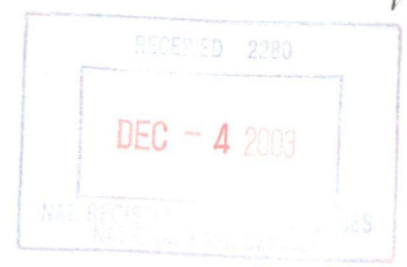


1414



(Oct. 1990)
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

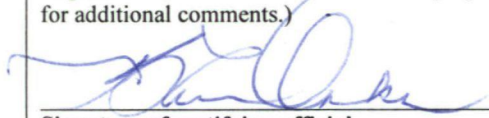
HISTORIC NAME: Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater Historic District
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 414 Smith Street	NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
CITY OR TOWN: Gonzales	VICINITY: N/A
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Gonzales	CODE: 177 ZIP CODE: 78629

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	<u>12/1/2003</u> _____ Date
_____ State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission	
_____ State or Federal agency and bureau	

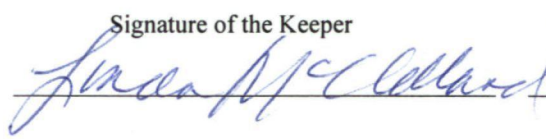
In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____ 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
 _____	<u>1/13/04</u> _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public - local**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	2	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	2	0 STRUCTURES
	1	0 OBJECTS
	5	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:**

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/library; RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum and theater**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

MATERIALS:	FOUNDATION	CONCRETE
	WALLS	STONE/Limestone
	ROOF	CONCRETE, ASPHALT
	OTHER	N/A

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

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

The Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater form a monumental complex on the east side of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas. The buildings are part of a public park, located six blocks east of the Gonzales County Courthouse and the historic commercial core of the city. The buildings are on a large boulevard that was deeded in the original city charter of Gonzales for public use, and continues in this capacity to the present day. Other public uses in the boulevard include schools, public utilities, and open park space. The museum complex includes a reflecting pool, sidewalks, a large rectangular building with two rooms, an amphitheater with dressing rooms and seating for 500, and memorial monuments and tablets. Constructed of Texas limestone in an Art Deco style, the museum complex was built to celebrate the Centennial of Texas independence in 1936.

Setting

Gonzales has over 100 buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the majority of them lying within the 15-block Gonzales Commercial Historic District (NRHP listed 1996). Thirteen buildings in Gonzales are designated Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, and another 70 Official State Historical Markers are sited throughout the town. The Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater complex occupies a large greenspace within a public boulevard extending east from downtown Gonzales. The property is bordered on the north by St. Lawrence Street, on the east by Moore Street, on the west by Smith Street and on the south by St. Louis Street. Other public buildings, including a Junior High School to the west and city park buildings to the east, are in the immediate vicinity. The public boulevard continues east for several miles beyond the museum complex.

Two parallel sidewalks extend eastward from the main parking area on Smith Street, west of the buildings. These sidewalks lead to a large rectangular concrete reflecting pool that is aligned east and west. The pool is 104 feet in length. Just east of it, three steps on either side lead to a terrace that forms the base for a tall tapered shaft of pink Texas granite. Affixed to the stone is a tall vertical bronze sculpture by Raoul Jossset that commemorates the Immortal Thirty-Two, Gonzales citizens who answered the call to help defend the Alamo in San Antonio and died in the final assault on March 6, 1836. The sculpture depicts an allegorical figure supporting the Alamo above his head. Two flagpoles flank the sculpture.

East of the Jossset sculpture, eight steps on either side flank a large limestone tablet inscribed "Gonzales Historical Memorial A. D. 1936." The steps lead to the main entrance level for the museum building, which is aligned north and south and divided into two large rooms with a covered central passage between them. A low limestone wall forms a border behind the limestone tablet, with shrubs and small trees planted in front of it. East of the main building is the rear of the amphitheater and stage building, also aligned north and south with the seating to the east of the stage, facing west. A tablet at the rear of the stage building commemorates the Old Eighteen, Gonzales citizens who stood in defiance of advancing Mexican troops in September-October 1835. When the Mexican forces sought to quell the rebellion and reclaim the city cannon, Gonzales militia dared them to "Come and Take It." The amphitheater seating is arranged in a semicircle seven rows deep and partially sunken below ground level. The amphitheater provides seating for 500 people.¹ Medium and large trees dot the

¹ *Inquirer*, Special Edition, September 25, 1937, p. 1.

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Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

landscape around the stage building and amphitheater, including oak and palm trees. A semicircular iron fence topped by stars surrounds the amphitheater, and a large concrete star is outlined at the far east end of the property beyond the fence. The museum building, stage building, amphitheater (structure), reflecting pool (structure), and Immortal Thirty-Two sculpture (object) are contributing resources in this nomination.

Exterior

The museum building is rectangular, aligned north and south with a covered central passage between two large rooms. The rooms each measure 24'4" by 43'10" on the exterior, and the passage is nine feet wide and fifteen feet high. Two vertical windows flank the central passage, and a large projecting carved limestone surround encompasses the passage and windows. The building is constructed of load-bearing masonry, alternating large shellstone blocks with thin bands of polished limestone. Near the top and running around the entire building is a decorative band of carved limestone with a scalloped pattern that resembles the curved ends of a curtain. The short north and south ends of the building also have vertical windows. The east elevation of the museum building has three vertical windows on either side of the central passage, which is surrounded by a projecting carved limestone feature.

To the east of the museum building is a large stage and amphitheater. The stage building is only slightly smaller in scale than the museum building. The stage building has dressing rooms on either side in flanking wings. The stage is nearly rectangular, with a slightly projecting circular arc. The shell of the stage is topped with a carved limestone band with scalloped pattern that is supported by triangular brackets. Near the top of the stage building and running along each side is another horizontal band of carved limestone with scalloped pattern. The north and south elevations of the stage building have three small square windows to provide light for the dressing rooms. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Gonzales, dated August 1944, states that the stage building is constructed of stone, metal lath and plaster.

