



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Scottish Rite Cathedral
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 308 Avenue E
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Bexar CODE: 29
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
ZIP CODE: 78205

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally x statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Curtis J. J. J. J. Signature of certifying official
12-12-95 Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edson B. Beal
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

2/16/96

 other (explain): _____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL/meeting hall; RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL/meeting hall; RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium;
EDUCATION/school; EDUCATION/library; RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION Concrete
WALLS Stone
ROOF Asphalt
OTHER Stone, Terra Cotta, Metal

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-17).

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Description

The 1924 Scottish Rite Cathedral is a masonry building of Classical Revival design that rises 5 1/2 stories at its highest point. While flat roofs cap flanking dependencies, the main block has a front facing gable and the projecting, center of the building has a pyramidal terra cotta roof. The exterior walls are stone with terra cotta ornamentation. Most noteworthy is the colonnade of colossal columns that distinguishes the main block. The cathedral's interior is opulent and continues the classical theme. On a corner lot at the edge of San Antonio's central business district, the cathedral faces northwest onto Avenue E. It retains a high level of its historic and architectural integrity.

In south central Texas, Bexar County is in the interior belt of the coastal plains. Although the northwest portion of the county is hilly with numerous spring fed streams, the City of San Antonio is generally flat, built along the San Antonio River plain. The city (1990 population 989,591) serves as county seat and as the region's economic hub, based on government, military bases, tourism, and other service and industrial businesses. The cathedral sits on half a city block in the northern portion of downtown San Antonio, two blocks north of the Alamo and adjacent to several other architecturally prominent buildings including Atlee B. Ayres' 1909 First Presbyterian Church and Herbert M. Greene's 1929 San Antonio *Express* Building. (The *Express* Building, like the Scottish Rite Cathedral, features a *bas relief* sculpture by Pompeo Coppini on a frieze above the main entry.)

The rectangular Scottish Rite Cathedral's exterior faces are constructed of stone with terra cotta cornices and enamel ornaments. Approximately 48 rail car loads of cut Texas Lueder stone are incorporated into the building's shell. The building is topped with a stair-step, or semi-pyramid, roof of terra cotta. In the late 1980s, the roof leaked and was repaired with a clear roof covering that protects the building, while maintaining its integrity. Decorative dentils, lions, garlands, and a *fleur de lis* motif provide ornamentation on each facade. Fenestration is minimal because the primary interior space is an auditorium. The few windows appear dark because of added screens and burglar bars.

The principal facade features a colonnade of eight Greek Corinthian stone columns supporting the cornice and carved pediment (see Photographs 1 and 2). Between these columns is a metal grille decorated with various Masonic emblems, including the double eagle and the Star of David, at its peak. An eagle and cross emblem decorate the pediment above the colonnade. Seven six-foot and two 16-foot statuary bronze lamp standards adorn and light the entry area. Flanking the doorway are two ornamental iron lamp posts alluding to the Masonic motto, *Fiat Lux*, or "let there be light." The cornerstone is positioned at the north portion of this facade; a solid block of granite, it weights 8,000 pounds. Its inscription reads, "Erected to God and dedicated to free speech, free conscience, and free public education." The main facade features broad granite steps that lead from the street to the main entry doors.

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The front entry doors are massive; each is 14 feet tall and weighs 2,500 pounds (see Figure 1). Of solid cast bronze, they are the work of acclaimed sculptor, Pompeo Coppini. The doors required more than two years to sculpt and cast and they include more than 50 figures. The main feature of the left door is a depiction of President George Washington, who served as Master of Alexandria Masonic Lodge No. 22 during his term of office. Sam Houston is the focus of the right door. Houston presided over the 1837 convention that established the Masonic Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. These doors are considered the only allegorical Masonic doors in the United States.

The north facade is punctuated by double hung sash windows at the first level and basement (see Photograph 3). Above some of the windows is a double eagle motif in *bas relief*. A door on the west end of this facade provides access to the banquet hall in the basement. A staircase just east of the center of this elevation leads to the auditorium, although it is no longer used.

The east (rear) facade features 6/6 and 8/8 windows (see Photograph 4). A paired wood door, with a Masonic emblem above, at one time accessed the stage. Mechanical and electrical equipment are along this side. This elevation is modest and may be obscured by a proposed hotel.

The south facade is similar to the north elevation (see Photograph 5). Windows, 12/12 on the banquet hall level and 8/8 on the main floor, punctuate this facade. Scrolled panels adorn the cornice just above each window.

The main entrance, through the bronze doors, opens into a vestibule and a flight of wide marble steps that lead to the Grand Hall (see Figures 2 and 3). This area spans the entire width of the building and serves as the distributing space to all parts of the main floors. The flooring in the Grand Hall is of tile ornamented by various emblems. The central emblem is the principal emblem of Scottish Rite Masonry, a double eagle with the words *SPEC MEO INDEO EST*, or "my hope is in God." Mosaics depicting the terminal degrees of the four Scottish Rite bodies surround it: the Star of David of the Fourteenth Degree, the eagle and cross of the Eighteenth Degree, the double eagle and cross of the Thirtieth Degree, and the wreath and Roman number 32 of the Thirty-Second Degree. The interior walls and portions of the ceiling are of travertine stone patterned in classically influenced designs. A miniature replica of Mount Rushmore, in silver, is freestanding at the center of the Grand Hall. Two of the presidents depicted, George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt, were Masons. (Mount Rushmore was the creation of renowned sculptor Gutzon Borglum, a Mason that lived in San Antonio at one time.) Finished, English-veined, Italian marble from the famed Fabricotti quarries of Carrara, Italy, 200 hundred tons of it shipped from Genoa, further enhances the Grand Hall. Four great fluted columns, each weighing ten tons and fashioned of solid marble, rise spectacularly. The hall's paneled vaulted ceiling is embellished with gold leaf ornamentation and rises 32 feet in height. Dentils and crown moldings add further elegance to the hall.

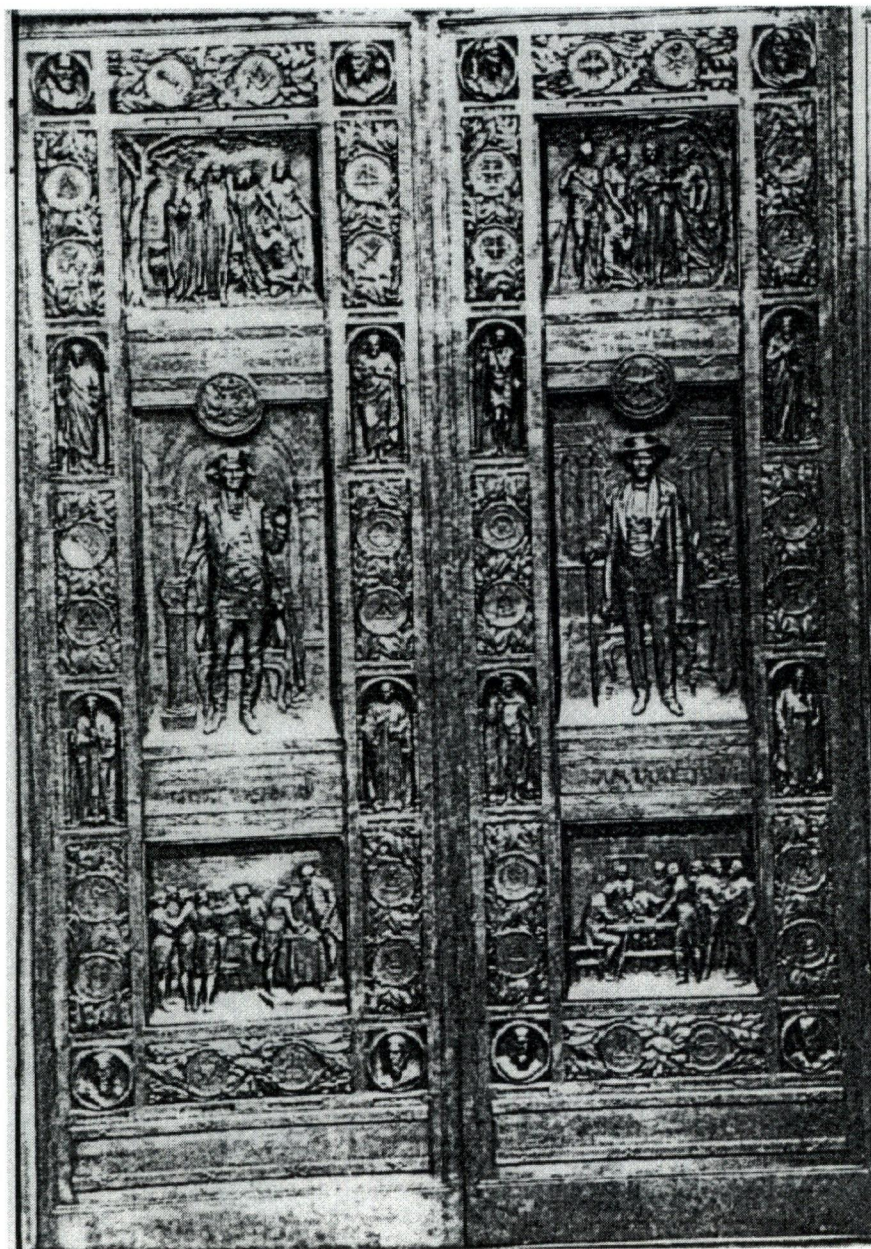
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Scottish Rite Cathedral
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Figure 1



