

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **MAR 16 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Lasker Home for Homeless Children

and/or common The McLemore House

2. Location

street & number 1019 16th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Galveston N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Galveston code 167

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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Children's

4. Owner of Property

Home

name The Lasker Home for Children

street & number 1019 16th Street

city, town Galveston N/A vicinity of state Texas 77550

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. The Galveston County Courthouse

street & number 722 Moody

city, town Galveston state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 7, 1966 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress, Division of Prints and Records

city, town Washington, D.C. 20540 state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lasker Home for Children is an unusual and important example of Greek Revival architecture. The house was constructed after the Civil War, although it bears a striking resemblance to antebellum houses in Galveston such as the Ball House (1857) and the Grover House (1859). All three structures are large, three-bay Greek Revival dwellings whose porches were supported originally by four columns, and which had side halls. The shouldered architraves and the pointed lintels over the windows and door resemble prototypes in the pattern books of Asher Benjamin. This could indicate a construction date in the 1850s, if it were not for the fact that Greek Revival homes continued to be built in postwar Galveston. The octagonal cypress columns are indicative of the Reconstruction period, and the house was likely built in 1869-70, according to available documents. The Lasker Home for Children has had major additions made to the rear and north sides, but these date from the turn-of-the-century and 1912. Because of their age and sympathy with the original structure in massing, materials, and fenestration, they are not intrusive.

The Lasker Home for Children is a large, frame, two-story Greek Revival building raised on tall brick piers. Its walls are covered with narrow clapboards. The three-bay front faces east on the northwest corner of Avenue K and 16th Street. The building has a low, hipped roof with central double dormer on the east, or front, elevation of the house. A double gallery with railing and turned balusters extends across the front and halfway down the south side. The galleries and their entablatures are supported by octagonal cypress columns with Doric capitals, with classical details of curved brackets and a line of modillions under wide eaves. The lintels over the two windows on the first floor front repeat the fine detailing of the trim of the main entrance, which is a single door with four lights over the doorway and three on each side. The door has one large glass pane with a smaller wooden panel below. There are still several panes of the original etched glass in the doorway. The house has four entrances, one on each side of the building. The L-shaped addition was built in 1912, on the west and north facades. This addition has an open porch on the first floor, rear (south side), with a screened porch above on the second story. A divided stairway leads to the first-floor gallery and main entrance. The exterior walls are painted dark yellow, which is the original color. The windows have six-over-nine or six-over-six lights, although some have been replaced by two-over-two lights. All windows were once shuttered, but some blinds have been lost.

The 1889 Sanborn insurance map shows a long, rectangular, two-story house, with a second two-story, square building joined to its northwest corner. A large cistern is shown in the "L" formed by the two buildings, and some small outbuildings are shown in the yard. The 1899 Sanborn map depicts the house with double galleries front and back, and a porch and entrance on the south side. The small building on the northwest corner

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

of the 1889 map is now absent. A two-story, rectangular building is now shown adjacent to the house on the southwest corner. There is a small outbuilding back of the house, and a stable on the alley. The 1912 Sanborn map shows the outline of the building as it is today, enlarged by the additions made in 1912 and by the galleries added on the south side.

The front door opens onto a broad side hall with gently rising stairs. The stair-railing has turned balusters and a simple urn-shaped newel. The hall is paneled over plaster, although the modern paneling will be removed in the course of the present renovations. There are three administration rooms on the first floor, which were the original parlors and dining room. A single door from the hall is the entrance to the front room on the south side of the house. Here there are four windows. The two front ones have six-over-nine, the side ones six-over-six, lights. A wide archway leads to the next room. This room has a single door to the hall and two windows with six-over-six lights. A similar archway leads into the office, which is a large, rectangular room with double doors to the hall, windows with six-over-six lights in the south wall, and a corner fireplace with wooden overmantle in the northeast corner of the room. A single door in the west wall opens to the children's study room. This room also has a fireplace using the same chimney as the one in the office. The windows here in the south wall have six-over-six lights. Behind the study is a very large dining room with double doors leading to the back hall. Here there are two windows with two-over-two lights on the south wall, and six-over-six in the back wall. The hall makes a right-angle turn at the dining room, where can be found the back stairs, cellar stairs, the entrance to the pantry and kitchen, and an exit to the side yard (north side), as well as an exit to the back yard from the kitchen. On the north side of the house, off the front hall, is a room and bath for a houseparent and an isolation room for sick children. Windows in the houseparent's room have six-over-six lights, in the isolation room two-over-two. Woodwork throughout is painted white. Walls are plastered and papered. Ceilings are 15 feet high, while the surfaces measure 10 to 12 inches. Wooden floor have been covered with linoleum tile, except in the administration rooms, where hardwood floors were laid about 20 years ago.

