Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77) PHO 66384

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FEB 28 DATA SHEET

1 1 1978

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CONDITION

__EXCELLENT __DETERIORATED

__GOOD ___RUINS

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MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set in Houston's oldest sector of the business district, one building down from the Old Cotton Exchange Building, and just around the corner from Old Market Square, the Foley Building is in a prime location to provide support for the rejuvenation of this historic area in Texas' largest city.

The building's brick and stone-trimmed, three-bay, three-story facade faces southeast on Travis Street. While the ground floor has been altered by large expanses of sheet glass, the sidewalk canopy, supported on thin cast-iron columns, is a typical feature of urban architecture of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The second and third stories are symmetrically arranged with four 2-over-2 double-hung sash windows per story separated by insized piers, with a corbelled cornice between second and third story, and punctuated by limestone medallions on the outer pilasters defining each bay. The third story windows are arched with limestone keystones, voussoirs and imposts. The corbelled limestone parapet topping the facade conceales the flat roof behind, slanting slightly to the rear of the building.

The only feature that sets the third bay, 1889 addition, apart from the original "recycled" two bays is that it is somewhat shorter in height, with the two being joined by a double set of pilasters, identical in detail, but off-set in height, as opposed to a single pilaster joining the two original bays. The parapet may have been topped with a cornice that has since been removed.

Harris County Courthquee

Report of Community Development Division, Planning

The building sustained substantial fire damage in May, 1976, and is presently unoccupied.

PERIOD	AR			
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	X COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY _INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1860: 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eugene T. Heiner, arch. (1889)

John Lucas, A. C. Moran, contrs.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Just around the corner from Old Market Square in downtown Houston, and separated by one building from a National Register structure, the Old Cotton Exchange Building, the W. L. Foley building has played a distinctive role in the Houston business district since 1860. After John Kennedy, an early merchant and Indian trader, built the building in 1860, it served as a Confederate armory during the Civil War, and survived 1 looting and damage inflicted by Confederate veterans and a fire in 1888 which destroyed about half the building, as well as a fire in 1976 which damaged the two upper stories and caused water damage to the ground floor. The existing three-bay Victorian facade and addition were designed in 1889 by Eugene T. Heiner (1852-1901), also the architect of the nearby Cotton Exchange Building, and built by John Lucas and A. C. Moran, principal contractors. Two years earlier ownership of the building had passed to W. L. Foley, the "dean of Houston dry goods mer-chants" and son-in-law of John Kennedy. W. L. Foley Dry Goods Co. was operated in the building until 1948. Then it remained vacant for several years until it became the home of a lively entertainment establishment, the Village Inn Pizza Parlor, in the late 1960's and early 1970's, when an effort began to rejuvenate the Old Market Square area. The building that is thought to be the oldest commercial building in the city at its original site is in the same block with the Foley and Old Cotton Exchange Buildings, at 813 Congress.

Old Market Square, around the corner from the Foley Building, is thought to be the earliest open-market type, central trading area in Houston, and was the site of the earlier city hall for the city of Houston. Due to the popularity of this site, many merchants deliberately located their permanent structures as close to the square as possible.

After a fire in August, 1860, destroyed most of the block on which the Foley Building now stands, including Kennedy's Trading Post, which John Kennedy had established in 1843, Kennedy had a three-story brick building, 100 feet long by 80 feet deep, erected at the intersection of Congress at Travis, facing Travis. The 1860 building had four 25' by 80' bays, with Kennedy's Trading Post occupying the Congress corner quarter of the building.

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Having served as a Confederate armory during the war, the building was looted by a group of Confederate veterans seeking cartridges and lead after the South surrendered. Kennedy pleaded with the looters to stop, but to no avail. They were scattering gun powder throughout the building and he feared the danger of an explosion or fire. Finally he hired men and teams of horses to flood the building with water, load the powder and ammunition on drays and dump them off the Milam St. Bridge into Buffalo Bayou.

With Kennedy's death in 1878, ownership of the building went to his children. His daughter, Mary Frances, had married a Houston dry goods merchant, William L. Foley, in 1873.

Another fire in 1888 destroyed the northern two bays of the building. Foley's name was on the recycled Kennedy building and addition when its brick three-bay facade was added in 1889, but he did not move his business there until 1896. Foley inherited part of the property from his wife, Mary Frances, when she died in 1886, and bought the other part from her brother, John Kennedy, Jr.

