

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **AUG 25 1983**
date entered **SEP 22 1983**

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

1. Name

historic Temple Freda

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 205 Parker Street N/A not for publication

city, town Bryan N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Texas code 048 county Brazos code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Hebrew Congregation of Temple Freda, c/o William A. Bassichis

street & number 1811 Shadowood Drive

city, town Bryan N/A vicinity of state Texas 77801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brazos County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Bryan state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (1) Historic American Buildings Survey
(2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date (1) Summer 1982
(2) Summer 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records (1) Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
(2) Texas Historical Commission, Austin

city, town (1) Washington, D.C.
(2) Austin state (2) Texas

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair 932

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Temple Freda is an intact ecclesiastical building in Classical Revival style, and displays modest Beaux Arts detailing. Located in an older, mixed residential-commercial neighborhood, the Temple is prominently sited and has been a local landmark since its construction in 1912.

The synagogue, a Classical Revival structure, is rectangular in plan and is single-storied. It is constructed of load-bearing brick masonry. The finely detailed walls have a smooth finish and are composed of two colors of brick. The front facade, which faces west, has buff bricks which extend slightly to the side walls, and wide brick quoins pierced by narrow vertical windows near each corner. The rest of the side walls and the back wall are made of red brick. The Temple has a tar-and-gravel, flat roof with a parapet at the front and along the sides.

A classical prostyle portico with two unfluted Corinthian columns is located at the front of the building. The base and shaft of the columns are wooden, and the capitals are cast plaster. The portico's pediment and architrave are made of pressed metal, and were originally painted to imitate a stone finish. A classical entablature, also made of pressed metal, runs across the front of the temple and extends along one-fifth of each side wall.

The main entrance to the temple has white double doors of two panels each. There is a side entrance on the south wall. On each side wall there are five stained-glass, round-arch windows put up in memory of congregation members. Two stained-glass side lights occur on each side of the main door. One small, fixed, stained-glass window with the words "Temple Freda" is placed over the main entrance. Although there are no chimneys, there is evidence that flues once existed in the northwest and northeast corners of the building.

The interior floor plan is simple in design. An entrance lobby, flanked by two bathrooms, leads to the sanctuary where the hardwood flooring is raked towards the ark. A small meeting room is located at the back, and is now divided into two rooms by a light wooden partition. Interior detailing in the synagogue is not elaborate. Stained-glass windows are the primary structural ornamentation. These have simple architraves and are joined by a picture molding at the top and a chair rail at the bottom. The ceilings are made of finely detailed pressed metal with deep coves in the sanctuary. The condition of the ceiling is generally good, although there has been some water damage and slight vandalism over the years.

The original electrical equipment includes a breaker box and single-pole rotary light switches. Three main fixtures are alternated with two ceiling fans along the center of the ceiling and over the aisle in the sanctuary. The Ner Tamid, the external light, is located over the ark. This light and the menorahs are lit electrically.

The synagogue retains its original interior furnishings. Eight pews made of polished wood are located on each side of the sanctuary. The bimah, a raised platform located at the front of the sanctuary, holds a lectern, the ark, and the wooden stands where the menorahs, the seven-branched candelabras, are placed. The original cast-iron stoves, although not in use, are stored in the building.

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 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 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 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 1912

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Temple Freda was built in 1912 to serve the small Jewish community of Bryan, Texas. Construction of the temple became possible through the donations of the Jewish community and the non-Jewish citizens of Bryan. Hebrew synagogues were not numerous in Texas at this date, and Jews living within a radius of 100 miles came to Temple Freda to worship. The temple reflects the determination of a small Jewish group to build its own house of worship. It also represents the concern of the rest of the town who contributed to the construction of the building and took an interest in the activities that occurred there. The Classical Revival architecture of the Temple represents one of two prevailing fashions in the design of contemporaneous Texas synagogues.

Jews in East Texas were never numerous, but in places such as Bryan they played an important role in their local communities. Jews tended to settle in larger towns and cities rather than rural areas, and were particularly important as merchants. Thus many of the major department stores in Texas grew from early East Texas drygoods establishments. Unfortunately, because of the population shift from East Texas towns to major cities between the world wars, there are now few visible links with the early Jewish communities. Although a few early synagogues survive, such as the one at Corsicana, major ones, such as J. Reily Gordon's synagogue at Marshall, have been demolished.