On the second floor there are four large dormitories for the children, two large baths, a storage room, and two rooms for houseparents. The rooms correspond to the plan of the first floor. The boys' dormitory (south front) is over the reception room and office. This room has six windows with six-over-six lights. The girls' dormitory (the next room to the west) has double doors to the hall, and two windows with two-over-two lights on the south side. In the little-girls' dorm (the next room), the windows are the same. In the large room over the dining room, the older-boys' dorm, the two windows on the south have two-over-two lights as do the windows in the back or west

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side. In the houseparents' room over the kitchen, the windows have six-over-six lights. On the north side of the house the windows are all two-over-two on the second floor. All the children's rooms have southern exposures, and the rooms are spacious, light, and airy. There are two fireplaces on the second floor, in the girls' dorms, located over the fireplaces on the first floor. Ceilings are 14 feet high. There is a trap-door entrance to the attic from the girls' dormitory. The house has a full basement now provided with an activity room, laundry, and bathroom. There are no outbuildings on the property.

Alterations were made in 1901, after the Galveston Storm, and in 1912 after Morris Lasker, a prominent Galveston businessman, donated \$10,000 to the home to make the changes. Repair and refurnishing included having the building raised, the basement enlarged, and an addition added to the rear of the building on the northwest corner. The yard around the Lasker Home is fenced, and the house is surrounded by oak and fig trees, as well as oleander bushes. The house is prominently sited on a corner only six blocks from the Galveston seawall, in a neighborhood that is mixed residential and rental.

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 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 checked="" 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 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 1869-70, 1901, & 1912 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecturally, The Lasker Home for Children is an important example of urban Greek Revival architecture comparable to other noted Greek Revival buildings in Galveston. As a place of refuge for children since 1901, it still serves as a non-sectarian institution providing care, instruction, education, and maintenance for minority-age children. Organized as The Society for the Help of Homeless Children, the name of the Home was changed to The Lasker Home for Homeless Children in appreciation of the help given by Morris Lasker, a Galveston merchant, banker, and philanthropist. Many citizens of the city have contributed time, effort, and money to the support of the home since its inception. Because of its age, scale, and function, it has been a Galveston landmark for over a hundred years.

The first owner of the property was Judge John L. Darragh (Darrough), who bought it with other property from the Galveston City Company in 1860. Tax records show the value of the lots as \$800 from 1861 to 1868, with no mention of improvements. Judge Darragh was a prominent pioneer merchant who came to Galveston from Philadelphia in 1843. He was president of the Galveston City Company, the National Bank of Texas, and the Wharf Company. In 1868, he sold the property to Marcus C. McLemore. In 1889 he was declared insane by the court and left Galveston to live in the east, where he died in 1892.

Marcus C. McLemore was a Galveston lawyer practicing in partnership with F. Charles Hume in 1870. In 1882 he is listed in the Galveston City Directory as having an office with A.R. Campbell, attorney, at 77 Strand. He was Court Recorder for Galveston County for many years before his death in 1898. McLemore came to Texas from South Carolina. Tax returns for 1868 show that he paid taxes on property in Galveston valued at \$15,700, not including lots 8 and 9 in Block 136, which represent the present structure. In 1870 he did pay taxes on this property valued at \$8,000 with improvements. McLemore died without a will and research could find no obituary or other death notice. Laura is listed as a widow in the Galveston City Directory of 1899, and not at all after 1901. Their son, Marcus McLemore, became United States District Attorney, Eastern District of Texas, in 1899.

