

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only  
received **DEC 6 1983**  
date entered

# 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 Fort Worth Public Market

and/or common Cadillac Plastics

## 2. Location

street & number 1400 Henderson St.

N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Worth N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Tarrant code 439

## 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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Harold Frost (Bowen Properties)

street & number P.O. Box 1715

city, town Fort Worth N/A vicinity of state Texas 76101

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tarrant County Courthouse

street & number 100 West Weatherford

city, town Fort Worth state Texas 76102

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date March 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas



## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Fort Worth Public Market Building is an interesting design in Spanish Colonial Revival Style, with a prominent entrance tower and secondary towers at the ends of the street fronts. The building is handsomely detailed with decorative terra cotta and colored glass. The market complex also includes a separate L-shaped shed paralleling the two rear facades of the main building. It was designed for individual stalls for produce.

The Fort Worth Public Market Building is one of a few surviving examples of commercial Spanish Colonial Revival Architecture in Fort Worth, Texas. It is located on the southern edge of Fort Worth's central business district at the corner of Interstate 30 frontage road and Henderson. It is part of a commercial area lying just south of Interstate 30 that has been an important site for transportation and commerce in Fort Worth's history. (This area includes the Texas and Pacific Terminal building (National Register, 1979) and the Fort Worth Post Office (National Register nomination applied for).) The buildings in this area were cut off from the flow of downtown Fort Worth traffic by the development of the interstate highway and are now further threatened by a freeway expansion project.

The main market building is square in shape with towers on three of its four corners. The interior space was originally one open story reaching to the roof with skylights in the center of the roof and a mezzanine, open to the center area, along the east and south walls. Constructed of tan brick laid in stretcher bond, the main building is ornamented with glazed terra-cotta tile, red, green, and orange Spanish clay roof tiles and stained glass. An L-shaped stall building, which once housed the market stalls for individual produce vendors, wraps around the main building along the south and west sides. It is a much more simply ornamented building than the main market building. Its sides are constructed of concrete blocks with a long narrow row of metal-frame windows running the length of the building just below the roof line. The ends of the building are faced with tan brick and have a large doorway that was used for stall access. The east end has a curvilinear gable and a small amount of glazed terra-cotta trim. The north end of the stall building once resembled the east end, but was altered during the 1950s to make room for freeway frontage road expansion. The stall building has a simple shed roof while the roof on the main building is basically a flat roof built up on a two-inch concrete slab. There were ten skylights in the center of the roof, several of which still remain, and a Spanish tile coping ran around the edge.

The main tower, on the northeast corner of the building, is the most visible and highly ornamented portion of the market building. It served as the primary entrance to the part of the market which housed the permanent concessions: grocers, meat markets, bakers, drug stores, and a beauty shop and barber shop. The entry is framed by a pair of free-standing Solomonic pilasters with foliated capitals. The entrance arch is elaborately detailed, the lower sections featuring a tall niche set between decorated pilasters. The arch itself is an elaborate composition, with a progressive diminution of the width of the opening as it recedes within the tower. The complex outline of the arch reflects Spanish and Spanish Colonial Baroque architecture. All this ornament is cast in terra cotta, as is the polychromed tympanum above the doors which features an urn flanked by cornucopias from which grapevines grow, an allegory on the sale of fresh produce within the building.



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The vertical rise of the main tower is emphasized by the tall and narrow opening above the entry which is filled by a rather abstract design in colored glass in which are set the words "Public Market." The design of this glasswork is decidedly modernistic in character, and provides an interesting contrast to the traditional detailing of the structure. The other three sides of the tower are also pierced by vertical, glazed openings. Those on the sides of the tower are filled with clear glass, with inset panels of blue tile on the lower stage of the tower. The rear elevation of the tower includes a single, tall opening glazed with clear glass. As the tower reaches the point of its setback, additional terra-cotta pilasters are found on each side of the window openings. The upper stage of the tower consists of an open belvedere, with a large, round-arch opening on each of its four sides. The belvedere is capped by a tiled and hipped roof. Secondary entrances to the main building are provided on the north and east elevations in the form of slightly projecting porches capped by tiled shed roofs. The side entrances also feature decorative terra-cotta detailing over the doors. The north and east elevations are terminated by simple, square tower elements with hipped roofs of red tile. These towers feature decorative balconies looking out on the streets below.

The windows on the north and east fronts of the buildings have multiple lights and arched, metal frames. Those on the back sides of the structure are rectangular windows of the same type of construction. The mid-sections of these windows were hinged and could be opened for ventilation.