Foley was known as the "dean of Houston dry goods merchants" because so many young men learned the trade from him, such as his nephews, James A. and Pat Foley, who immigrated to Houston from Ireland to work under him. James and Pat founded Foley Bros. in 1900, an organization still prospering as part of the Federated Stores chain.

When W. L. Foley died in 1925, the property was divided equally among his three children. W. L. Foley Dry Goods Co. continued to operate under the supervision of the children until 1948. The last of the children, Blanche, died in 1963, leaving the property to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. The building remained vacant for several years after the clothing store closed.

While housing the Village Inn Pizza Parlor in May, 1976, a fire caused major damage to parts of the second and third floors and water damage to the first floor. The building is owned by Jazz Palace, Inc., with Gregory J. Gallagher as president. It is now vacant.

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PAGE

Houston Daily Post

Harris County Clerk, Deed Records of Harris County

Market Square Gazette

Houston Post

Houston, A History and Guide, American Guide Series, Anson Jones Press, Houston, 1942.

Report of Community Development Division, Planning and Programming Section, City of Houston, 1976.

Oral interviews:

Mrs. Austin C. Wilson, Harris County Heritage Society research specialist (who provided Harris County Deed Record material), September 16, 1976.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Anton J. Frank, pastor of Annunciation Church, September 15, 1976.

Gregory J. Gallagher, president of Jazz Palace, Inc., September 17, 1976.

Unpublished historical monograph by A. Pat Daniels, Member, Harris County Historical Commission, P. O. Box 694, Houston, Texas.

Property Faley, W. L. Building	78002942
State JN. Working Number 2, 28, 78, 2588	
TECHNICAL	CONTROL
Photos Maps	OK 3.1.78
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8/0- per Bout Handy 's call: no damage to fore owner just wants to sell out. State consider this on important resource in one of last a low-density historic zones of Hanston	HOCEPT
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National Register Write-up Send-back Federal Register Entry Re-submit	Entered



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. L. Foley Building
214-218 Travis Street
Houston, Harris Co., Texas
Texas Historical Commission
by Danny Hardy, May 1978
Southeast elevation

