

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Mission Canal Company Second Lift Pumphouse
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: United Irrigation Company Second Lift Pumphouse

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 6th Street and Canal **NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A
CITY OR TOWN: Mission **VICINITY:** N/A
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Hidalgo **CODE:** 215 **ZIP CODE:** 78572

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
 statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

July 1, 2002
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

8/30/02

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public - Local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	2	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	1	1 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	3	1 TOTAL

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

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic and Architectural Resources of Mission,
Hidalgo County, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: AGRICULTURE/irrigation facility

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: VACANT

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: NO STYLE

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION BRICK
WALLS BRICK; METAL: sheet metal
ROOF METAL
OTHER METAL

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 7-5).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

DESCRIPTION

The Mission Pumphouse (Figure 1) is an irregular-plan, masonry, industrial building located west of Cummings Avenue between West 5th and West 6th Street in Mission. The building once housed a lift station which raised water 12' from an irrigation canal southeast of the building to a canal on the north. The building sits on level terrain, with open land on the south, east, and west. A high earthen embankment to the north of the Pumphouse contains the irrigation canal that receives the water (Figure 2). The building maintains its architectural integrity to a moderate degree.

The three-part Pumphouse consists of a two-story central block with one-story wings on the east and west. The central block, or boiler house, once housed a wood-fired boiler which produced steam to power the pumping equipment in the east wing. The building is constructed of load-bearing tan brick walls resting on a continuous beam foundation. The second floor of the boiler house is constructed of steel framing with corrugated steel panel siding. The side-gabled roof is also covered with corrugated steel panels. A tall, cylindrical brick smokestack with metal compression bands protrudes through the roof on the north side of the boiler house. The south, or principal, elevation of the boiler house has a pair of exterior-mounted corrugated steel sliding doors on the first floor. A former doorway east of the sliding doors has been enclosed. The second floor has three 8-light metal-sash industrial windows on the main elevation and a single window on the recessed bay. The north elevation has four industrial windows on the second floor with a large doorway and two small square openings on the first floor. The masonry in this area is very deteriorated. The east and west elevations are unrelieved blank walls.

The east wing is a one-story brick building containing the pumping equipment in an open basement. Its side-gabled roof is covered with corrugated steel panels. Ghost marks on the east wall of the boiler house indicate that the present roof is a replacement for a earlier steeper-pitched roof. There are five 9/9 wood-sash windows on the south wall. The east elevation has an interior-mounted sliding door flanked by single 9/9 windows. All openings have segmental arch heads. Window openings on the north elevation have been bricked in.

According to an informant, the west wing once housed equipment which condensed return steam from the pumps into water before supplying it to the boiler. The wing has a gable-on-hip roof covered with corrugated steel panels. The west elevation is a symmetrical composition of four evenly-spaced, arched single window openings. The second opening from the south contains the only surviving sash, a 6/6 double-hung wood unit. The north and south elevations are mirror images of one another, each containing a large segmentally-arched door opening containing a pair of hinged wood doors, and a single window to the west.

A contributing element of the historic property, a corrugated metal storage shed is to the south of the boiler house. The front-gabled metal storage shed, with its exposed rafter ends and hasp-hinged garage type doors, appears to have been built in the 1930s, thus dating to the period of significance. A free-standing brick chimney is on the pumphouse's north side. Used to burn fuel, it was associated with the original pumping equipment and is a contributing structure. The new pumping equipment consists of natural gas and electric pumps that are set within a concrete structure, adjacent to the old pumphouse. Installed in 1984, the new, smaller pumps serve the same function, to lift water through underground pipes so that it can continue to flow down the upper canal. The uncovered structure is on the east side of the original pumphouse and is a non-contributing structure on the site.