Around 1865, Jewish merchants and their families entered the area around Bryan. Many of these people were immigrants whose birthplaces included Poland, Russia, England, and Prussia. The small group soon banded together and developed into a community. They organized a congregation in 1890, and met in the homes of members for services. Since there was not a temple close to their area, in 1912 they decided to construct their own.

The first concern was obtaining a tract of land for the building of the temple. One member of the congregation, Harry Marwill, noticed that his landlord, J.W. English, owned a vacant piece of land next to the I & GN Railroad (later the Missouri Pacific). Mr. English was willing to donate the land, which he had purchased in 1906 for \$125.00. In the deed, Mr. English stated that the conveyance of the land to the Jewish community was intended as a gift, and stipulated that the land should only be used for religious and benevolent purposes. If the land were to be used in any other manner, the ownership of the property would revert to the English family.

With donations by the Jewish congregation, materials were bought and construction began. When the non-Jewish citizens of Bryan heard of the project, they contributed money and building materials such as brick, wood, and pipe. The temple was completed within the year. In February 1913 the congregation, along with other community members, celebrated the laying of the cornerstone. At its dedication, which was attended by rabbis from other Texas cities, the temple was named Temple Freda in memory of Mrs. Ethel Freda Kaczer, the recently deceased wife of the congregation's president. This was unusual, since very few temples were named for people, and one name for a woman was a great rarity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Bryan Eagle, 25 February-27 February, 1913; 13 October, 1981.
Gelber, Ethel. Temple Freda member, Bryan, Texas. Interview with D. Woodcock and D. Parks,
10 June 1982.
Deed Records in Vertical File, Brazos County Collection, Book 0, p. 5, 1912.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Bryan East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

That portion of lots 6 and 7 of Block 117 bounded by Parker Street, 27th Street, and the Missouri-Pacific Railroad tracks as outlined on the attached sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David G. Woodcock and Deborah Parks

organization Architecture Department

date July 7, 1982

street & number Texas A&M University

telephone 845-1015

city or town College Station

state Texas

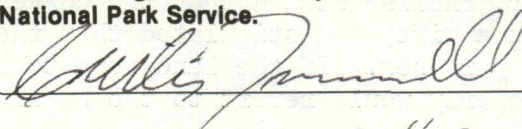
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

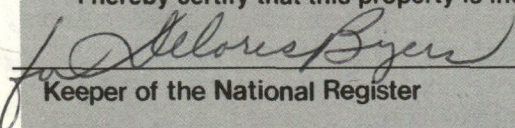


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 16 Aug. 1983

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/22/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

The Classical Revival architecture of the Temple is of note for at least two reasons. First, this is one of the prime examples of a building with Beaux Arts influence in Brazos and the surrounding counties. Second, Texas synagogues of that period followed one of two general stylistic trends: (1) the exotic and often Moorish fashion, as found in J. Reily Gordon's now-razed synagogue at Marshall, Harrison County; (2) and the classical form, such as Temple Freda.

