

PH0664146

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

FEB 28 1978

DATE ENTERED

MAY 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

M. A. Benton House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1730 Sixth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fort Worth

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12

STATE

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY

Tarrant

CODE

434-439

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. W. W. Harvey

STREET & NUMBER

3882 Bellaire Circle

CITY, TOWN

Fort Worth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tarrant County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fort Worth, Texas

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin, Texas

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The M. A. Benton House is a 1½ story frame Victorian residence with hipped roof and projecting pavilions on the northwest corner of Sixth Ave. and Park Place on a ½-acre lot in Fort Worth, Texas. The yard is defined by its original white picket fence. Originally, there was a large barn with a hayloft on the west (rear) of the lot where a horse and surrey were kept, as well as a two-room servants' house facing Park Place. The barn and servants' house were removed when a two-car garage, storage room and maid's quarters were built with the advent of the Model T Ford.

The house was built of cypress lumber probably hauled in by wagon from East Texas or Louisiana. According to the Benton's daughter, the ginger-bread trim was hand-sawn, as opposed to the more prevalent steam machinery method used at the time.¹ All windows and exterior doors except for those on bay windows and an attic dormer have simple architrave moldings.

The east (front) elevation consists of a one-story wrap-around gallery to the south with turned columns and balustrade, and an ornate spindled valance with sawtooth detailing on the columns, and brackets that are incised and cut-out. There is a one-over-one double-hung sash window centered on this wall, with the main entrance door featuring sidelights and a bevelled glass transom, and an ornate Victorian screened door. Above, the steep hipped asbestos shingle roof culminates in a corbelled brick chimney, with a lower gable projecting to the south. Two more corbelled brick chimneys are visible to the north. The gallery terminates at a projecting pavilion on the north with a bay window including three one-over-one double-hung sash windows. The bay is topped with imbricated shingle siding. Above, the gable end with eave returns and spindled barge board is faced with imbricated shingle siding, with a small fan motif wood ornament centered just above the bay window.

The south (Park Place side) elevation shows continuation of the one-story wrap-around gallery, curving from the east elevation, cutting in to acknowledge the projecting pavilion, and continuing around to the west (back) of the house. Detailing on this side of the gallery is identical to that on the east just described. Four one-over-one double-hung sash windows are spaced irregularly on this facade. The gable end on the east end of this facade, projecting to the south, is identical to that on the east facade, except for the absence of the fan motif ornament breaking the eave return.

The west (back) elevation shows the wrap-around gallery continuing from the south, with turned columns and balustrade, but without the elaborate valance, brackets and sawtooth detailing of the east and south sides. The gallery ends in a lattice-screened porch which once contained a cistern fed by two rows of metal guttering, one above the other. The cistern was removed when city water became available. The west wall on the gallery contains a single one-over-one double-hung sash window

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

and a door with transom above and a spindle-ornamented screen next to the lattice-screened porch. Above, the gable end lacks the ornate barge board of the other two, but is faced with the same imbricated shingle siding and unbroken eave return. Over the latticed porch there is a small dormer with a small one-over-one double-hung sash window and gable end faced with imbricated shingles. The three chimneys are visible from the one at the peak of the roof down the north side of the roof at staggered intervals. A low-pitched gable end is visible over the north end of the latticed porch which covers what is probably a later addition to the house. It is faced with horizontal siding. To the south of the gallery, toward the east (front) of the house, steps lead up to the gallery and a beveled glass and panelled door to one of the bedrooms.

The north (side) elevation shows a projecting pavilion in the center with a bay window and gable end identical to those described on the east, without the fan motif ornament, flanked by a single one-over-one double-hung sash window on each side, with the lattice screened porch to the west. The three chimneys are in a staggered arrangement up this side of the steep roof.

Inside, the asymmetrical central hall plan consists of three bedrooms on the south, in a line from east to west, with the parlor, diningroom, kitchen and lattice porch on the north, from east to west, and a bath at the west end of the central hall. Sliding pocket doors open to the parlor from the hall and between the parlor and diningroom. All of the rooms have 12-foot ceilings. Fireplaces with oak mantles and mirrors are located in the east front bedroom and the parlor. All doorways inside the house have transoms above.

The house was designed with cross-ventilation in mind, with openings on all sides, transoms above interior doors, high ceilings and the large gallery wrapping around three sides of the house. All hardware in the house is the original grey metal with copper and bronze highlighting. Access to the attic room is a stairway on the lattice porch.

The kitchen is floored and wainscoted with pine finished with linseed oil. Originally there was a cellar with access from the kitchen. It was filled in later, with the stair space remaining as a pantry.