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: AGRICULTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1910-1952

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1910, 1936

SIGNIFICANT PERSONS: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Simmons, Albert

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-6 through 8-8)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-9)

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 6

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mission Canal Company Second Lift Pumphouse was built in 1910 by private land developers as part of an extensive irrigation system established to promote agriculture and land development in the Mission area. The pumphouse is significant at the local level and is nominated to the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of agriculture, for its direct association with the irrigation companies and later, irrigation districts that played a large role in Mission's citriculture and urban development. The property is related to the historic context, *Grapefruit's Lone Star Home: The Development Of Mission, Texas*. Irrigation of the Lower Rio Grande Valley was the keystone of successful agriculture and the subsequent settlement of the area. The new economic opportunities created by the irrigated land in the Valley fostered rapid growth of agriculture and community in Mission in the first half of the 20th century.

John Conway and J. W. Hoit were among the many land developers that arrived in the Lower Rio Grande Valley shortly after the railroad extended its track into the area in 1904. The entrepreneurs built Mission's first lift station pumphouse on the bank of the Rio Grande in 1908, the same year they founded the town, which was sited about two miles north of the river. They hired local laborers to clear the land and dig a network of irrigation canals and laterals that linked the original pumphouse with their newly platted town. Subsequently, they divided the land into 20- to 40-acre irrigated farm tracts that were heavily promoted to farmers back East. The irrigation systems' success made newly subdivided farms marketable and as land development increased around the growing town, a second lift station pump was necessary to provide water to new tracts further north. Using Hispanic laborers, the Mission Canal Company completed the second lift pumphouse, made of local Madero brick, in 1910. Mission Canal Company hired Greg Wood, Sr., an influential leader in area irrigation improvements and later mayor of Mission, as superintendent of the canal system in 1910 (Kemp 4: 1995). The irrigation network was installed principally for agricultural uses and the city of Mission built a separate municipal water system for all other purposes.

Although agriculture was successful in the Mission area, Conway and Hoit could not finance their heavily mortgaged irrigation company. After it had been in receivership for two years, developer John Shary bought the holdings of Mission Canal Company in 1915, for a price of \$850,000 (*World-Herald: Omaha* Jan. 14, 1916). The expansion of the irrigation system under the renamed United Irrigation Company reflected the boom years of Mission and adjacent Sharyland, an agricultural subdivision laid out and promoted by developer John Shary. Between 1918 and 1920, Shary added the third lift station and made it an attraction on his promotional tours as a model of modern irrigation facilities. By 1924, United Irrigation provided water for 25,000 acres of irrigated land. The company owned 20.56 miles of main canals, 22.57 in sub-main canals, and 129.8 miles of laterals. By 1926, the company had upgraded the second lift pumphouse with modern electrically-driven pumps (Figure 3) (Heller 215: 1994). Served by the growing United Irrigation Company, the Mission area supported almost 1.5 million fruit trees, more than any other irrigation district in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, by the early-1930s (Figure 4) (*Mission Enterprise* May 25, 1933).

When a group of farmers to the north of Mission formed the Hidalgo County Water Control & Improvement District #7 in 1929, they purchased the canals in their area from John Shary, but they still depended on the company's lift pumps to provide water from the Rio Grande. In 1931, Mission residents formed another public district, Hidalgo County Water Control & Improvement District #14, to the south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

of District #7 and closer to the river. Like District #7, the new District #14 purchased the canals within their boundaries but the United Irrigation Company retained ownership of the three lift stations and therefore was still responsible for pumping water to its own canals as well as the new public district canals.

During the 1930s, United Irrigation Company's improvements reflected the continued dominance of citriculture in Mission and the important role of the irrigation system in the local economy. In 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, the company requested a loan of \$200,000 from the Federal Government to finance lining the earthen canals with concrete to prevent seepage and make irrigation more economically efficient. In his loan application, Shary pointed out that although United was a privately owned company, it provided a public service and should be eligible for improvement funds. The application portrayed the project as a public work for relief of unemployed people in Mission because it was expected to employ 115 men per day, mostly common laborers, for a period of six months. In addition to providing relief to the unemployed, United Irrigation also lowered its water rates from \$3 and \$4 per acre, to \$2.50 and \$3.00 per acre, for the benefit of the landowners (Application, Board Meeting Minutes Oct. 9, 1933). United Irrigation Company also added a boiler room and raised the roof on the second lift pumphouse in 1936 (Figure 5) (Heller 221: 1994). A small, metal roofed storage building resembling a one-car garage was added to the site about that time, as well.