Interior

The two rooms inside the museum building are each twenty feet wide and thirty-two feet long, with twenty-two foot high ceilings. Both rooms have six foot high wainscoting made of Texas shell limestone that was ground and polished.² Each room is adorned with a historical mural created by J.B. Winn, Jr.³ The mural in the north room is largely text on two large tablets, relating Gonzales' role in the Texas Revolution and its early history. The top of the mural reads "Gonzales, The Lexington of Texas," and figures in the mural include Matthew Caldwell, the Sam Houston Oak, and the Pioneer. The north room houses several historic photos, documents and artifacts important in Gonzales history, including two cannons. One cannon is certified to have been crafted by blacksmith R.C. Schaurer in 1936 and fired at the Centennial celebration in Cost, recreating the first shot fired of the Texas Revolution. This cannon is 41 inches long with a 2 3/4" bore. The other cannon, unearthed following a flood in 1936, is attributed by some sources to be the original cannon from 1835. The true provenance of this cannon, which measures 21 inches in length with a 1 1/4" bore, remains controversial and

² *Inquirer*, Special Edition, September 25, 1937, p. 1.

³ Schoen, p. 31.

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Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

inconclusive. A series of sixteen bronze plaques in the two rooms commemorate significant individuals and events in Gonzales history during the Texas Revolution and the Republic period.

The south wing of the museum houses textiles, furniture, and other artifacts from Gonzales' past, as well as some historic archives and library resources available to the public. Both ceilings of the interior rooms have stepped trim running around the perimeter and decorated with medallion-type patterns. Original light fixtures are also present. The J. B. Winn, Jr. mural in the south room depicts a map of the westward-expanding United States, showing the increase in area from the admission of Texas, Oregon and the Mexican Cession of 1848. Three figures at the left are depicted with swords and rifles, and labeled "Gen. Austin First Commander Texas Armies." On the right is a figure with the "Come and Take It" cannon and battle flag, labeled "The First Battle Flag of Texas." Both Winn murals are large, approximately six feet tall and twenty feet long and placed high on the west walls of the building. Several large glass cabinets in both interior rooms are original to the building.

Changes since 1937

The building was originally designed to be both a museum and public library. The Gonzales Public Library occupied the south wing until it outgrew its space in 1972 and moved out of the building to a downtown location. The museum then expanded into both wings. The amphitheater has been used for public gatherings and entertainment. In September 1987, the City of Gonzales constructed the black wrought-iron fence that circles the amphitheater, featuring the Texas star in each panel.⁴ In 2000 the museum became the permanent home of the purported "Come and Take It" cannon. It was from this cannon that the first shot for Texas independence was fired on October 2, 1835, during the Battle of Gonzales.

The museum is owned and maintained by the City of Gonzales. It is a project of the Thomas Shelton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is governed by a six-member museum board. The building retains a high degree of integrity from its original construction, including materials, fixtures, and furnishings. In 1983 the Texas Historical Commission designated nine Texas Centennial memorial properties statewide as State Archeological Landmarks, including the Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater. In 2003 the entire complex was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

⁴ *Inquirer*, September 10, 1987, p. 1.

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: GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-38

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1937

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Phelps and Dewees, architects; Page and Southerland, architects;
Josset, Raoul, sculptor; Winn, James Buchanan, Jr., muralist

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-12).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-13).

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 --

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Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

In 1935 the Texas Legislature approved formation of a commission to commemorate the coming Centennial of Texas Independence from Mexico. One of the premier structures approved by the commission was the memorial museum to honor the contributions of Gonzales to the Texas Revolution. The museum and amphitheater are among the most prominent public buildings commissioned during Texas' celebration of Revolutionary events. As a public amenity along the east-running public boulevard first platted in 1832, the museum and amphitheater continue the intended community planning of the town's earliest settlers. As a good example of Art Deco and Moderne architecture and art, the complex brings a high style of design to a rural Texas town steeped in history. The Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Government and Community Planning and Development, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the state level of significance.

History of the City of Gonzales

Gonzales is one of Texas' seminal historic towns along with San Antonio and Nacogdoches. Gonzales was established in 1825 as the capital of Green DeWitt's Colony, and named for Rafael Gonzales, governor of the Mexican province of *Coahuila y Texas*. The town was established at the confluence of the Guadalupe and San Marcos Rivers, abandoned twice following Indian attacks, and replatted in 1832 by Byrd Lockhart. The new town plat included 49 blocks arranged as seven rows of seven in an Inner Town, with seven set aside as public land at the center, in the shape of a cross. In addition, two long boulevards running north and east from the center public squares were designated as public land. The avenue on the north extended five miles north while the avenue on the east extended three miles east. The public lands of Gonzales platted in 1832 continue in that capacity to the present day, with the land being used for the county courthouse and jail, schools, parkland and other public uses. Areas outside the Inner Town were called the Outer Town and laid out in lots approximately 12 acres in size. A population of 532 in 1831 convinced the Mexican government to send a six-pound cannon to Gonzales for protection against Indian raids.⁵ Gonzales marked the westernmost point of the Anglo-American colonization efforts, and its location 65 miles east of San Antonio made it the focal point of much activity during the Texas Revolution.

Following Texian uprisings at Anahuac and San Antonio de Bexar, and a Mexican troops advanced north and east to quell the rebellion. John H. Moore led a group of eighteen Gonzales citizens who resisted demands to turn over the city cannon. On October 2, 1835, the Old Eighteen dared the Mexican troops to "Come and Take It," firing the first shot of the Texas Revolution six miles southwest of Gonzales near the later community of Cost.⁶ Gonzales is still remembered as "The Lexington of Texas." By October 11, Stephen F. Austin arrived to take command of the troops assembled at Gonzales to prepare for the Siege of Bexar.

The Texians were successful in taking San Antonio, but additional Mexican troops in command of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna arrived in February, 1836. Colonel William B. Travis sent a call for

⁵ "Gonzales County."

⁶ "Cost, Texas." On March 14, 1937 Governor James Allred dedicated a large bronze and granite monument at Cost, First Shot Fired for Texas Independence, by Waldine Tauch (1892-1986).

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Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

reinforcements, and among the only troops to respond were the Immortal Thirty-Two from Gonzales. They and another nine Gonzalans who were already there were among 180 troops who died defending the Alamo on March 6, 1836. Their sacrifice helped give the Texian Army time to make a final stand at San Jacinto, where they were victorious in routing the Mexican troops and securing Texas Independence. The town of Gonzales sacrificed once again, as Sam Houston ordered the town burned to the ground in advance of the approaching Mexican army. Citizens and militia fled eastward in the Runaway Scrape. When the Revolution was over, Gonzales citizens set out to rebuild their town.