The main floor and mezzanine of the market building were divided into commercial retail space for various businesses, and a cold-storage and cleaning area. The building that housed the farmers' stalls was open inside with stalls marked off and tables provided for the display of merchandise. Together the two buildings provided space for 145 farmer or vendor stalls and 30 permanent retail shops.

Very little of the original interior of the building remains intact today. Almost all the original walls have been taken out or relocated to provide office or warehouse space. Grocers, a baker, a deli, and specialty shops were located on the main floor; beauty and barber shops, market offices, and restrooms on the mezzanine. The open section of the mezzanine ran along the east wall and was reached by a double stairway in the middle of the gallery. The cooling tower and other portions of the ventilation system were located in an enclosed section along the south wall. The original floor plans of the building do exist, however, and details of the original interior space can be determined from them.

The exterior of the building has undergone some alteration, but most of the important architectural details are still intact. A porch overhang on the east facade is the most significant alteration to the street-side facade. The west facade has been altered several times for various commercial uses, but none of the alterations have destroyed the scale or overall impact of the building.

(see continuation sheet)



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The L-shaped shed building once for produce parallels the two rear facades of the main building. Originally there was a curvilinear gable or parapet with terra-cotta ornamentation, as well as a large entry arch, on each street front. Both the main building and shed building are nominated herein. The most significant alteration was the shortening of the north end of the building to allow for the expansion of the freeway frontage road. The curvilinear gable there and the terra-cotta ornamentation were removed, and a plain facade with only a Spanish tile coping at the roofline was substituted. The shed building has had numerous additions in the form of corrugated tin or cement-block shed additions. There are several other out buildings on the back portion of the property, but all are recent structures built of corrugated tin and are semipermanent in nature.



## 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 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 checked="" 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** 1930

**Builder/Architect**

B. Gaylord Noftsger, architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Quisile and Andrews, contracting engineers

The Fort Worth Public Market Building is an unusual example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style applied to a commercial building in Fort Worth. The complex is also of importance to the commercial history of the city during the Great Depression, and represents a major, privately funded, construction project undertaken at a time of economic crisis.

Designed to serve both the wholesale and retail commercial sales, the Fort Worth Public Market is an interesting example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style wedded to a functional design that did not require elaborate ornamentation. The vertical accentuation provided by the central tower is unusual for such a structure, and hints at the Art Moderne style which was just beginning to assert itself in the United States. The plan of the building distinguishes those spaces reserved for permanent and transient tenants and places these spaces in separate sections of the complex.

John J. Harden obtained a 100-year lease on the property in 1929. Harden had discussed several proposals for a market building with the Fort Worth City Council including one, through his agent, Harry J. Lyons, that would have built an 8,000-9,000 seat auditorium over the market place. The city declined that offer, but issued the largest building permit of the new year to Harden in February 1930. B. Gaylord Noftsger (1897-1979) designed the building in a style that looked very much like the market building in Oklahoma City which he had designed for Harden in 1928. Harden and Noftsger had also worked together on several residential and mausoleum developments.

The cost of the building was estimated at \$158,702, with other costs bringing the grand total up to about \$200,000. The market was constructed during the spring and opened to the public on Friday, June 20, 1930. The opening was a popular community affair with addresses by the Mayor, William Brice, the city manager, and John J. Harden. Music was provided by Michael Cooles and his orchestra. Over 20,000 people attended the opening-day celebration, and the market tried to establish a reputation as more than a commercial operation by inaugurating a weekly, Friday evening, radio program on station WBAP. John J. Harden, the developer's son, was the manager of the market. Although the early days were successful and the market always seemed to be busy, poor management and lax security (there was no way to lock up each individual storefront), coupled with the economic vise of the early years of the depression, caused retail profit margins to disappear. In 1931, 14 commercial operations (some, like Chitotsky's Grocery, rented more than one retail space) and all but 13 of the farmers' stalls were rented. By 1934, there were only six permanent concessions and 23 vendors, and by 1936, Colonial Stores of Texas was the only retail store in operation and only 12 tenants occupied the stalls. Harden had transferred ownership of the market to the Fort Worth Public Market Company in 1932, but he retained



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a major interest in that company. The company was forced, in 1933, to take out a \$175,000 loan on the building, and in 1940, the Fort Worth Public Market Company's venture finally failed completely and they obtained a release from their lease. The Farmer and Consumer Company attempted to run the market for a short time, but they were also unsuccessful and terminated their lease. Kelsay Lumber Company, which owned the property all this time, sold it to the Kirby Lumber Company in 1941, and Kirby sold it to R. C. Bowen of Bowen Properties in 1944.