The second lift pumphouse remained a holding of United Irrigation Company until it was purchased, along with the rest of the system, by District #14 in 1951, following a devastating freeze that put many individual citrus growers out of business. The two public irrigation districts, #7 and #14, finally united in 1987 and adopted the name United Irrigation District. Shary used a similar name, United Irrigation Company, to demonstrate his idea that the area must be developed as a whole and that in the future Mission and Sharyland should "stand united" (*Mission Times* Dec. 24, 1915). Today, all that remains of the original first lift pumphouse is its chimney. The river-front land on which it stands is known as Chimney Park for its distinguishing feature. The second lift pumphouse is now vacant and the natural gas and electric pumps that replaced the old steam engines about 1984 have been moved to an adjacent location outside the building, to the east. The structure is a non-contributing feature of the historic property. The canal has been widened slightly to accommodate the new pump equipment and although the type of equipment has been updated, the station continues to "lift" water from the main canal to the upper canal system. The conjoined buildings that comprise the original pumphouse remain largely intact since their construction in 1910 and improvements in 1936. Of the three distinct sections of the historic pumphouse complex, the east wing retains the greatest overall integrity to the original period of use. The central engine room has been most altered, notably by the addition of a second floor, probably in 1936. The west wing was added in 1936, but the segmental arch windows and brick construction replicate the east wing's original design to a large degree. The towering cylindrical chimney is the most distinctive feature of the complex. Visible throughout much of Mission, it is a local landmark and tangible reminder of the city's agricultural heritage.

Located in John Shary's model subdivision, Sharyland, the third lift station has also been updated with smaller pumps and the old pumphouse is unused. While the third lift station retains its original integrity to a large degree and reflects the area's agricultural development in much the same way as the second lift station, it lies outside the Mission city limits, beyond the survey area boundaries and the scope of this project. Furthermore, it is more closely associated with John Shary and his suburban development plans for Sharyland, a separate and more exclusive community outside the city of Mission. Conversely, the second lift station is the only part of the irrigation system wholly located in the city's original townsite

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

and was directly associated with its development. It is, therefore, the most appropriate symbol of the city's agricultural origins. In addition, the irrigation district intends to transfer the second lift station to the city but retain ownership of the third lift station and the irrigation canals. The City of Mission and the irrigation district jointly supported the nomination of the second lift station. Although none of the system's original pumphouses are in use today, the irrigation district continues to supply water to agricultural users by way of the lift stations throughout the Mission area.

The second lift pumphouse is a towering landmark of the irrigation system that made farming and, later, citriculture, possible in the Mission area. It reflects the vision of early 20th century entrepreneurs who transformed an arid landscape into productive farmland and developed a city from the South Texas desert. More than any other building or structure in the city, the second lift pumphouse symbolizes Mission's agricultural heritage and is therefore nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria A in the area of Agriculture.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 9

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

De la Garza, John. Interview with Terri Myers. 29 October 1998.

Heller, Dick J. *The History of Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas: An Historic Lower Rio Grande Valley City*. Mission, TX : By the Author, 1994.

Kemp, Denise. *Historic Mission and Surrounding Areas*. Mission, TX.: By the Author, 1995.

Mission, TX., Mission School Board. Meeting Minutes, 09 October, 1933.

Mission Times, 24 December 1915. Available at the University of Texas Pan - American at Edinburg, TX.

