Texas, Reprinted by Jenkins Publ. Co., Pemberton Press, Austin, 1970. (Original, Dallas, 1935)  
 "Clarksville," an historical booklet prepared by several UT students, Univ. of Texas School of Architecture, Austin, 1969.  
 Henneberger, John, an unpublished historical monograph, Austin, 1976.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 4	6, 1, 9, 3, 6, 0	3, 3, 5, 0, 6, 3, 0	B	1, 4	6, 1, 9, 3, 6, 0	3, 3, 5, 0, 1, 3, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1, 4	6, 1, 8, 2, 5, 0	3, 3, 5, 0, 1, 3, 0	D	1, 4	6, 1, 8, 2, 5, 0	3, 3, 5, 0, 6, 3, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*See continuation sheet*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Marie D. Landon, Historian  
 Joe R. Williams, Project Director

ORGANIZATION	Texas Historical Commission	DATE	4-20-76
STREET & NUMBER	Box 12276 Capitol Station	TELEPHONE	512 475-3094
CITY OR TOWN	Austin	STATE	Texas

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

*[Signature]*  
 SIGNATURE

TITLE Texas State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 4-26-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Acting	DATE 9/12/76
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST	DATE 6-25-76
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
RBR for WJM 7/8/76	

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Clarksville verbal boundary description:

The <sup>eastern</sup> western boundary of Clarksville is marked by the feeder road of the Missouri-Pacific expressway extending from west 12th street on the north to a few feet beyond west 10th street on the south. The southern boundary extends from this point on Newfield south down west 10th including the houses on both the north and south sides of the street, but excluding the vacant property on the south side of 10th street between Charlotte and Toyath. At the end of the residential lots of west 10th the eastern boundary begins and extends north to west 12th behind the few feet of commercial property on west Lynn. The northern boundary starts at west 12th and proceeds west for one block. At Charlotte street the line turns north for a half a block until it reaches Waterston. At Waterston the district boundary continues west along Waterston until it reaches Newfield.

Property Clarksville Historic District

State Texas Working Number 4.29.76.3229

*Travis*  
*Ref. # 76002070*

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 15  
Maps 2

*CFD Hastings appears incorrect*

**CONTROL**

*OK* *pl*  
*5.3.76*

*Of the nearly 100 structures in the district only 5 are modern according to Marie Langdon (called 5-19-76). Of that five, one is a mobile home that will probably be moved. The district hangs together quite well. Well written nomination.*

**HISTORIAN**

*Accept*  
*E. Smith*  
*5-19-76*

*The boundary description is not correct according to the map. Also, I'm sure that usually it's not ideal, but it does seem to hang together as a community-district.*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*Accept*  
*MJ. Huby*  
*5-19-76*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
*Colz*  
*5.19.76*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*Stungt*  
*6.25.76*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered JUL 12 1976  
Federal Register Entry 8-3-76 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



1807,1805,1801 W. 10th (r. to l.)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Northwest oblique of houses on W. 10th  
across from Clarksville Playground  
Photo #1

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1





170-A

1710-A, 1710-B, 1710-C W. 10th (l. to r.)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique of houses down an alley  
between Charlotte & Toyath Sts. on  
W. 10th  
Photo #2

JUL 12 1976

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#2



1622, 1624 W. 10th (r.to l.) (3)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique of 1622 (former Chas.  
Clark property) & 1624 (former Elias  
Mayes property) W. 10th

Photo #3

APR 29 1976

JUL 12 1976

APR 9 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#3



1608, 1610, 1612 W. 11th, l.to r. (4)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique of row of houses  
on W. 11th St.

Photo #4

JUL 12 1976

APR 29 1976



1615 W. 12th St. (5)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique of Seymore Washington  
Home, 1615 W. 10th

Photo #5

JUL 12 1976

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#5





1625 & 1629 W. 12th St. (6)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique of houses on  
W. 12th St.

Photo #6

JUL 12 1976

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#6



1104 & 1200 Charlotte (7)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique of houses facing  
east on Charlotte St.

Photo #7

JUL 12 1976

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#7



1720, 1722 W. 11th St. (8)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique of 1720 & 1722  
W. 11th  
Photo #8

APR 29 1976

JUL 12 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#8



1711 & 1713 W. 11th St. (9)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique of two houses on the  
south side of W. 11th

Photo #9

JUL 12 1976

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#9





SWEET HOME BAPTIST  
-CHURCH-

1850  
SWEET HOME BAPTIST CHURCH  
This church was built in 1850 and is one of the oldest in the county. It is a fine example of the early wooden church architecture of the region.