J.C. League bought the property at a sheriff's sale in 1900, before the hurricane of September 8th. He was the son of Thomas Jefferson League, who had built the T. Jeff League Building on the Strand, now restored. League's wife Mary was the daughter of Samuel May Williams, one of the founders of the city of Galveston. J.C. League was an attorney and managed his family's large estate. In 1901 he sold the present property to the Society for the Help of Homeless Children.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Galveston, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	3	2	6	7	6	0	3	3	4	2	4	3	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

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G

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H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 136, Lots 8 and 9, Galveston, Texas
Northwest Corner of Avenue K and 16th Street

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Hartman, Board Member, Lasker Home

organization Lasker Home for Children

date August 29, 1982

street & number 215 Postoffice #1001

telephone (713) 765-6863

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8 March 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 4/14/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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In 1894, six Galveston women, all with a common concern for helpless children, met and organized and incorporated the Society for Friendless Children, with the intention of providing a home for children regardless of race, color, or religion. The original incorporators were locally prominent citizens: Mrs. F.B. Nichols, Mrs. Rebecca Hayes, Mrs. Hunter Griffin, Mrs. W.H. Stewart, Mrs. Mary Burns, and Mrs. Mary B. Nichols. Prior to the 1900 hurricane, the members of the Society managed to maintain the home without endowments or regular sources of income. The 1900 storm was devastating. The building being used at 29th and Winnie was destroyed, and many of the children were killed. With the help of the city and county government, the McLemore residence was bought in 1901 so that the Home could continue to provide shelter.

The classification of children in the Home was class 1, children whose board was fully paid; class 2, children of widows (these women generally paid the home for their child's care but on occasion could not); class 3, children who had no father or mother and who were destitute. The Home for Homeless Children was the only city institution which would accept children whose mother did not have a marriage certificate.

In 1908, a unique means of raising money was begun. A special board meeting, chaired by Miss Rebecca Ashton Brown, established an annual tag day for the children of the city. Miss Brown is better known as "Bettie" Brown, a daughter of James M. Brown, the builder of Ashton Villa (National Register), which is now a house museum operated by the Galveston Historical Foundation. Tag Day was successful, and was repeated for several years. By 1910, however, it was evident that major repairs had to be made to the building, and on November 17, 1911, Morris Lasker, a prominent Galveston businessman, donated \$10,000 to the Home for renovation.

Morris Lasker was born February 19, 1840, in Lansk, Germany. His parents were Daniel and Rebecca Lasker. His mother died when he was 18 months old, and his father when he was 12. An orphan himself, he attended school until he was 15 and at the age of 16 emigrated to America on a sailing ship which was expected to make port in New York. Instead, 13 weeks after leaving Hamburg the ship arrived at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, detoured by storms. After working in Virginia, New York, Florida, and Georgia, Lasker came to Texas in 1860, and settled in Weatherford. To get to Texas he bought a horse and became a peddler, arriving in Texas with nothing more than a knowledge of three things: Latin, Greek and peddling. During the Civil War he joined the Confederate army and fought in the battles of Galveston and Sabine Pass. After the war he became a partner in the firm of Marx & Kempner, a wholesale grocery firm at Galveston. A year later he left Marx & Kempner to go into business with Louis Le Gierse. Le Gierse & Co. became one of the most successful grocery businesses in the city. In 1876, Lasker married Nettie Davis of Albany, New York, a niece of the prominent Heidenheimer brothers of Galveston. There were seven children.

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date entered _____

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In 1895, Morris Lasker was elected to fill an unexpired term in the Texas Senate. There he introduced bills regulating fish and oyster culture in the state, and the Drainage Bill. He was president of the Island City Savings Bank, vice president of the First National Bank, president of the Lasker Real Estate Association, president of the Citizens' Loan Company, and director of the Texas Star Flour Mills. His son Albert Lasker, the best known of Morris and Nettie's children, is often called the father of modern advertising. John Gunther, in his book on the life of Albert, Taken at the Flood (1960), states that Morris was an extremely good citizen, far in advance of his time. His mill was the second in the United States to install an eight-hour day for labor. Morris Lasker died in 1916 at the age of 76 at his home in Galveston.