World-Herald: Omaha. 14 January 1916. Available at Mission Speer Memorial Library, Mission, TX.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: Approximately 15 acres

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	566780	2899280	3	14	566740
2	14	566960	2899260	4	14	566960

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Block 129 Mission Original Townsite excluding Lots 4, 5 and 6 and Parts of 1, 2 and 3 (.75 acres) which constitutes Missouri Pacific Railroad right-of-way

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION With the exception noted in the Verbal Boundary Description, Block 129 includes all of the pumping facilities, equipment, reservoir, and canal historically associated with the Mission Canal Company, now United Irrigation District's Second Lift Pumphouse

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Terri Myers, Project Director/Historian; Sophie Roark, Research Assistant;
Tom P. Eisenhour, Architect

ORGANIZATION: Hardy-Heck-Moore & Myers, Inc.

DATE: March 1999

STREET & NUMBER: 1414 W. 6th Street

TELEPHONE: 512-478-8014

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78703

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet FIGURE-10)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet PHOTO-14)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: United Irrigation District. Contact John De La Garza

STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 867

TELEPHONE: 956-585-4818

CITY OR TOWN: Mission

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78572

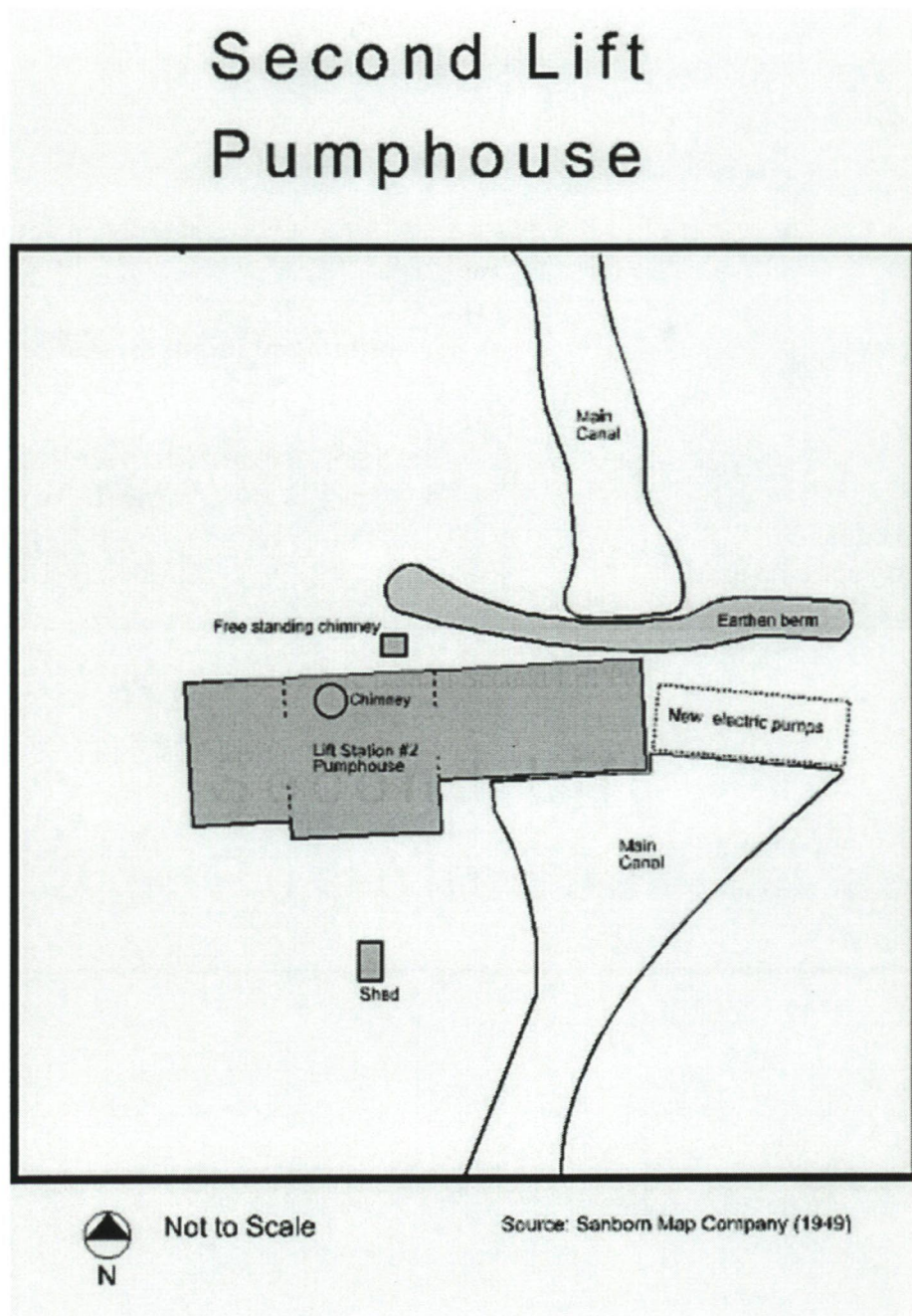
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 10

