

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received JUN 5 1979

date entered AUG 1 1979

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Wooldridge Park

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 900 Block of Guadalupe Street ___ not for publication

city, town Austin ___ vicinity of congressional district 10

state Texas code 048 county Travis code 453

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input 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 checked="" 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 City of Austin

street & number City Hall

city, town Austin ___ vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. General Land Office, State of Texas

street & number Stephen F. Austin Building

city, town Austin state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date 1974 and 1979 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wooldridge Park consists of a city block, a natural basin whose sides are sloped inward to form an amphitheatre. In its center is a bandstand. A gently curved sidewalk bisects the park from northwest to southeast. The slopes surrounding the bandstand are smooth and sodded with carpet grass. Shrubbery is planted about the base of the building and trees shade large portions of the park.

The bandstand is a simple Classical Revival structure in the form of a Greek pergola, square in plan. It consists of a concrete foundation and wood podium, with 2 x 4 balustrades on the north and south sides and wooden steps rising from ground level along the east and west sides. Footed on the corners of the podium are four fluted wooden Doric columns surmounted by a roof of open wood joists, topped with wooden decking. There is a flagpole in the center of the roof, guyed with wires. The bandstand is painted white with gray steps, floor, and foundation.

The park was landscaped and the bandstand built in 1909, the latter designed by the Page architectural firm of Austin. The bandstand has remained unaltered since its construction, except that latticework has been added at the base of the bandstand between the concrete footings. This lattice is in only fair condition, with slats missing or displaced. The roof decking is thin plywood which is neither watertight nor sightly.

At one time there was an ornamental fountain located southwest of the bandstand, but it has been replaced by a drinking fountain.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 1840, 1909

Builder/Architect Bandstand: Page and Page, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wooldridge Park is unique as the only public square in Austin to have retained its original function since its establishment more than one hundred thirty years ago. When the first city plans were drawn in 1840, four such squares were included. The other three underwent various uses over time, hosting parking lots, a fire station, a church, a museum, and businesses. Wooldridge Park alone has remained an essential element of Austin's outdoor social, musical, and political life. Its bandstand, the only one extant of the three built in the oldest section of the city, is a fine example of the Classical Revival style employed for a small non-residential structure.

The city planner in 1840 was Judge Edwin Waller, appointed for that purpose by the President of the Texas Republic Mirabeau B. Lamar. The area he laid out was bounded by what are now Town Lake and Martin Luther King Blvd., and Waller and Shoal Creeks. He set aside four public squares in each of the four quadrants of the city, of which Wooldridge Park is the northwesterly one. The southwest square was recently reclaimed from a parking lot as Republic Square. However, unnaturally high earth berms and frail vegetation betray its former existence. The other two squares are occupied by structures.

From 1840 until 1900 the park's slopes enclosed a wet weather lake, fed by a seasonal spring, which was four feet deep, fifty feet wide, and three hundred feet long when full. In 1900 an 18 inch culvert was installed to keep the area permanently drained. Following this improvement, the park was neglected for several years. Then in 1909, Mayor Wooldridge caused the park to be reclaimed, preserving trees, hauling in landfill and sod, landscaping, and building the bandstand, spanning the shallow gully formed by the springfed brook. In 1917 the sidewalk was added.

The Wooldridge Park bandstand is situated in the middle of a city block designated as a park, unlike the other two, no longer in situ. One was in the boulevard of old East Avenue, now Interstate 35, on the north end, in the 1800 block; the other was on the south end of the same street between First and Willow. The north bandstand was similar in plan to the one in Wooldridge Park, but more elaborate in detail. The south bandstand was gazebo-like, hexagonal in plan.

The man who realized the square's intended use, Mayor Wooldridge, was prominent in many local and state affairs, such as bringing in the Austin and Northwestern Railroad, building the first Colorado River dam in the city, building the artificial moonlight towers, and founding the Austin public school system. He served as mayor from 1909 to 1919.

Many Texas politicians and almost all of Texas' governors used the Wooldridge Park bandstand for public addresses. The list of speakers includes President Lyndon Johnson, Governors Allan Shivers, Pat Neff, Dan Moody, Jimmy Allred, Jim Ferguson, and W. Lee O'Daniel. The current Austin mayor, Carole McClellan, chose this site for her inaugural ceremonies. The bandstand is also used as a "playscape" and as a stage for performing arts presentations, such as Sunday concerts. The park's location, between the main public library and the county courthouse, make it a favorite spot for reading conversation, poetry readings, studying, and small weddings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Austin American, March 24, 1932
 Austin Statesman, June 29, 1910
 Austin Daily Statesman, Jan. 3, 1900
 Texas Public Employee, March, 1968

untitled newspaper, Sept. 23, 1910

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.75 acres

Quadrangle name Austin East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	2	0	700	6	8	0	3	3	4	9	4	4	5
Zone			Easting			Northing									

B

Zone			Easting			Northing									

C

Zone			Easting			Northing									

D

Zone			Easting			Northing									

E

Zone			Easting			Northing									

F

Zone			Easting			Northing									

G

Zone			Easting			Northing									

H

Zone			Easting			Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The park is bounded by W. 9th St., W. 10th St., Guadalupe St. and Guadalupe St., and occupies an unnumbered city block.

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 Mal Randle, Research Assistant; Lissa Anderson, Coordinator of Nominations

organization Texas Historical Commission

date 11/1/78

street & number P.O. Box 12276

telephone 512/475/3094

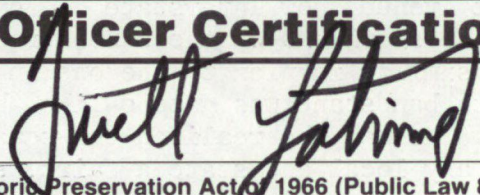
city or town Austin

state Texas 78711

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

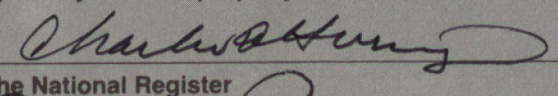
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 20, 1979

For HCRS use only

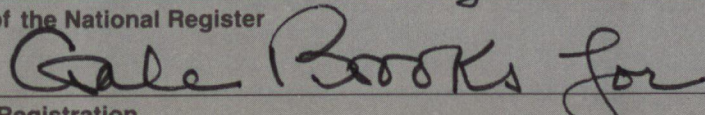
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

attest 

date 8.1.79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:



date 7/31/79

Chief of Registration

Property Waldridge Park

State Ill (Lraivis)

Working Number 6.5.79.1330

Rel # 79003018

TECHNICAL

Photos 2

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 6.5.79 pl

The only one of 4 parks in original plan of 1840 which has served continuously its original purpose. Because of setting, age, tradition, and symbolic value, the park possesses local significance.

HISTORIAN

*Accept
Sheffield 7-31-79*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

More significant for continuous park use (more than 130 yrs) and historical association than for landscape architecture. Classical Revival bandstand has some architectural value even though some inappropriate elements (latticework and plywood roof panels) have been added.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Gale Brooks
7/31/79*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry _____

9-4-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered AUG 1 1979



Wooldridge Park
900 Block of Guadalupe Street
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, March, 1979
Southwest oblique
Photo #1 *of 2*

JUN 5 1979

AUG 1 ^{DOE} 1979



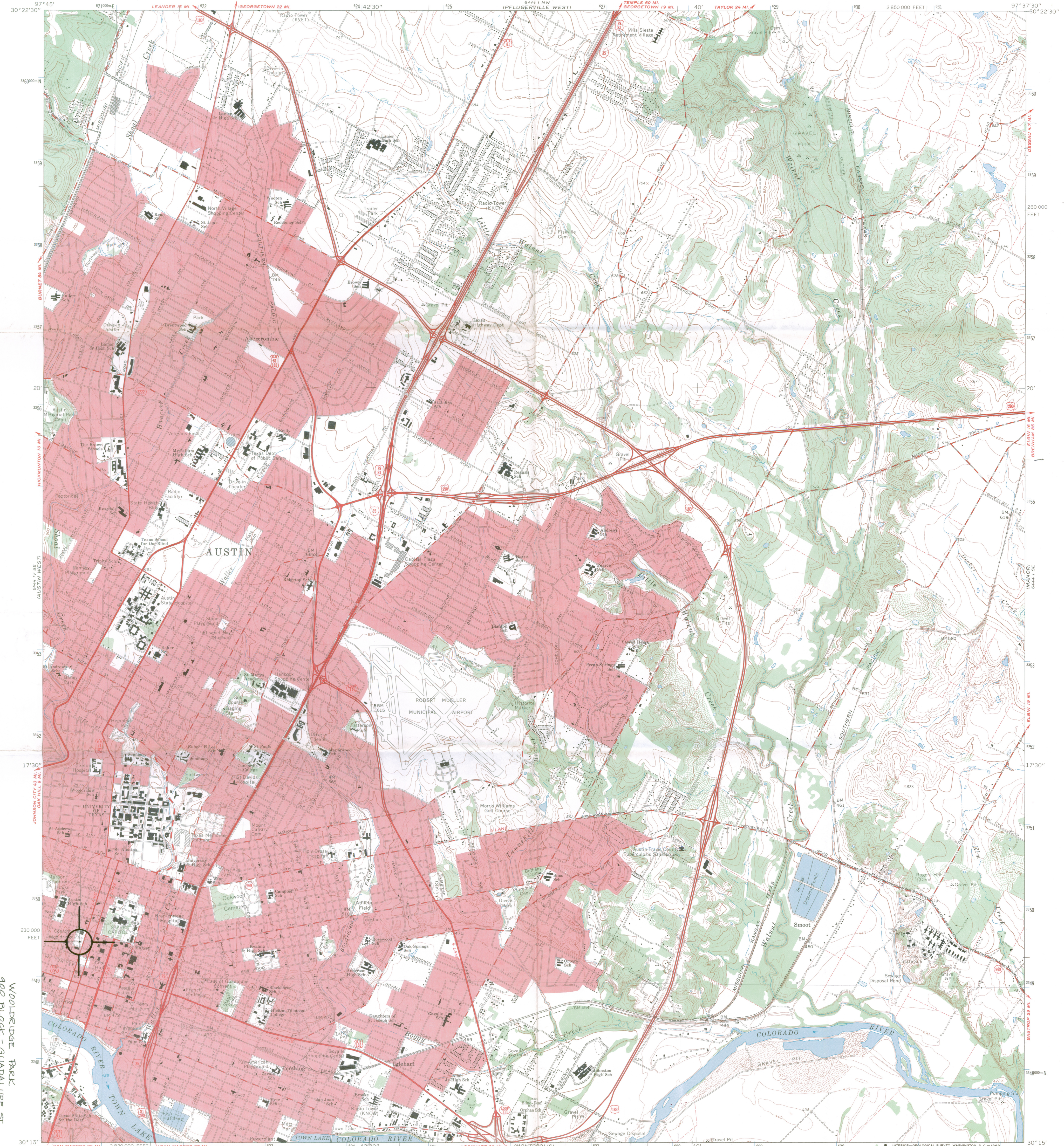
Wooldridge Park
900 Block of Guadalupe Street
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, March, 1979
Northwest oblique, showing bandstand in
foreground.

Photo #2 *of 2*

JUN 5 1979

DOE
AUG 1 1979



WOODBRIDGE PARK
900 BLOCK - GUADALUPE ST.
AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
LTM REFERENCE: 14/620689/3349445

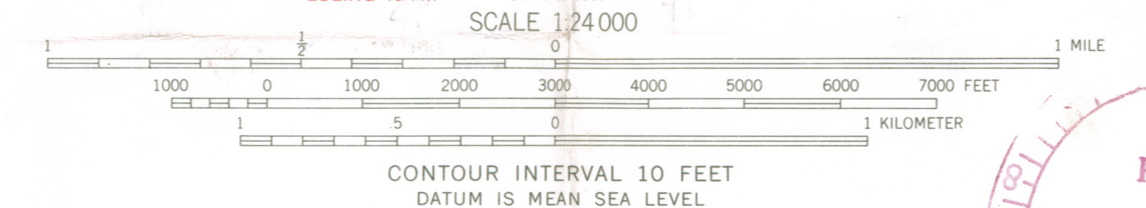
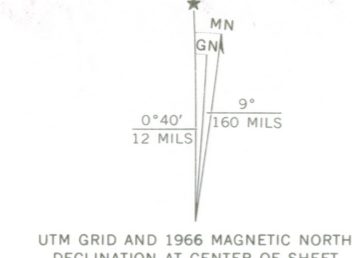
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1954. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966

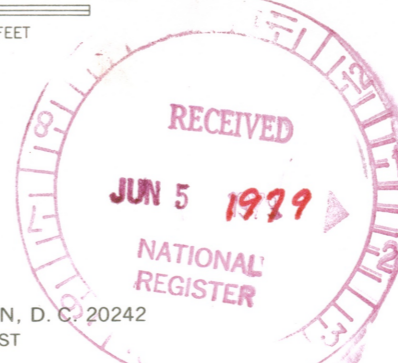
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

AUSTIN EAST, TEX.
SW/4 AUSTIN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3015—W9737.5/7.5

1966
AMS 6444 1 SW—SERIES V882

AUG 1 1979 3097-242

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



City of Austin

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839
Municipal Building, Eighth at Colorado, P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767 Telephone 512/477-6511

July 3, 1979

Wooldridge Park

6/19/79



Mr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building, 440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

Thank you for the notification that Wooldridge Square has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Wooldridge Square is one of four public squares designated in the original 1839 plat of the City of Austin. The site remained vacant until 1909 when initial development began, and a large bandstand was constructed in the central portion of the park. In 1971 the Texas State Historical Commission placed a historical marker in the park.

Although the tax incentives provided for the preservation of historic structures do not apply to municipalities, the City of Austin considers the listing of Wooldridge Square in the National Register of Historic Places to be a valuable addition to the preservation of the cultural resources of the area and the State of Texas.

The Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Austin soundly support the listing of Wooldridge Square in the National Register of Historic Places. We will be looking forward to hearing the results of the pending evaluation.

Sincerely,

Leonard Ehrler, Jr., Director
AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

LE:JE:ln

cc: Dan Davidson, City Manager

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D JUL 09 1979

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

WRITATIVE MATERIAL ()

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

el/c cr

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered AUG 1 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ave Stagecoach Inn	San Antonio vicinity Bexar County
Somervell County Courthouse	Glen Rose Somervell County
Wooldridge Park	Austin Travis County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Tom Loeffler
Honorable Marvin Leath
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle

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

NR Byers/bjr 8/6/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.