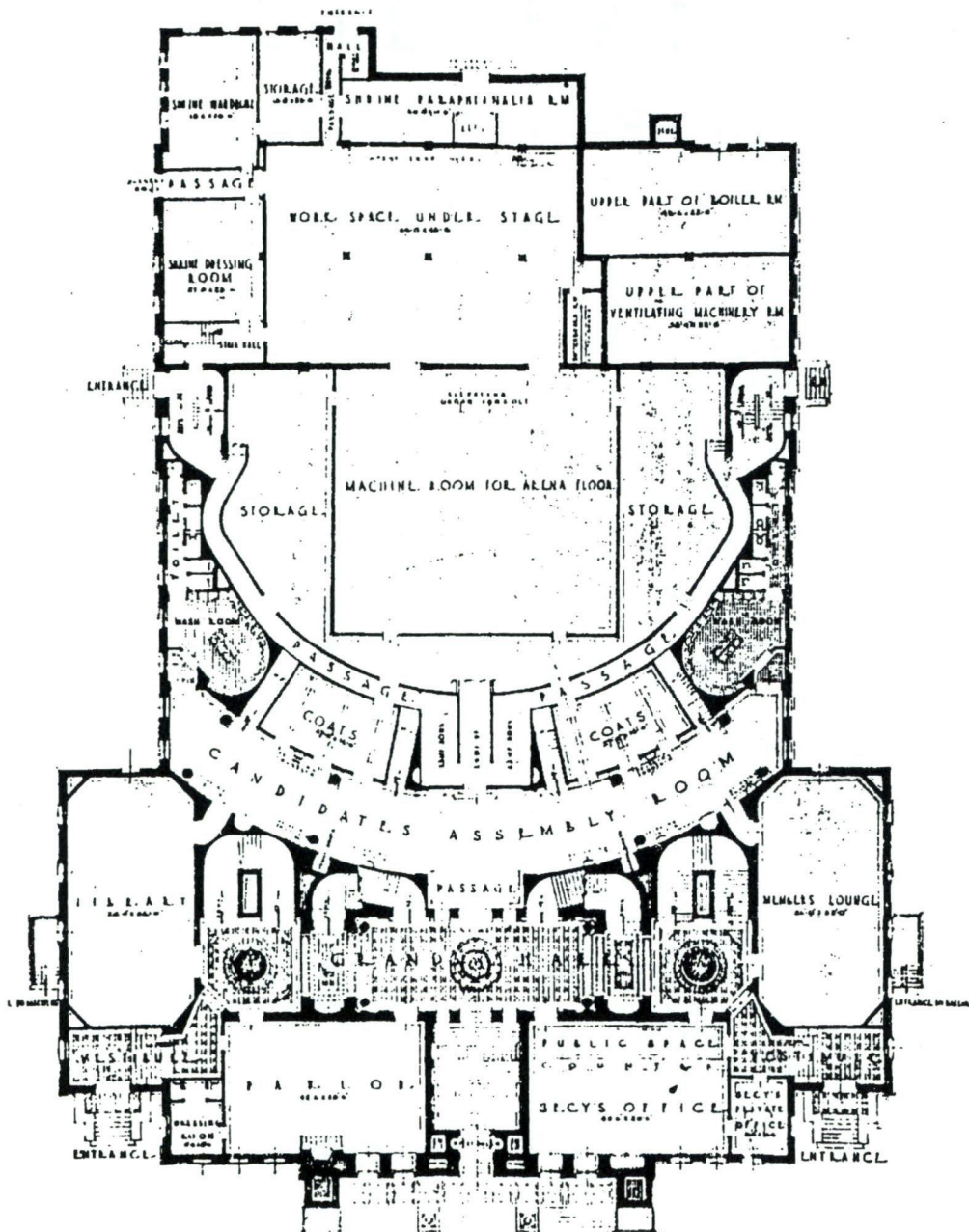
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Figure 2



MAIN ENTRANCE FLOOR PLAN

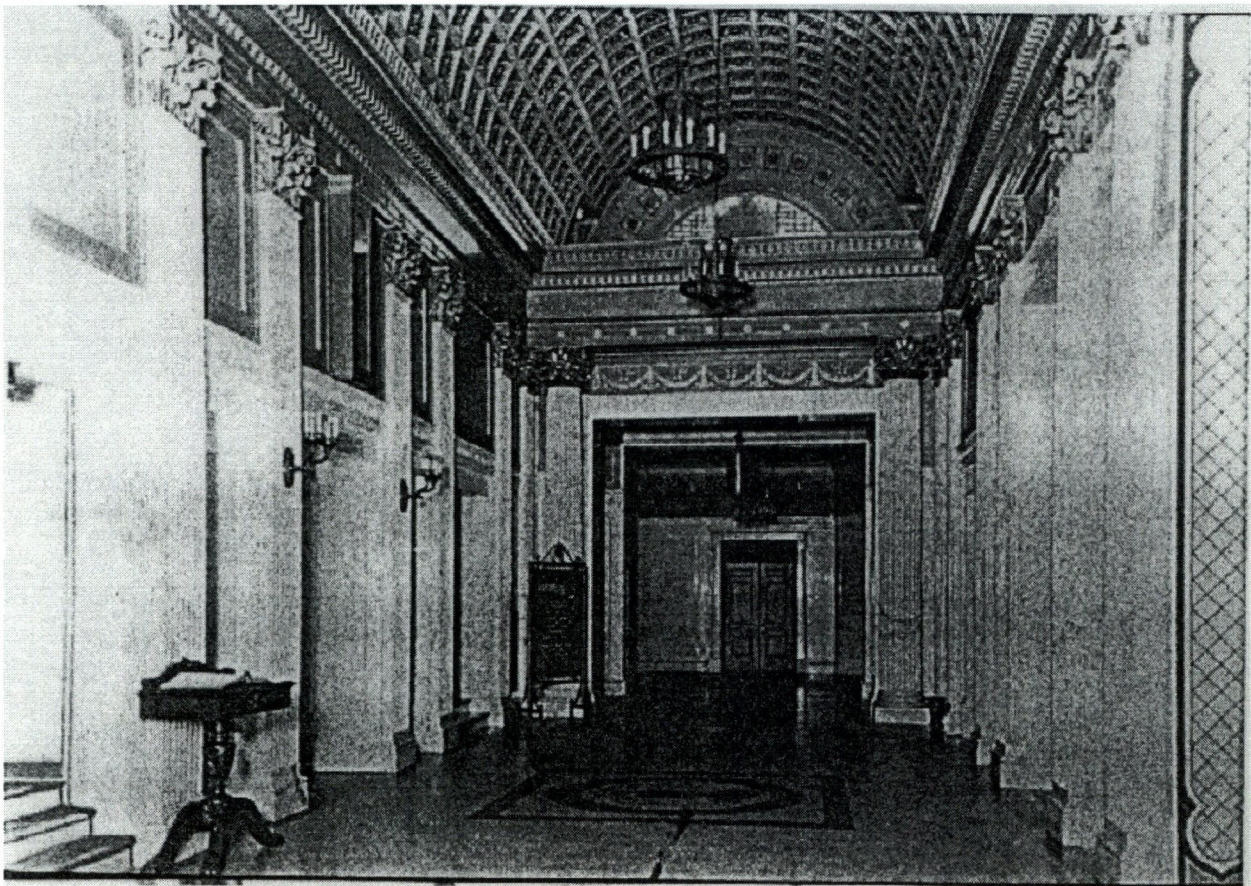
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Figure 3



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The four main rooms off the hall are a library to the north, the members lounge to the south, and the parlor and the secretary's office to the west. The library features striking wood paneling and a parquet floor (see Figure 4). According to Masonic doctrine, "every properly constituted lodge should have a library, not alone of Masonic works, but of general literature, so as to inform the minds of the members as to the generous sentiments of those who have illustrated the progress of the human mind" (*The Royal Masonic Encyclopedia*, p. 452). The members lounge mirrors the library in size. It has walnut paneling and wood parquet floors. Hand carved double eagles are above the main entrance to this lounge. The lounge served as a smoking and social area; it was also used for the preparation of candidates prior to taking the various Masonic Degrees. The parlor connects with a small Ladies Retiring Room (see Figure 5). The Secretary's Room mirrors the parlor in size. It contained fire proof, steel lockers. A small private office connects with this room.

Outside the Auditorium, a curved foyer features a hexagonal tiled floor and ten marble wall panels that at one time each contained drinking fountains. The Auditorium, seating capacity 2,200, is the principal room within this monumental building (see Figures 6 and 7). Experts acclaim this room to be one of the most acoustically perfect concert venues in the city. Constructed as a Greek amphitheater, it produces the impression of an open air theater. Walls are embellished with garlands, swags, and *fleur de lis* motifs of gold leaf. The ceiling, with twinkling lights simulating stars and signs of the zodiac, recalls the atmosphere of a clear summer night. The curtain loft holds 150 hand painted curtains and drops.

On either side of the proscenium arch is a massive colonnade, behind which are concealed the various section of a huge Moller pipe organ (see Figure 8). M.P. Moller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland, designed and built one of the five largest, four manual organs in the United States into the building. The Moller Company designed organs for the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York; Temple Beth-El in New York City; and Masonic buildings in Memphis, Tennessee, and Joplin, Missouri. The well maintained organ has 5,000 speaking pipes. An unusual water-powered elevator behind the stage was still operating in 1995. Directly behind the Grand Hall and extending around the rear of the Auditorium, is a spacious semi-circular Promenade that accommodates 700 people. Additional areas serve the Auditorium, including a dressing room, a shrine paraphernalia room, and a "green" room.

The stately Scottish Rite Lodge Room is on the upper floor, above the main entrance hall. Furnished in a manner typical of Masonic lodge rooms around the world, it contains a globe, a symbol of the universality of Masonry. Small anterooms connect the lodge room with paired roof gardens that afford views, one looking north and the other looking south, of the city.