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

Figure 1. Site plan of Second Lift Pumphouse.



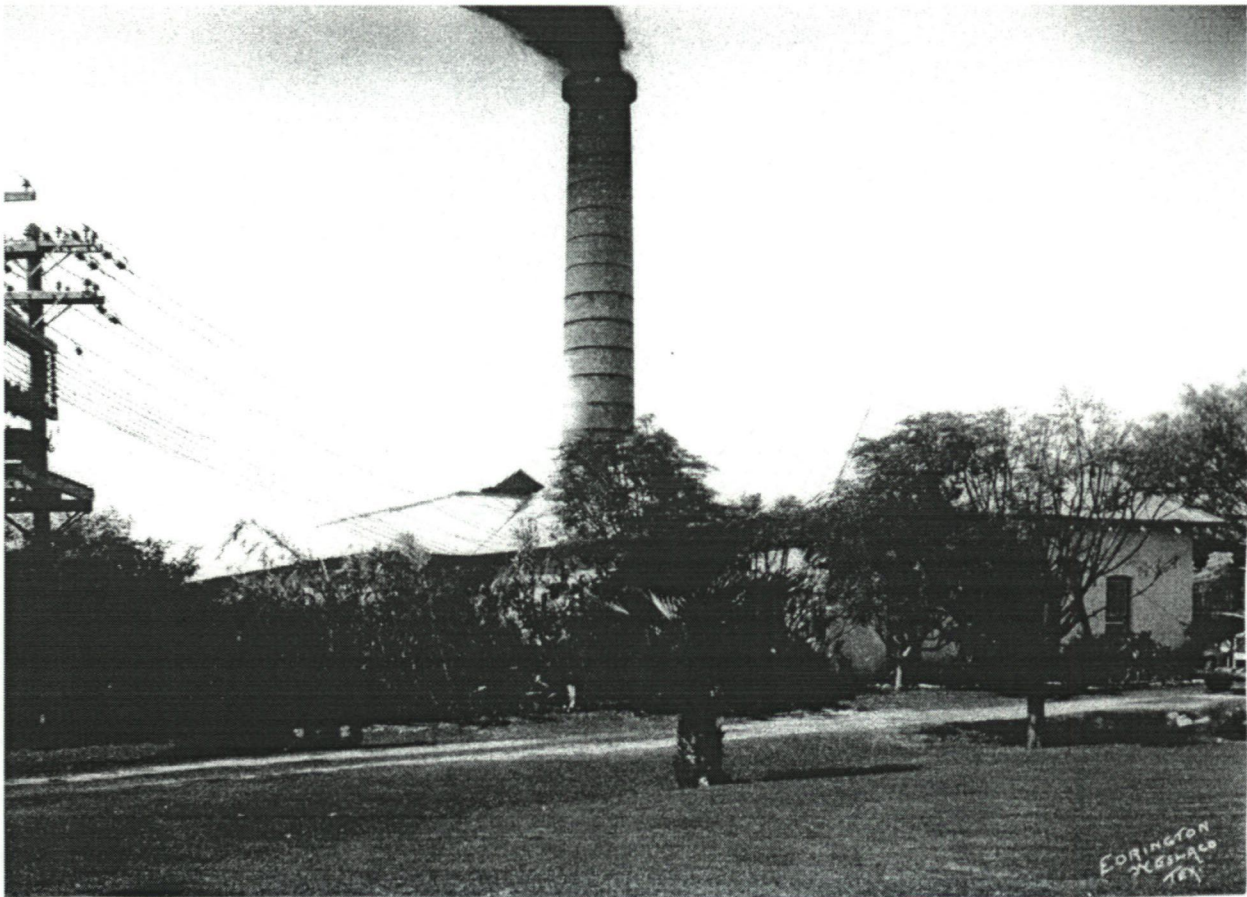
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section FIGURE Page 11