The house is being maintained by the heirs of the original owner much

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as it was built in the late 19th century. Because of its excellent condition, along with its architectural and cultural significance to the area, the local Tarrant County Historical Commission and Texas Heritage, Inc. have both expressed support for the nomination of the M. A. Benton House to the National Register of Historic Places.

¹from Unpublished Historical Monograph on the M. A. Benton house by Mrs. W. W. Harvey.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Azro Benton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Benton House is a good example of late Victorian architecture with elaborate gingerbread detailing, twelve-foot ceilings, bevelled glass doors and ornamental screen doors. The house is in excellent condition, with very few alterations. Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Azro Benton probably built their home around 1898 in Fort Worth's "South Side", one of the better residential sections of the city at one time. Mr. Benton was a successful businessman with the Lorillard Tobacco Co. His wife, Ella Belle Mook Benton, devoted much of her time and effort to civic endeavors and beautification projects for Fort Worth. The small servants' quarters originally behind the Benton home near the barn was used as a Sunday School for the surrounding area about 1906-8 with Mrs. Benton's active support. The house and outbuildings were built by Mr. Benton's father, W. A. Benton.

Meredith Azro Benton was born February 7, 1861, at Vergennes, Vermont. He travelled a great deal for the Lorillard Tobacco Co. in the Fort Worth vicinity and the Oklahoma territory. His wife, Ella Belle Mook, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, October 10, 1869. M. A. Benton's father, William Azro Benton, was a builder in Kansas City, Missouri. When Mr. & Mrs. Benton decided to make Fort Worth their home, W. A. Benton went to Fort Worth to oversee construction of the house. In those first years, the house was out on the prairie, causing Mrs. Benton some consternation at night when coyotes howled while Mr. Benton was away on business. When the streets were laid out, the Bentons faced Potter Street to the east and Morgan Street on the south side. Since then, Morgan Street has been renamed Park Place and Potter Street became Sixth Avenue.

After the Bentons married and moved to Fort Worth, Ella Belle Benton helped establish kindergartens in the public schools, hot lunches for public school children, and helped organize and develop the first garden club in Fort Worth. This club, the Rose Society, planted many roses in Trinity Park, a popular garden spot which was later designated by the city as the Botanic Gardens of Fort Worth. While the two-room servants' quarters building was used as a Sunday School around 1906-8, Mrs. Benton took an active role in the administration of the school, and served refreshments to the children in the class. When the Central Methodist Church was built not far from the Benton home, Mrs. Benton's school was discontinued, and the Bentons became active members of that church for many years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Unpublished Historical Monograph on the M. A. Benton House by Mrs. W. W. Harvey, 3882 Bellaire Cir., Ft. Worth, Texas 76109. 1977.
- Sworn affidavit by S. W. Wells, May 10, 1977, former Sunday School pupil of Mrs. M. A. Benton.
- Sworn affidavit by Mrs. Elmer V. Staude, 5th President of the Fort Worth Kindergarten Association, May 10, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Tex. Grid. # 3297-424

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Fort Worth Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 655550 3621870

B

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

One-half acre lot on northwest corner of Sixth & Park Place, including house and garage and significant landscaping, and picket fence, in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

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 **Joe Williams, Project Director**
Binnie McCreary, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION **Texas Historical Commission** DATE **February 13, 1978**

STREET & NUMBER **1511 Colorado** TELEPHONE **475-3094**

CITY OR TOWN **Austin** STATE **Texas**

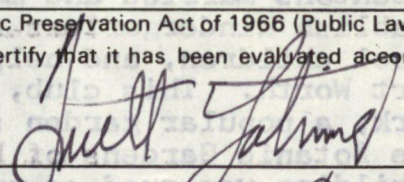
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

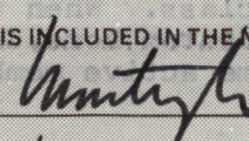


TITLE **Texas Historic Preservation Officer**

DATE **2-23-78**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE **5-22-78**

ATTEST: **Wathouse Cole**

DATE **5-17-78**

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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PAGE 2

The Bentons lived in the house until 1941, when Mr. Benton died. Twelve days later, Mrs. Benton died, in January, 1942.

Ownership of the Benton house was passed on to their son, Mr. Louis Brent Benton, now deceased, and their daughter, Lois Benton Harvey. At present, the house is owned by Mrs. William Walker (Lois Benton) Harvey and the three sons of Louis Brent Benton: Louis Brent Benton, Jr., of Dallas, Texas; William Burr Benton of Fort Worth; and Edward Garrison Benton of Fort Worth.