The basement level is important to the building; it contains various chambers (see Figure 9). A basement level Promenade, extending the width of the building, leads to a banquet hall and ballroom with a seating capacity of 1,800. The banquet hall has Pompeian

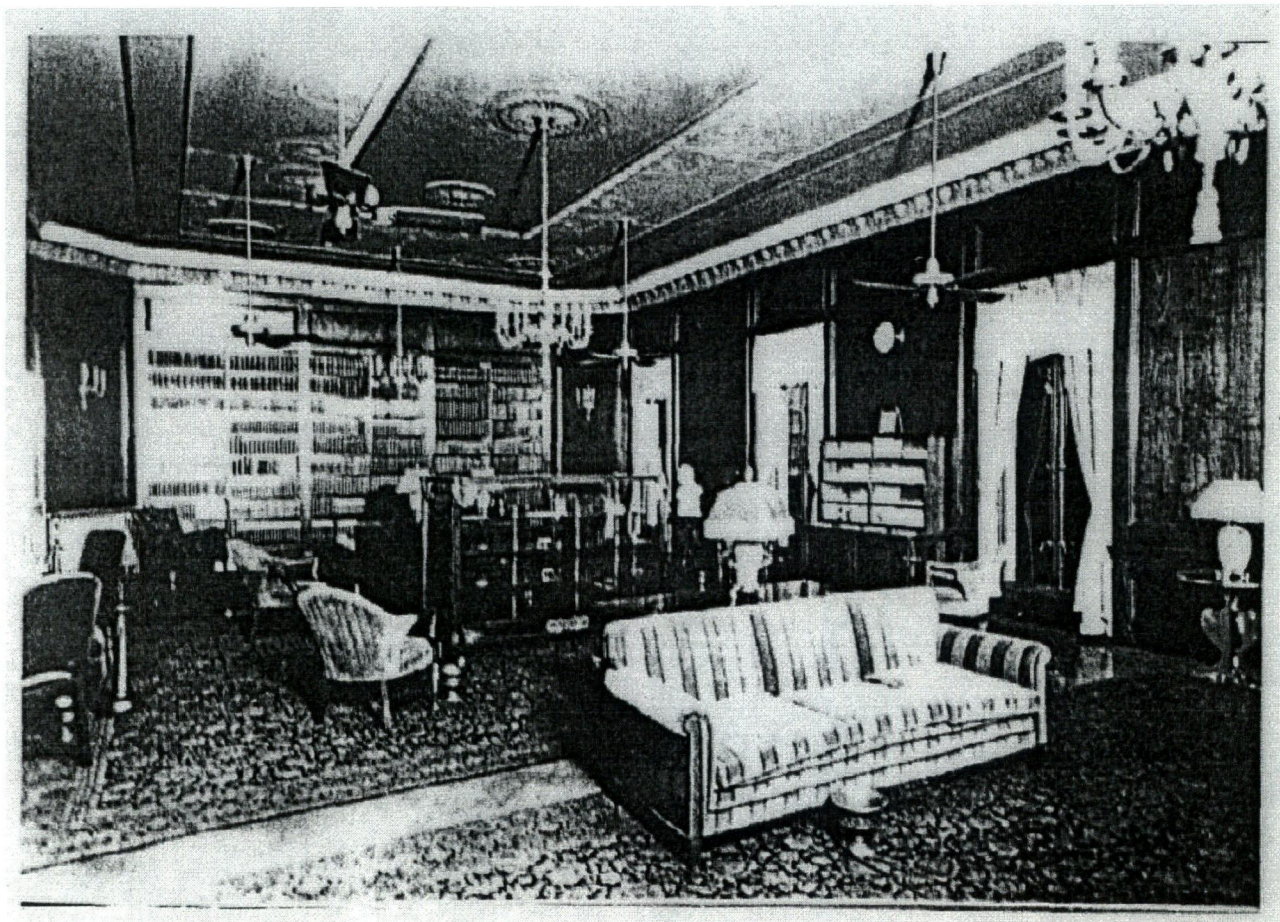
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Figure 4



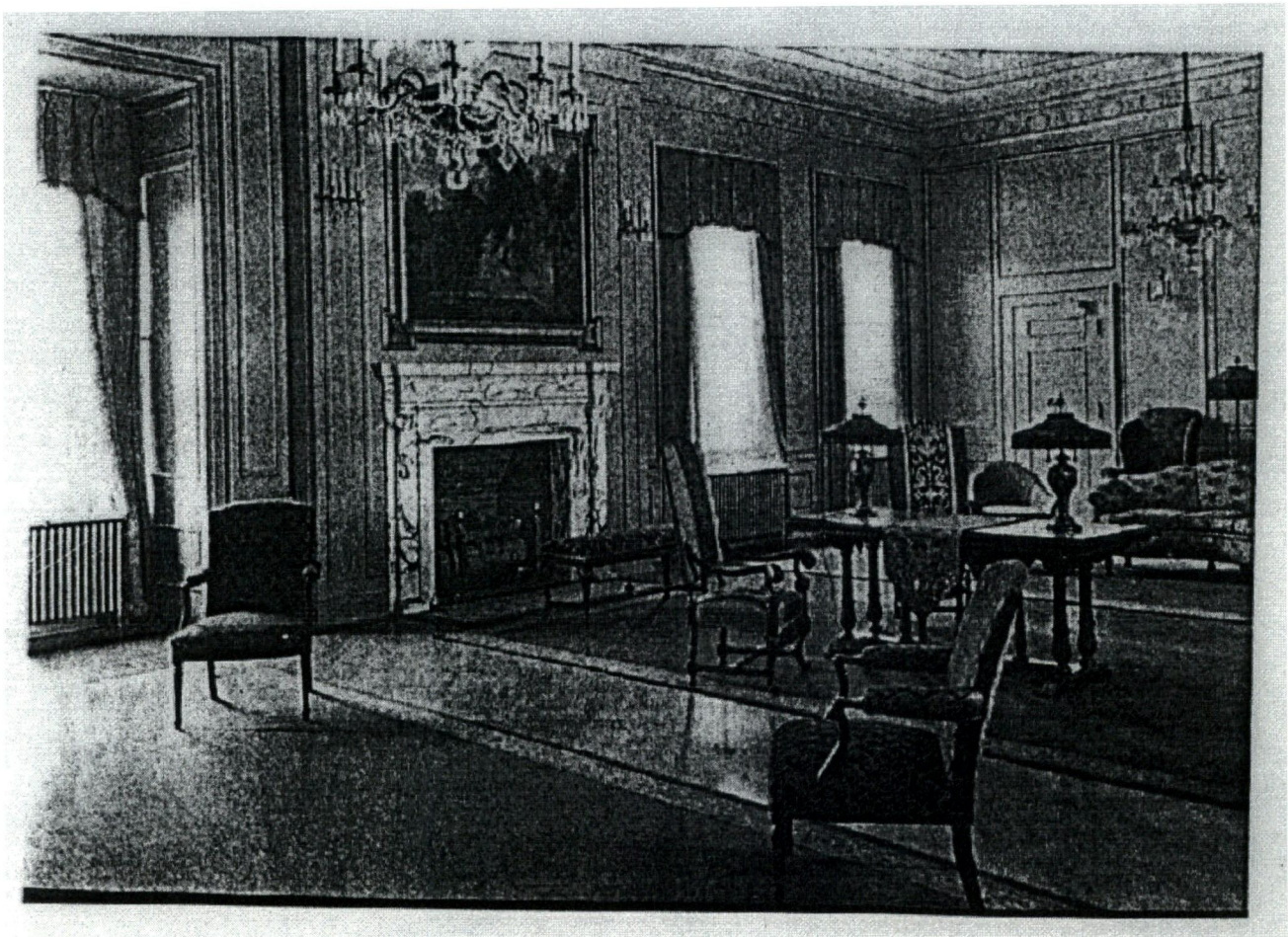
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Figure 5



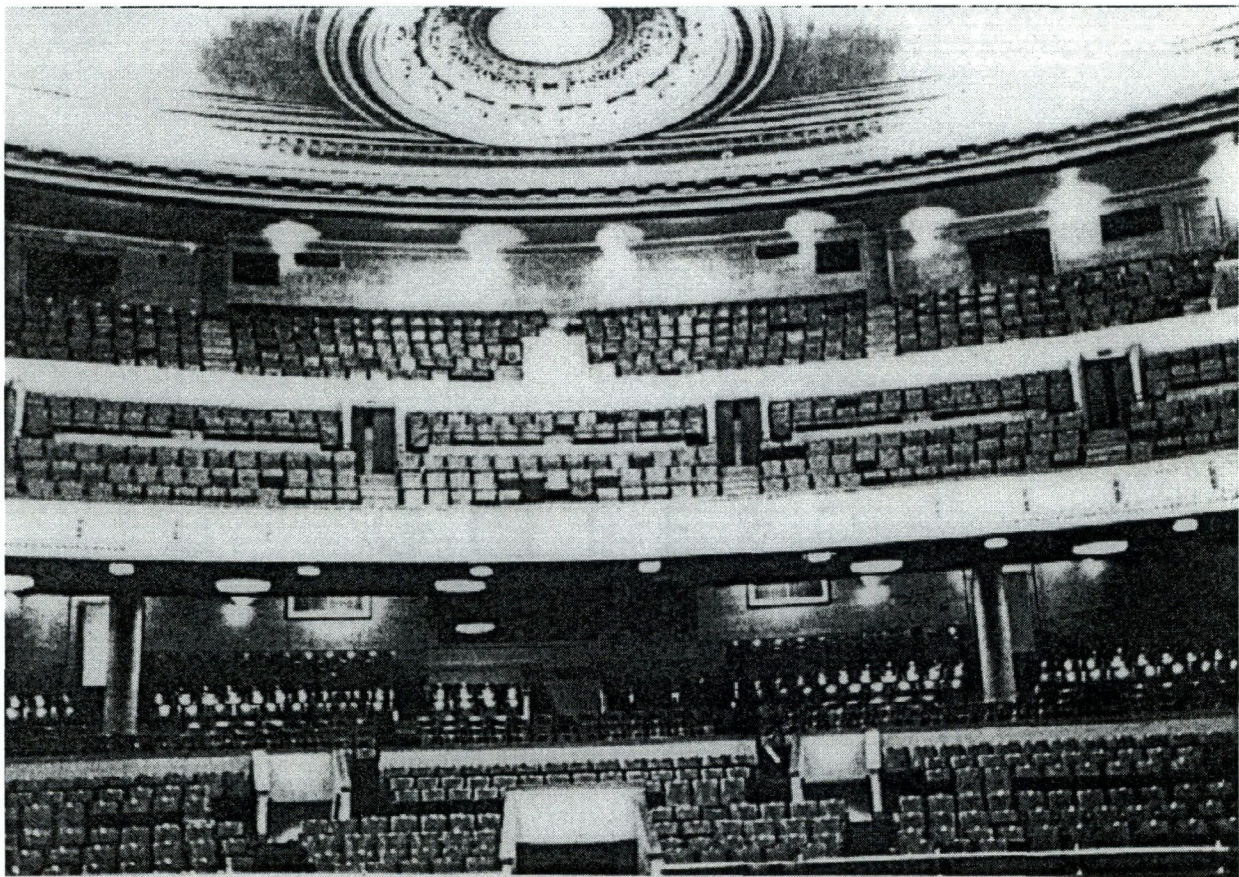
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Figure 7