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

Figure 2. The Second Lift Pumphouse circa 1925. Photo source: Hidalgo County Museum, Edinburg, Texas.



Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

[illegible]

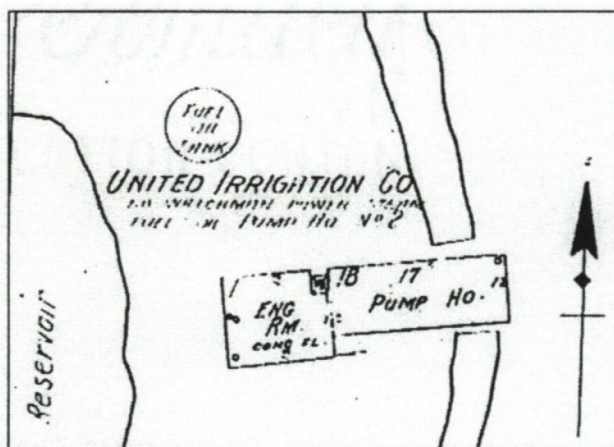
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

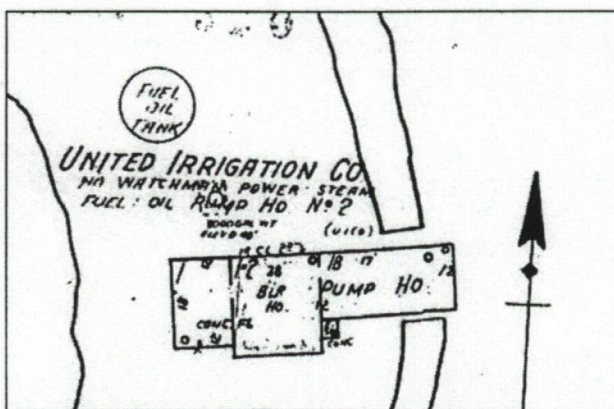
Section FIGURE Page 13

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

Figure 4. (a) 1933 Sanborn map shows pumphouse #2 before the addition.
(b) 1949 Sanborn map shows 1936 addition.



1933 Sanborn map shows pumphouse #2 before the addition.



1949 Sanborn map shows 1936 addition.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 14

Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

PHOTO INVENTORY

**Mission Canal Company Second Lift Pumphouse
Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas
Terri Myers – photographer**

Mission Canal Company Second Lift Pumphouse – 6th Street and Canal Street
View: South elevation
Camera facing: North
Photo 1 of 1
1998

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mission Canal Company Second Lift Pumphouse

MULTIPLE NAME: Mission, Hidalgo County MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Hidalgo

DATE RECEIVED: 7/18/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/12/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/28/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/01/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000910

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 8/30/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