Sweet Home Baptist Church (10)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique of the church  
Photo #10

APR 29 1976

#10



SWEET HOME BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Sweet Home Baptist Church (10)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Northwest oblique of the church  
Photo #11

JUL 12 1976

APR 29 1976



1806 W. 11th (11)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique of house on the  
north side of W. 11th  
Photo #12

JUL 12 1976

APR 29 1976

CLARKSVILLE  
PLAYGROUND



1821, 1823 W. 11th (12)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique of two houses on the  
west side of the Clarksville  
Playground  
Photo #13

JUL 12 1976

APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#13





1815 Waterston (13)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

North elevation of one of the early  
structures on Waterston St.

Photo #14

APR 29 1976

JUL 12 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#14





Haskell House, 1703 Waterston (14)  
Clarksville Historic District  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Mike Yancey, March 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

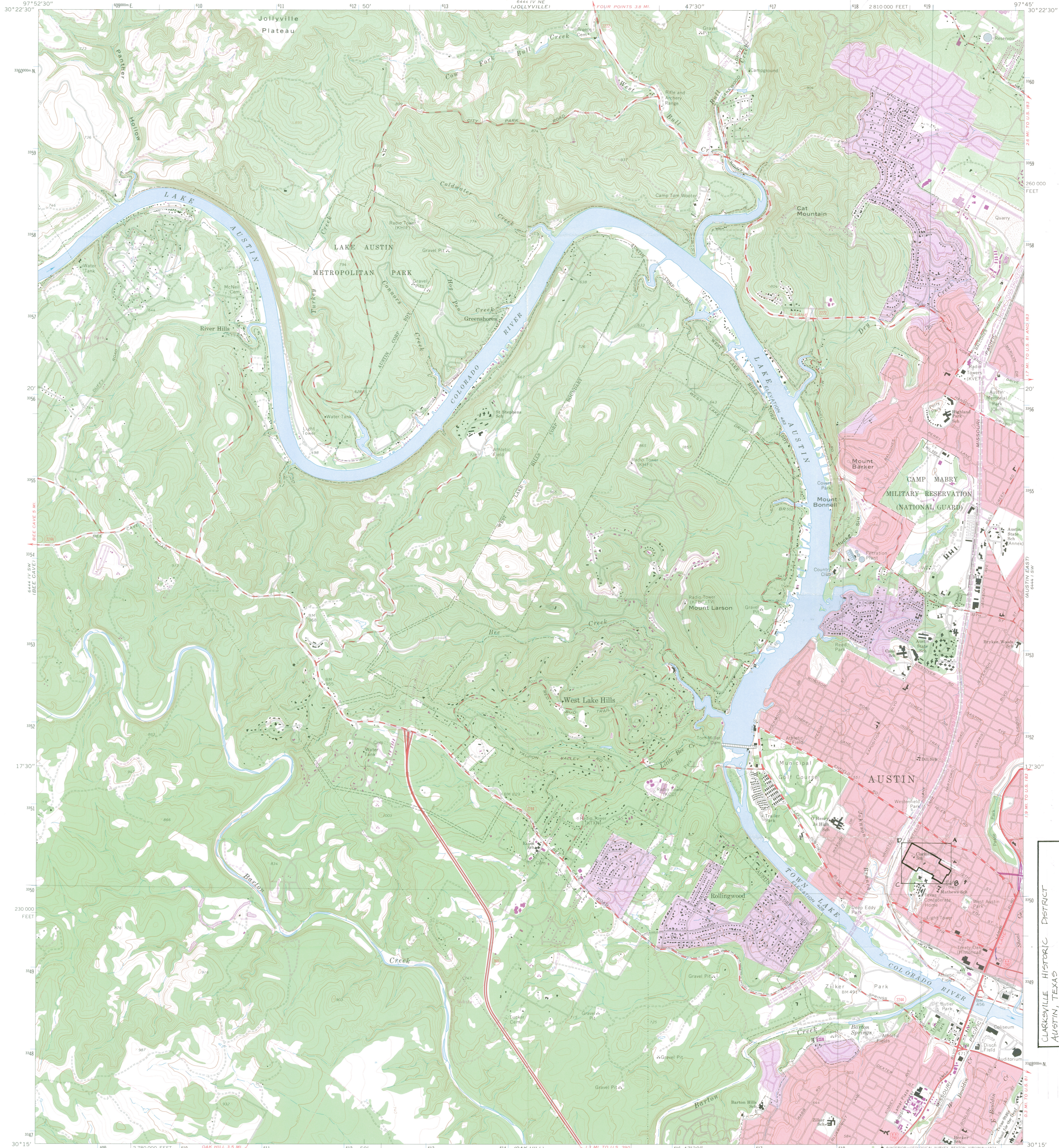
North elevation of the Haskell House,  
possibly the oldest house in  
the district  
Photo #15