Bowen Properties has leased the property to several tenants. Most recently a major portion of the building has been used by Cadillac Plastics as a storefront and warehouse. Although the interior has been altered significantly, the exterior has few irreversible structural alterations. While the property stands in close proximity to Interstate Highway 30, the owners are concerned with the maintenance of the property and have recently removed several unsympathetic signs from the street fronts of the former market.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Fletcher, Tom. Interview with Carol Roark, January 21, 1980.

Fort Worth City Directory, 1930-1936.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fort Worth, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	4	6	5	5	7	4	0	3	6	2	3	9	6	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 Block 10 of the Texas and Pacific Subdivision outlined in color on the attached site plan. (see continuation 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 Carol Roark

organization

date February 1, 1980

street & number 2103 6th Avenue

telephone (817) 926-4212

city or town Fort Worth

state Texas 76110

## 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 11/29/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

1/5/84

*for Delores Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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Fort Worth Press, August 17, November 1, November 9, December 12, 1928.

Fort Worth Star Telegram, February 2, June 20, June 21, 1930.

Texas Writers Project. Research Data, Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Typescript,  
Fort Worth Public Library, 26 volumes.

Property Abstract, in possession of Bowen Properties.

Sandler, Mrs. L. L. (Chicotsky), Interview by Carol Roark, January 8, 1980.



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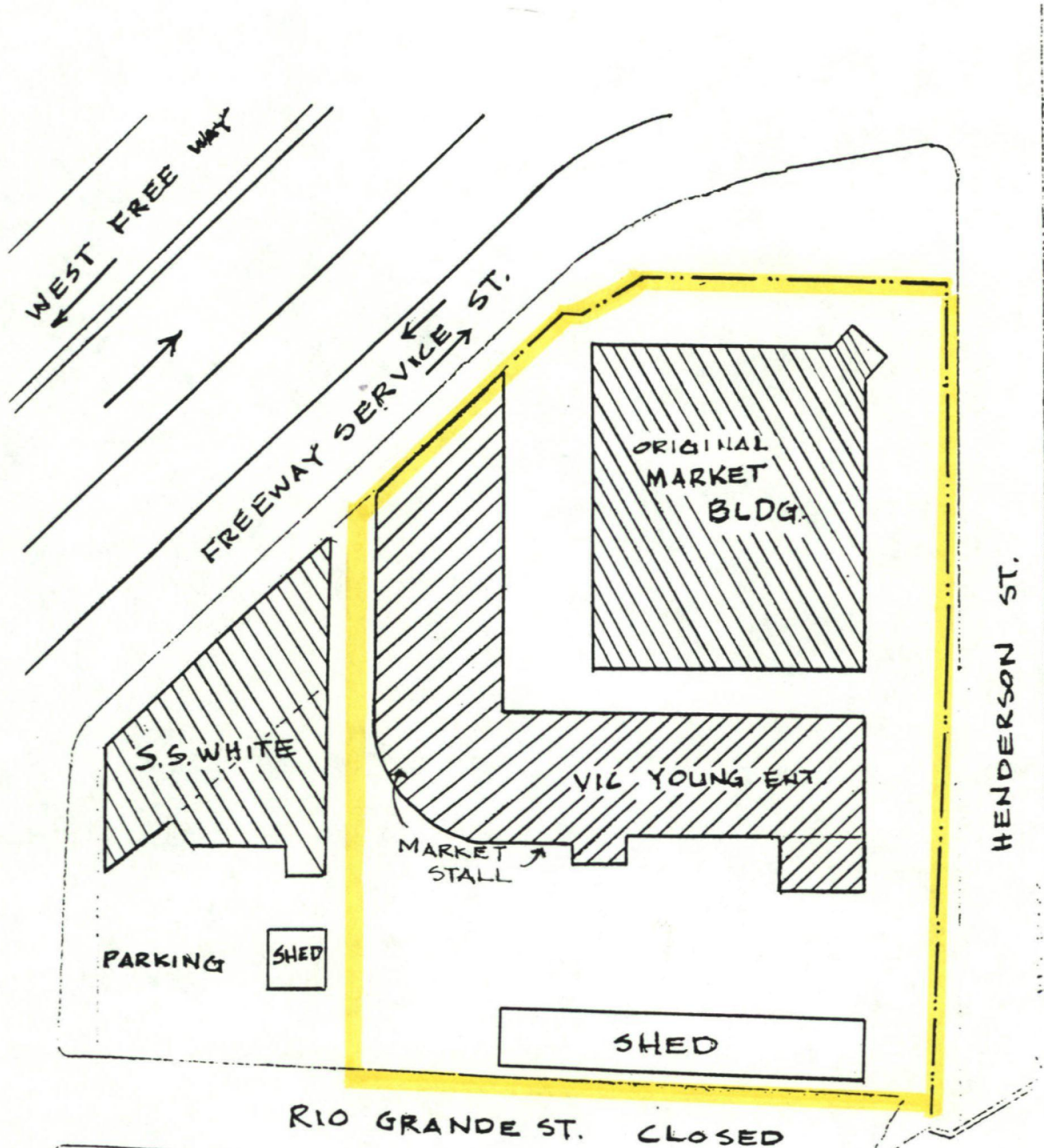
received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1