The Lasker's own home at 18th and Broadway was designed by Galveston architect Nicholas J. Clayton. It was demolished in 1967, leaving the Lasker Home for Children as the only surviving link with Morris Lasker and his philanthropies in Galveston. It has served the Galveston community in the same structure continuously for over eighty years, and still functions as a children's home. No major additions have occurred in the last sixty years, and the structure retains its historic character to an unusual degree.

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date entered

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Item number 9

Page 1

Galveston City Directories: 1859 to 1905

Galveston County Courthouse: Deed, Marriage records, Probate Minutes

Galveston Daily News

Galveston Historical Foundation, MS, "Thomas J. League Building."

Hayes, Charles W. Galveston: History of the Island and the City, Austin:
Jenkins Garrett Press, 1974

Handbook of Texas, Walter Prescott Webb (ed.), Austin: the Texas State Historical
Association, 1952

Brown, John Henry. Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas, Austin: L. E. Daniell,
1890. p. 61

Maps, Census, and Tax records. Rosenberg Library Archives, Galveston

Gunther, John. Taken at the Flood - The Story of Albert Lasker, New York:
Harper & Brothers, 1960, pp. 19-26

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Lasker Home for Homeless Children
Galveston County
TEXAS

Working No. MAR 16 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 4/14/83 - 4/30/83
Action: ACCEPT 4/14/83
 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 _____ Area 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT Reference _____

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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