Temple Freda was given a 50-year charter by the state in September of 1912. It held worship services there on Friday nights, and school was provided on Sudays. Although several families regularly worshiped at the temple, it was always full on religious holidays. Around 1958 the Jewish community began worshipping at a center in the town of College Station, and the use of Temple Freda declined. Christian congregations who had no meeting places were allowed to use the building. In this manner, the members of Temple Freda repaid the kindness earlier shown them when the temple was being built. Although the building is not in regular use today, it stands as a monument to the Bryan Jewish group and their efforts to provide a house of worship for their members. The survival of such a temple, with its complete furnishings, is rare in Texas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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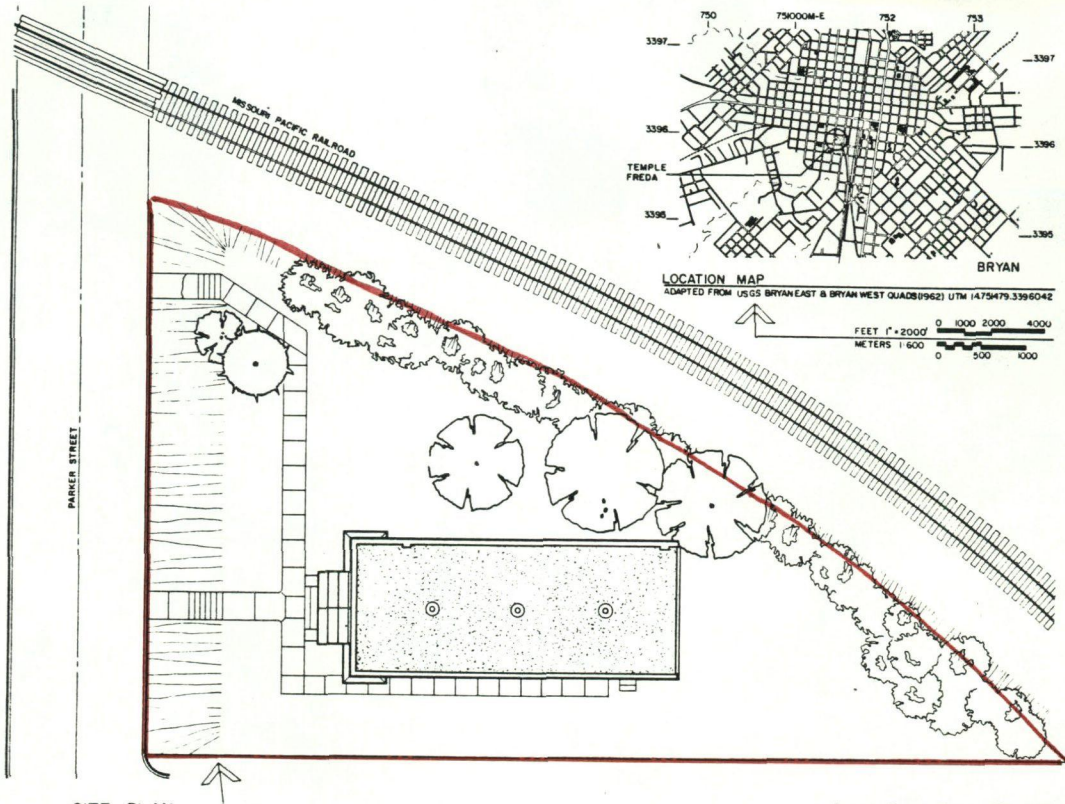
For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

TEMPLE FREDA BRYAN, TEXAS



SITE PLAN

FEET 1" = 10'-0"
METERS 1:120

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Temple Freda
Brazos County
TEXAS

AUG 25 1983

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 9/22/83 - 10/9/83
Action: ACCEPT 9/22/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Texas
Historical
Commission
18188

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Temple Freda, 1910. Photo by [unreadable]

Temple Freda

205 Parker Street, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas

Photo by Charles Peveto, March 1983; neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

West (front) elevation, looking east

Photo 1 of 7



Temple Freda

205 Parker Street, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas

Photo by Charles Peveto, March 1983; neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Northwest corner of building, looking southeast

Photo 2 of 7



Temple Freda

205 Parker Street, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas

Photo by Charles Peveto, March 1983, neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission. Austin