*Scale*  
1/4" = 100'



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fort Worth Public Market  
Tarrant County  
TEXAS

Working No. DEC 6 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: P-5-85  
Date Due: 1/5/84 - 1/20/84  
Action:  ACCEPT 1/5/84  
 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

- 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

- 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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet*







Fort Worth Public Market Building

1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: March 1983, by Katherine Livingston; negative  
on file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Northeast corner of market, looking southwest

Phot 1 of 9





Public Market

PUBLIC MARKET

1400

1400

US LIFE

CUSTOMER  
PARKING

LES  
MENT &  
SPLIN  
EASE  
1212



Fort Worth Public Market Building

1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: March 1983, by Katherine Livingston; negative  
on file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Tower above main entrance at northeast corner, looking  
west-southwest

Photo 2 of 9





PUBLIC MARKET



Fort Worth Public Market Building

1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo; March 1983 by Katherine Livingston; negative  
on file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Detail of terra-cotta work above main entrance at  
northwest corner of main building, looking  
southwest

Photo 3 of 9





PUBLIC MARKET

CADILLAC PLASTIC

CADILLAC PLASTIC

CUSTOMER PARKING CADILLAC PLASTIC CO.

NO RIGHT TURN

SAVING  
of BMW  
University and  
ANCO



Fort Worth Public Market Buidling

1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: March 1983, by Katherine Livingston; negative  
on file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Norht elevation of main market, looking south

Photo 4 of 9





COMMERCIAL  
DELIVERY  
ROUTE

STAPLES  
MANAGEMENT &  
INVESTMENTS, INC.  
FOR LEASE  
338-1212

STAPLES  
MANAGEMENT &  
INVESTMENTS, INC.  
FOR LEASE  
338-1212

STAPLES  
MANAGEMENT &  
INVESTMENTS, INC.  
FOR LEASE  
338-1212

CUSTOMER  
PARKING

1400



Fort Worth Public Market Building

1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: March 1983, by Katherine Livingston; negative  
on file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin

East elevation of main market, looking west

Photo 5 of 9





PLASTICS

PLEXIGLAS  
PLASTIC PRODUCTS

**CADILLAC PLASTIC CO.**  
PLEXIGLAS BERGLAS RESINS NYLON TEFLON VINYL POLYETHYLENE

CUSTOMER PARKING CADILLAC PLASTIC CO.

TEXAS CORN DOGS  
JIM LEE ENTERPRISES  
1000 W. WASHINGTON ST. - MCKINNEY



Fort Worth Public Market Building

1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: January 1980, by Carol Roark, negative on file,  
Texas Historical Commission, Austin

View of northeast corner of main building, with east  
facade of L-shaped building to far left, looking  
southwest

Photo 6 of 9





PHOTO  
ETCH CO.  
→

NO  
PARKING



Fort Worth Public Market Building

1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: January 1980, by Carol Roark; negative on file,  
Texas Historical Commission, Austin

East facade of L-shaped shed building, looking  
southwest

Photo 7 of 9







Fort Worth Public Market Buidling

1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: January 1980, by Carol Roark; negative on file,  
Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Southeast corner of L-shaped shed building, showing  
addition, looking north-northwest