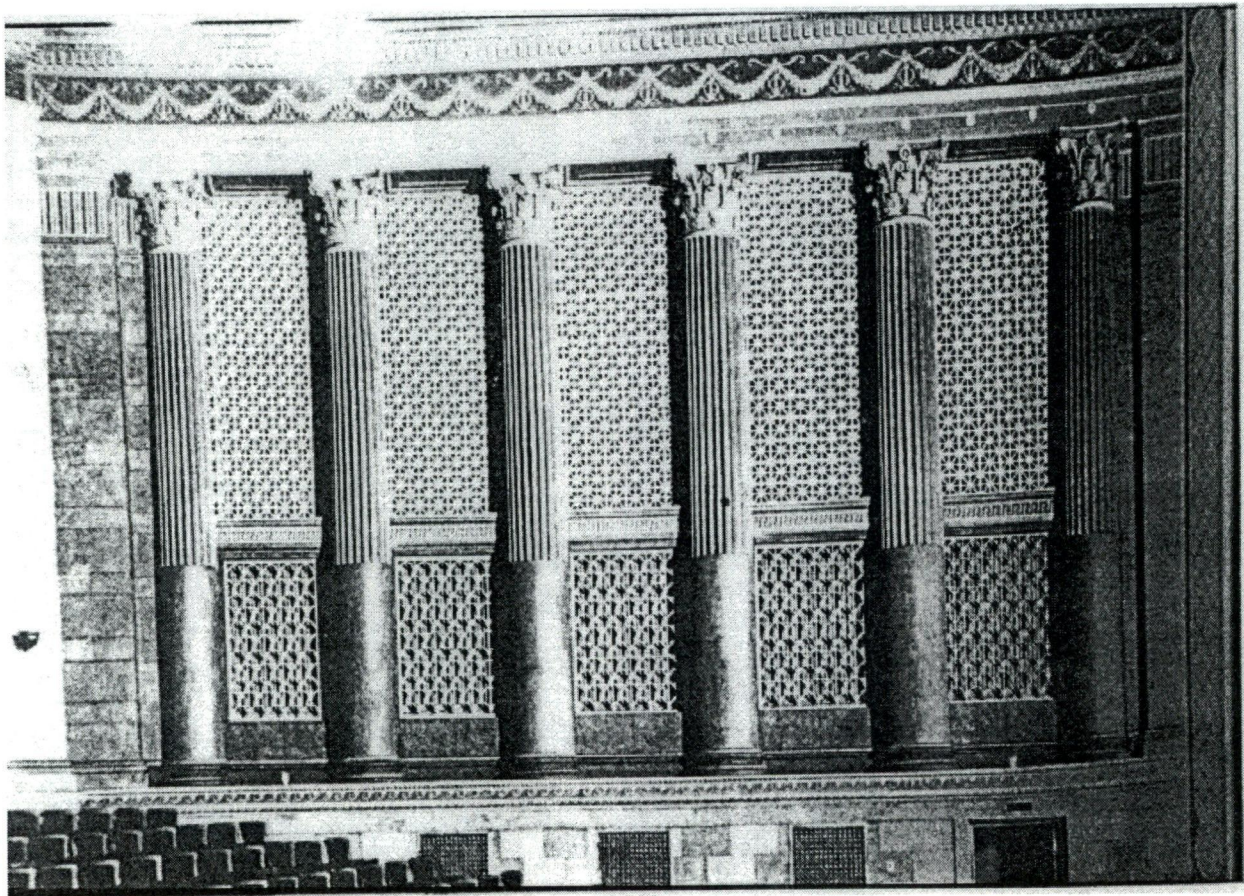
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Figure 8



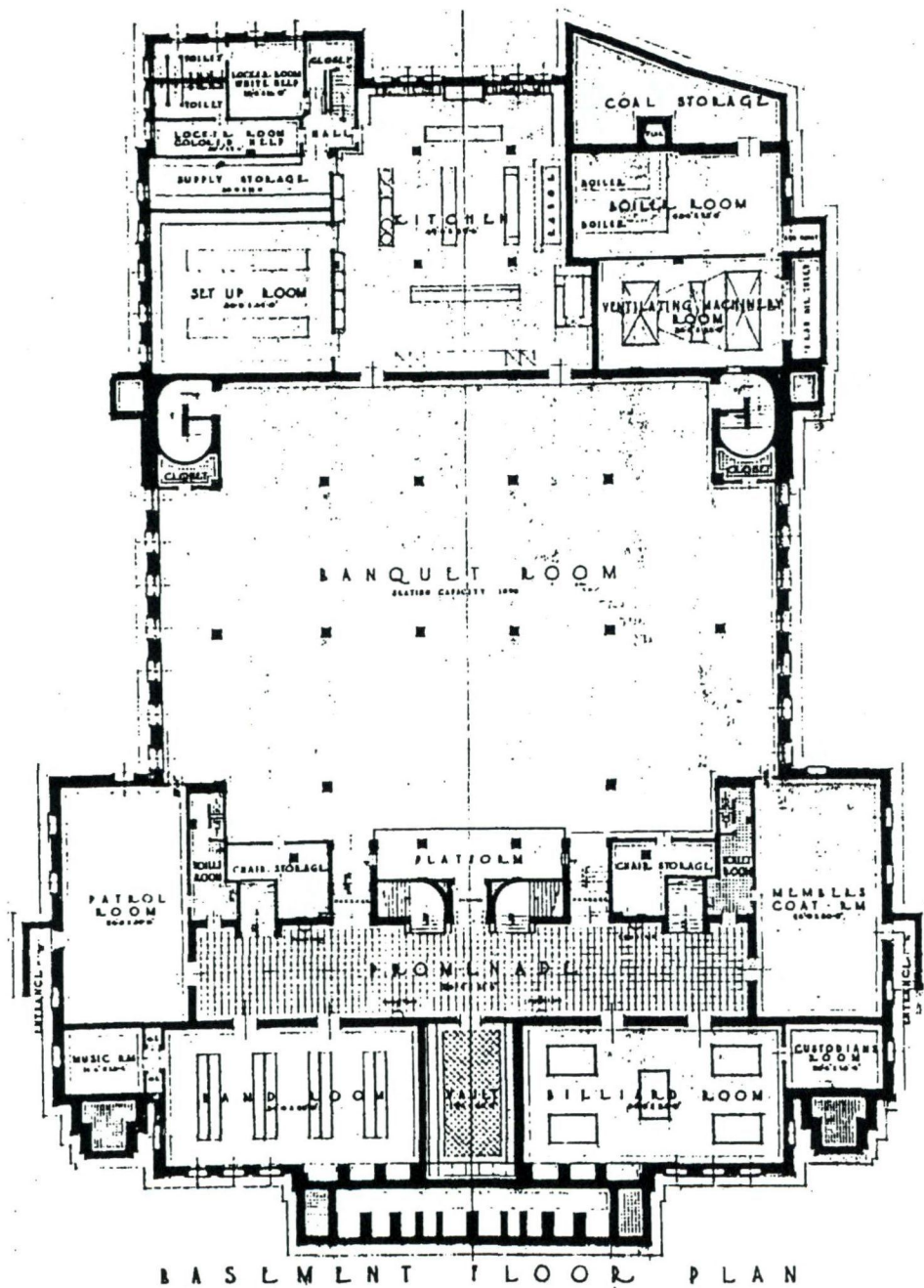
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Figure 9



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design influences with garland motif columns and baskets of fruit ornamenting the plaster, which is also adorned with gold leaf. A fully equipped kitchen can accommodate 800 people. A large billiard room, a coat room, and a band room (for the Shrine Band, Patrol and Drum Corps) were each designed so that they could be entered from the street rather than through the main entrance. Also present are several storage rooms, a boiler room, and theater offices.

In addition to the San Antonio Scottish Rite bodies, five Masonic Lodges, plus the San Antonio Commandery of Knights Templar, a Royal Arch Chapter, a Council of Royal and Select Masters, and two women's organizations meet regularly in the building. More recently, the Scottish Rite Cathedral has become a popular local performing arts venue. The Scottish Rite also runs a library and museum within the building.

The current exterior appearance of the Scottish Rite Cathedral remains as originally constructed. Portions of the stone are darkened and will benefit from gentle cleaning. The only major modification to the interior of the building was the installation of a modern air conditioning system in the space that once was the "ice air conditioning works." The Cathedral retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Social History and Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1924-1945

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1924

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Greene, Herbert M.; Cameron, Ralph H.;

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-18 through 8-28).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-29).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: (*Architectural Drawings College, University of Texas at Austin*)

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Scottish Rite Cathedral is one of the most successful Classical Revival buildings constructed in San Antonio. It is also an exceptional example of the work of prominent regional architects Herbert M. Greene and Ralph Cameron, and of sculptor Pompeo Coppini. Housing Scottish Rite Masonry since its 1924 construction, the building continues to serve as the hub for Scottish Rite and York Rite Masonry in San Antonio and South Texas. By far, the building is the largest and most extravagant Masonic temple in the state of Texas. The Scottish Rite Cathedral is significant at the state level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture and at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Social History. The historic context of this building is early 20th century fraternal buildings.

The desire for mutual welfare in this country prompted development of the fraternal beneficiary system that had originated in the Old World. The Romans implanted the concept of individual responsibility for mutual welfare throughout Western Europe and Britain during their era of conquests. This was translated from trade guilds to "Friendly Societies," which instituted a form of life insurance. Several societies had been organized and disbanded in the United States, until John Jordan Upchurch founded the Ancient Order of United Workmen in 1868. Fraternal societies proliferated in the United States in the late 19th century. Many were developed in response to political issues, others were based on ethnic or religious affiliations, still others were oriented towards skilled laborers. For Americans, removed from European centers of learning, Freemasonry was a vehicle for popularizing new ideas. Enlightenment concepts of equality, religious tolerance, and natural laws were incorporated into Freemasonry. These radical ideas helped form American arguments for independence and democracy; many leaders of the American Revolution were Freemasons.

A number of additional degrees and related organizations have developed beyond the degree of Master Mason. Scottish Rite Freemasonry, developed in France and the West Indies, was first installed at Albany, New York, in 1767. The first Supreme Council was established in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1901, followed by the Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction founded in New York City in 1813. The Knight Templar degree was conferred in Boston in 1769 and developed as part of York Rite Freemasonry. The Order of the Eastern Star is an adoptive order open to Master Masons and their female relatives. It was founded by Robert Morris, a Mason who felt it was important to share the teachings of Masonry with the entire family. He began organizing groups called the Families of the Eastern Star in the 1850s and the General Grand Chapter was established in 1876. The Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine was established in 1872. Shriners are required to be members of either the Scottish Rite or York Rite.

Fraternal organizations, like Masonry, share certain similarities. Masonry consists of a program of individual growth measured by the degrees individuals attain. Presently 32 rites exist within Scottish Rite Masonry in the United States (see Figure 10).

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Rituals and degrees borrow exotic titles and dramatic scenarios from ancient legends, historical incidents, or mythology. Bonds of secrecy help establish solidarity among members. Regalia provides fantasy and drama and the lodge provides fellowship. Symbols serve as aids to teach members virtues, principles, and values. Although much of Masonry's symbolism draws from Biblical references, the fraternity has no religious affiliation or requirement except belief in a Supreme Being.

Freemasons first came to Texas at San Felipe in 1828, but Mexican law prohibited Masonry in Texas. In 1835, at Brazoria, the Holland Lodge formed, but its activity was curtailed when General Urrea destroyed its records in February 1836. Masons, such as Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, Jose Antonio Navarro, William B. Travis, James Bowie, Lorenzo de Zavala, David Crockett, James Bonham, and Almaron Dickenson, were a major driving force in the Texas Revolution. There were 157 Freemasons in the 800 man army that defeated Santa Anna in the decisive Battle of San Jacinto. In 1837, Masonry resumed in Houston and other smaller locales. The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry came to Texas in 1867. The order grew in membership slowly until the turn of the century, when it blossomed. San Antonio organized its club on June 20, 1907.

The Sovereign Grand Inspector General Samuel P. Cochran of Dallas granted a Scottish Rite Masonry a charter in San Antonio on 12 September 1912. Nat M. Washer became the first Venerable Master of the Scottish Rite Bodies in San Antonio. Masons used various facilities for meeting, including the top floor of the Crockett Hotel, the Casino Club Building, the Grand Opera House, and the Turner Hall. In July 1915, the Scottish Rite purchased property at the corner of North St. Mary's and Convent streets and began construction on a \$30,000 building.

The organization grew slowly until World War I when a large influx of soldiers stationed at San Antonio's military installations brought about massive initiation. Augmented membership boosted the treasury and the organization expended \$77,842 in 1919 to purchase the Kampmann home at Avenue E and Fourth Street for a future building. The property was adjacent to Atlee B. Ayres' Gothic Revival First Presbyterian Church (1909). The great flood of 1921 caused approximately \$30,000 in damage to the existing N. St. Mary's Street headquarters. Water, ten feet deep, damaged records, regalia, and costumes. This natural disaster heightened interest in construction of a new edifice.

The construction of San Antonio's Scottish Rite Cathedral, and the subsequent financial problems that its enormous cost brought, bears documentation. From the outset, the building committee desired a monumental building to represent its organization. Throughout the United States, Scottish Rite bodies were in the process of erecting temples. The San Antonio building was one of about 300 temples across the country. Some were larger, but many more were smaller. The insistence of the San Antonio building committee to erect a monumental temple, befitting what was then the largest city in Texas, was compelling:

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The committee gave heed to warning letters from brethren who have served in similar capacities for other Consistories. From many other cities where Scottish Rite Cathedrals have been erected within the last five or ten years came the same urgent warning against building too small a building. In a number of cities where this serious mistake has been made it is now necessary to plan for enlargement, a difficult thing to do in a Scottish Rite Cathedral. The building, as planned should be amply large enough to carry on the work for some years to come (*The Scottish Rite Role Call*, n.d.).

To finance the new temple, the Scottish Rite Bodies issued \$500,000 of six percent bonds, maturing in ten years. The brethren hear an appeal to participate:

In a labor of this magnitude, every man, like the Israelites of old, must do his full part. The building of this magnificent Cathedral is a great undertaking, but it is worthy of our Fraternity. Await the time with patience, when you shall be called from refreshment to labor. Be duly prepared, worthy and well qualified, so that no fellow-workman may excel you in zeal for the task. do a little more than you part and we shall soon see the walls of the Temple rise and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of San Antonio will have a home commensurate with its needs for many years to come (*The Scottish Rite Roll Call*).

Meanwhile, Alzar Temple, instituted in San Antonio in 1916, was also seeking a home and agreed to give the Scottish Rite Bodies \$25,000 and lend them another \$200,000, interest free. In exchange, the Bodies agreed to increase the seating capacity to a maximum of 2,500 and to provide office space for Alzar members.

Chairman of the Executive Committee that oversaw the project was William S. Fly, who had served as first Presiding Officer of the Consistory and, in 1888, as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas. He was the Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Civil Appeals of Texas, in San Antonio. Other Masons involved in planning for the temple included Robert L. Ball, J.K. Blackstone, John H. Haile, and Nat M. Washer (Grand Master in 1900).

Initially, two prominent architects collaborated on the Scottish Rite Cathedral design and construction. Herbert M. Greene was born in Pennsylvania and studied architecture at the University of Illinois. He moved to Dallas in the 1890s and began his architectural firm, Hubbell & Greene, as a senior partner. He designed many large public and commercial buildings there including the 1909-1913 Scottish Rite Temple (National Register 1980, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1978), the 1909 No. 4 Hook and Ladder Company (also known as Oak Lawn Fire Station, National Register 1981), Parkland Hospital, the Federal Reserve Bank, Dallas Trust and Savings Bank, the Neiman-Marcus Building and numerous others. Greene designed Masonic temples in Austin, El Paso, and Joplin, Missouri.

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Greene also designed many large residential properties in Dallas such as the Alfred H. Belo House (National Register 1975, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1980) and several buildings at the University of Texas in Austin, where he succeeded Cass Gilbert as Architect for the University. In 1919, following the dissolution of Hubbell & Greene, he became associated with architect T.J. Galbraith. Eventually Greene went solo with the Herbert M. Greene Company, which was in existence by 1925. He was the first Texas architect to become a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an honor he received in 1923. Greene died in 1931.

Ralph H. Cameron initially worked for Greene and served as supervising architect on the project. Documentation from the project credits Cameron with much of the interior design. A San Antonio native, born in 1892, Cameron received some architectural training in France, and returned to San Antonio in 1912. He worked for the firm Adams & Adams until he went into private practice. Cameron was active in many civic and professional organizations; he was one of five founding members and first president of the Texas Society of Architects from 1939-1940. He was also a member of several fraternal organizations, including the Masons, which he joined in 1914. Other Masonic temples he designed in Texas include those in Brady, Lockhart, Lufkin, and Orange.

The Scottish Rite Cathedral, however, was one of Cameron's first commissions and one of the largest he would ever receive. His 1926 Medical Arts Building (now known as the Emily Morgan Hotel, National Register 1976), on the north end of Alamo Plaza, cost \$1 million. The 1937 United States Post Office and Courthouse (National Register 1976), which he collaborated on with Paul Phillippe Cret, was a \$2 million project. Subsequent commissions became smaller and more sporadic. By 1938, the year Cameron became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, his career waned. He died in San Antonio in 1970.

Pompeo Coppini, a master sculptor, contributed greatly to the artistic quality of the building by designing the bronze entry doors to the Cathedral. A master sculptor, Coppini grew up in Florence, Italy, and graduated from the Accademia di Belle Arte with highest honors. He arrived in the United States in 1896 and came to Texas in 1901 to model the Confederate Monument (now on the Texas State Capitol grounds). Later commissions include the Littlefield Fountain Memorial at the University of Texas at Austin and the cenotaph to the heroes of the Alamo on Alamo Plaza in San Antonio. The Scottish Rite Cathedral commission, nevertheless, remains one of his most famous projects. For a short period, Coppini was head of the art department at Trinity University in San Antonio. He died in San Antonio in 1957.

When the Scottish Rite Bodies purchased the Avenue E property in 1919, Cameron was in France on duty with the American Expeditionary Forces. His involvement in design other Masonic buildings put him in good standing with the Executive Committee. Cameron set a cable from France, when the Bodies commenced selection of an architect, requesting

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that final selection be delayed until his return from overseas. Greene was also interested in the project and, while not acquainted with committee members, was well recommended. The committee endorsed employing both Cameron and Greene. No formal statement regarding the division of labor between the two architects exists; however, Greene appears to have prepared the plans and specifications and Cameron supervised construction.