Detail of portico column and capital, looking
northeast

Photo 3 of 7



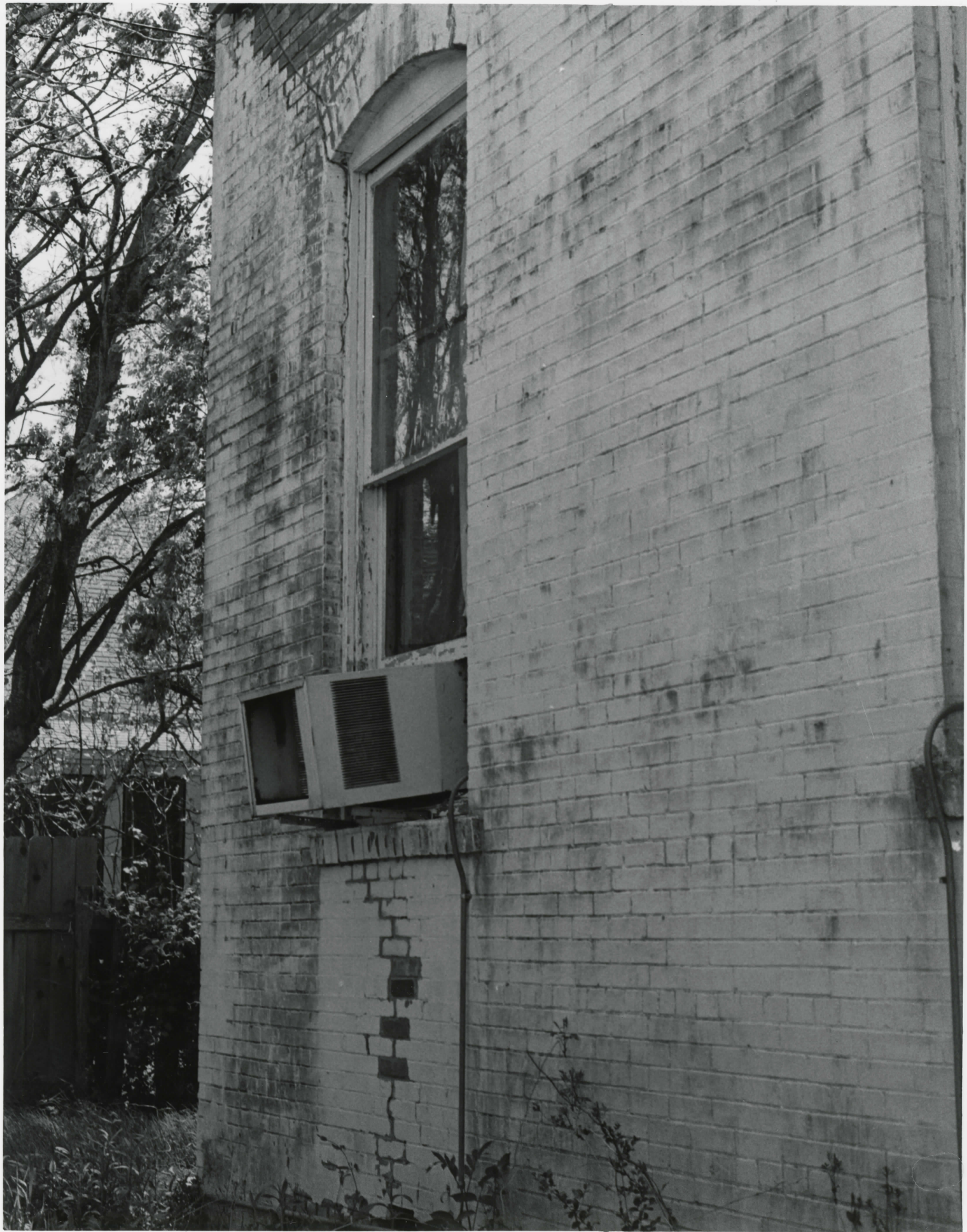
Temple Freda

205 Parker Street, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas

Photo by Charles Peveto, March 1983; neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