The family has kept the house in excellent condition, with much of its original furniture even in place. Recently repair work was done on the roof and foundation. Soon the exterior of the house, garage and picket fence will be painted. The house is currently occupied by lessees, Mr. and Mrs. George Welch.

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Fort Worth Press, 10/11/33. p.

Fort Worth Record-Telegram, 9/4/27

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, April 26, 1933

Property

Benton, M. A., House

78002982

Tarrant

State

Tx.

Working Number

2.28.78.2604

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 3.1.78

HISTORIAN

Accept 5/10/78

J. J. [Signature]

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
Braban
4.27.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Lebovich
5/15/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

J. J. [Signature]
5/22/78

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered MAY 22 1978

Federal Register Entry

7.5.78

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



104

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL

TARRANT COUNTY

M. A. Benton House
1730 Sixth Ave.

Southeast Oblique

Stan Klein

8/30/77

FEB 28 1978

MAY 22 1978



204

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Tarrant County

M. A. Benton House
1730 Sixth Ave.

South Elevation

Stan Klein

8/30/77

FEB 28 1978

MAY 22 1978



304

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TARRANT COUNTY
M. A. Benton House
1730 Sixth Ave.

Southwest Oblique

Stan Klein

8/30/77

FEB 26 1978

MAY 22 1978



484

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Tarrant County
M. A. Benton House
1730 Sixth Ave.