The Building Committee commenced its duties on December 30, 1920. Construction progressed slowly as Greene provided plans and specifications at a sluggish pace. The Kampmann house was demolished, the site was cleared, and foundation work began before plans were complete. A general contractor could not be selected without final drawings, so Cameron served as construction foreman. By January 1922, thirteen months after its establishment, the Building Committee had become subject to mounting criticism because of delays. Finally, in June, this committee disbanded and a new one formed. Members of the new Building Committee included Alfred C. McDaniel, William S. Fly, John H. Haile, P.D. Mathis (secretary of the Bodies), and Herman Horner (a local newspaper publisher). On October 19, 1922, the corner stone was levelled. The Masons, themselves, actually set and levelled the stone. More than 5,000 Masons, with their families and friends, witnessed the ceremony. A parade marched from the old building to the new site.

In Spring 1923, the Building Committee fired Greene. Cameron received Greene's unfinished plans in July and completed them in November. The Building Committee sought bids for construction completion without success, so they continued to use day labor to complete the partially constructed building (see Figure 11). The building was dedicated on 27 June 1924; 5,000 Masons paraded through San Antonio and the *San Antonio Light* featured a 47 page supplement devoted to Freemasonry (see Figure 12).

Greene and Cameron elected to follow the well established architectural trend for buildings of a public nature, designing a modified classical temple. The 1893 Columbian Exposition aroused interest in reviving classical styles that became prevalent throughout the country during the first half of the 20th century. This design befitted the ancient heritage of Masonic orders and, as well emulated the Scottish Rite Temple in Washington, D.C., a literal copy of the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus. Greene and Cameron's interpretation, is less literal and does not feature the peripteral colonnade around the upper section of the building, as does John Russell Pope's design in the nation's capitol.

Directness and simplicity characterize this cathedral. Typical of Classical Revival design, the Scottish Rite Cathedral employs a symmetrical rectangular plan, broad expanses of plain wall surfaces, and balanced fenestration. Its rudimentary cubical form is articulated by colossal order Corinthian fluted columns that support a heavy cornice and imposing pediment. Terra cotta detailing, such as the frieze on the pediment and stepped central mass, reinforces the classical theme. The elaborately sculpted bronze front doors, executed over a two year period by Coppini, feature figures of George Washington and Sam Houston, both members of the Masonic fraternity.

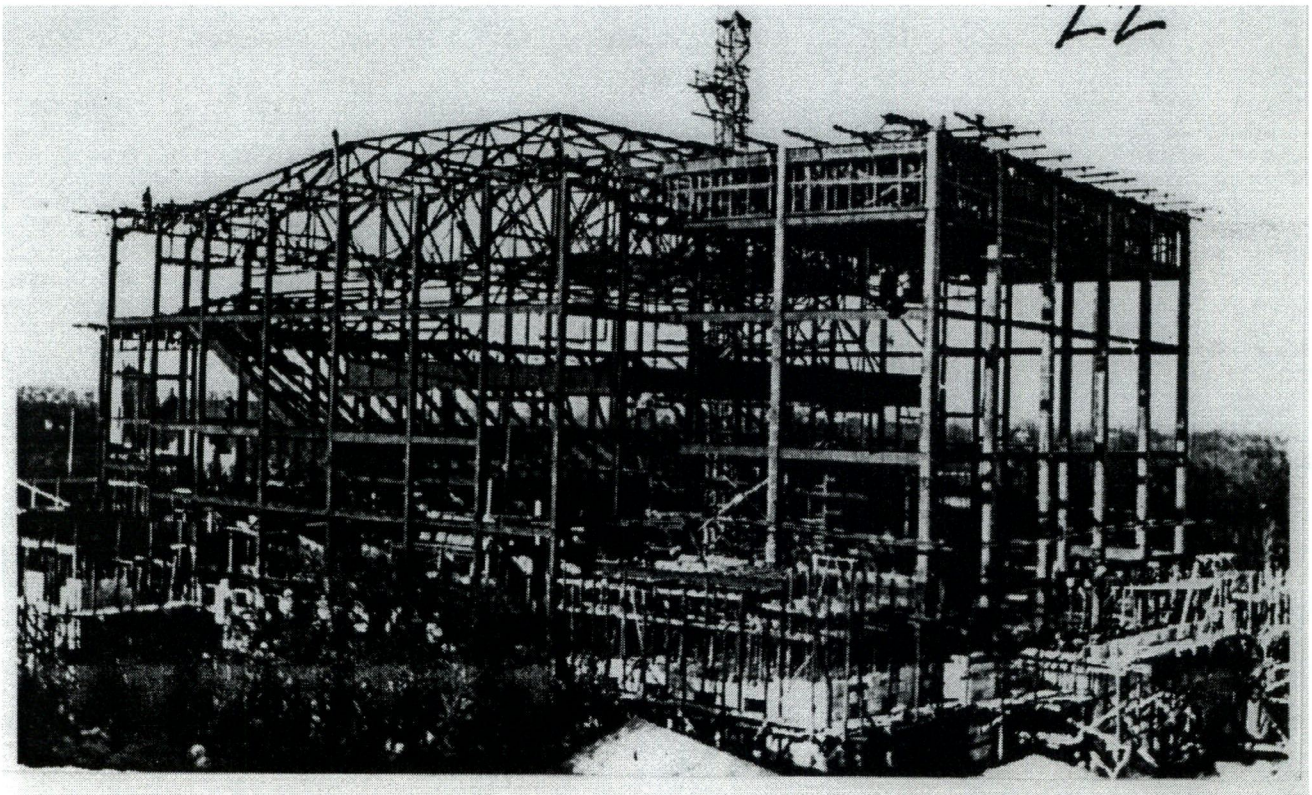
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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

Scottish Rite Cathedral
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 11



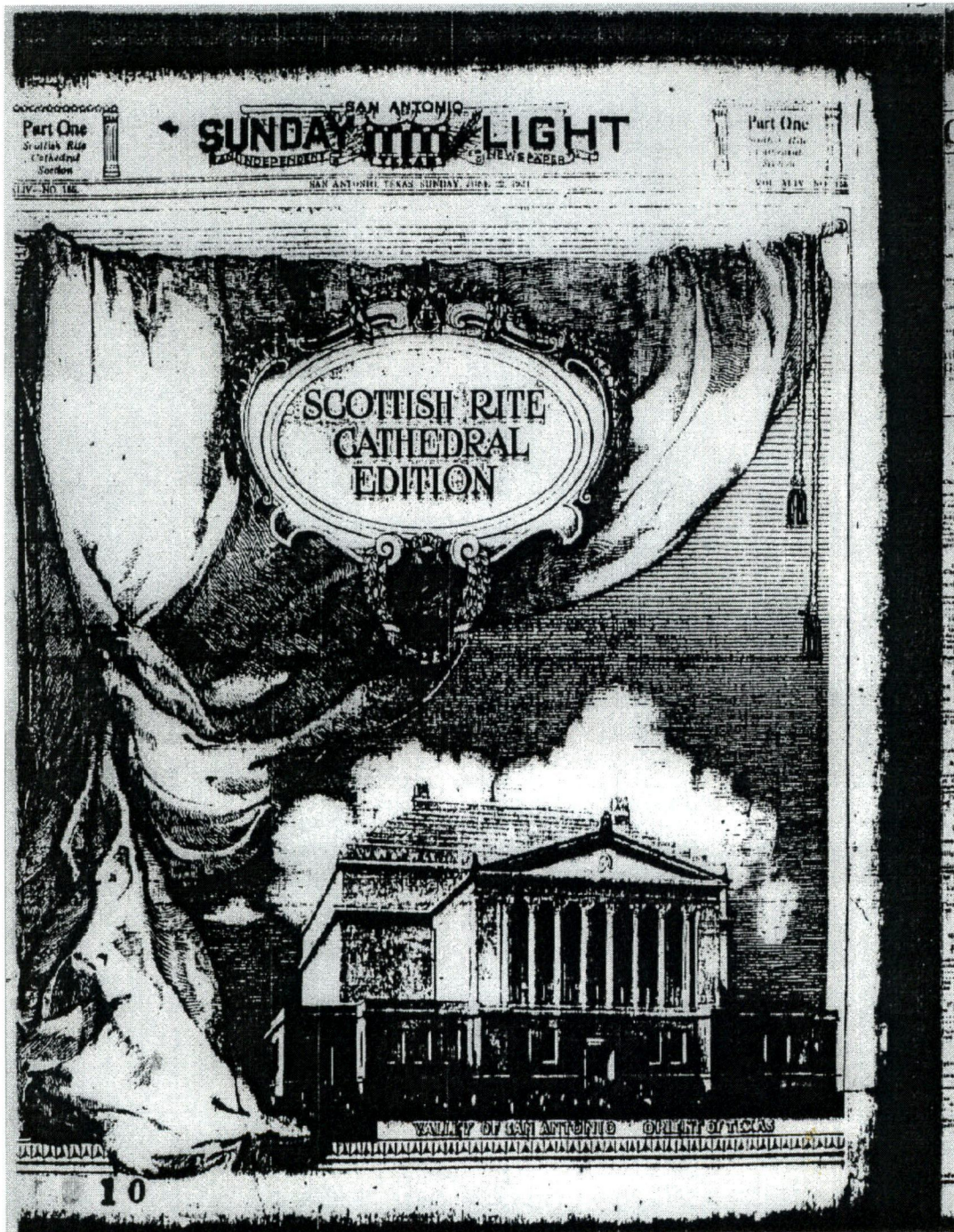
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

Scottish Rite Cathedral
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 12



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National Park Service

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Scottish Rite Cathedral
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

The majestic design of the temple has strong links with the long history and clearly articulated mission of the organization itself. In order to understand that symbolism inherent in the design of the Scottish Rite Cathedral, it is necessary to ascertain something of Masonic philosophy. According to official Masonry publications, the organization's principal purpose is to "produce the finest type of character and culture through fellowship and mutual helpfulness" (Hammond, p. 15). The magnificence of Masonic temples is intentional, as the word "mason" means builder. Masonry's analogy of life to architecture is intended to enable the individual to see beyond menial tasks. It supplies a vision of a completed structure of uncommon grandeur and enables each Mason to sense the significance of his own contribution to its construction; he is a unit of a larger building. Four principles of Masonry, in which architectural metaphors are employed, are as follows:

1. The universe is viewed as one vast structure, which owes its existence to the Supreme Architect;
2. Man, too, is a builder. He is engaged in the construction of personal character. For this sublime task, he is supplied with abundant materials, worthy patterns and explicit instructions;
3. Man is also commissioned to build an ideal social structure. The nature of the social order depends of the quality of the individuals composing it. Masons must, therefore, qualify as 'living stones' of society to contribute to its betterment;
4. There is still another structure that Masons are engaged in building--'that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens' (Hammond, p. 45).

The erection of a headquarters building in which the form strives to reach an architectural ideal serves as a symbol of the individual Mason's desire for perfection. The construction of each community's temple is seen as a historic link with King Solomon's temple, dedicated in 1,004 B.C. The form of each temple aligned with the tenets of the fraternity and symbolism is highly regarded. As chronicler, Hammond explains:

Symbolism is simply a method of taking something concrete to represent and visualize some invisible process, truth or power. It seeks to clarify what otherwise is often difficult to explain and to visualize some important trust. . . It is simply Masonry's method of making clear and forceful its ethical principles. Behind each symbol is an idea, which it seeks to clarify and convey. . . Why could not the principles responsible for. . . artistic creations [such as architecture] be applied to personal affairs?. . . Were the principles and disciplined workmanship productive of such splendor in the realm of architecture, music and art applicable to human conduct and capable of equally admirable results? (Hammond, pp. 18 and 32)

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Section 8 Page 27

Scottish Rite Cathedral
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Various symbols on the exterior and interior of the building are laden with meaning, much of which is concealed according to Masonic tradition. Nevertheless, some of references can be readily ascertained. Masonic doctrine recognizes only classical architecture, specifically the five orders of classical architecture: Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Tuscan, and composite. Hence, most Masonic lodges and temples favor classical designs. Meeting rooms are in the shape of an "oblong square," generally arranged to the cardinal directions. Ceilings in meeting rooms are painted blue and decorated with stars. Flooring is usually mosaic, to represent the earth as seen from above, with borders to illustrate the horizon. Stairs throughout the building appear in three, five, and seven steps, a total of 15, depicting the ancient mysterious science of numbers. As well, three steps allude to the organization of Masonry into three degrees with three principal officers; five steps suggest the five orders in architecture; and seven steps represent the seven liberal arts and sciences.

Symbols of the craft and the Masonic symbol resound throughout the building. The Masonic symbol consists of the letter "G," for God, a compass, and a carpenter's square. The double eagle motif, serving as a symbol of Scottish Rite Masonry since 1758, represents the past and future and prominently ornaments the building; most of the door knobs, for example, carry this motif. Other symbols include the beehive of industry, the anchor of hope, clasped hands, mourning symbols, and heraldry.

The Building Committee, charged with creating a building for no more than \$1 million, dissolved upon completion of their project. The final cost of the building was nearly \$1.6 million. The committee had intended that ". . . the plans for financing the building, a bond issue, payable in ten years, [would] distribute the burden over the membership for some years to come and will not work any hardship on the present membership." Unfortunately, the committee miscalculated both the willingness of the existing membership to participate and the amount of membership growth that would occur in the coming years.

Enormous construction costs created a financial strain on the organization that persisted for nearly three decades. Cost over runs necessitated that members be assessed a special fee and endure numerous requests for contributions in addition to their dues. The combination of these events escalated the rate of resignations and, in turn, led to decreased dues revenue. The order fell on more hard times as a result of the 1929 stock market crash. As criticism of the leadership mounted, the Executive Committee and Secretary of the Bodies resigned in September 1930. In 1932, the Bodies defaulted on the loan.

In 1945, the Scottish Rite Masons Association reorganized under Chapter 10 of the United States Bankruptcy Act. This reorganization reduced their \$1 million debt to \$300,000. On October 9, 1952, Masons symbolically burned a specimen bond. The Bodies arrived at financial independence 28 years after the Scottish Rite Cathedral opened. After World War II ended membership began to increase.

San Antonio's temple was one of several in Texas erected in the first two decades of this century, but it is by far the most ambitious in scale and cost. For instance, the 1909-

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 28

Scottish Rite Cathedral
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

1913 Scottish Rite Temple in Dallas (National Register 1980, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1978) cost only \$100,000, less than one-tenth the cost of San Antonio's cathedral. In 1903, the Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral Association held a design competition and selected the firm of Hubbell & Greene to design a building for their lot on South Harwood Street. Otto H. Lang, a Mason, served as consulting architect. The building, a 3-story, dark brick, Classical Revival building, features a monumental projecting portico supported by six Corinthian columns. The interior features elaborate ornamental plaster ceilings, oak paneling, and a 1,000-seat Egyptian Revival auditorium. After several delays due to cost over runs, the building opened in the spring of 1913.

The cost of the 1929 Scottish Rite Cathedral in Galveston (National Register 1984, Official Texas Historical Marker 1970) is estimated at \$500,000. An earlier meeting place, used by Masons from 1902 until 1928, had been erected by the Harmony Hall Association, a Jewish Club, in 1881. The Scottish Rite Temple Association purchased the building in 1902 and made substantial renovations in 1914. In 1928, fire destroyed the building. In November 1929, Masons dedicated a new temple, modern in massing and detailing with shallow eclectic details and vague Eastern design references. Alfred Finn served as architect of this 2-story brick building with limestone detailing.

In Austin, members of the Ben Hur Temple Ancient and Arabic Orders of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, commonly referred to as Shriners, purchased the former Austin Turn Verein opera house building at the corner of West 18th and Colorado streets in Spring 1912. Two years later, the deed was transferred to two Scottish Rite Bodies and Herbert M. Greene prepared expansion and remodeling plans. The Mission Revival design was to cost \$70,000.

In 1908, the El Paso architectural firm, Trost and Trost, signed a contract to design a Scottish Rite temple in that city at the corner of Santa Fe, Upton, and Missouri streets. For reasons that remain unclear, the parties annulled the agreement in December 1915. The trustees, who had purchased another lot on Upton Avenue, retained Hubbell & Greene, to prepare the new plans, and retained contractor, R.E. McKee of El Paso. In Spring 1922, after delays due to World War I, the temple opened. Its 21,882 square feet cost \$500,000.

Houston's Scottish Rite Benevolent Association constructed a massive, modestly detailed \$305,000 building in 1923 at the corner of Polk and Caroline Streets. A rare post World War II project, the Freemasons of Texas dedicated the Memorial Grand Lodge Waco in 1948. Architects Robert Leon White of Austin, Thomas D. Broad of Dallas, Donald S. Nelson of Dallas, and Walter Cocke, Jr., of Waco collaborated on this project, which received the Texas Society of Architects' Meritorious Design Award in 1950.

Presently, about 180,000 Texans are Freemasons. Current membership in South Texas is about 25,000 with an additional 6,000 living in San Antonio. They are proud stewards of what is arguably the finest fraternal building in the state. The splendor of their headquarters is testimony to the aspirations and perseverance of three generations devoted to reaching the goals of their common organization.

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Section 9 Page 29

Scottish Rite Cathedral
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 1.508 acres

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 1 14 549760 3255280

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-30)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-30)

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Amy E. Dase, THC staff Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Stephanie H. Cocke

ORGANIZATION: Self-employed historical consultant

DATE: 24 October 1995

STREET & NUMBER: 713 Eventide Drive

TELEPHONE: 210/829-5916

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78209

NAME/TITLE: Robert J. Schero, Jr.

ORGANIZATION: Scottish Rite

DATE: 24 August 1995

STREET & NUMBER: 308 Avenue E

TELEPHONE: 210/222-0133

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78205

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photographs-31)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME Scottish Rite Library and Museum

STREET & NUMBER 308 Avenue E

CITY OR TOWN San Antonio

STATE TX

TELEPHONE 210/222-0133

ZIP CODE 78205

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 30

Scottish Rite Cathedral
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description

City Block 426, Lots 1A, 2, 3A, 4, 5A, 6, 7A, 8, 9A, 10, 12, and closed alley and City Block 551, Lots 39, 40, and 41, San Antonio.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the area that has been historically associated with the property and that retains its historic and architectural integrity.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photographs Page 31

Scottish Rite Cathedral
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photograph Log

Scottish Rite Cathedral

308 Avenue E

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photographed by Robert J. Schero (unless otherwise noted)

June 1994 (unless otherwise noted)

Negatives with Robert J. Schero

Northwest elevation, camera facing east

Photograph 1 of 8

Northwest elevation, camera facing east

Photographer unknown (photograph courtesy of the Institute of Texas Cultures)

Circa 1927

Photograph 2 of 8

Southeast elevation, camera facing west

Photograph 3 of 8

Southwest elevation, camera facing east

Photograph 4 of 8

Northeast elevation, camera facing southwest

Photograph 5 of 8

Grand Hall camera facing northeast

Photograph 6 of 8

Detail of Grand Hall ceiling, camera facing northeast

Photograph 7 of 8

Library, camera facing east

Photograph 8 of 8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Scottish Rite Cathedral

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 1/16/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/31/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/16/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/01/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000068

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/16/96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL
308 AVENUE E
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 8



33-23

SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL
308 AVENUE E
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 8



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

308 AVENUE E

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 8



3

SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL
308 AVENUE E
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 8



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

308 AVENUE E

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

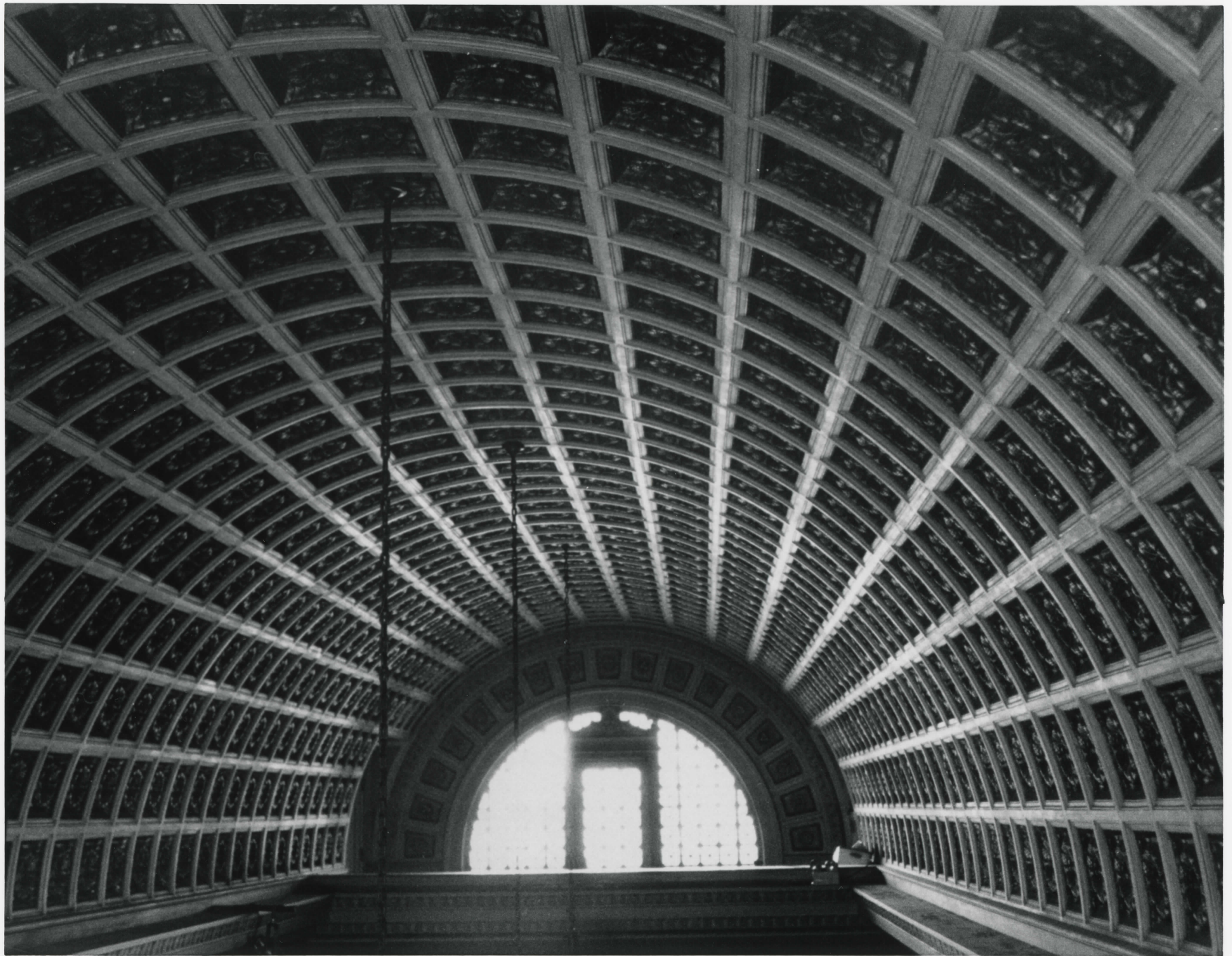
PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 8

(2)



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL
308 AVENUE E
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 6 of 8



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL
308 AVENUE E
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 7 of 8

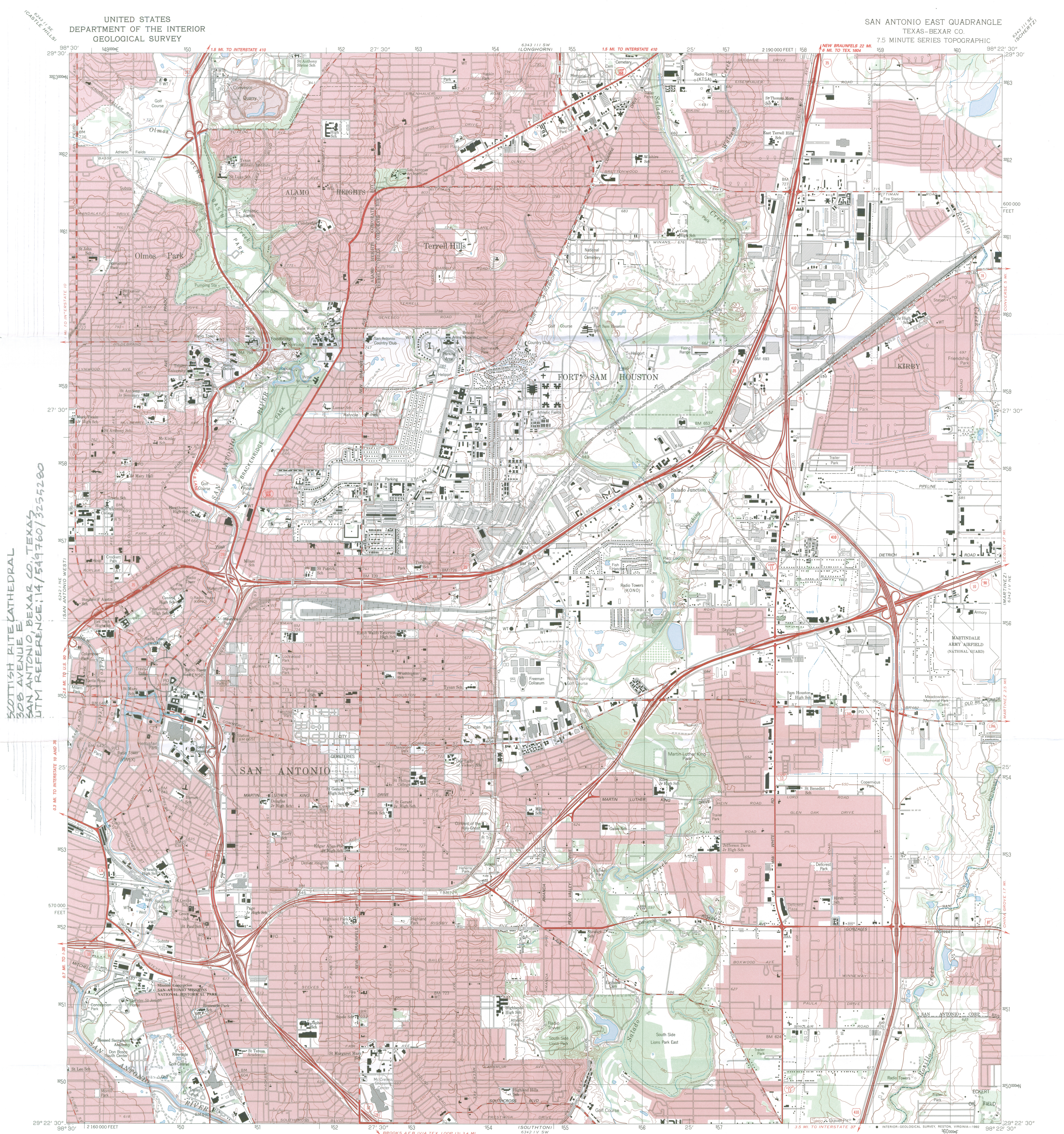


SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

308 AVENUE E

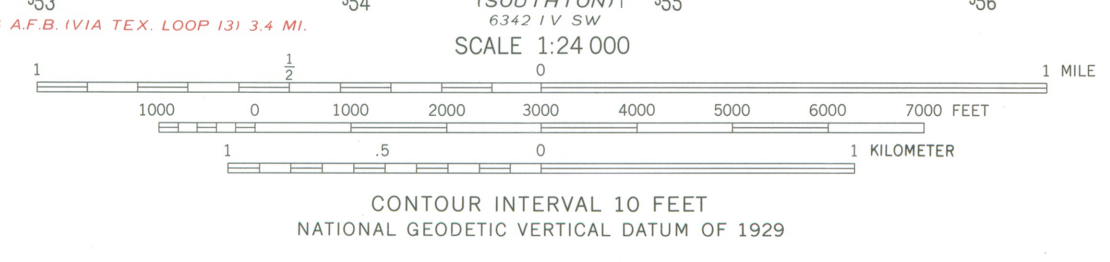
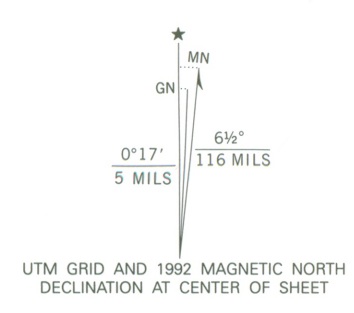
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO, TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 8 of 8



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL
300 AVENUE E
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS
LTM REFERENCE: 14/549760/3255280

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and USCE
Compiled by Defense Mapping Agency from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1986
and other source data. Field checked 1987. Map edited 1992
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
10 000-foot grid ticks: Texas Coordinate System,
south central zone (Lambert Conformal Conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
The difference between NAD 27 and North American Datum of
1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5 minute intersections is given in USGS
Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map
Red tint indicates areas 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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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2998-133

SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX.
29098-D4-TF-024

1992
DMA 6342 IV NW-SERIES V882



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor
John L. Nau, III • Chairman
Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



MEMO

TO: The Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
FROM: Amy E. Dase, Historian, National Register Programs
DATE: 13 December 1995
RE: National Register Nominations from Texas

Please find herein the National Register of Historic Places registration forms and all pertinent continuation sheets, figures, maps, and photographs for the following properties:

✓ Scottish Rite Cathedral, San Antonio, Bexar County

Dr. James M. and Dove Stewart House, Katy, Harris County