South wall of synagogue, looking northeast

Photo 4 of 7



Temple Freda

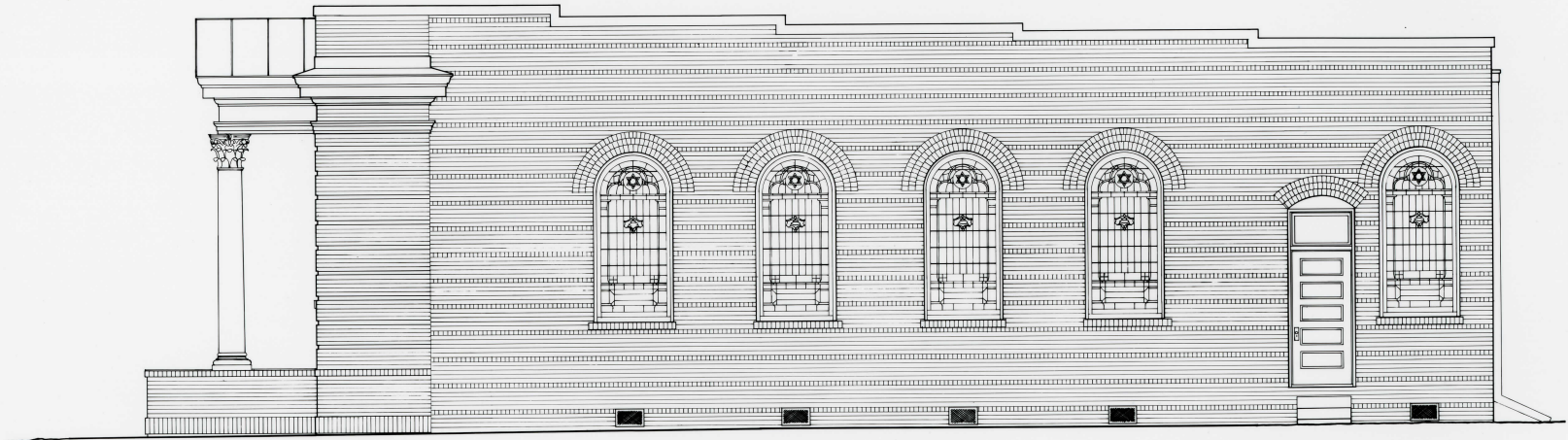
205 Parker Street, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas

Photo by Charles Peveto, March 1983, neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Window in east elevation, looking southwest

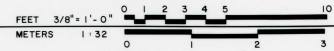
Photo 5 of 7

TRIM LINE



SOUTH ELEVATION

- MATERIALS:
- ROOF BUILT UP.
 - WALLS BRICK WITH CEMENT COPING.
 - WINDOWS STAINED GLASS IN WOOD FRAMES.
 - PORTICO PRESSED METAL, PLASTER CAPITALS,
WOOD COLUMNS.



DRAWN BY: WILLIAM BRIGGS, A.S.C.
 ARCHITECT
 NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING RECORD
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