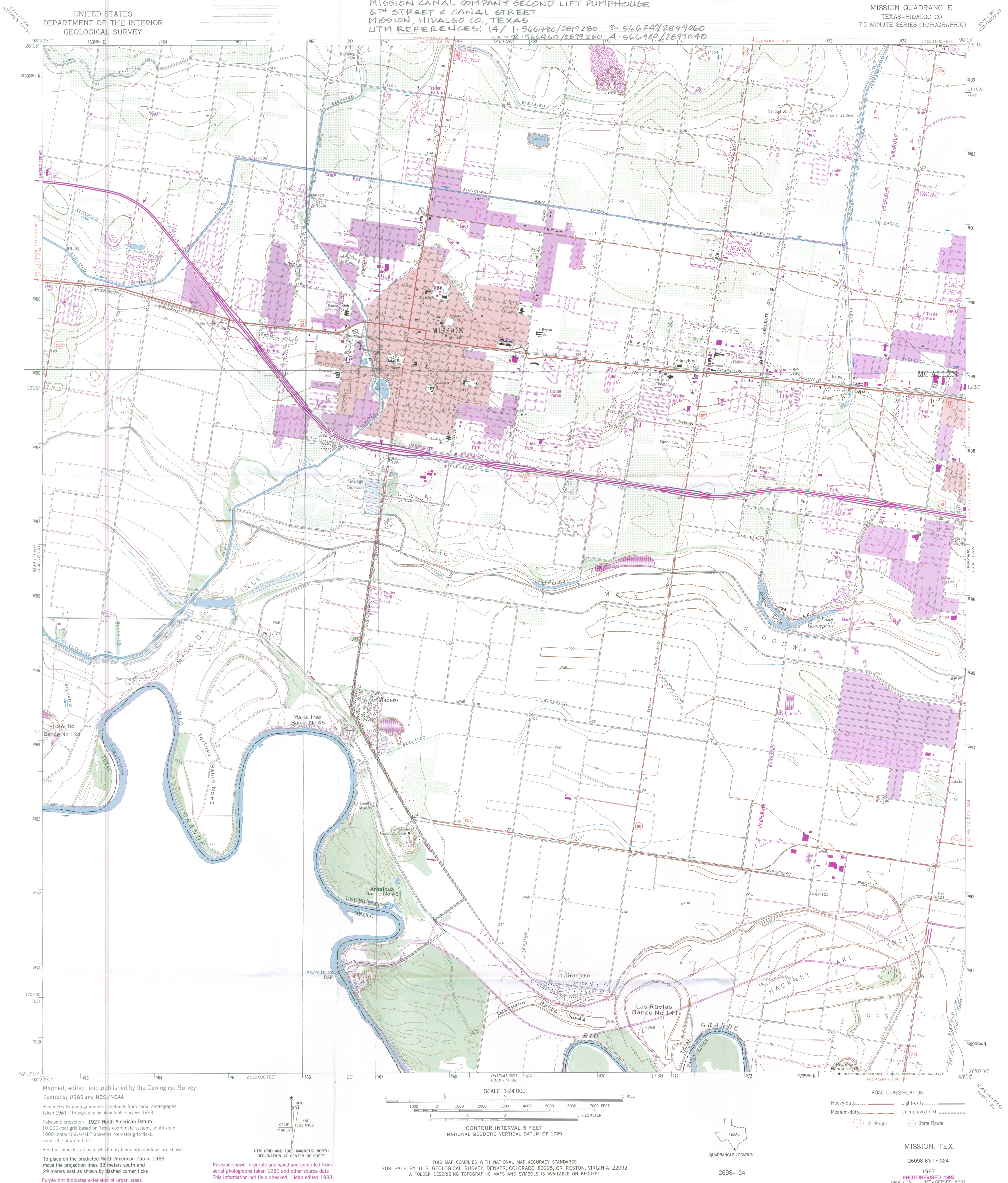
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



MISSION CANAL COMPANY
SECOND LIFT PUMPHOUSE

6TH STREET & CANAL STREET
MISSION, HIDALGO CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 1



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MISSION CANAL COMPANY SECOND LIFT PUMPHOUSE
6TH STREET & CANAL STREET
MISSION, HIDALGO CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES: 14 1.566760/2899280 3.566740/2899060
2.566960/2899260 4.566960/2899040

MISSION QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-HIDALGO CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1961. Topography by planetable surveys 1963
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 33 meters south and
29 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

Revision shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1980 and other source data
This information not field checked. Map edited 1983

SCALE 1:24 000
1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



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

MISSION, TEX.
26098-B3-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1983
DMA 6336 111 NE-SERIES V882