In 1837 The Republic of Texas created and organized Gonzales County as one of the original counties of Texas, and the town of Gonzales was incorporated in the same year. A post office opened in 1839, and by 1850 Gonzales had a population of 300. In 1851 Gonzales College, one of the oldest schools of higher learning in the state, opened its doors. It was the first college in Texas to award diplomas to women. The *Gonzales Inquirer* began publication in 1853. The city population rose to 1,703 by 1860, while the county population of 8,059 included 3,168 slaves. During the Civil War Fort Waul was built at Gonzales to protect against invasion by Union troops through Indianola.⁷ By 1880 Gonzales boasted six churches, four schools, a library, a 500-seat opera house, gas and water works, and a population of 2,900. Rail connections came in 1885, and the population rose to 4,297 by 1900 before declining over the next twenty-five years. The population has been rising steadily since 1925, reaching 7,202 in 2000.⁸

Gonzales' contributions to the Texas Revolution were memorialized by a large statue and monument at Texas Heroes Park, west of the county courthouse on Saint Joseph Street. Pompeo Coppini (1870-1957) designed the larger-than-life statue Come and Take It (also called The Texas Minuteman) in 1910. The City of Gonzales offered 150 acres of their city park lands to the State of Texas in 1913. The state accepted the offer, which included the boulevard running east from downtown and encompassing the later memorial buildings. The Texas Legislature also appropriated \$7,500 for improvements for the new Gonzales State Park.⁹ The land was still part of a linear state park in 1936, when control of the public land returned to the City of Gonzales.

Texas Centennial

The Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations was created by an act of the Forty-Fourth Texas Legislature in regular session approved May 8, 1935, entitled "Appropriation for Celebration of Texas Centennial," to terminate, in the Attorney General's opinion, on May 8, 1937. Because the federal government made appropriations to the Commission to aid the state in construction, the Forty-Fifth Legislature in regular session on May 14, 1937, extended the life of the Commission to December 31, 1938.¹⁰

Gonzales received extensive attention during Texas Centennial activities. The first official statewide event was held here in November 1935. In March 1937 the state dedicated a monument southwest of town at the site of

⁷ "Gonzales County."

⁸ "Gonzales, Texas."

⁹ Steely, p. 4.

¹⁰ Schoen, p. 10.

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Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
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the first shot of the Texas Revolution. A plaque was also dedicated at the Alamo to commemorate the Immortal Thirty-Two, citizens from Gonzales who answered Colonel Travis' call for help and arrived at the Alamo five days before its fall. A number of historic markers were placed at significant sites in Gonzales during the Texas Centennial, and most significantly, a massive public museum and library was built.

The Commission allocated the sum of \$30,000 and the Public Works Administration allocated \$24,545 for the construction of the Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater. An allocation of \$6,000 was used for equipment and furnishings, and for the construction of a reflecting pool. A \$1,500 allocation provided for the marble plaque honoring the Gonzales men known as "The Old Eighteen." Sixteen bronze plaques relating the early history of the region were provided for the interior by part of an additional \$1,500 allocation.¹¹

As part of the effort to commemorate historic events, all 254 counties received pink granite markers with brass plaques describing their history and name origins. Several statues and sculptures were commissioned throughout the state, honoring such historic figures as Stephen F. Austin and Jose Antonio Navarro. Hundreds of granite and bronze historical markers were placed at historic sites throughout the state. In addition, a number of permanent public buildings were erected to serve as museums, libraries and memorial buildings. Exposition buildings were built at Fair Park in Dallas, where eighteen buildings were constructed in time for the main Texas Centennial celebration in 1936, and also buildings at the Will Rogers Memorial Tower, Coliseum, and Auditorium and Casa Mañana in Fort Worth. State-sponsored memorial museums included the Big Bend Historical Museum in Alpine, the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Corpus Christi Centennial Museum, El Paso Memorial Museum, Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater, Sam Houston Museum in Huntsville, West Texas Museum in Lubbock, Alamo Museum in San Antonio, and San Jacinto Monument and Museum.¹² Community centers included the David Crockett Memorial Building in Crockett, Goliad State Park Memorial Auditorium and Stadium, Sunken Garden Amphitheater and Texas Pioneers-Trail Drivers-Rangers Memorial in San Antonio, and James Smith Memorial Building in Tyler. In addition, a number of historic buildings throughout the state were restored and reconstructed.¹³

Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater

Phelps and Dewees, architects, designed the building that was constructed of Texas shell stone and trimmed in Cordova cream limestone. Page & Southerland, architects, designed the monument to the Immortal Thirty-Two, a shaft of axed Texas pink granite eight feet ten inches in height, tapering from five feet six inches at the base to three feet eight inches at the top, and one foot four inches thick, standing on a three-foot base. The bronze sculptured panel that is attached to its face was designed by Raoul Josset. The hone-finished silver gray Georgia marble plaque to "The Old Eighteen," set in the inside wall of the museum, was designed by Phelps and Dewees.¹⁴ On December 18, 1936, the State Board of Control let the construction contract to the firm of

¹¹ Schoen, p. 31.

¹² "Texas Centennial."

¹³ Schoen, pp. 15-38.

¹⁴ Schoen, p. 31.

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Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

Walsh and Burney of San Antonio. Groundbreaking took place on January 4, 1937.¹⁵ The final cost was approximately \$68,000.¹⁶ The limestone came from Texas Quarries of Travis County, whose quarry was located between Austin and Manor. Their stone was also used in the San Jacinto Monument, several courthouses, and many buildings in Austin, including at least eleven on the University of Texas campus.¹⁷

Formal dedication ceremonies were held in the open-air amphitheater at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 30, 1937, with Governor James V. Allred making the dedication address which paid high tribute to the heroes of Gonzales. A large party of state officials arrived to participate in the dedicatory program. Louis Wilz Kemp, historian, Claude Teer, Chairman of the State Board of Control, and Coke Stevenson, former Speaker of the House, all had a part in the program. Following the dedication ceremonies, an automobile caravan visited historic sites around Gonzales, including the battlefield near Cost, the Sam Houston Oak, Defiance Point and other sites.¹⁸

The design of the Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater brought together some of the premier architects and artists of the day. Phelps and Dewees, architects, were based in San Antonio and were noted for several projects in South Texas, including homes in the Monte Vista neighborhood, the 1926-28 addition to the Bexar County Courthouse, and in Northeast Texas, the Kilgore College Administration Building (1935, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1990). Phelps and Dewees also designed the monument at Cost that supports Waldine Tauch's First Shot Fired for Texas Independence. After 1942, the firm Phelps, Dewees and Simmons continued the practice, designing buildings at Randolph Air Force Base and hospitals throughout South Texas. Page and Southerland, architects, were based in Austin, and designed a number of Texas Centennial projects, city halls and schools throughout the state.

Raoul Josset (1899-1957) was born in France and studied sculpture at the Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris and the Lycee in Lyons. In 1926 Josset immigrated to the United States and was based in Chicago before moving to Texas for the Centennial. Josset received the largest number of Texas Centennial commissions of any artist. Working from studios in Dallas, Josset carved four large allegorical figures at Fair Park representing France, Mexico, the United States, and the Spirit of the Centennial. Josset also designed five large outdoor monuments and sixteen bronze plaques for the Commission of Control.¹⁹ Among Josset's Centennial works are *James Walker Fannin's Men*, a 45-foot high granite cenotaph at Goliad; *Mier Expedition and Dawson's Men Memorial*, a 48' high limestone and bronze memorial at La Grange; *Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur De La Salle*, a 22-foot high granite statue at the ghost town of Indianola; and *Amon B. King's Men*, a 21-foot high bronze and granite statue at Refugio. His monumental Moderne-style works contributed greatly to Texas' celebration of history in the 1930s.

¹⁵ *Inquirer*, January 4, 1937, p. 1.

¹⁶ *Inquirer*, October 28, 1937, p. 1.

¹⁷ *Inquirer*, undated clipping, 1937.

¹⁸ *Inquirer*, October 30, 1937, p. 1. Stevenson would also serve as Governor from 1941 to 1947.

¹⁹ Little, p. 14.

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Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
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James Buchanan (Buck) Winn, Jr. (1905-1979) was born in Celina, Texas and studied art at Washington University in St. Louis and the Académie Julian in Paris. He established a studio in Dallas in 1929, and during the 1930s painted a number of murals for prominent Texas buildings such as the Dallas Medical Arts Building, Highland Park Village Theater, Driscoll Hotel in Corpus Christi, and Blackstone Hotel in Fort Worth. During the Texas Centennial, Winn and Eugene Savage designed murals for a number of buildings at Dallas' Fair Park, including the Hall of State, and exterior brick motifs and a bas relief for the Women's Pavilion. Winn's murals depict actual and mythical elements of Texas and Southwestern exploration. Both Winn murals in the Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater are dated 1938, after the official dedication. In 1940 Winn moved to Wimberley, and produced murals and architectural art for a number of Texas colleges, including Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Southwest Texas State in San Marcos, Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, and the University of Texas at Austin.²⁰

Following its completion in 1937, the amphitheater became a favorite center for community activities. Many senior classes have held their graduation ceremonies at the facility. It has also often been used for music recitals, theater classes and stage productions. Many high school band concerts, and until the mid-1990s, "Lighting of the Stars" Christmas programs sponsored by the Gonzales Spade and Trowel Garden Club, have been held here as well. Presently the amphitheater is often used by the high school drama classes. The Gonzales County Historical Commission occasionally holds its monthly meetings here, and it remains the location for Gonzales' annual Easter Sunday sunrise services. In 2000 the amphitheater hosted the presentation of the purported "Come and Take It" cannon, donated by the heirs of Dr. Patrick Wagner and now housed permanently in the museum.

Conclusion

The Texas Centennial celebration added more to Texas' treasury of public art than any other movement in Texas history.²¹ The state enthusiastically went about marking the historic events of its founding and development, and artists, sculptors, and architects, both well-known and little-known, were happy to receive commissions during the Great Depression. The building is one of the great monuments of the Centennial era, a tribute not only to the Texas Revolution, but also to the citizens of Texas who celebrated their history in grand style during the Great Depression. The Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to a very high degree, with no discernable alterations since its construction in 1937. The buildings and public spaces are a significant example of Texas' efforts to celebrate the centennial of its independence from Mexico. The complex is located in a public boulevard first dedicated for the citizens of Gonzales in 1832, a very early example of such dedicated public lands and still used in that capacity to this day, a rare example in the state. The buildings and artwork are also highly intact examples of Art Deco design in the state, with no discernible changes since their dedication in 1937. The complex remains one of the state's most cherished public spaces in one of its most historic towns.

²⁰ "Winn, James Buchanan, Jr."

²¹ Little 14.

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Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

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"Texas Centennial." In The New Handbook of Texas, Ron Tyler ed. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

"Winn, James Buchanan Jr." By Dorothy S. Schmidt in The New Handbook of Texas, Ron Tyler ed. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: approximately 3.94 acres

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1. 14	650800	3265640	3. 14	651020	3265600	
2. 14	650960	3265720	4. 14	651860	3265540	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The property is bounded by St. Lawrence Street on the north, Moore Street on the east, St. Louis Street on the south and Smith Street on the west.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The boundary includes all property historically associated with the resource.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Bob Brinkman, historian, Texas Historical Commission)

NAME/TITLE: Paul Frenzel

ORGANIZATION:

DATE: August 15, 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 623 St. Michael Street

TELEPHONE: (830) 672-3732

CITY OR TOWN: Gonzales

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78629

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS (see continuation sheets FIGURE-16 through FIGURE-18)

MAPS (see continuation sheets MAP-14 through MAP-15)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet PHOTO-19)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: City of Gonzales **ATTN:** Buddy Drake, City Manager

STREET & NUMBER: 820 St. Joseph Street

TELEPHONE: (830) 672-2815

CITY OR TOWN: Gonzales

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78629

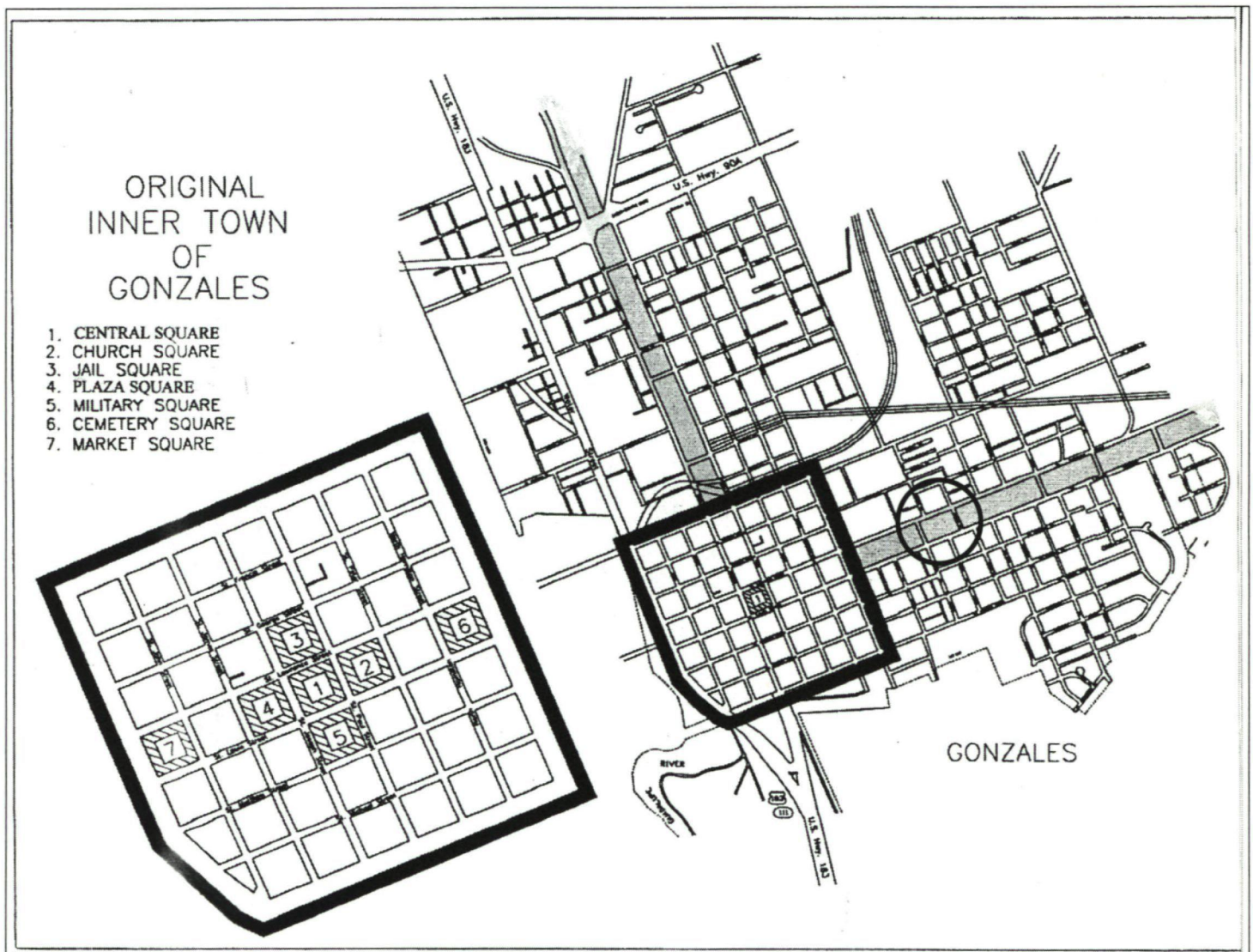
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 14

Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

Street map of Gonzales. Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater location circled at right center.



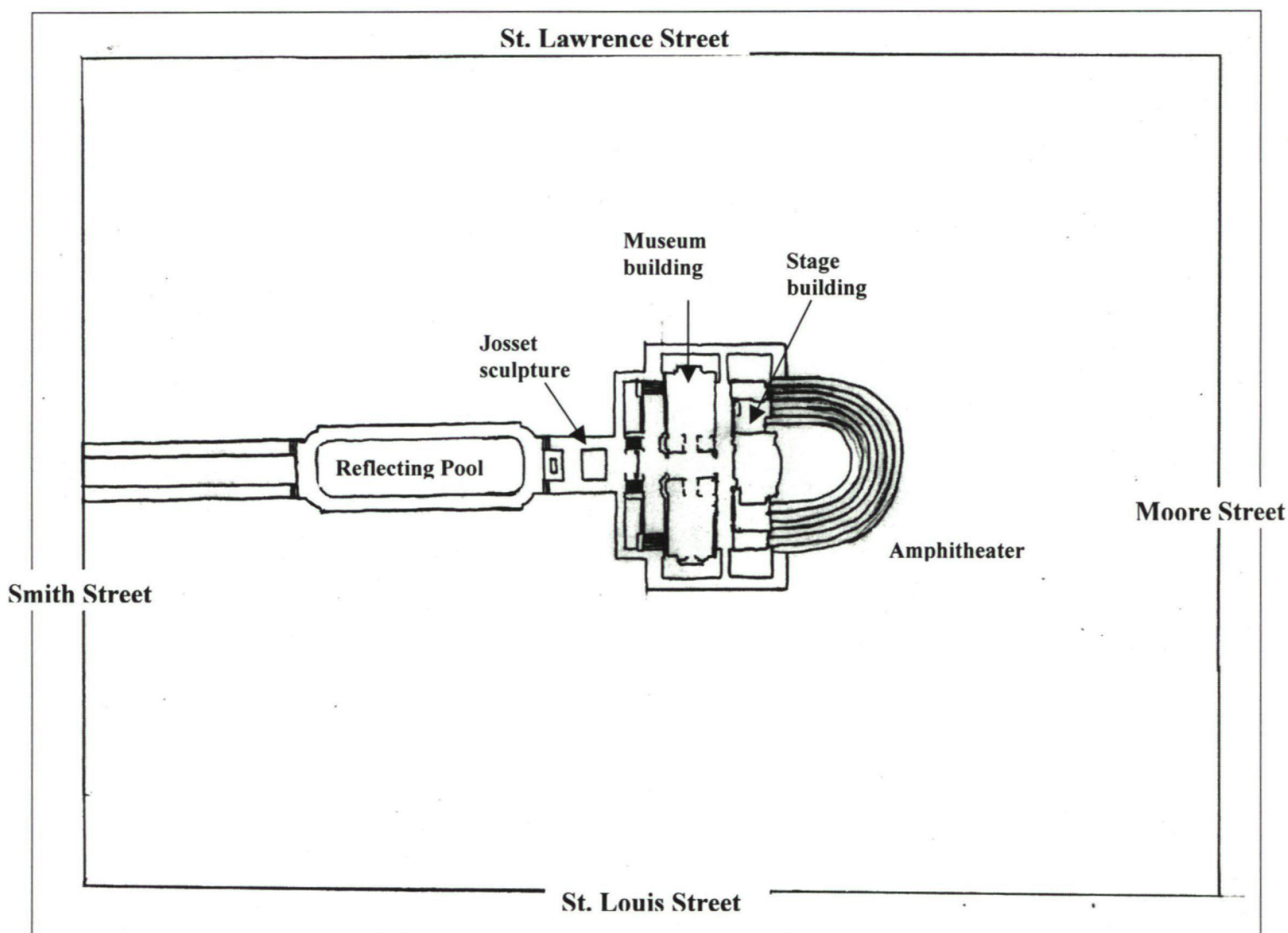
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 15

Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

Site plan of Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater. North at top.