205 PARKER ST.
 BRYAN, TEXAS

NAME AND LOCATION OF BUILDING
 TEMPLE FREIDA
 BRAZOS COUNTY

STATE
 TEXAS

BUREAU NO.
 HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 4 OF 9 SHEETS

TRIM LINE

Temple Freda

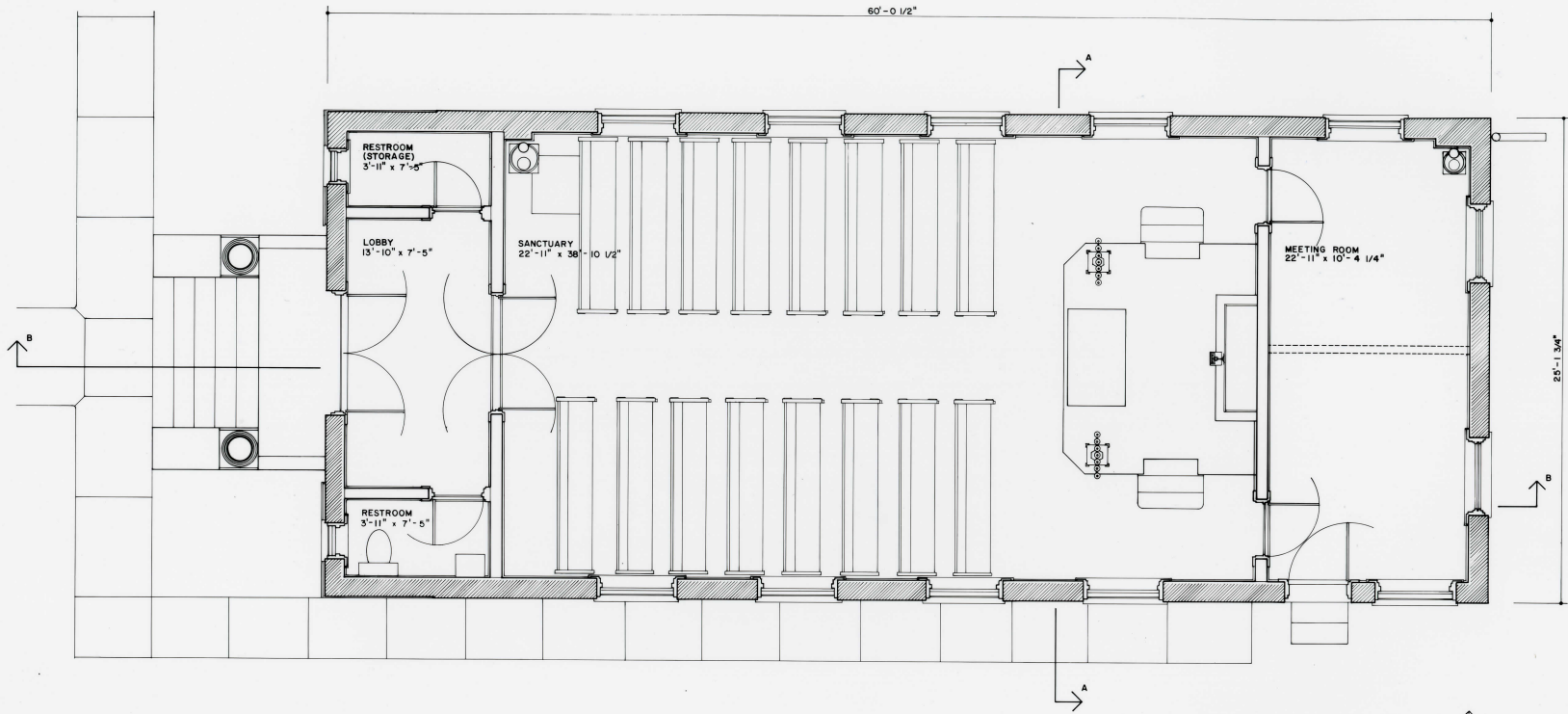
205 Parker Street, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas

Drawing by Patricia Weber, 1982; orig. on file
with Library of Congress, Historic American
Buildings Survey, Washington, D.C.

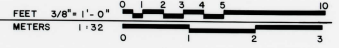
South Elevation

Photo 6 of 7

TRIM LINE



FLOOR PLAN



DRAWN BY: JUNE COOK 1982
 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
 NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL RECORD
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BRYAN, TEXAS
 BRAGGS COUNTY
 TEMPLE FREDA
 SURVEY NO. HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY sheet 2 of 3 sheets