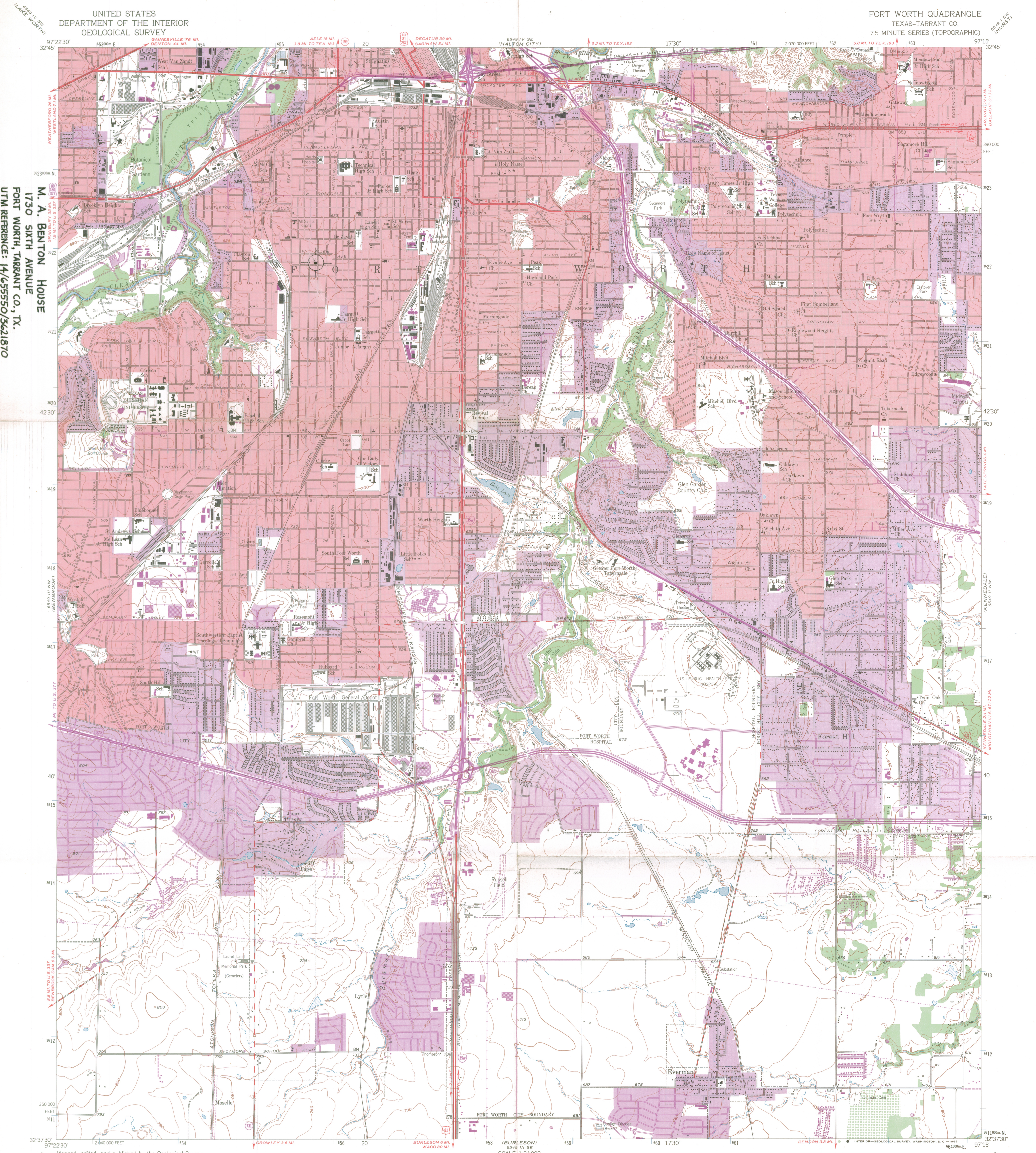
Southeast Oblique

Stan Klein

8/30/77

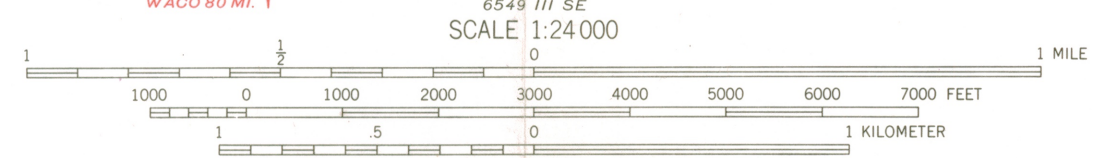
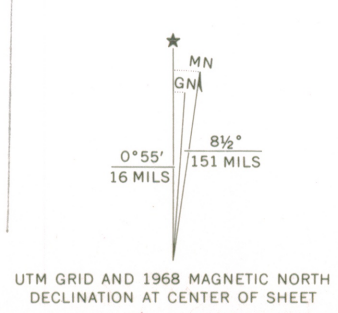
FEB 28 1978

MAY 22 1978



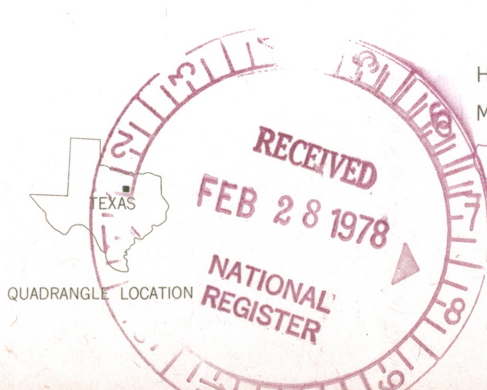
M. A. BENTON HOUSE
1730 SIXTH AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TX.
UTM REFERENCE: 14/655550/3621870

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by Kersh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1952-1954. Field check 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
north 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
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1968. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route
3297-424

FORT WORTH, TEX.
N32375-W9715/7.5

1955
PHOTOREVISED 1968
AMS 6549 III NE-SERIES V882

1978 3297-424

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered MAY 22 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Northcutt House	Longview Gregg County
Benton, M.A., House	Fort Worth Tarrant County
Adobe Walls	Stinnet vicinity Hutchinson County
Mansfield Street Archeological Site	Houston Harris County
Idle Hours	Beaumont Jefferson County
Post West Dugout	Post vicinity Garza County
Rose, Maj. A.J., House	Salado Bell County
Grand Opera House	Uvalde Uvalde County
Geddis Canyon Rock Art Site	Dryden vicinity Terrell County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen
Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Ray Roberts
Honorable James C. Wright, Jr.
Honorable Jack E. Hightower
Honorable Barbara C. Jordan
Honorable Jack Brooks
Honorable Omar Burleson
Honorable W. R. Poage
Honorable Abraham Kazen, Jr.
Honorable Robert C. Krueger

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

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Benton, M. A., House				2 OTHER NAMES:				3 date of entry: MAY 22 1977		4 county code: 439	
5 LOCATION street & number 1730 6th Ave.			city / town Fort Worth		vicinity of		state TX	county Tarrant		6 NPS REGION: SW	
7 OWNER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)								8 ADMINISTRATOR:			
9 EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL				10 FUNDED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 12th		12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL		if state who prepared form? SHPO staff	
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO				14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO				15 ACREAGE		<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
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18 ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				19 ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		20 SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES		21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no			
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :						<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING-11			<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15		
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<input type="checkbox"/> ART-5			<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10			<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14			<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20		
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<input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28			<input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29			<input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
22 CLAIMS: explain						<input type="checkbox"/> 'first'					
						<input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest'					
						<input type="checkbox"/> 'only'					
23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				24 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION			
26 architectural style(s):				27 architect:				28 master builder:			
								29 engineer:			
30 landscape architect / garden designer:			31 interior decorator:			32 artist:			33 artisan:		
									34 builder/contractor:		
35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:											

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP