

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received SEP 10 1980

date entered NOV 12 1980

1. Name

historic Milroy, John, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1102 Heights Blvd. _____ not for publication

city, town Houston _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 79 18

state Texas code 048 county Harris code 201

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: VACANT

4. Owner of Property

name Alan Bies

street & number 1102 Heights Blvd.

city, town Houston _____ vicinity of _____ state Texas 77008

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harris County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Houston _____ state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Heights Boulevard Historic District Survey by Janet Wagner & Associates and Ellen Beasley has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date June, 1978 and July, 1979 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Houston Heights Association

city, town Houston _____ state Texas

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TITLE: Historic Sites Inventory

DATE: December, 1978 X STATE

DEPOSITORY: Texas Historical Commission

CITY: Austin, Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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	(minor)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Milroy House stands on a prominent corner lot of the major street in what is known as the Houston Heights. The main entrance faces Heights Boulevard, a wide thoroughfare divided by a grassy esplanade that is 60 feet wide.

The Milroy House was often used in promotional information as an example of the fine houses being built in Houston Heights (now a part of Houston) at the turn of the century. The property consists of four lots, with the house situated in such a way that it is surrounded by a broad, well-tended lawn and flanked by several large trees. The 2 1/2-story, clapboard house with contrasting trim displays some characteristics of the Stick style. It has a varying roofline with several small projecting gables and bays and a small tower in the front. The upper gables are ornamented with fishscale shingles. Several of the windows are shielded by awnings with the same type of shingle. These awnings are supported by flat-cut brackets. The house is painted gray-green with white trim.

A porch across the front of the house and extending along each side is decorated with turned posts and balusters. The side and front steps also have turned balusters. A transom including a floral design combining stained, etched, leaded, and beveled glass is over the double front doors; this design is repeated in the half-length panes of these doors and in the transom of the single side door.

One enters the house through a small foyer area, which is at the northwest corner of the house. The hall and staircase appear dark because of stamped-leather covering on the lower portion of the walls. The balustrade is of heavily-carved dark wood. From the hall, one enters the front parlor, with its delicately detailed, carved, oak fireplace and mantle mirror. Sliding doors of solid pine divide the three rooms on the south side of the house. The upper part of each door frame is ornamented with millwork, each design having a wheel or half-wheel in the center. The doors in the house have decorative brass locks and hinges. On the north side of the house are two rooms, including the kitchen. Four bedrooms and a bathroom may be found on the second floor. This floor is connected by a narrow staircase to the attic storage area and the tower room, which overlooks Heights Boulevard.

Behind the primary structure and fronting on 11th Street, stands a 1 1/2-story carriage house complementary in style to the larger house and probably built at the same time. It is wood frame with two sets of double, swinging garage doors. The roof is four intersecting, shingled gables.

There have been few alterations to the John Milroy House. The small, square porch at the rear door on the northeast corner, which is similar in ornamentation to the front porch, has been screened. Structural problems are minimal. Recently, after a change in ownership, a complete restoration began with the wood shingle roof and damaged siding boards being replaced. The owner hopes to keep the restoration as correct as possible, limiting modern materials to plumbing and wiring.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Built 1898 **Builder/Architect** not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Milroy House is not only a fine example of frame-Victorian architecture, but also is significant historically as one of the earliest houses in the town of Houston Heights and as the home of one of the men most influential in the development of that area. Among Milroy's accomplishments was his election seven times as mayor. In advertisements used for promotion of the town, it was often shown on its prominent corner lot on the fashionable Heights Boulevard. It remains the most impressive nineteenth century house on the street.

The large house with the tower at 1102 Heights Boulevard, which was to become known as the Milroy House, was built in 1898 by H.F. MacGregor. In that same year, John Milroy and his family moved into it, taking their place among the elite of the community, although Milroy did not actually purchase the house from MacGregor until 1901.

In late nineteenth-century Houston, as in all parts of the country, investors and developers were preparing for the great move of the middle class from the city to the suburbs as the city became increasingly crowded with new-comers. The population of Houston increased from 27,557 in 1890 to 44,633 in 1900. John Milroy bought his first land from the Omaha and South Texas Land Company in 1894, thus becoming one of the first five citizens involved in the development of a new municipality known as Houston Heights. He was hired as city solicitor for that company in 1894. By 1896, Milroy was listed as the secretary, and until 1917, he served as agent and manager of its Houston Heights Office.

As a civic leader in the Heights, Milroy began early. At the first meeting of the Municipal Council in 1896, he was listed as one of the alderman, later serving as secretary of the Council. In 1899, John Milroy was elected as the second mayor of Houston Heights. He was re-elected to that office seven times, but declined the nomination in 1907. Upon retirement from office, he was recognized for his service as a great leader in the community.

Although no longer in politics, Milroy remained active as a member of the Heights School Board and of the Fraternal Hall Association for many years. He managed the Houston Heights Office during the booming years of Heights development until 1917. His expertise in real estate was one of the most important reasons for the successful and rapid growth of the Heights outward from its initial emphasis along the Boulevard, which also carried a rail line to the suburb.

The fine details and craftsmanship of the Milroy House well reflect the building styles of the late-Victorian era. And, as one of the few residences of this type and size remaining in Houston Heights, it illustrates not only the architecture of that period, but also the social habits of the family that occupied it.

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An especially interesting feature of the house is the large number of hidden cubbyholes and storage spaces. These are found in windowseats, in steps which lift off to reveal deep openings, and in secret removable panels in the baseboards of the halls. Many of these could have been added by Milroy for security, because several records and ledgers from the Houston Heights Office have been discovered in the spaces. There is also a basement, which is not a common feature in this part of the country.

More importantly, the Milroy House reflects a deliberate approach to town planning. It was built with consideration of the restrictive covenants in the deeds to all the lots on the grand Boulevard. These stated that no structure costing less than \$2,500 could be built on the lots, and that a setback of 40 feet was required. For these reasons, most early houses on Heights Boulevard were large and detailed in contrast with many of the simpler styles later displayed on other streets. From the beginning, the small suburb was planned to be a healthy combination of the large and small residences working together to form a comfortable, unified neighborhood.

Descendants of the Milroy family resided in the house until 1979. At that time it was vacated. It now is being restored by the new owner who hopes to make it a single family residence again.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Agatha, Sister M. , The History of Houston Heights 1891-1918, Houston:
Premier Printing Co., 1956.
City Directories of Houston, Texas, 1894-5, 1896, 1897-8, 1899.
Records of the County Clerk, Harris County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than an acre

Quadrangle name Houston Heights, Tex

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	2	6	8	2	9	0	3	2	9	7	8	4	0
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

Block 200, Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16, Houston Heights Addition to City of Houston

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 Kathy L. London, Project Assistant, Ellen Beasley, Preservation Planning Consultant

organization

date January 8, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 1145

telephone 713/762-9852

city or town Galveston

state Texas

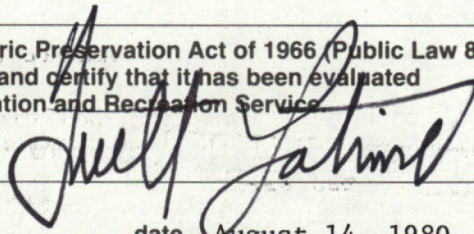
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

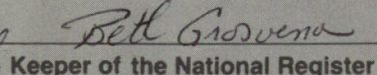


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 14, 1980

For HCRS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

date 1/12/80

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Sales Brochures for Houston Heights, pub. by Houston Heights
Office, c. 1893-c. 1915.

Property Milroy, John, House
State TX, Harris Working Number 9/10/80/2282

80004131
DUE 11/10/80

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 6
Maps 1

One of the earliest and finest Victorian homes in this neighborhood; often used in early promotional literature. The home of one of the community's leading citizens and seven-term ~~term~~ mayor.

HISTORIAN

accept
Grosvonts
11/12/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____
Federal Register Entry 2-2-82 Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 12 1980



Milroy, John, House
1102 Heights Blvd.
Houston, Harris County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Photo by Bob Bailey Studios, Inc., Houston, 1979.
Negative property of Bob Bailey Studios.

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.

Photo 1 of 6.

SEP 10 1980



BOB BAILEY STUDIOS, INC.
201 YALE STREET
HOUSTON TEXAS 77001

45848- 3



Milroy, John, House
1102 Heights Blvd.
Houston, Harris County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Photo by Bob Bailey Studios, Inc., Houston, 1979.
Negative property of Bob Bailey Studios.

West elevation, camera facing east.

Photo 2 of 6.

SEP 10 1980



BOB BAILEY STUDIOS, INC.

201 TALE STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001

45848 - 8



NOV 12 1980

Milroy, John, House
1102 Heights Blvd.
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Kathy London, 1979. Negative property of
Ellen Beasley, P.O. Box 1145, Galveston.

Southwest oblique of south facade, camera facing
northeast.

Photo 3 of 6.

SEP 10 1980



Milroy, John, House
1102 Heights Blvd.
Houston, Harris County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Photo by Craig Kennedy, 1978. Negative property of
Texas Historical Commission.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 4 of 6.

SEP 10 1980



Milroy, John, House
1102 Heights Blvd.
Houston, Harris County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Photo by Craig Kennedy, 1978. Negative property of
Texas Historical Commission.

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.

Photo 5 of 6.

SEP 10 1980



Milroy, John, House
1102 Heights Blvd.
Houston, Harris County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Photo by Bob Bailey Studios, Inc., Houston, 1979.
Negative property of Bob Bailey Studios.

Southeast oblique showing carriage house, camera facing
northwest.

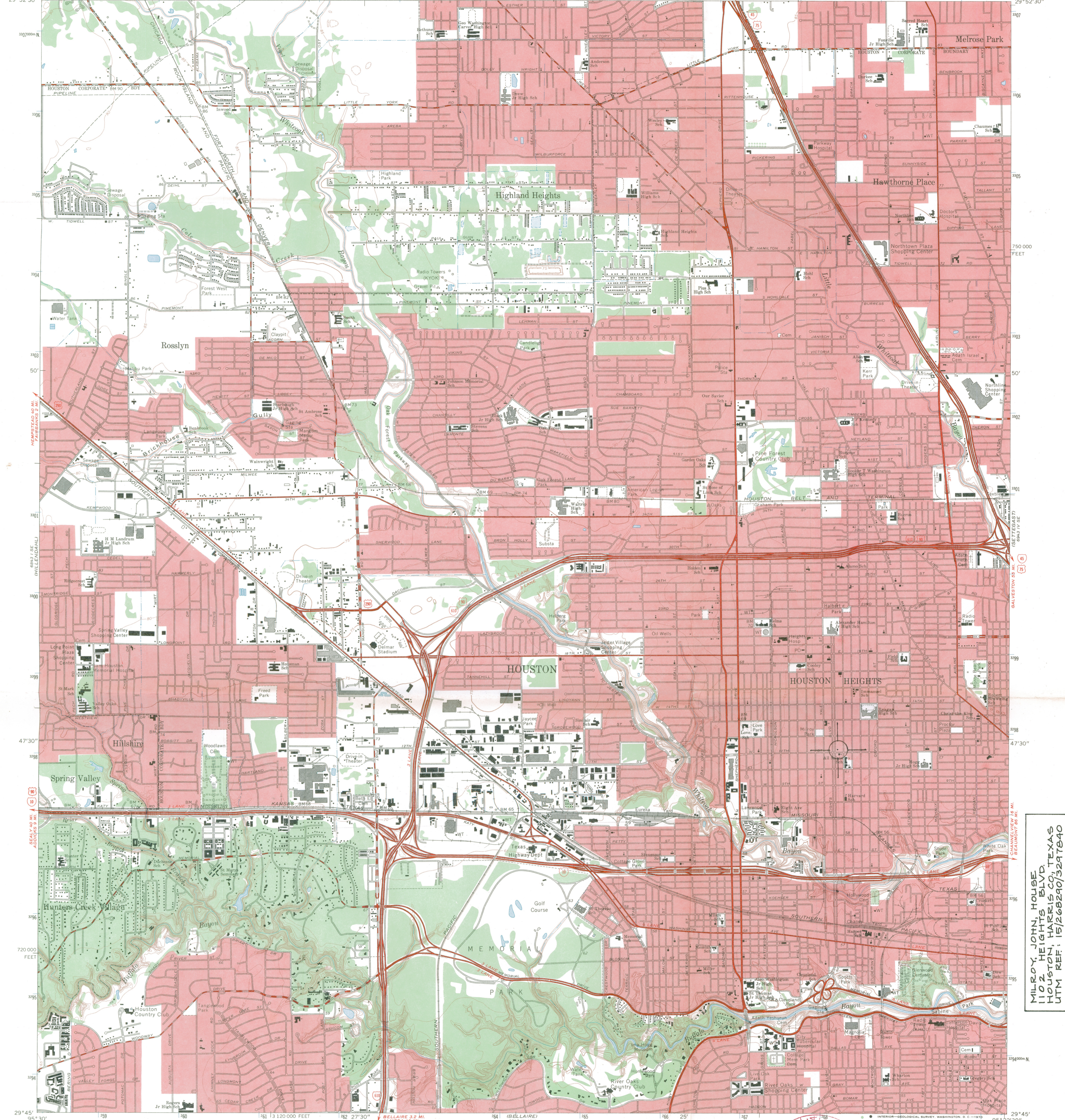
Photo 6 of 6.

SEP 10 1980

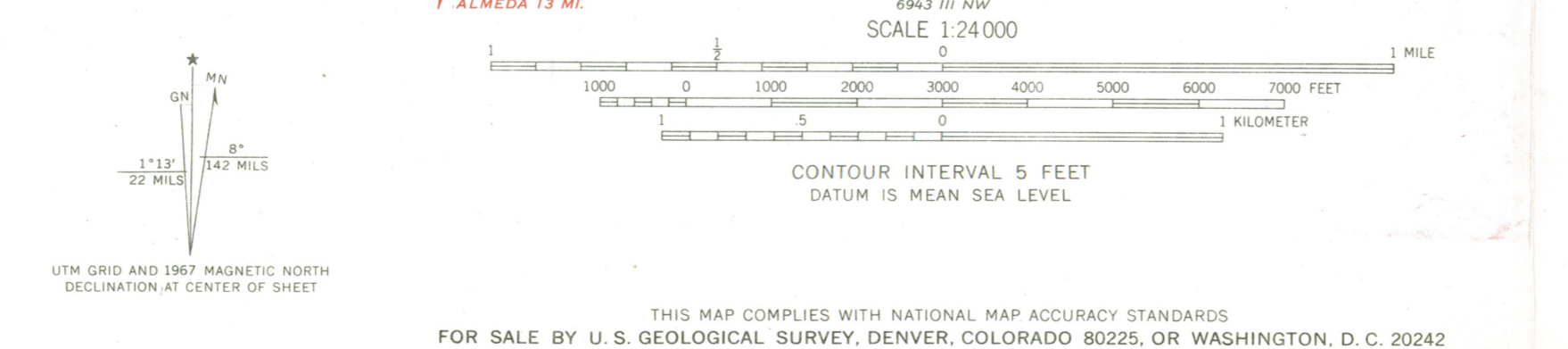


BOB BAILEY STUDIOS, INC.
1102 HEIGHTS BLVD.
HOUSTON TEXAS 77004

45848-7



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
 Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1966
 Topography enlarged from 1:31 680-scale AMS map of Houston Heights
 quadrangle. Original map by planetable surveys 1943. Revised 1967
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
 south central zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 15, shown in blue
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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 ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty Light-duty
 Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
 Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route
 HOUSTON HEIGHTS, TEX.
 N2945—W9522.5/7.5
 1967
 AMS 6943 IV SW—SERIES V882

MILROY, JOHN, HOUSE
 1102 HEIGHTS BLVD.
 HOUSTON, HARRIS CO, TEXAS
 UTM REF: 15/268290/3297840

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered NOV 12 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Burnett, Burk, Building	Fort Worth Tarrant County
Austin County Jail	Bellville Austin County
Milroy, John, House	Houston Harris County

Also Notified

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
Honorable James C. Wright, Jr.
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle
Honorable Mickey Leland

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historic Commission
Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR Byers/lgd 11/19/80
For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.