Photo 8 of 9





REPLACEMENT PARTS  
**FACTORY AIR**  
332

Fort Worth Public Market Building

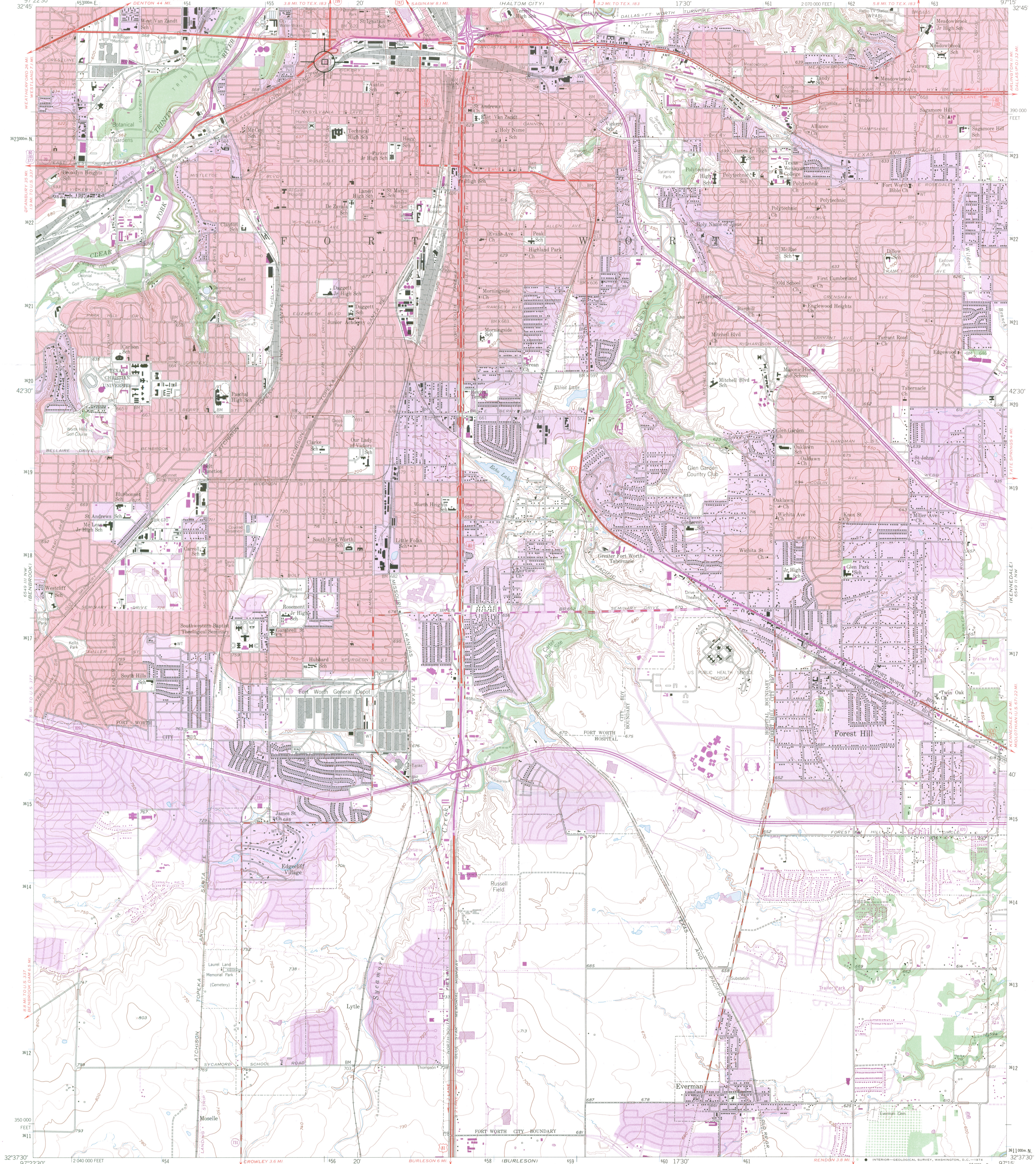
1400 Henderson, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: January 1930, by Carol Roark; negative on file  
Texas Historical Commission, Austin

West facade of L-shaped shed building and north side  
of east west wing of L, looking southeast

Photo 9 of 9





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by Kesh 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

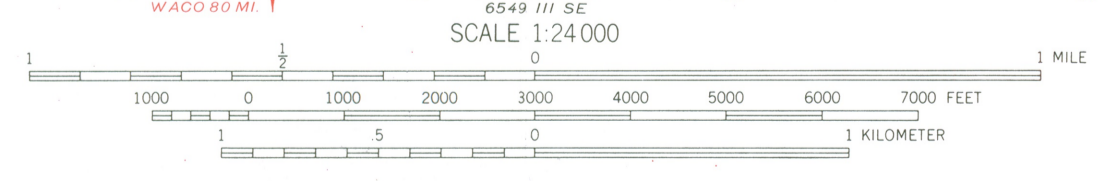
Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1968 and 1972. This information not checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

0°55' 16" N  
142°16' W



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

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

3297-424

FORT WORTH, TEX.  
N3237 5 - W9715 7.5

1955  
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1972  
AMS 6549 III NE-SERIES V882