TRIM LINE

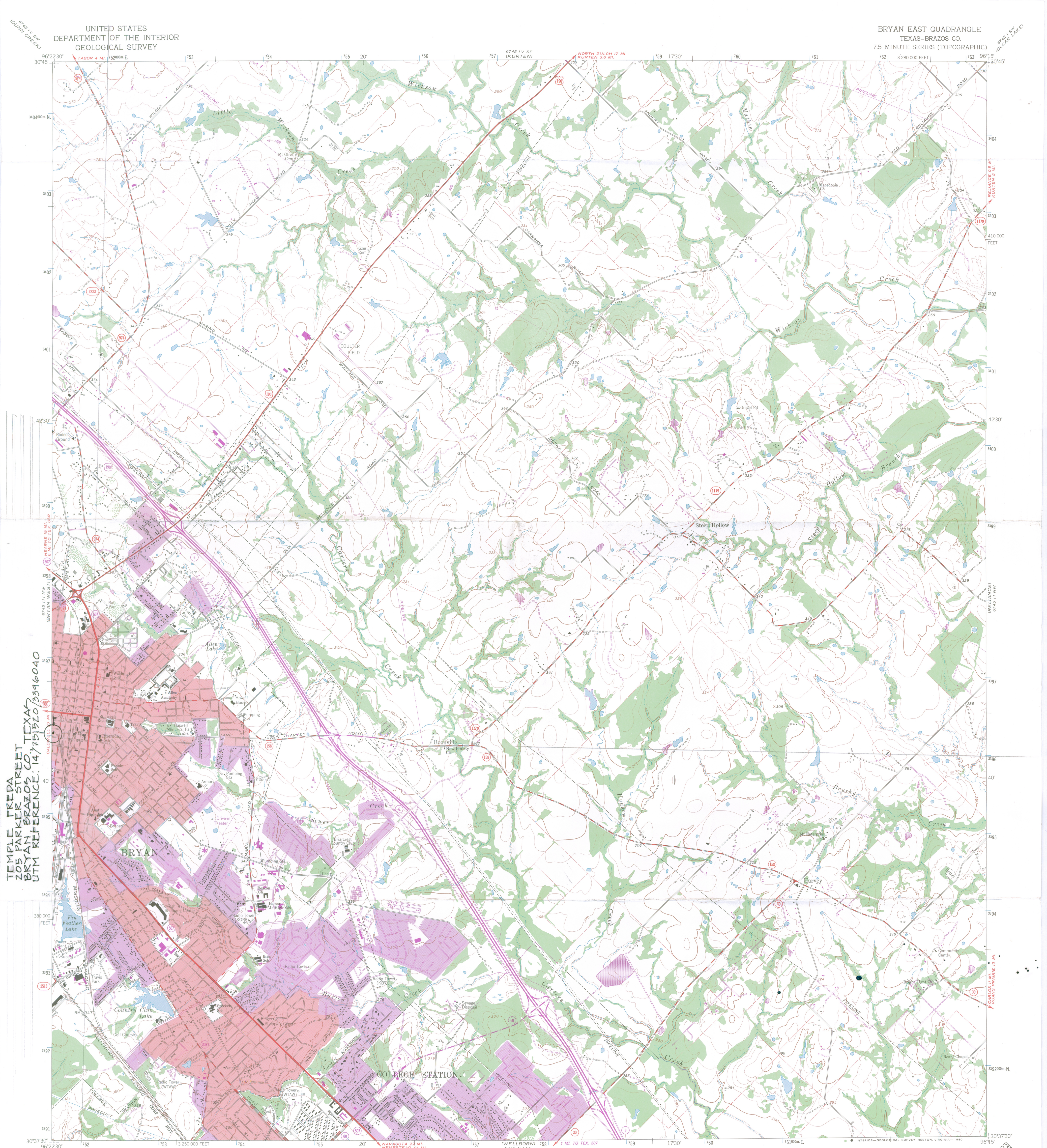
Temple Freda

205 Parker Street, Bryan, Brazos County, Texas

Drawing by Patricia Weber, 1982; orig. on file
with Library of Congress, Historic American
Buildings Survey, Wahsington, D.C.

Floor Plan

Photo 7 of 7



TEMPLE FREDA
205 PARKER STREET
BRYAN BRAZOS CO TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 1475E203396040

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1961 Field checked 1962

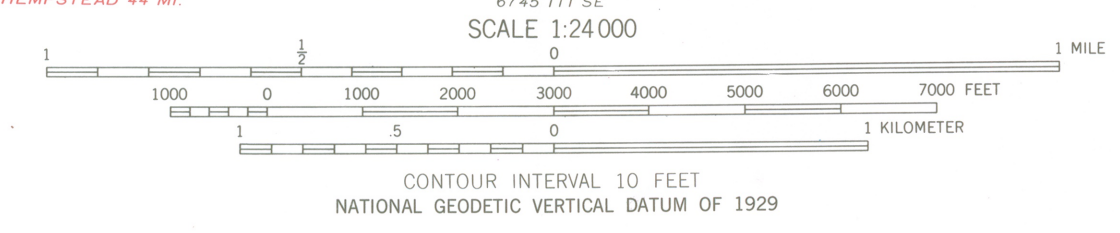
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 17 meters south and
24 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1977 and other source data. This information not
field checked. Map edited 1980



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



BRYAN EAST, TEX.
N3037.5-W9615/7.5

1962
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 6745 III NE-SERIES V82

3096-424