JUL 12 1976

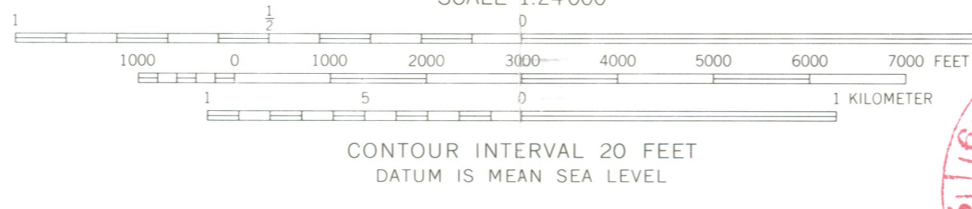
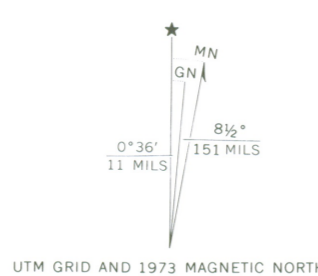
APR 29 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#15



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1954. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,  
central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 14, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1973. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

AUSTIN WEST, TEX.  
SE/4 LAKE TRAVIS 19' QUADRANGLE  
N3015—W9745/7.5

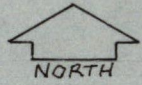
1966  
PHOTOREVISED 1973  
AMS 6444 IV SE—SERIES V882