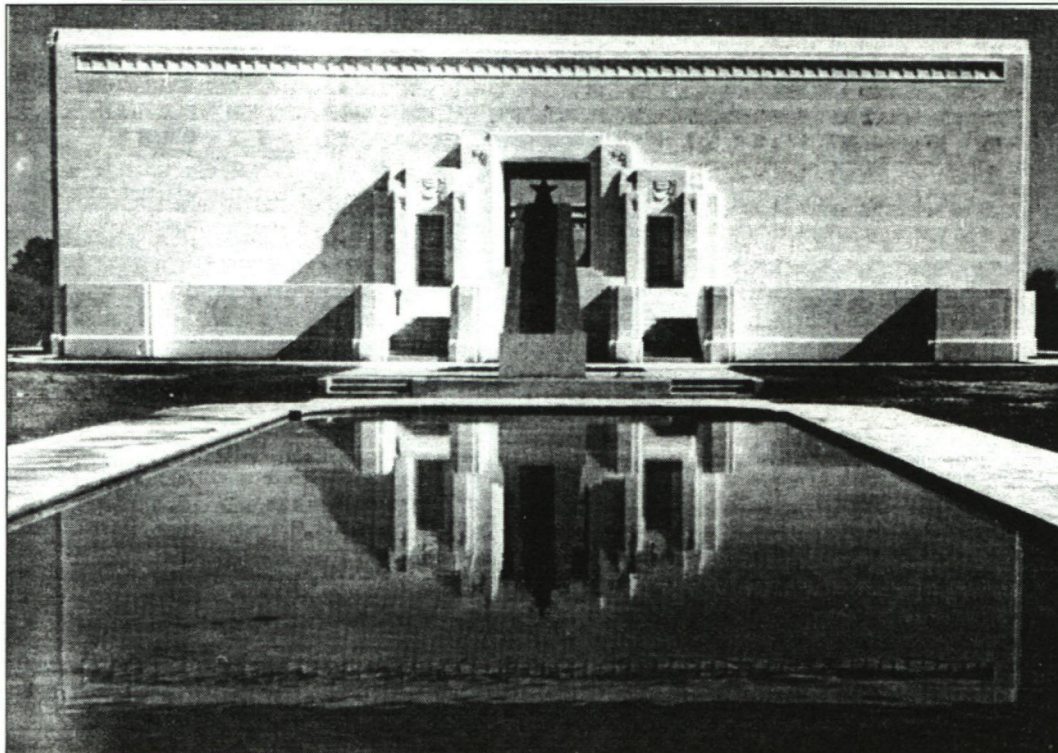
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 16

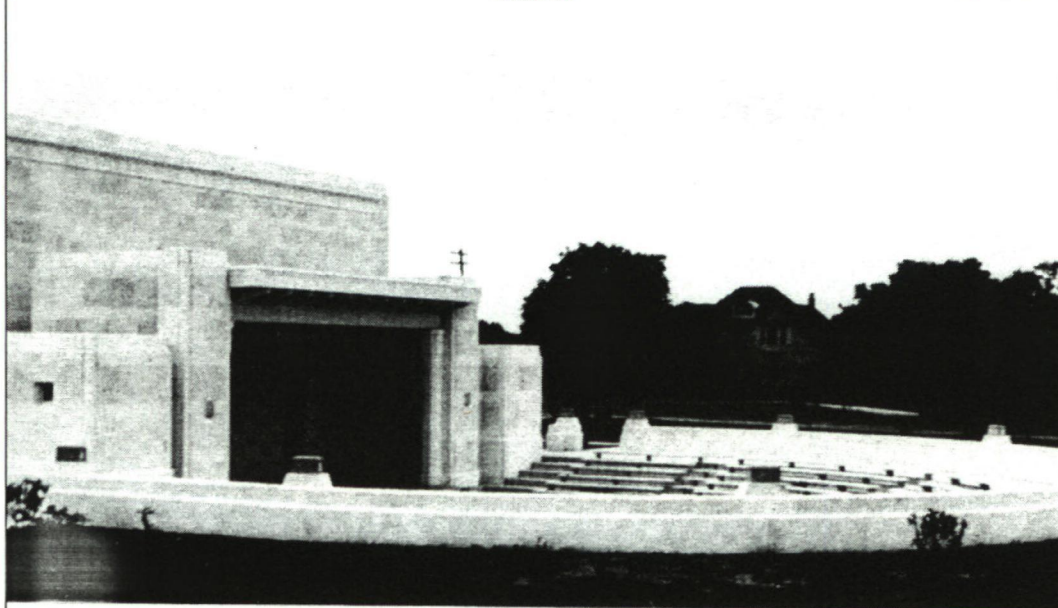
Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

Figure 1. Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater, west elevation and southeast oblique, 1938.
Source: Monuments Commemorating the Centenary of Texas Independence.



MUSEUM

PHOTO BY KENNARD



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 17

Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

Figure 2. Gonzales High School Class of 1940, graduation exercises in the Amphitheater.



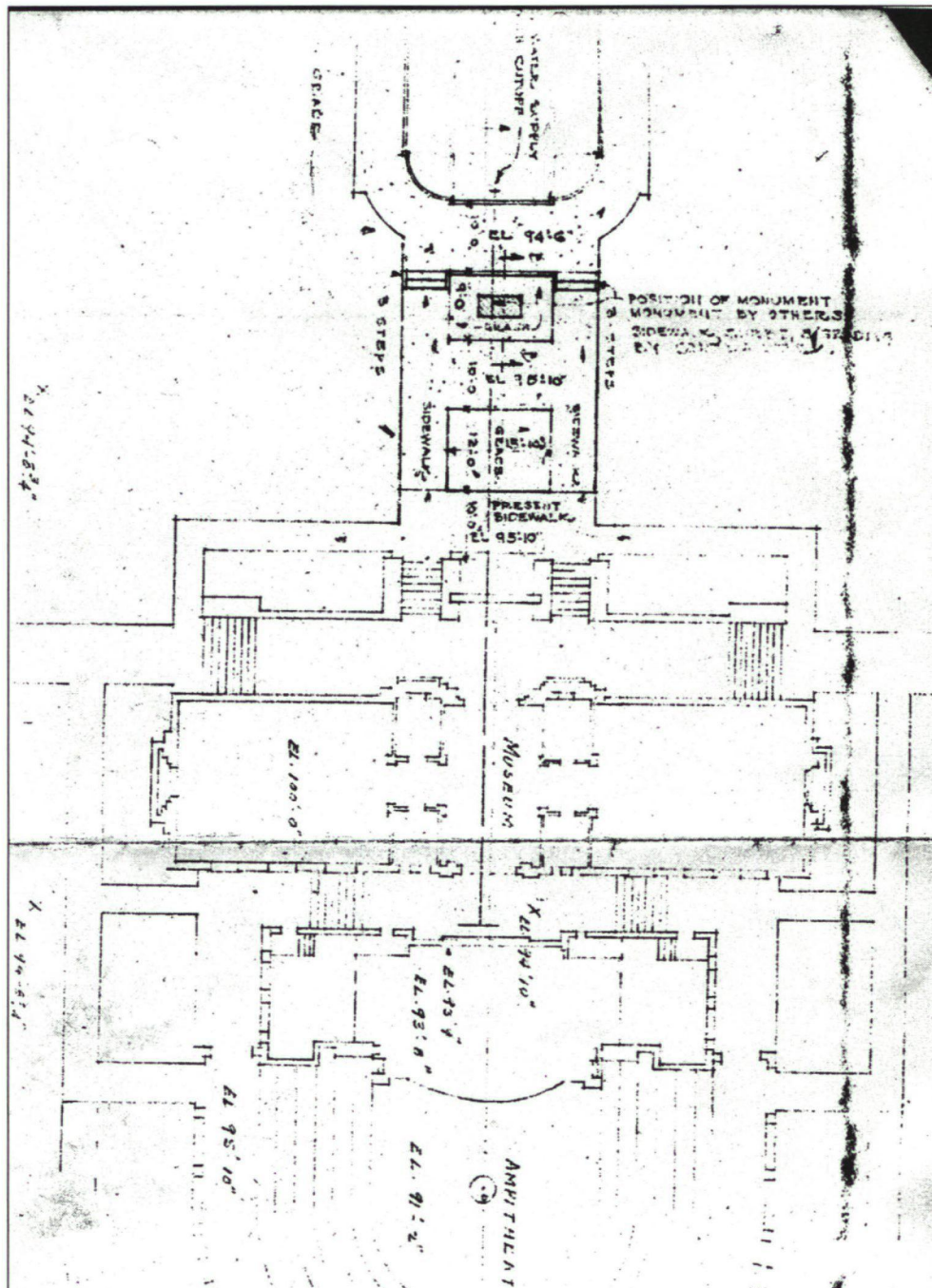
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 18

Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

Figure 3. Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater plans, original scale 1/16 inch equals 1 foot.
North at right. Source: Texas State Archives and Library.



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 19

Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

**Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
414 Smith Street
Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas
Photographs by Bob Brinkman, May 2003
Negatives on file at Texas Historical Commission**

Photograph 1 of 5
West elevation
Camera facing east

Photograph 2 of 5
Detail of west elevation
Camera facing east

Photograph 3 of 5
Detail of bronze and granite sculpture
Camera facing east

Photograph 4 of 5
Amphitheater
Camera facing west

Photograph 5 of 5
Detail of mural in south room
Camera facing west

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Gonzales

DATE RECEIVED: 12/04/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/16/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/01/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/17/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001414

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*State did not intend a substantial
review for this delightful Art Deco
building, amphitheater and memorial, w/
reflecting pool. Outstanding property
built ¹⁹³⁷ to commemorate Centennial of
Texas independence. Important for
its associations & design.*

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

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



GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM
1/2 AMPHITHEATER HISTORIC DISTRICT

414 SMITH STREET

GONZALES, GONZALES CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 5



GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM
& AMPHITHEATER HISTORIC DISTRICT

414 SMITH STREET
GONZALES, GONZALES CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 5

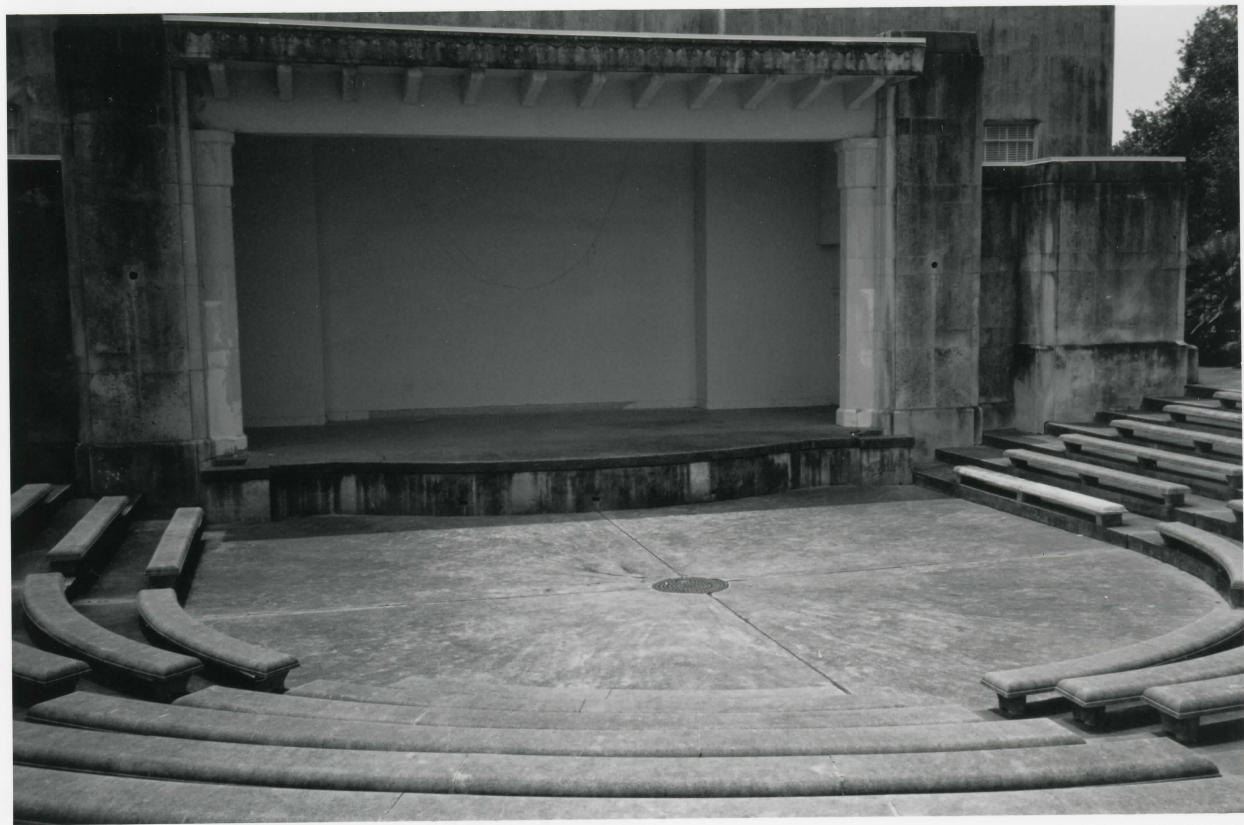


GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM
& AMPHITHEATER HISTORIC DISTRICT