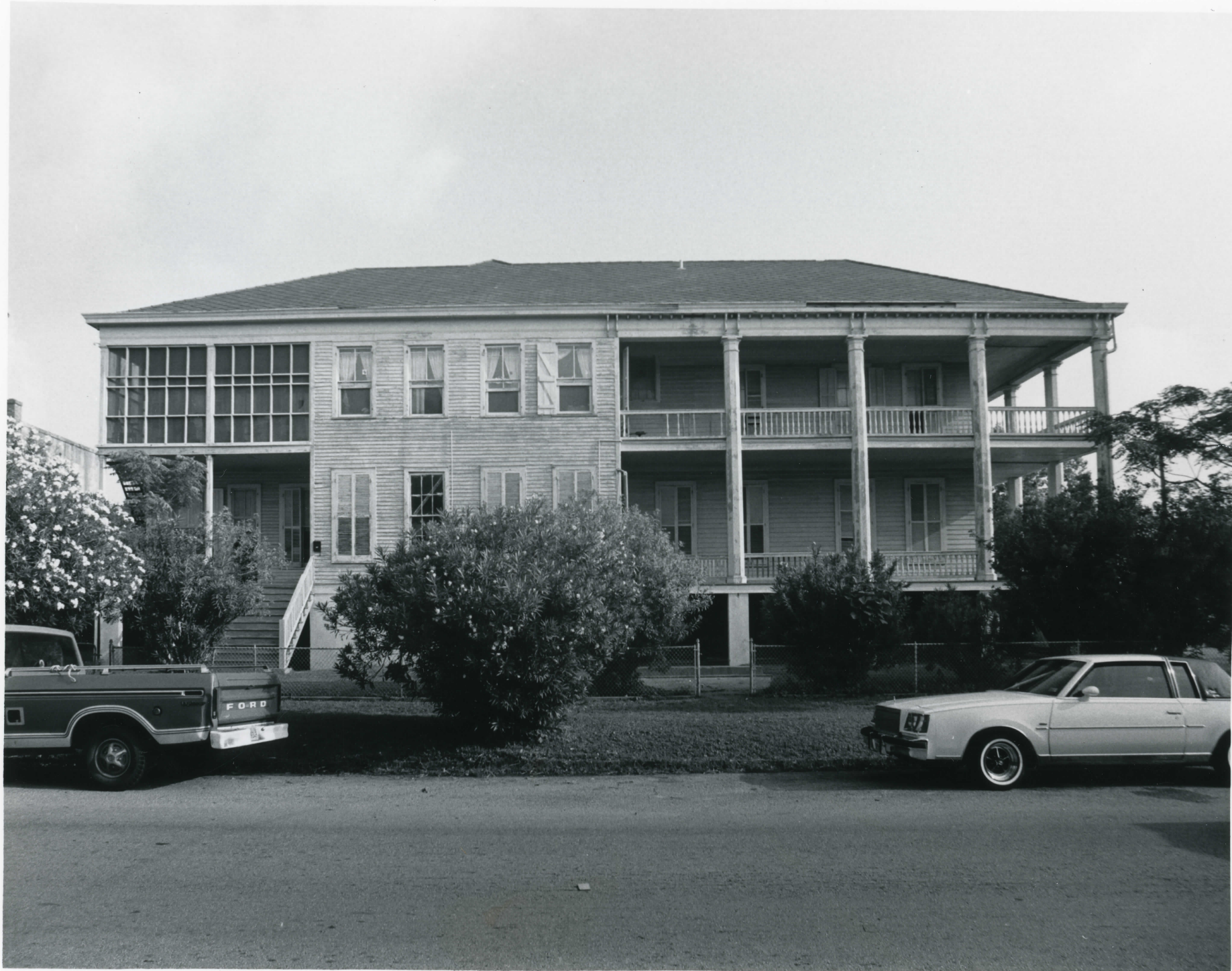


Ga 136
G 8,910

The Lasker Home for Children
1019 16th Street, Galveston, Galveston County,
Texas. 77550

Photographer - Van Edwards - has negative
1111 36th Street, Galveston, TX
Photograph taken May 20, 1982
Front of building facing east on 16th Street,
camera facing west.

(#1 of 5)



The Lasker Home for Children
1019 16th Street
Galveston, Galveston County, TX 77550

Photographer - Van Edwards - has negative
111/36th Street
Galveston, TX 77550

Photograph taken May 20, 1982

South side of building on Avenue K, camera
facing north.

(#2 of 5)



The Lasker Home for Children
1019 16th Street
Galveston, Galveston County, TX 77550

Photographer - Van Edwards - has negative
1111 36th Street
Galveston, TX 77550

Photograph taken May 20, 1982

Front part of north side of building
camera facing south.

(#3 of 5)



The Lasker Home for Children
1019 16th Street
Galveston, Galveston County, TX 77550

Photographer Van Edwards - has negative
1111 36th Street
Galveston, TX 77550

Photograph taken May 20, 1982

Center and rear portion of north side of
building. Camera facing south.

(#4 of 5)



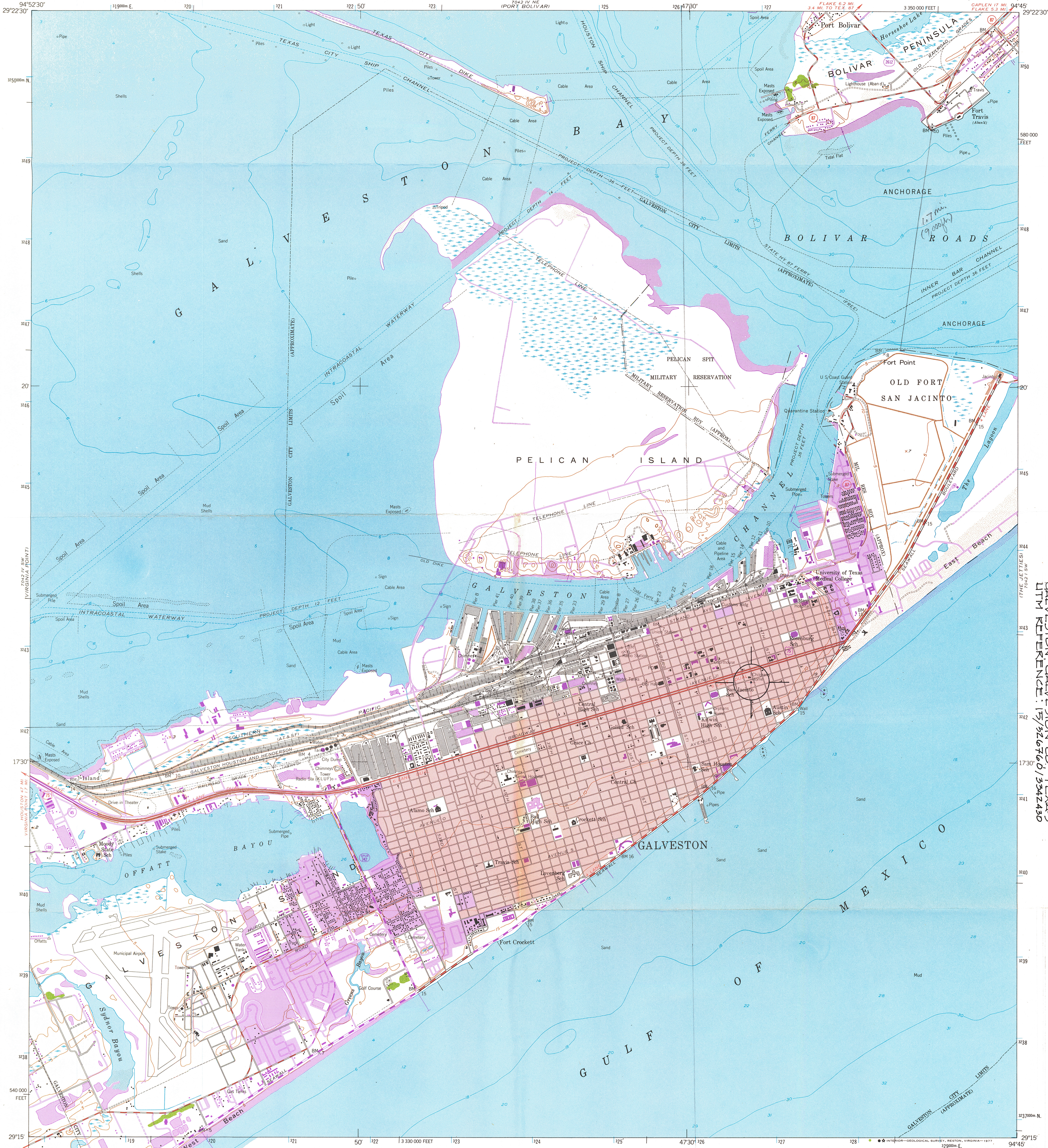
The Lasker Home for Children
1019 16th Street
Galveston, Galveston County, TX 77550