MAR 14 1975

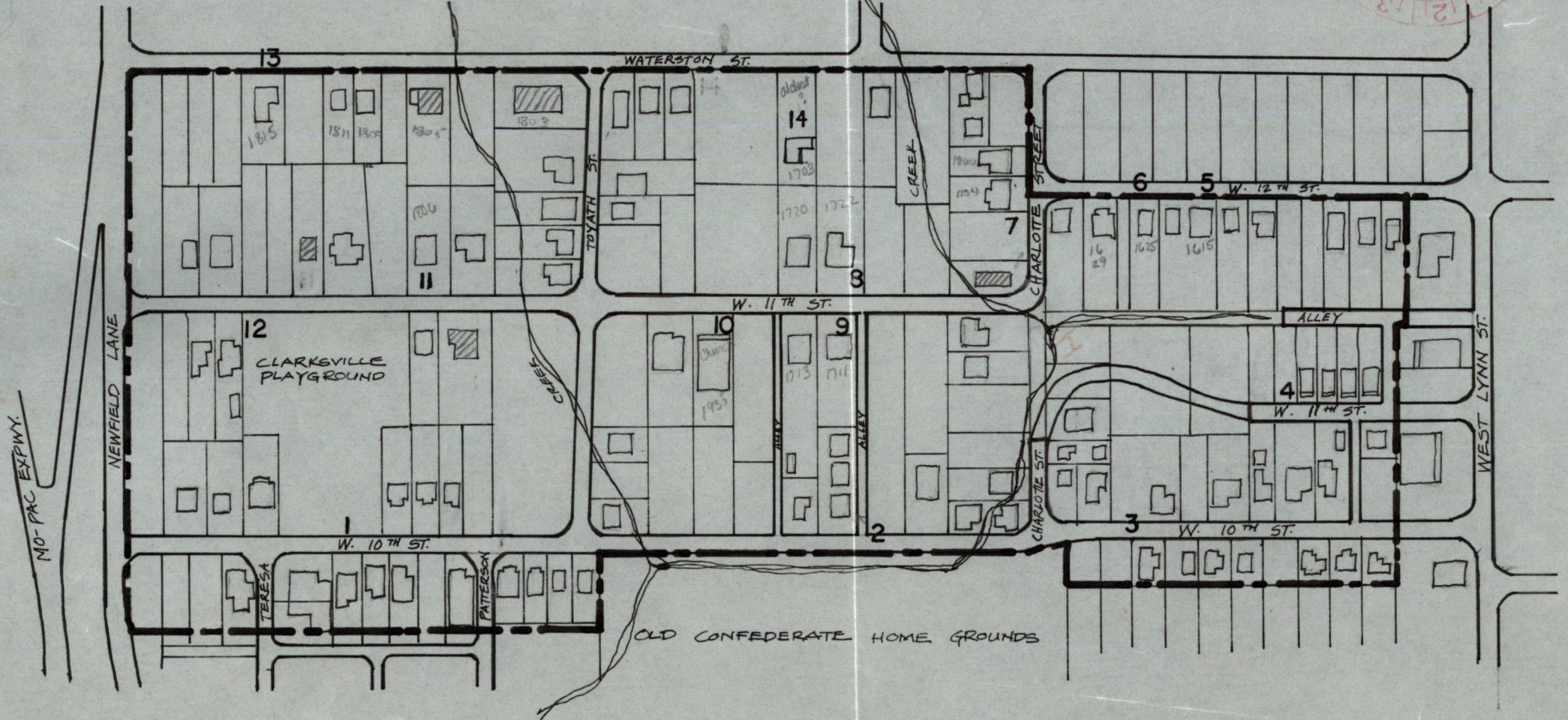
3097-231

CLARKSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
U.T.M. REFERENCES  
A-14 19 350 / 3350 130  
B-14 19 350 / 3350 130  
C-14 16 8250 / 3350 130

# CLARKSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT



NO SCALE



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      TEXAS

Date Entered      JUL 12 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Trost, Henry C., House	El Paso El Paso County
Kohl, Ernst Martin, Building	Denison Grayson County
Colorado County Courthouse	Columbus Colorado County
Austin "Moonlight Towers"	Austin Travis County
San Antonio Loan and Trust Building	San Antonio Bexar County
Clarksville Historic District	Austin Travis County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen	Mr. Truett Latimer
Hon. Richard C. White	Executive Director
Hon. Ray Roberts	Texas Historical Commission
Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle	P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez	Austin, Texas 78711
Regional Director, Southwest Region	

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 5-17-76  
Reviewer INITIALS: MTL  
NR DOB JUL 12 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Clarksville Historic District

OTHER NAMES:

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: Bounded by W. Lynn, Waterson, W. 10th + MO-PAC Expressway

CITY, TOWN: Austin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10th

STATE: TX

VICINITY OF: 048 Multiple

COUNTY: Travis code: 453

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):

FEDERAL AGENCY NAME:

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1 unknown-4 not applicable-7  
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2 unknown-5 not applicable-8  
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3 unknown-6 Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED Unexcavated  
UNALTERED ALTERED Reconstructed Excavated  
ORIGINAL SITE MOVED Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES partially NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- community

now- residential area / community

## SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN 24
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY) Black history
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural 36
- urban & commun planning

## Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO



ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor: 2. W.S. Edmerson

ETHNIC GROUP: Black

builder of Sweet Home Baptist Church, 1935

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

Rev. Jacob Fontaine - black leader who made early attempts to secure land for settlement for freedmen

Charles (Griffin) Clark - purchased original section of Clarksville from N.G. Shelly

E. m. Pease - nearby plantation owner sympathetic to Clarksville settlers

Peter Tucker - former slave who may have built oldest standing house

Herzekiah Haskell - married into Tucker family, Buffalo soldier

institutional

Elias Mayo - prominent Black leader, served 2 terms as state legislator from Brazos Co.

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 3rd 1/4 19th C. -> mid 20th C.

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) 30.5

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Predominantly residential area containing 1935 pivotal church structure, playground, and 98 extant late-19th <sup>mostly 1-1 1/2 story frame structures</sup> - early 20th c. dwellings (some masonry), the majority of which are small, frame, 1-1 1/2 story structures. The structures are characterized by their <sup>poor</sup> ~~modest condition~~ and the district is generally characterized by a feeling of deterioration <sup>sense</sup> and <sup>and</sup> evidenced by the drainage problems, <sup>and</sup> condition of structures, <sup>and</sup> vacant lots. <sup>Some deterioration</sup>

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Remains of early black community settled by freedmen during 19th c. The ~~identity of the community is important here~~ - still black, it serves as a reminder of the efforts of freedmen to establish a community.