OCT 1 1 1978

102

10-5-78



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTED

W. L. Foley Building

Houston, Harris County, Texas

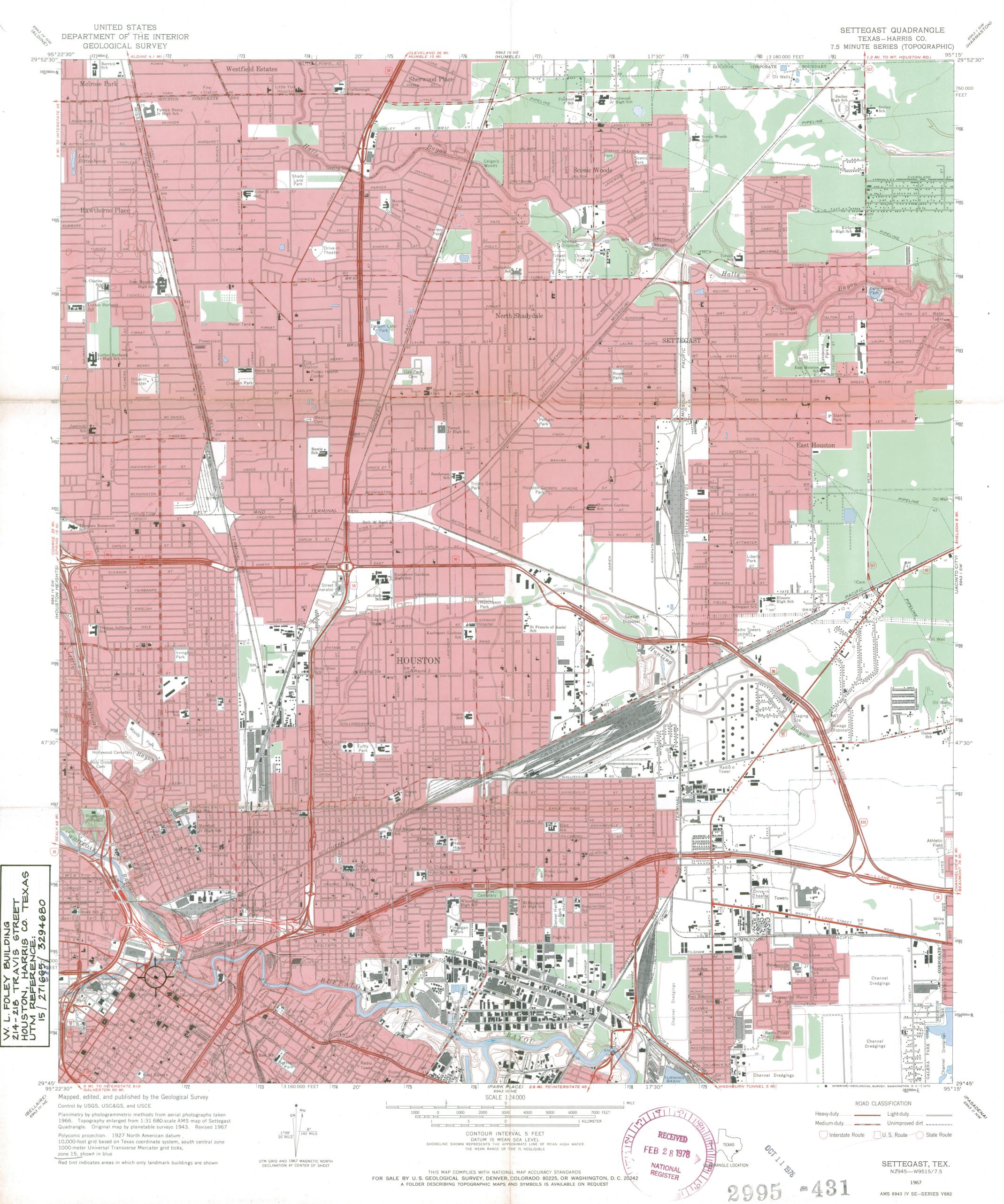
Tex. Hist. Com., 1971

Southeast elevation

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292

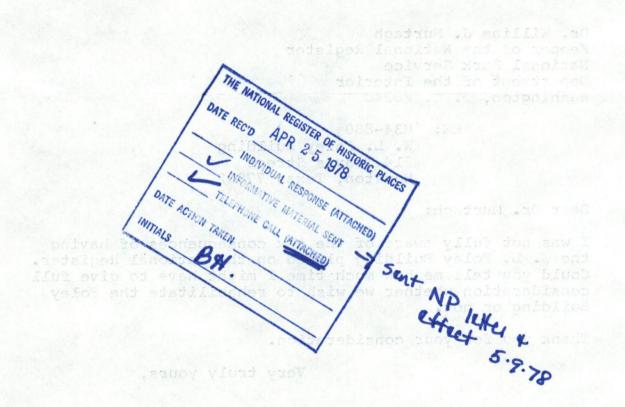


GREGORY J. GALLAGHER PHONE 225-9363 311 SAN JACINTO BUILDING HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002 April 20, 1978 Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20240 H34-880 RE: W. L. Foley Building 214 Travis Street Houston, Texas 77002 Dear Dr. Murtagh: I was not fully aware of the tax consequences of having the W. L. Foley Building placed on the National Register. Could you tell me how much time I might have to give full consideration whether we wish to rehabilitate the Foley Building or not. Thank you for your consideration. Very truly yours, Gregory J. Gallagher GJG/b

SOM PURE USA

HEGORY AT GALLACHER
PHONE 222 2242
211 LANGUAGO SULCHUS
HOUSTON TEXAS 77802

April 20. 1978



Aregoray J. Gallagher

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EACLESA Chora Somatabooks

WASO-166 (August 1921)	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE		DATE 5.1.78
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WASO-166 (August 1971)	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE I	ICE	TIME OF CALL 12: 20 PM
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT :	TIME OF CALL
1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)	
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Foley Blg.	
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Group in Houston is buying Danny will put Gallagher in tou	UP 6195 like this
State wants to see it listed	

NP

you.

GREGORY J. GALLAGHER PHONE 225-9363 311 SAN JACINTO BUILDING HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

May 12, 1978

11/2

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20240

RE: H34-880
W. L. Foley Building
214 Travis Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Reference is made to my letter to you dated April 20, 1978, and your letter to me of May 9, 1978.