Photographer - Van Edwards - has negative
1111 36th Street
Galveston, TX 77550

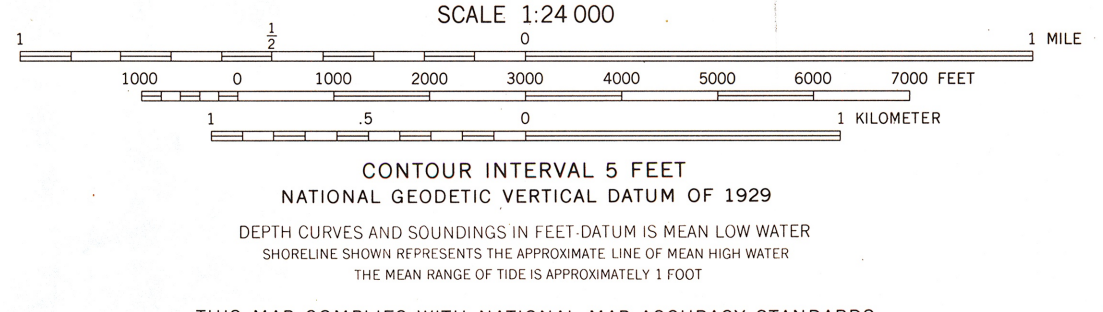
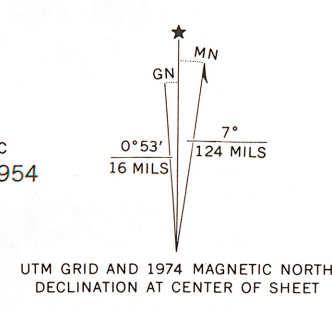
Rear or west side of building . Camera
facing north/north east.

Photograph taken May 20, 1982

(#5 of 5)



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by NOS/NOAA, USCE and TVA
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
and by planetable surveys 1943. Revised by photogrammetric
methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954
Hydrography compiled from US&G&S charts 520,886
and 1282 (1953)
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 area in which only
landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



2994-231
CALVESTON, TEX.
N2915-W9445/7.5

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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
from photographs taken 1969 and 1974.
This information not field checked.
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1974
AMS 7042 IV SE-SERIES V882

LAKER HOME FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN
1019 16TH STREET
GALVESTON GALVESTON CO. TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15T926760/3542450