414 SMITH STREET

GONZALES, GONZALES CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 5



GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM
& AMPHITHEATER HISTORIC DISTRICT

414 SMITH STREET

GONZALES, GONZALES CO., TEXAS

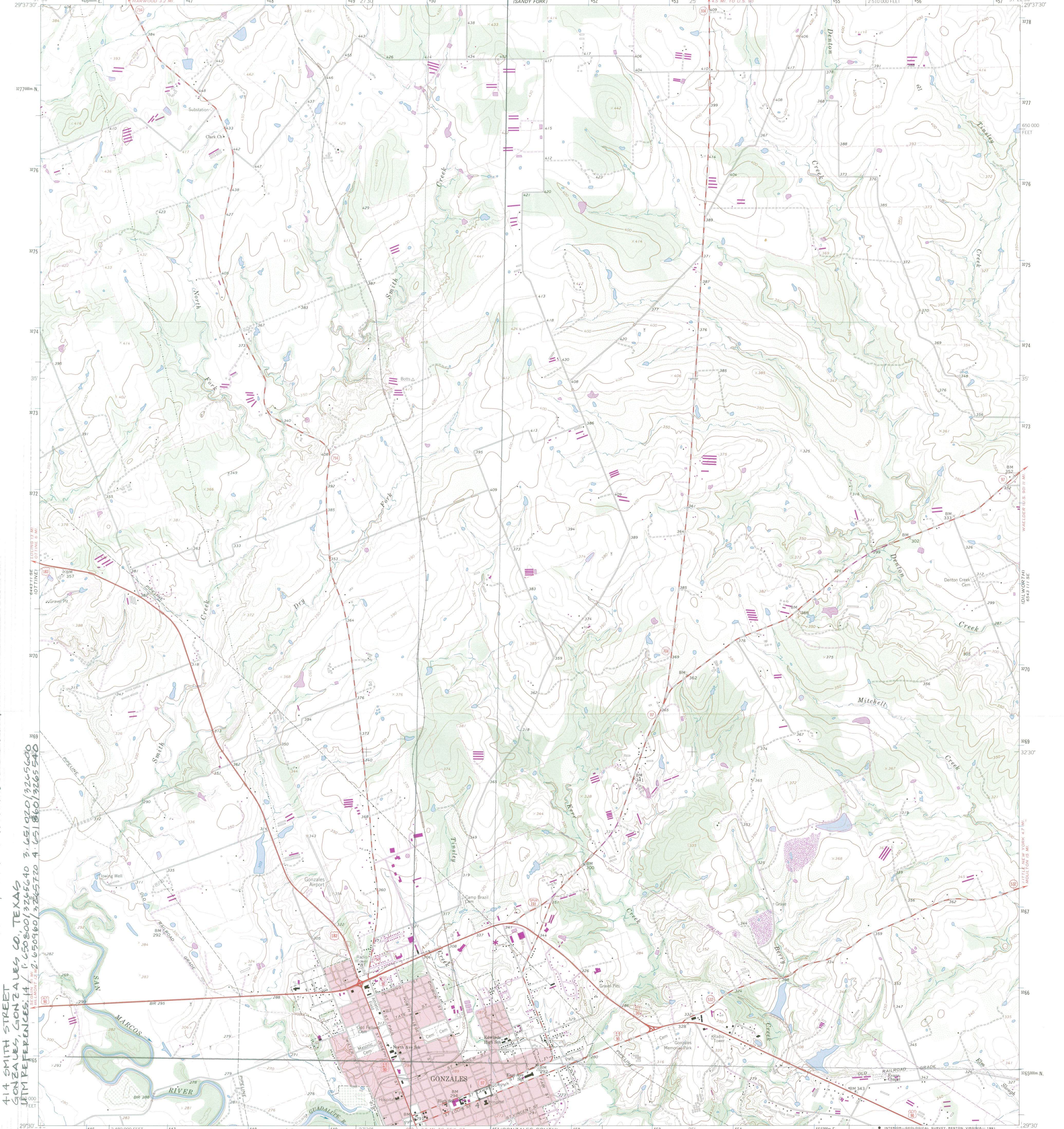
PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 5



GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM
& AMPHITHEATER HISTORIC DISTRICT

414 SMITH STREET
GONZALES, GONZALES CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 5



GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM & AMPHITHEATER HISTORIC DISTRICT
414 SMITH STREET
GONZALES, GONZALES CO., TEXAS
ITEM REFERENCES: 14 / 1.650800/3265640 3.651020/3265640
2.650960/3265720 4.651860/3265540

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1962
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 21 meters south and
27 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
0°46' 14 MILS
7' 124 MILS
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1978 and other source data
This information not field checked. Map edited 1981

SCALE 1:24 000
1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route State Route
QUADRANGLE LOCATION
GONZALES NORTH, TEX.
29097-E4-TF-024
1962
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 6543 III SW-SERIES V882



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rick Perry • Governor

John L. Nau, III • Chairman

F. Lawrence Oaks • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



TO: Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater Historic District, Gonzales, Gonzales County,
Texas

DATE: December 3, 2003

The following materials are submitted regarding: Gonzales Memorial Museum and Amphitheater
Historic District, Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas

☒	Original National Register of Historic Places form
☐	Resubmitted nomination
☐	Multiple Property nomination form
☒	Photographs
☒	USGS map
☐	Correspondence
☐	Other:

COMMENTS:

☒ Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed

☐ The enclosed owner objections (do ☐) (do not ☐) constitute a majority of property owners

☐ Other _____