I hereby request that you temporarily remove the captioned property from consideration for listing on the National Register until we can determine our plans for the building.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Gallagher

GJG/b

DRECORY L DALLABHER PHONES OF STREET BUILDING PRODUCTIONS OF S

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I hereby request that you temporarily remove the captioned property from consideration for listing on the Wational Megister until we can determine our plans for the Duilding.

Sincerely.

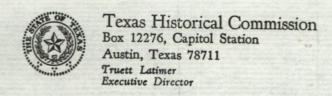
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P. Alley - 6/13/78

Called - will not be in tout +10

July 1 - Left nessage



September 18, 1978

National Register Department
Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation
Unit ed States Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

ATTN: Joseph Towner

Dear Mr. Towner:

Enclosed is a recent photograph of the Foley Building in Houston, Harris Co., Texas, as per your request. If anything further is required, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Binnie McCrear y
Special Projects

Encl. (1)

BM/bdm

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
DATE REO'D OCT 0 5 1978
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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS OCT 1 1 1978 Date Entered

Name

Location

Foley, W. L., Building

Houston Harris County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower Honorable Barbara C. Jordan

State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Commission P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

PHO663841

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

ONAME as it ar	pears on federal i	egister:	20	THER NAMES:			3 date of entry: 4 county	code:
	W. L., Building						OCT 1 1 1978 201	
5 LOCATION st		city	/ town	vicinity of	state	county	6NPS REGION:	
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	STATE MUNICIPAL COL					BADMINISTRA		-
9 EXISTING SURVEY	S HABS HAER HALL	FUNDED? TYES NO	CONGRESS. DISTR	HICT 18th PSOUR	CE of NOMINATIO		RAL	
SWITHIN NATIONAL REGIST	TER HISTORIC DISTRICT?	(within	NATIONAL RISTORIC LA	HOMARK?			PO staff	
CIYES, NAME	шилизания в принадамент в	□ NO □ YES	, NAME	proceduration of a state and an entire	□#¢ T	□ L0		
® CONDITION	deteriorated		□original site	<u>u</u>	BSTANTIALLY INTACT-1		CT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT	.3
Dexcellent	□ ruins		moved	DV.	T INTACT-O	P□ NOT INTACT-O	2 □ NOT INTACT - O	
□good □fair		□ reconstructed	unknown		KNOWN-4	E UNKNOWN-2	≥ □ UNKNOWN - 6	
Ulair	unexcavated	excavated			OT APPLICABLE -7	₩ NOT APPLICABLE-8	NOT APPLICABLE - 9	
BACCESS DYES	-Restricted YES -Un	restricted No Acces	ss Unknown 19	ADAPTIVE USE TYES THO	SAVED?	YES IS PROPERTY	A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ye	es 🗌 no
21 AREAS OF SIG	GNIFICANCE :	□ ENGINEERING - 11	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH	15 POLITICS / GOVT . 21	RECREATION	-28 CLAIMS	S: explain	
ARCHEOLOGY - prehisto	oric-2 COMMERCE-6	☐ ENTERTAINMENT - 26	□ LAW-16	C RELIGION-22	SETTLEMEN	1-29 'first'□		
ARCHEOLOGY - histori	c-1 COMMUNICATIONS	-7 DEXPLORATION -12	☐ LITERATURE - 17	SCIENCE- 23	URBAN PLA			
☐ AGRICULTURE = 3	CONSERVATION - 8	□ HEALTH-27	☐ MILITARY - 18	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIA		OTTOGO [
ARCHITECTURE-4	□ ECONOMICS - 9	☐ INDUSTRY - 13	□ MUSIC - 19	SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 3				
□ ART-5	☐ EDUCATION-10	☐ INVENTION - 14	☐ PHILOSOPHY - 20	☐ TRANSPORTATION - 2		'only' □		
28 functions			6	dates of initial construction	on:		ETHNIC GROUP	
WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIF	CANT:		•	major alterations;	****		ASSOCIATION	
CURRENTLY:				historic events:				
architectural s	tyle(s):		architect	:	master bui	lder: 6	engineer:	
9					9	-	9	
andscape arch	itect/garden desig	gner: interior d	lecorator:	artist:	33 artisan	@build	er/contractor:	
NAMES give	role & date							
PERSONAL:	TOTO & date							
- CHOOME								
EVENTS:								
INSTITUTIONAL:								
30 NATIONAL RE	GISTER WRITE-	UP						

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE