

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1358



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Austin Daily Tribune Building

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Ernest O. Thompson Building

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 920 Colorado

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Travis

CODE: 453

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

VICINITY: N/A

ZIP CODE: 78701

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

9-14-00

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

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

11/8/00

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-State

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: INDUSTRY/ communications facility; COMMERCE/business: office building

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: GOVERNMENT/government office

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Modern Movement/Moderne

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE
WALLS BRICK, STONE: Granite, Limestone
ROOF ASPHALT
OTHER

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-12).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Constructed in 1941, the Austin Daily Tribune Building (also known as the Ernest O. Thompson Building) is a 12-story, Moderne Style commercial building with a modified rectangular plan and a flat roof at the intersection of 10th and Colorado Streets, directly south of the Governors Mansion, in central Austin. Minnesota Rainbow granite sheathing on the first floor provides a visual base for 11 stories of cream brick masonry detailed with native Cordova cream and shell limestone. Six bays of aluminum casement windows and a 9-story vertical band of limestone (incised with modified Greek keys) articulate the building's vertical massing. Other characteristic features of the Tribune Building are its rounded corners and porthole windows on the North façade. Near the primary (east) entrance, a bas-relief inscription proclaims *The Austin Daily Tribune* "independent, dedicated to the service of a free people." The modified Greek key design is repeated in the granite above the windows and on the interior door near the elevators. The southwest corner incorporates a compatible 10-story windowless addition (1979) housing a fire stairwell. Despite this small addition and interior modification to accommodate modern offices, the building retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Austin Daily Tribune Building sits near the top of a slope running south through downtown Austin to the Colorado River. It occupies the eastern portion of the block bounded by 9th Street on the south, 10th Street on the north, Lavaca Street on the west, and Colorado Street to the east. A parking lot to the south and a 2-story building to the west complete the block. (Figure 7-1, page 8)

Upon construction the Tribune Building occupied a commanding location in the Austin skyline. (Figure 7-2, page 8) In 1941, both the University of Texas' Main Building tower (1934) and the Texas Capital (1888) were visible from the site of the Tribune Building. Two blocks south of the Tribune Building is the Brown Building, another multi-story Moderne Style building constructed in 1937. Other Moderne/Art Deco buildings in close proximity to the Tribune Building are the State Highway Building (1933-NR 1998), the Municipal Building (1907, expanded in 1937) and the United States Courthouse (1936). Reflecting its urban setting, landscaping is minimal. The building's original exterior planter box is intact however, at the entrance under the bas-relief inscription.

The plan of the Austin Tribune Building is comprised of two offset rectangles, with a curved 2-story projection on its southeast corner. The building has a concrete foundation and basement with 12 stories above grade including a mezzanine and penthouse. The entry level is composed of purple-hued ("Minnesota Rainbow") granite which distinguishes the first floor from the remaining stories, which are composed of brick with a repeating masonry pattern of six soldier courses followed by a seventh course of header brick. The building features a flat asphalt roof with a plain coping. (Figure 7-3, page 9)

The primary (east) elevation of the Tribune building is asymmetrical. (Figure 7-4, page 9) To the rear (southeast) a 2-story extension reaches approximately twenty feet from the primary mass of the building, featuring granite wainscoting curving around the first floor. Three vertical multi-pane windows spanning the first and second floors are evenly spaced around the 2-story limestone extension. The granite continues on the primary mass of the building along the first floor, surrounding three large fixed-pane divided (9-light) windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Engraved frets above these windows reference the modified Greek key motif repeated throughout the building's design. Two smaller casement windows and transoms, divided by limestone spandrels, rest above the granite to the south of the primary entry. The inset entrance to the building is comprised of two metal and glass doors below a 6-light transom. A single smooth granite column supports the 9-story mass above. Originally, *Tribune* appeared over the entrance in an Art Deco font, but has been replaced by a smooth limestone block engraved with the building's modern name, "Ernest O. Thompson State Office Building." The first level of the east façade is completed by an engraved panel of Rainbow granite that reads:

"A FREE PRESS IS THE PROTAGONIST AND PRESERVE OF ALL RIGHTS...THE FOE AND DESTROYER OF ALL TYRANNIES. IT INSURES EVERY GOOD CAUSE A HEARING AND EVERY FALSE DOCTERINE A CHANLLENGE. IT IS THE SERVANT OF RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, AND ART...THE AGENT OF TRUTH, JUSTICE AND CIVILIZATION, POSSESSING IT NO PEOPLE CAN BE HELD IN INTELLECTUAL OR POLITICAL BONDAGE... WITHOUT IT NONE CAN BE SECURE AGAINST ANY FORM OF ENSLAVEMENT.... THE *AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE* IS INDEPENDENT DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF A FREE PEOPLE." (Figure 7-5, page 10)

The engraving sits above a rectangular granite planter, representing the only landscape feature on the site. The second story of the east façade is clad in Cordova shell limestone and features six casement windows set symmetrically over the features of the story below. A limestone coping separates the second story from the cream Elgin Butler brick comprising the remaining height of the building. An enframed window wall of double casements divided by horizontal bands of granite and vertical bands of shell limestone with a smooth limestone surround is centered in the east façade (4 bays wide and 7 stories tall). This feature is surrounded by a bay of single casements to the south and north of the façade as well as above, completing the tenth floor. Along the north side of this elevation a vertical limestone band, incised with modified Greek keys, rises nine stories from the first floor entrance. (Figure 7-6, page 10) A smooth limestone entablature and copping lead to a flat roof that tops the 10-story mass of this section of the building. The east elevation joins the north elevation in a smooth curve continuing 10 stories above the ground floor.

The first floor of the north elevation features an entrance with an original door detailed with double metal bars extending diagonally from the center of the door across the glass. Aluminum windows flank this entrance, a small one to the east and a large storefront window to the west. A second entrance follows to the west, and a storefront window completes the first floor of the north façade. The 10 stories above the ground floor granite base is constructed of cream Elgin-Butler brick with four bays of rectangular windows placed symmetrically on the west end of this façade. The northeast corner of the building is slightly inset from the west side of the façade, and is punctuated with curved multi-pane aluminum windows with limestone surrounds on each story. Circular (porthole) windows pierce each story of the 9-story vertical limestone band shared by the north and east elevations of the building. A penthouse apartment, built of brick with a small metal copping and flat roof, completes the plan on the northwestern side of the building and comprises the 12th story.

The west elevation is comprised entirely of smooth blonde brick that complements the rough-faced Elgin-Butler brick used on the remaining facades of the building. This facade features two entries on the ground

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

level and windows symmetrically placed but varied in size. This façade includes a penthouse apartment comprising the 12th story (also of smooth blonde brick). The southwest corner incorporates a 10-story emergency stairwell (constructed in 1979) of identical smooth blonde brick.

On the south, or rear, façade the lowest elevation of the stairwell includes a double entry. The flat-roofed loading dock remains intact save the removal of a small enclosure near the curved projection that characterizes the southeastern corner of the building. Three bays of casement windows reaching nine stories above the roof of the loading dock on the west and east, and extending eight stories in the center bay, punctuate the Elgin-Butler brick that comprises this façade.

Interior

The main lobby retains its original terrazzo floor in a tri-color geometric pattern, with walls clad in cream Italian marble. The original aluminum molding remains where the marble meets the gypsum board ceiling. The original interior mailbox featuring Deco influenced lettering, remains, as well as the original polished aluminum stairwell door inlaid with brass modified-Greek key geometric elements. (Figure 7-7, page 11) The elevators remain in their original location, but all three elevator cabs were replaced with modern equipment in 1979. The floor plan of the building remains open as originally constructed and features interior modifications to accommodate use throughout its lifetime. (Figure 7-8, page 12) The Austin Daily Tribune Building has provided office space for the State of Texas since its sale and subsequent renaming (E. O. Thompson State Office Building) in the mid-1940s. An additional interior stair (1979) provides an exit to the south (rear) of the building.

Despite a modest addition and slight modifications to the interior floor plan, the Tribune Building retains its architectural characteristics and original construction materials (Minnesota Rainbow granite, native Cordova cream and shell limestone, smooth limestone, cream Elgin-Butler, and smooth blonde brick). The compatible 10-story windowless addition (1979) housing a fire stairwell is attached at the southwestern (rear) corner of the building and does not detract from its integrity. The Austin Daily Tribune Building retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 7-1 Site Plan

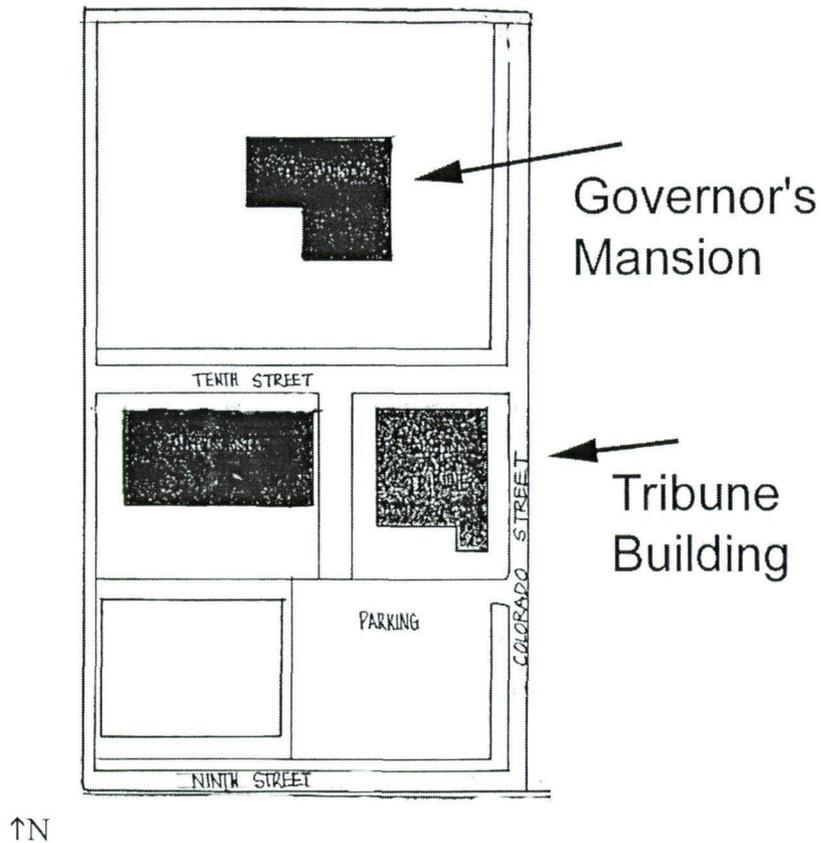
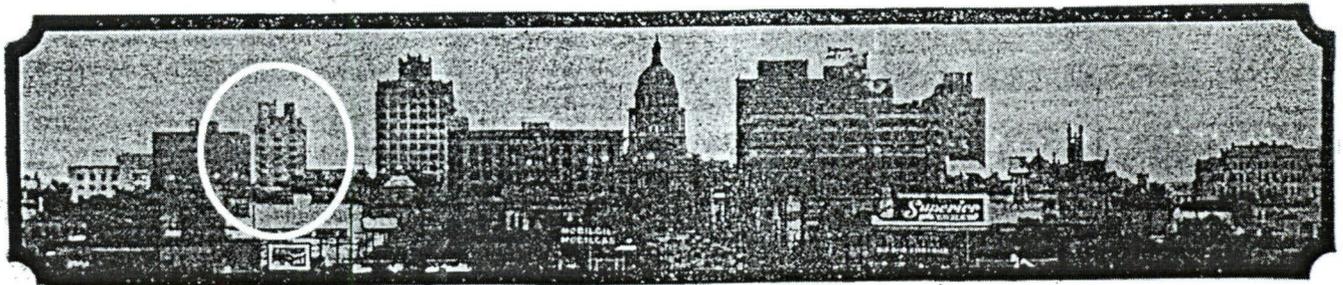


Figure 7-2 Austin Skyline, 1941



Tribune Building

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 9

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 7-3 Original floor plan (ground level)

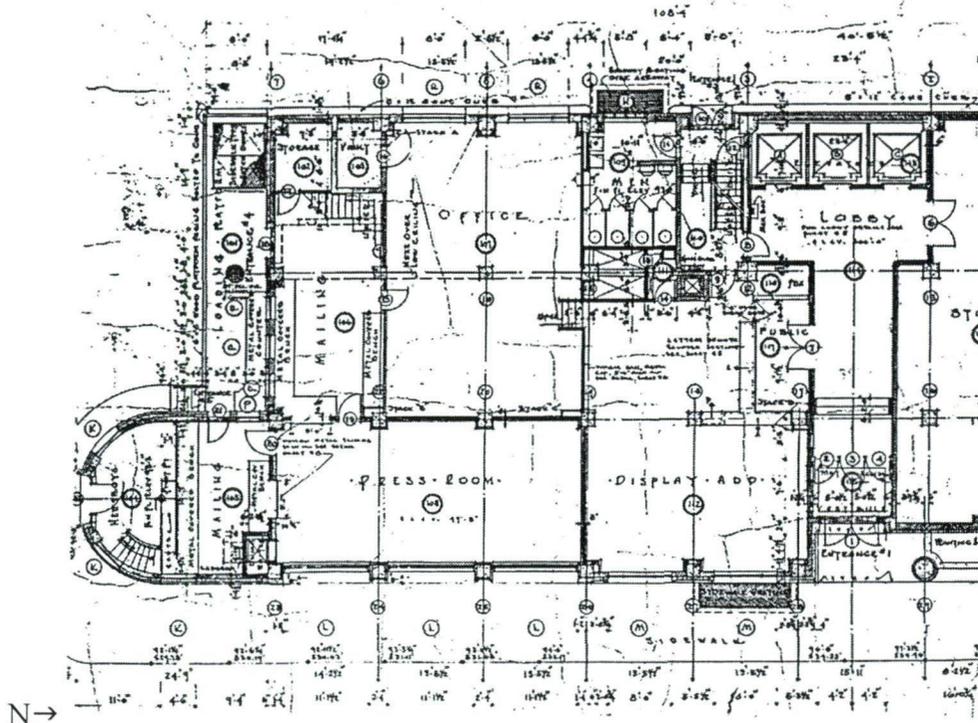
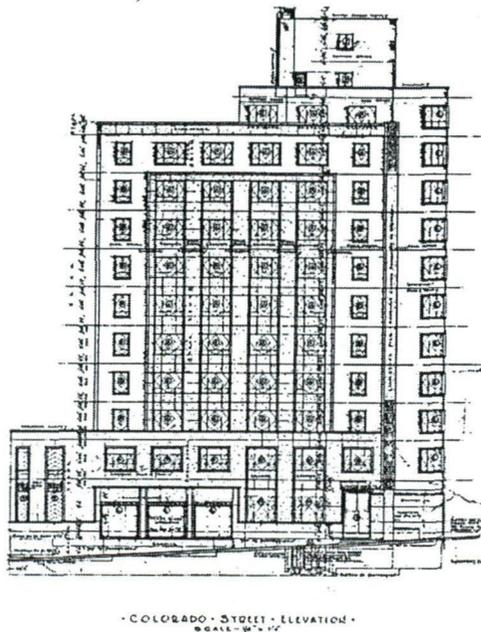


Figure 7-4 Original drawing (east elevation)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 10

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 7-5 Inscription (east elevation)

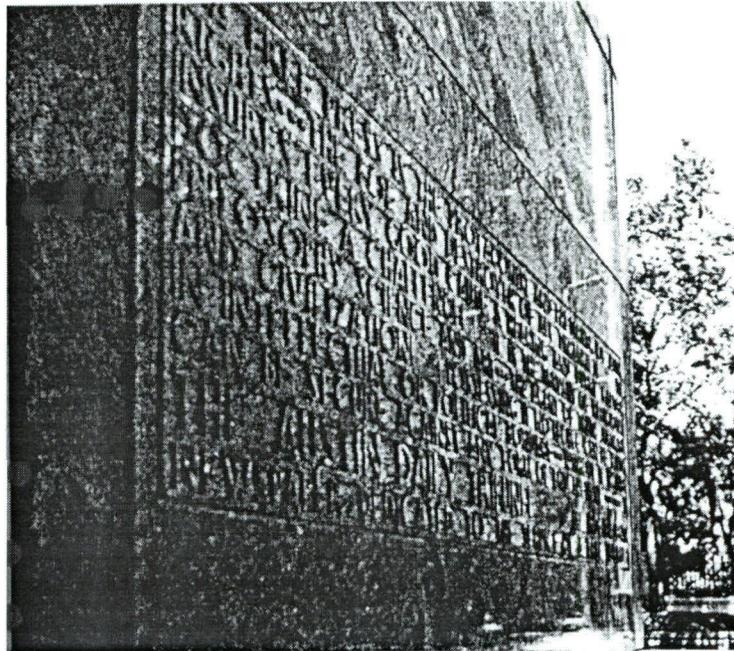
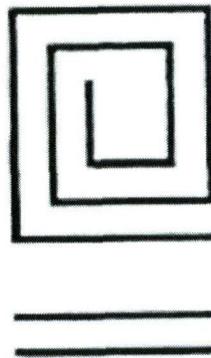


Figure 7-6 Design Motifs



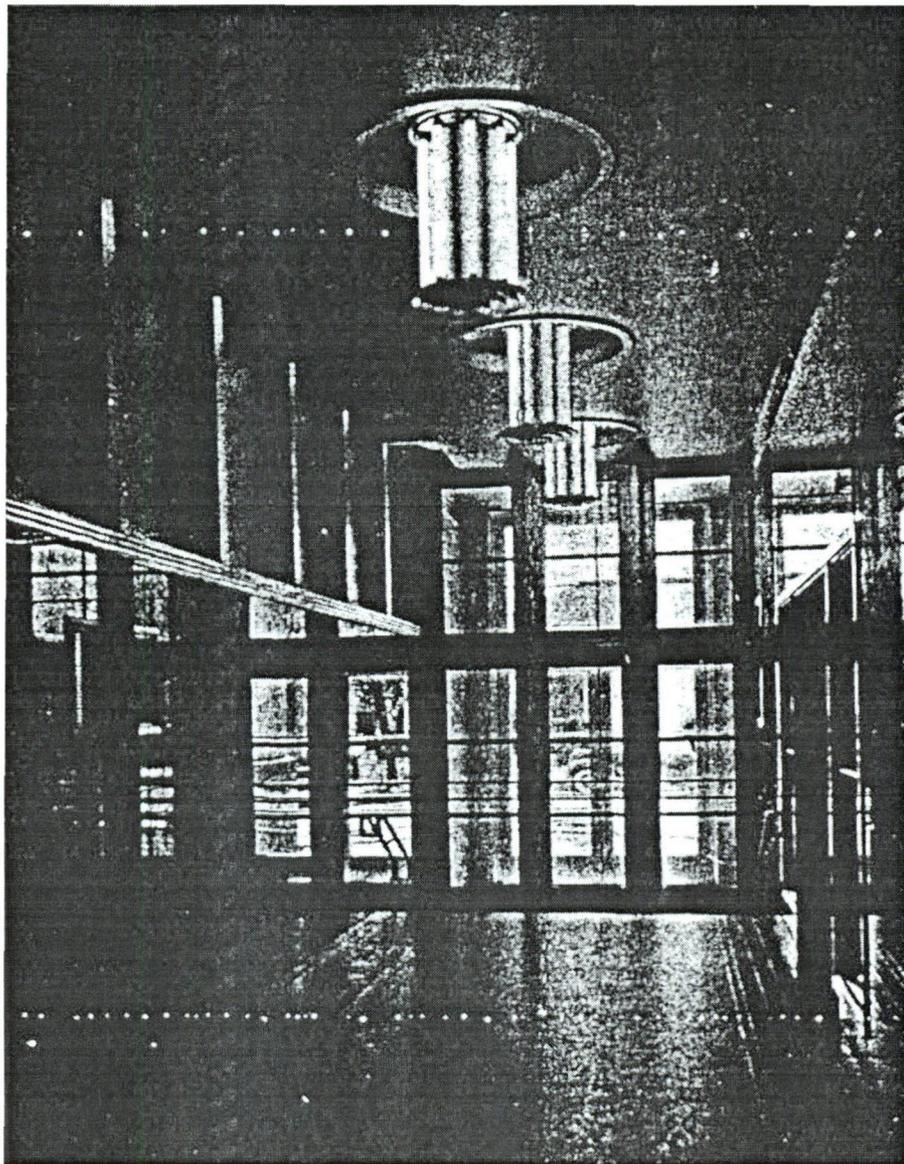
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 11

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 7-7 Historic interior, "Newspaper Plant and Office Building" *Architectural Record*, August, 1941.



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: ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1941

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1941

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Shirley Simons, Sr./architect; Page and Southerland/associate architects; H.E. White/contractor

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-13 through 8-25).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-26).

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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

The Austin Daily Tribune Building (1941), named after the newspaper it housed in 1941-1942, is also known as the Ernest O. Thompson Building, after a prominent railroad commissioner. The Tribune Building meets Criteria C in the area of Architecture as a Moderne Style building by Shirley Simon, Sr., of Tyler, Texas, and is significant as one of the best local examples of a multi-level Moderne-style commercial building. The design incorporates Moderne principles, such as rounded corners with continuous windows, a flat roof, and asymmetrical facades, with Art Deco influenced decorative elements.

Austin became the state capital simultaneously with Texas' transfer from a republic to statehood in 1845. In 1853, government offices were constructed including the Capitol at the head of Congress Avenue. Austin experienced another boom in 1871 when the Houston and Texas Central Railway came to the city, fostering recovery after the difficulties of the Civil War. Austin continued as a political center through the 1870s and 1880s and became a center for education when the University of Texas (1881) chose to locate there. The oil boom that brought industrial development to the state between 1880 and the 1920s largely passed by Austin. The 1928 city plan emphasized the residential, cultural, and educational strengths of Austin. In the 1930s, the University of Texas undertook a massive construction program and the Public Works Administration funded municipal construction projects to offset the harsh effects of the Depression Era in Austin. A series of dams constructed after 1940 supplied the city with hydroelectric power and water while creating lakes that enhanced Austin's recreational appeal¹.

Phillip Bouchard, the original owner of the site occupied by the Austin Daily Tribune Building, bought the land from the State of Texas in 1850 for \$200. (Figure 8-1, page 18) A 2-story residence owned by George Fiegel sat on the site and remained in the family until 1937 when it was sold to George and Laura Prewitt. The Prewitts sold the property to J.W. West, who converted the lot to commercial use with the construction of the Tribune Building. The evolution of the Tribune Building's site from residential to commercial usage illustrates a trend in neighborhoods in the vicinity of downtown Austin. Beginning in the early 20th century, Austin's downtown expanded, spreading west from the primary commercial thoroughfare, Congress Avenue. Projects completed in the 1930s and 1940s expanded the State Capitol complex outside of the Capitol grounds and constructed several municipal buildings in the downtown area. In the early 1950s, the buildings west of Lavaca Street, one block west of the Tribune Building, continued to function as residences. During the 1970s local lawyers adapted many of these houses for offices. As the first commercial building on its block (replacing a residential structure), the Austin Daily Tribune Building is representative of the continuing encroachment of Austin's downtown commercial center into neighboring residential areas.

¹ David C. Humphrey, *Austin Texas, The New Handbook of Texas*, Volume 1, Texas State Historical Assoc.: Austin, 1996. 299-301.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

The Austin Daily Tribune, founded by James Marion West in 1939, competed against the established *Austin Statesman* for readership. *The Tribune* denied political affiliation including the masthead statement:

“*The Austin Daily Tribune* is independent politically. It will defend and support what it believes to be right at all times just as it will challenge and oppose those things it believes to be wrong. Its fundamental policy will be to publish the news truthfully and fairly.”

The paper however, reflected West’s conservative political opinions. West, who supported the Republican presidential candidate, Alfred M. Landon, in 1936 over Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt, established the paper shortly after being denied confirmation as Chairman of the Texas Highway Commission by the State Senate. West claimed he published the *Dallas Journal* and the *Austin Daily Tribune* to combat “the collectivism of the Roosevelt administration.”² West contemporaries viewed the paper as a forum for its owner’s battle for political recognition. The *Austin Daily Tribune* enjoyed moderate success in its first year of publication, and in 1940 West announced plans to construct a building to house the paper on the site at 10th and Colorado Streets in a lot adjacent to the Governor’s Mansion.

James Marion West (1871- 1941)

Born in 1871 in Waynesboro, Mississippi, West came to Trinity County, Texas, with his farming family, in 1880. In the mid-1890s he established a lumber business at a site called Westville. West, and his wife Jesse Dudlin of Georgia, moved to Houston in 1895, where he entered the real estate business, eventually becoming president of the Fort Terrett Ranch Company. In addition to successes in the lumber industry and publishing, West’s career included directing several banks and boards, as well as managing ranching and oil-prospecting companies. In 1938 he established the West Foundation for the benefit of religious, charitable, educational, literary, and scientific purposes. West died in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1941, and was buried in Houston.³

Soon after construction began on the Austin Daily Tribune Building, Governor W. Lee “Pappy” O’Daniel, whom West publicly supported, commented:

A new era is dawning...new newspapers with the old honest idea of printing the truth are springing up. We have one right here in Austin, *The Austin Daily Tribune*, and although it has been in circulation only a few months, it must be doing pretty good, as they are starting the erection of a new [12]-story building right across the street from this Governor’s Mansion.⁴

² Claudia Hazelwood, *West, James Marion*, The New Handbook of Texas, Volume 6, Texas State Historical Assoc.: Austin, 1996. 888.

³ Ibid.

⁴ *The Austin Daily Tribune*, February 19, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

The original design for the site at 10th and Colorado Streets announced by J. W. West called for a 3-story building by Page and Southerland with business and advertising located on the first floor, editorial, news and composing on the second, and the third reserved for expansion. The architects soon revised this design to include two additional stories for lease as office space. Ultimately, West chose Tyler architect Shirley Simons for the design of the 12-story Moderne building and retained Page and Southerland as associate architects, with H. E. White of Tyler acting as contractor. (Figure 8-3, page 20)

Shirley Simons, Sr.

Shirley Simons received a B.A. in Architecture from Rice Institute in 1920. He worked for Houston architect William Ward Watkins before opening his own firm in Tyler in 1922. In 1932, Simons designed the Federal Post Office and Court Building in Tyler. He is credited with the design of several hospitals including the Tubercular Hospital at Rusk State Hospital, the Hospital for Texas State College for Women, and the City Hospital in Nacogdoches, Texas. Simons was a member of the National Advisory Committee on School Building Problems and designed Lufkin High School, Gibbs Hall, a dormitory at Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College (Figure 8-4, page 21), and several large buildings at Texas State College for Women. Most of these works are in the Beaux Arts style. The Austin Daily Tribune Building represents a shift in Simons' style that began with his design of Tyler City Hall in 1938. There are several common details evident in Simons' designs for the Tribune Building and Tyler City Hall such as Moderne-style elements, limestone exterior, and Greek key motifs. (Figures 8-5, 8-6, pages 22, 23) Simons and his successor firm, Shirley Simons and Sons, completed several Moderne projects in the late 1930s through the early 1950s. The firm designed buildings in this style on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Showcased at the Paris Exposition in 1925, the Art Deco style gained popularity in the United States as well as in Europe. In the 1930s the design of airplanes, cars, and ships influenced architecture and the smooth lines and surfaces, curved corners, and horizontal emphasis of the Moderne Style evolved. Intended to allude to the motion of airstreams around the building, these design are often called Streamlined Moderne.⁵ Preferred in America, the Streamlined Moderne Style utilized less ornamentation than Deco. "The style focused on the American public, not its elite."⁶ J. M. West wisely chose the Moderne Style to represent *The Austin Daily Tribune*, billed as "dedicated to the welfare of the people of Texas."⁷ Often architects incorporated elements of these modern styles together to create works with both the horizontal, streamlined feeling of the Moderne and the vertical, fretted designs characteristic of Art Deco. The Austin Daily Tribune Building is a fine example of this tendency.⁸

Simons designed the Austin Daily Tribune Building with stepped massing, curved projections and facades, and circular windows (porthole) that typify the Moderne Style. Simons' design capitalized on the

⁵ *The Austin Daily Tribune*, February 19, 1940.

⁶ Emily Little, "Art Deco in Texas," Thesis. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin, 1979.

⁷ "Newspaper Plant and Office Building," *Architectural Record*, August 1941.

⁸ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 16

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Tribune Building's site by punctuating its northeast corner with porthole windows, which frame a view of the Capital from the interior. The architect's work was featured in an article appearing in the August 1941 issue of *Architectural Record* entitled "Newspaper Plant and Office Building." The article emphasizes design innovations that allowed the printing machines to sit on a separate foundation to minimize the effect of their vibrations. Simons' design also allowed a view of the printing machines from the street.⁹ Rounded facades and a curving projection lend horizontal balance to the design. Other characteristically Moderne features of the Tribune building are its smooth surfaces, and modern materials such as cream brick, aluminum doors, window frames, and coping. The building is decorated with Art Deco inspired details including modified Greek keys, and a bas-relief inscription in Deco lettering.

On May 25, 1941 a special "Tribune Tower Edition" of the *Austin Daily Tribune* celebrated the opening of the new building. The 152 page-long edition claimed to be the largest single edition published in Texas to that date. It featured photographs of the building's staff, including the elevator operators and the printing press workers, and reprinted congratulatory messages from such political notables as Senator Lyndon B. Johnson and Mayor of Houston, C. A. Pickett. (Figure 8-7 through 8-9, pages 24, 25)

The Austin Daily Tribune closed on December 29, 1942, surviving its owner by a year. The Austin Daily Tribune Building sold to the State of Texas in the mid-1940s and was renamed the "E. O. Thompson State Office Building" in honor of a prominent Texas railroad commissioner. The building has served continuously as office space since it was acquired by the State.

Interior

The modified Greek key design expressed on the exterior is repeated on the interior. The main lobby retains its original terrazzo flooring in a tri-color geometric pattern, with walls clad in cream Italian marble. Remaining interior features include the original aluminum molding, interior mailbox featuring Deco influenced lettering, and polished aluminum stairwell door inlaid with brass modified-Greek key geometric elements. The elevators remain in their original location, but all three elevator cabs were replaced with modern equipment in 1979. The floor plan of the building remains open as originally constructed and features interior modifications to accommodate use throughout its lifetime. The southwest corner incorporates a compatible 10-story windowless addition (1979) housing a fire stairwell that does not detract from the integrity of the building.

Summary

The Austin Daily Tribune Building meets Criteria C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture as a good example of a multi-level Moderne-style commercial building designed by Shirley Simons, Sr., of Tyler, Texas. Simons' design incorporates Moderne principles, such as rounded facades with continuous windows around corners, flat roof with coping, and asymmetrical facades with Art Deco influenced decorative elements. An addition (1979) of a fire stairwell to the southwestern (rear) façade, constructed of matching blonde brick, is generally sympathetic to the integrity of the original design. The Austin Daily

⁹*Architectural Record*, August 1941.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 17

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Tribune Building retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As a state office building, the Austin Daily Tribune Building continues to contribute to the vitality of downtown Austin.

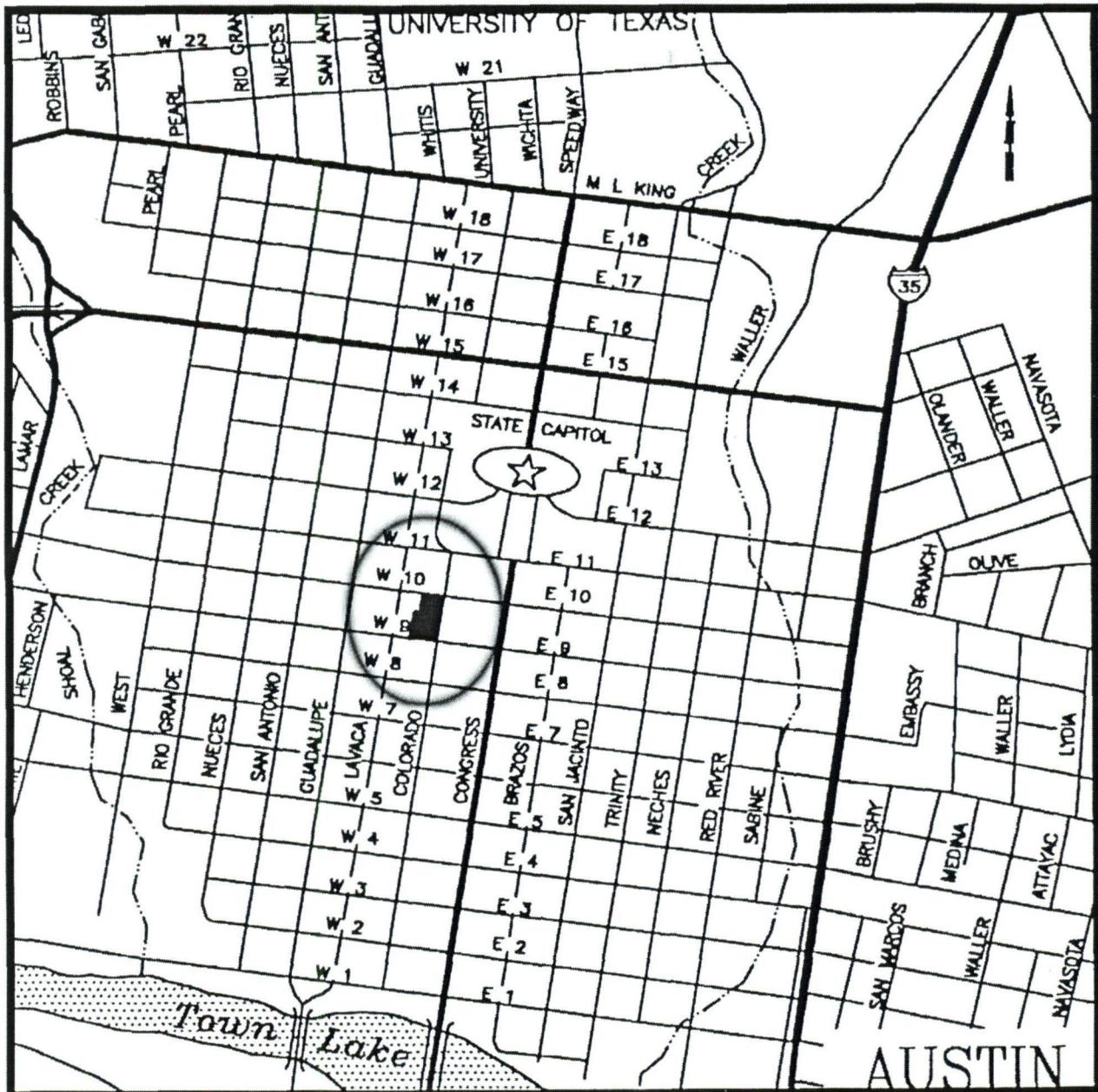
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 18

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8-1 Austin City Map, Source: General Land Office



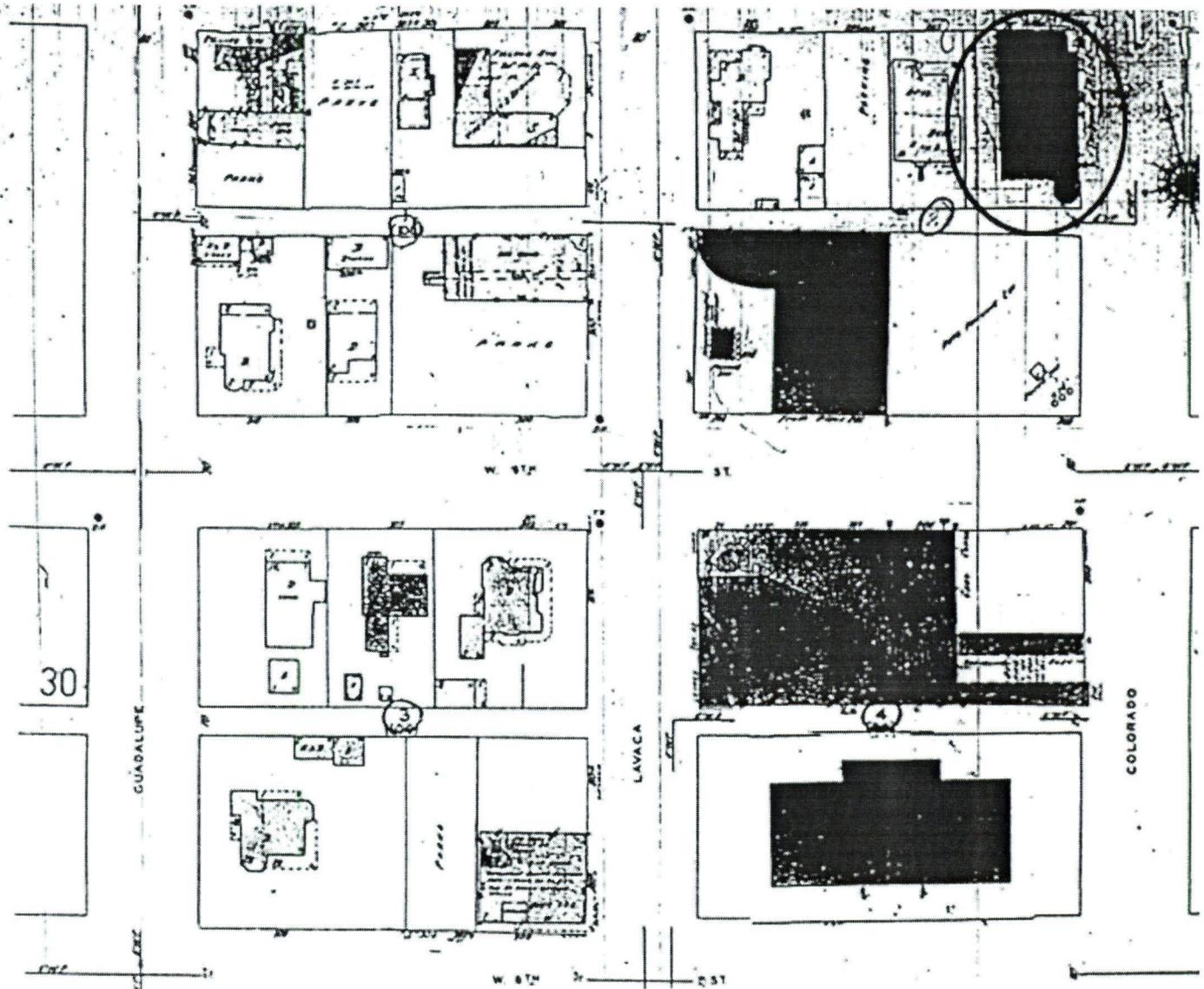
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 19

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8-2 1895 Sanborn Map, Austin, Texas. Courtesy of Austin History Center.



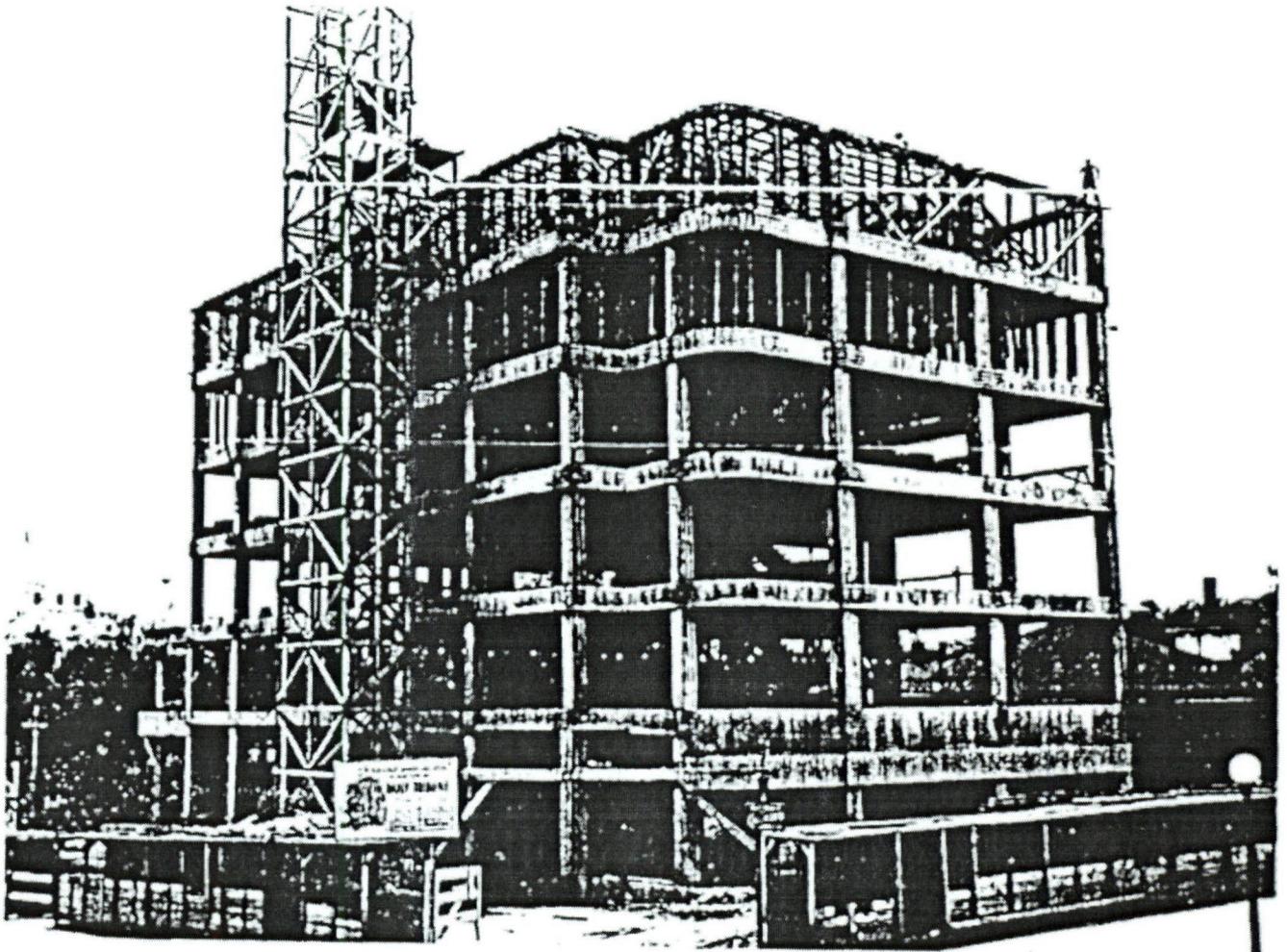
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 20

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8-3 Construction Photo, Austin Daily Tribune Building, June 20, 1941. Courtesy of Austin History Center.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 21

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8-4 Gibbs Hall, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. Courtesy of East Texas Research Center.



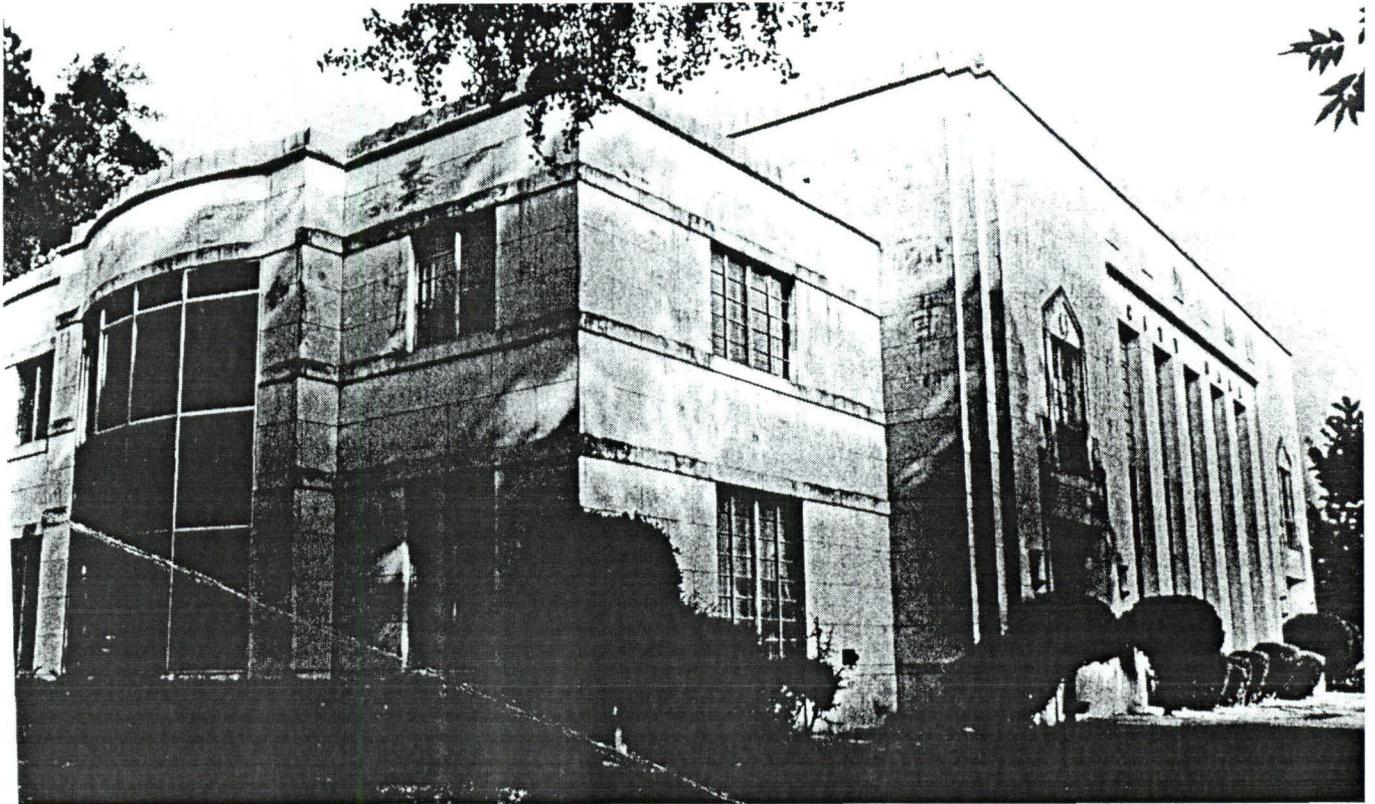
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 22

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8-5 Tyler City Hall, Tyler, Texas



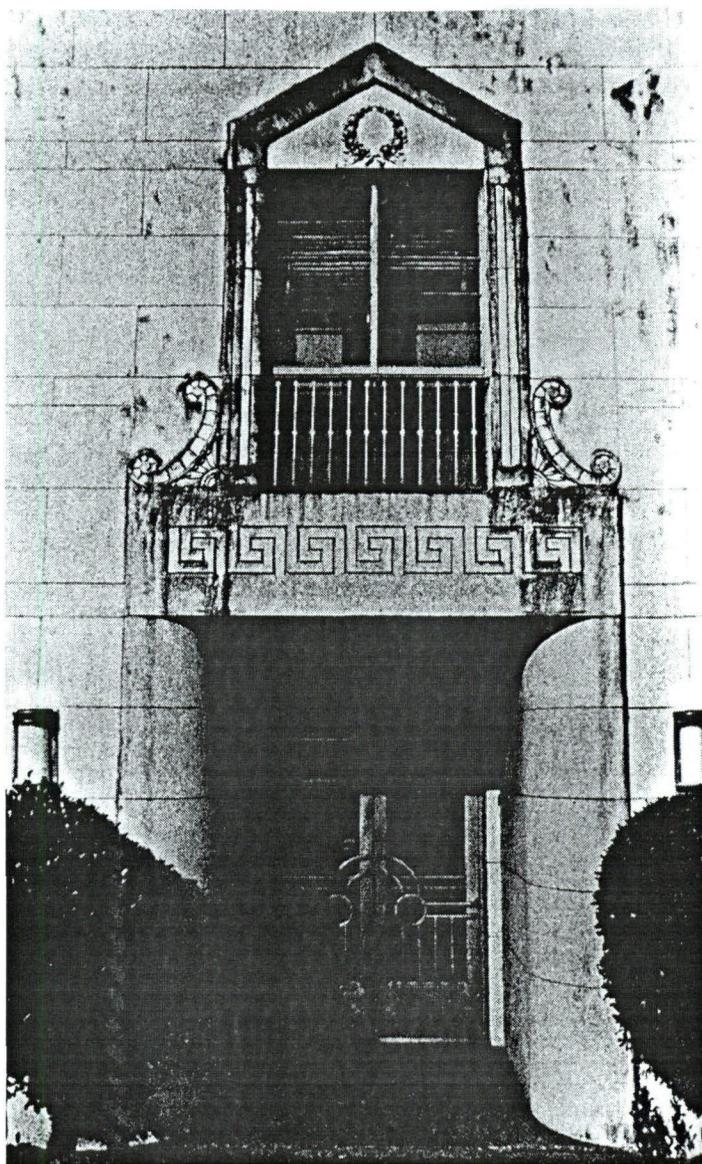
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 23

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8-6 Tyler City Hall Detail, Tyler, Texas



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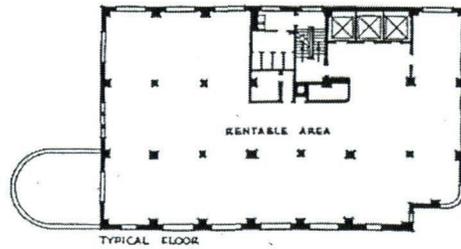
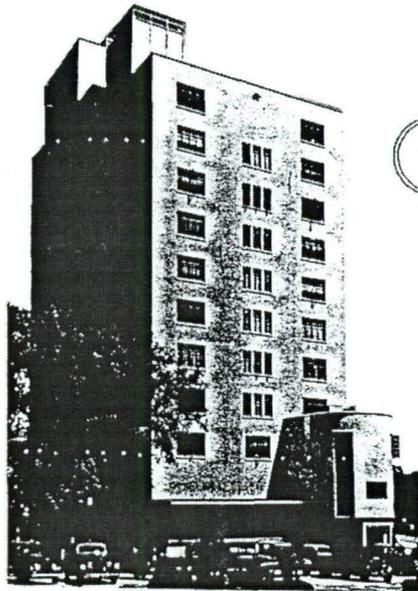
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 24

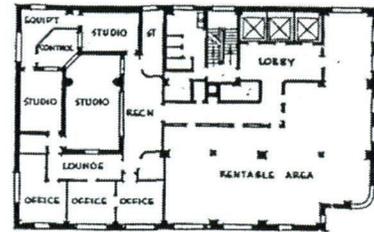
Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8-7 "Newspaper Plant and Office Building" *Architectural Record*, August, 1941.

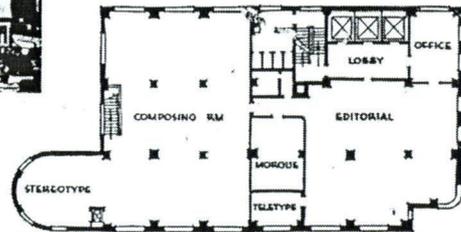
NEWSPAPER PLANT AND OFFICE BUILDING



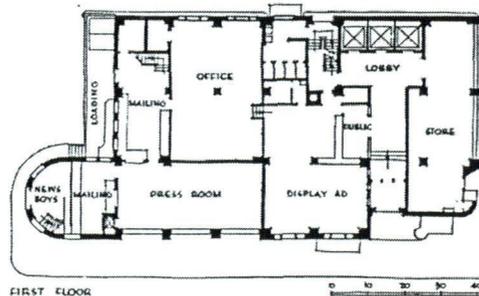
TYPICAL FLOOR



TENTH FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE BUILDING, AUSTIN, TEXAS. SHIRLEY SIMONS, ARCHITECT; PAGE, SOUTHERLAND & PAGE, ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS. The basic planning problem was to combine two major but entirely different functional elements—a modern newspaper plant and a revenue-producing office building—into a dignified modern structure that would do honor to a daily paper dedicated to the welfare of the people of Texas. In addition, space was needed for radio-broadcasting studios, a ground-floor rental area and a penthouse apartment. While revenue demands made careful planning of the typical office floor a requisite, the type of clientele sought required considerably more than commercial minimum of space, finish and detail. Structure consists of reinforced concrete frame, piers and joists. Exterior walls are of hollow tile; cream-colored, smooth-textured face brick; Texas limestone trim, and a variegated red and black granite base. Trim and sash are of aluminum.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 25

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8-8 Elevator operators, *Austin Daily Tribune*, May 25, 1941.



These are the smiling elevator operators who keep the cages moving in the new Tribune Tower. Pictured inside one of the three high-speed machines, whose walnut trimmed interiors strike a new note in elevator decoration, are, left to right, Dorothy Foster, Marjorie Hardcastle and Tommie Johnson.

Figure 8-9 Press workers, *Austin Daily Tribune*, May 25, 1941.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 26

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

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“Newspaper Plant and Office Building.” *Architectural Record*. (August, 1941).

Archives

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Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

East Texas Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas

General Land Office, Austin, Texas

General Services Commission, Austin, Texas

Interview

Wilmot Hunt to Chay Rees, May 5, 1998, Austin, Texas

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
	14	620900	3349620			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Block 109, Lot 7 and the east 38.5 feet of Lot 8, Original City of Austin, Travis County, Texas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Austin Daily Tribune Building, including sidewalks on the east and north boundaries of the property, and alley to the west boundary of the property.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Christie H. McLaren, THC Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Chay Rees/ Student

ORGANIZATION: University of Texas at Austin

DATE: May 7, 1998

STREET & NUMBER: 1404 B Ashwood

TELEPHONE: (512) 708-0476

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78722

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see USGS map)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-27)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheets 7-8 through 7-12)
(see continuation sheets 8-18 through 8-25)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: State of Texas, General Services Commission

STREET & NUMBER: 1711 San Jacinto

TELEPHONE: (512) 463-3035

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78701

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 27

Austin Daily Tribune Building
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photo Log

Austin Daily Tribune Building
920 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas
Photographed by Jim Steely
April 1998
Negatives on file with Texas Historical Commission

Northeast elevation, camera facing southwest
Photo 1 of 6

Interior lobby, primary entrance
Photo 2 of 6

Original interior door and mailbox
Photo 3 of 6

View of Capitol from porthole window, camera facing north
Photo 4 of 6

Detail of inscription, camera facing northwest
Photo 5 of 6

Southwest elevation (showing addition), camera facing northeast
Photo 6 of 6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Austin Daily Tribune Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Travis

DATE RECEIVED: 10/12/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/23/00
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/08/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/26/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00001358

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 11/8/00 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



920

LEO S. THOMPSON
1931

DIXIE

DIXIE

AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE BUILDING

920 COLORADO

AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 6



AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE BUILDING

920 COLORADO

AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 6

EXIT



STAIR 1

STAIR 1



★ 1

AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE BUILDING

920 COLORADO

AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 6



AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE BUILDING
920 COLORADO
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 6

THE FREE PRESS IS THE PROTECTOR AND PRESERVER OF THE
RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GUARDIAN OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTS
INSURE THE PEOPLE AND DEFENDERS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE
DOCTRINE OF THE PEOPLE AND DEFENDERS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE
THE TRUTH IS A GOOD THING AND IT IS THE DUTY OF THE PRESS
AND COPY A CHALLENGE TO THE LEGACY OF THE PRESS
IN CIVILIZATION AND SCIENCE AND ARTS... THE LEGACY OF THE PRESS
CAN BE SECURE OR POLITICAL BOMBING... THE LEGACY OF THE PRESS
THE ALIEN DAILY TRIBUNE... THE LEGACY OF THE PRESS
NEWSPAPER DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF A FREE PEOPLE... THE LEGACY OF THE PRESS

AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE BUILDING

920 COLORADO

AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 6

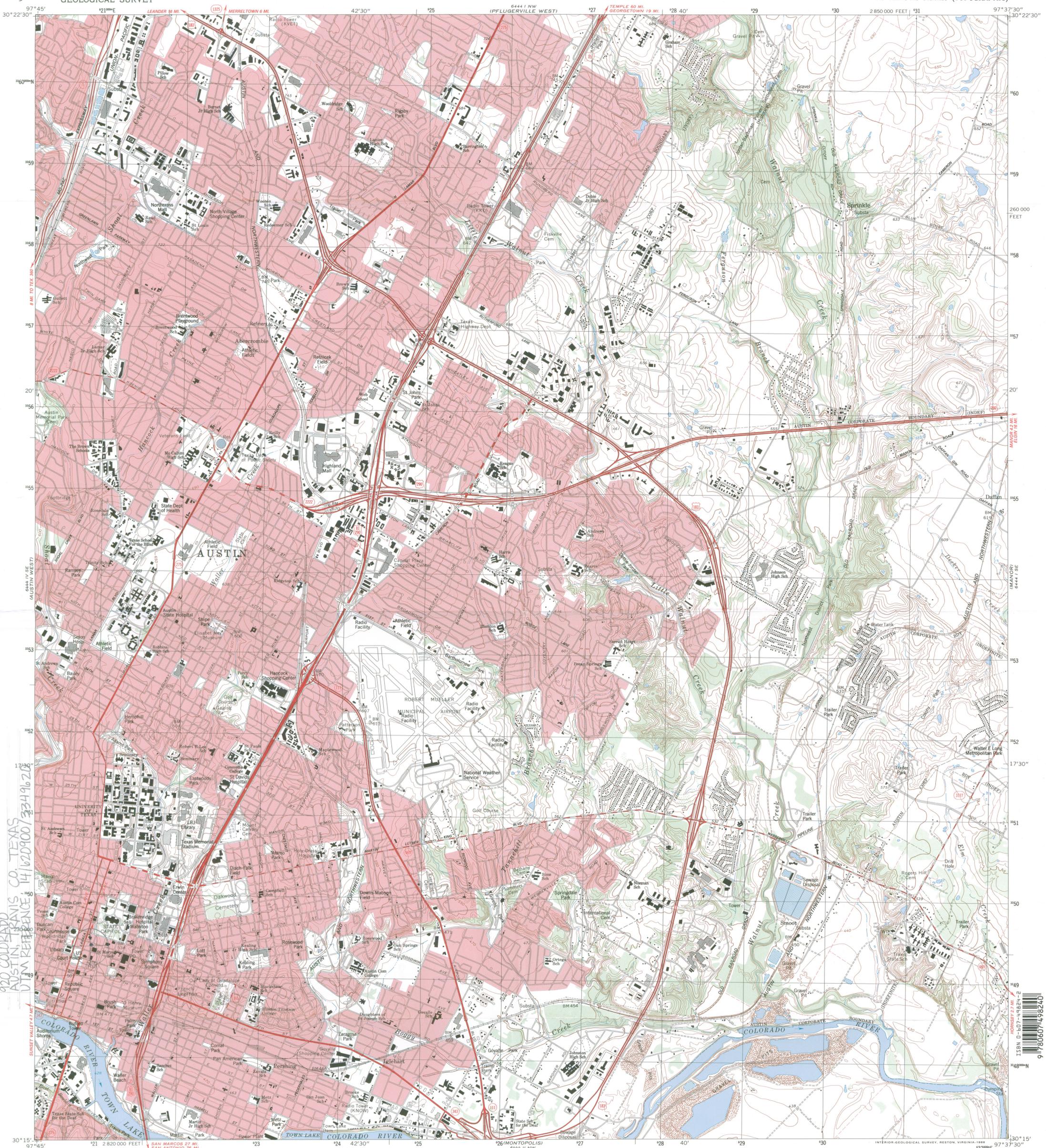


1915

AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE BUILDING

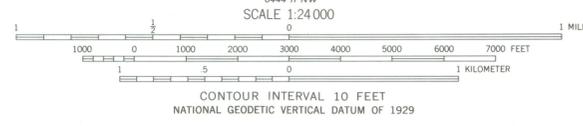
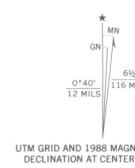
920 COLORADO
AUSTIN, TRANS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 6 of 6



AUSTIN DAILY TRIBUNE BUILDING
020 COLDEADO
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO. TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE 14J 629000 / 3349626

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with City of Austin
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1985. Field checked 1986. Map edited 1988
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas
coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 18 meters south and
28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



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

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AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768
1-800-252-5469

AUSTIN EAST, TEX.
30097-06-TF-024
1988
DMA 6444 I SW-SERIES V882

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

3097-242

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