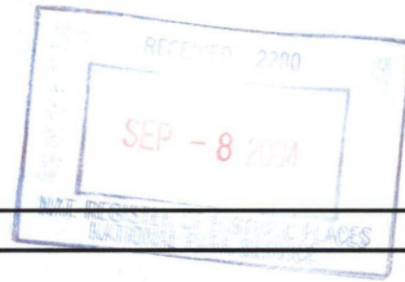


(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Gazebo for Albert Steves
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Gazebo at Haven River Inn

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 105 FM 473, at east portion of property
CITY OR TOWN: Comfort
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Kendall CODE: 259
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
ZIP CODE: 78013

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.)

Sharon Oaks
Signature of certifying official

9/1/2004
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

Signature of the Keeper
Linda McCliland

Date of Action
12/23/04

See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Structure

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	0	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	1	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: *The Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture / Work of Art

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture / Work of Art

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: Faux bois sculpture

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION
WALLS
ROOF
OTHER CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 5).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Gazebo for Albert Steves
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas

DESCRIPTION

The Albert Steves Gazebo is in the southeastern portion of the Steves property, approximately 1.5 miles due east of Comfort, Texas. The gazebo features an octagonal palapa roof, capped by a small lantern, also with a palapa roof. The main roof, of three concentric layers of "straw," is supported by eight 12' high "tree trunks," which mimic the textures of pecan, cypress, pine, hackberry and oak bark. Crossed "branches" serve as supporting brackets. A three-foot high railing of small "logs" is infilled with diagonal "branches." The floor is made of eleven "cross-sawn" 14" wide "oak" planks. Three 5'2" "planed logs" serve as steps. The diameter of the gazebo is 12'10" and the total height is approximately 18'. The structure is elevated 3' from the ground and has a base faced with concrete "rocks;" six are hollowed out for planters and one rolls back to reveal an opening. A relative of the family said that Mr. Steves stored his wine under the gazebo. Present throughout the gazebo are "wormholes", patches of "lichen" and "peeling bark." A large amount of color remains, and the structure is in good condition.

Three concrete benches are also placed on the grounds, but are not included in this nomination, due to their small size and distance from the primary resource. Two of the benches lack the detail of Rodriguez's designs, while the third has a more organic shape and faux bois details. The seat, backrest, armrests, legs and braces evidence "peeling bark" and "worm holes." It is probable that there was a large circular planter or pond east of this bench, as a rock border remains.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Albert Steves Gazebo is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the area of Art, as an outstanding example of the work of noted sculptor Dionicio Rodriguez. Although the estate itself may be eligible, it has not yet been evaluated due to the specific focus of this multiple property submission (*Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez*).

Albert Steves was the son of German immigrants who settled in Comfort before moving to San Antonio, where they established a lumber business and became one of the city's leading families. In addition to working in the family business, Steves served as "...president of two railroads in Mexico, president of a Mexican mining company, vice-president of the City National Bank, and as a director of the Alamo National Bank." He was also a member of many civic, fraternal, social and political groups (Steinfeldt, 1978: 12, 13).

Steves wanted a summer home near his birthplace, and he bought land high on a hill near the Guadalupe River near Comfort. There he built a large house that he named, "Aleswana," a combination of the names of his four children. Steves commissioned Dionicio Rodriguez to build a "palapa" roofed "tree" branch gazebo and four benches for the large grounds. A family member, Margaret Lateer, remembers that the gazebo was built before 1931, was once used as an aviary, and that Mr. Steves stored his wine behind a small "rock" door underneath the sculpture (Lateer to Light). Although there is no signature, the technique is unmistakably Rodriguez's with his application of "worm holes," "peeling bark texture," "lichen," and imitation "bark" of pecan, cypress, pecan, peach, hackberry and oak trees. The round structure is 18-feet tall and is sited on a hillside high above the Guadalupe River. The property is now the Haven River Inn, and the present owners relate that it is a popular site for weddings. The gazebo is strikingly similar to the Marmion Gazebo (Sweeney, Brazoria County) and to one seen in a photograph of the Phelan mansion (Beaumont, Jefferson County).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Gazebo for Albert Steves
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas

It is an interesting parallel that he and Marmion both commissioned Rodriguez to build similar gazebos for their vacation homes at approximately the same time. The construction and measurements of the two gazebos are comparable, and are exceptional examples of Rodriguez's artistry. The Steves' gazebo and three concrete benches are sited near the house and have a view of the river. The property, on FM 473, belongs to Johnnie Merchant and Diane White, and is operated as Haven River Inn, a bed and breakfast.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Conversations with Carlos Cortes, Margaret Lateer and Diane White.

Steinfeldt, Cecilia. *San Antonio Was*. San Antonio, Texas; The San Antonio Museum Association, 1978. pp. 1-14.

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: Art

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c.1926

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c.1926

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Dionicio Rodriguez

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 5 and 6).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 6).

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:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	511320	3315075

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The gazebo is located in the southeastern portion of a track of land described in Kendall County deed records as follows: "22.73 acres of land, more or less, out of the Justo Esqueda Sur. No. 25, Abs. No. 157 in Kendall County, Texas." The nomination encompasses only the gazebo and the ground upon which it stands.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The nomination boundary is drawn to include only the Gazebo itself. Although the estate itself may be eligible, it has not yet been evaluated due to the specific focus of this theme (*Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez*).

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patsy Light and Maria Pfeiffer

ORGANIZATION:

DATE: January 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 300 Argyle

TELEPHONE: (210) 824-5914

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-7)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Johnnie Merchant

STREET & NUMBER: PO Box 899

TELEPHONE: (830) 995-3834

CITY OR TOWN: Comfort

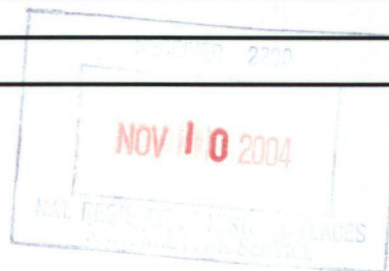
STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78013

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	14	550691	3259170



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The gate is at the west central section of Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Texas. The nomination encompasses only the gate and the ground upon which it stands, an area approximately 15 feet wide and 6 feet deep.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The nomination boundary is drawn to include only the gate itself. Although the park itself may be eligible, it has not yet been evaluated due to the specific focus of this theme (*Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez*).

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patsy Light and Maria Pfeiffer

ORGANIZATION:

DATE: January 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 300 Argyle

TELEPHONE: (210) 824-5914

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet 6)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: City of San Antonio, Parks and Recreation Dept. (ATTN: Malcolm Matthews, Director)

STREET & NUMBER: 115 Plaza de Armas

TELEPHONE: (210) 207-8480

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78205

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 7

Gazebo for Albert Steves
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas

PHOTO LOG

Rodriguez sculptures at Albert Steves' summer home (now Haven River Inn)
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas
Photographs by Patsy Light
March 1998
Negatives on file with Patsy Light

Gazebo
Camera facing east
Photo 1 of 2

Detail of inside of *palapa* roof of gazebo
Camera facing up
Photo 2 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Gazebo for Alber Steves
NAME:

MULTIPLE Sculpture by Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Kendall

DATE RECEIVED: 9/08/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/12/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/27/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/22/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001171

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:

RECOM./CRITERIA Return

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 10/20/04

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Recommendation: SLR Return

Action: SLR Return None

Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet

State Name: TX County Name Kendall Resource Name Gazebo for Albert Steves

Reference No. 04-1171 Multiple Name Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez

Solution:

Problem: No photos of entire structure showing current context.

Resolution:

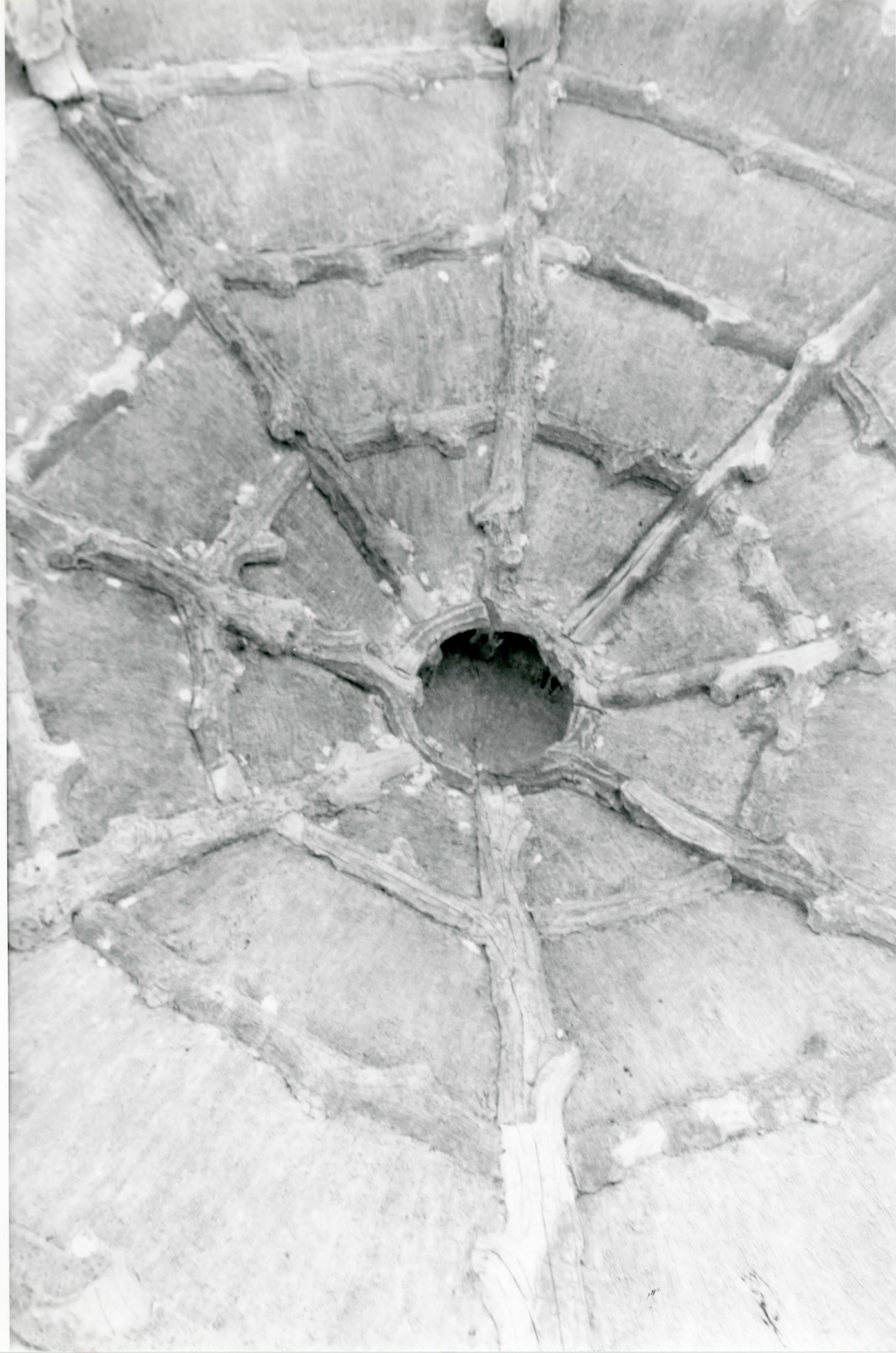
SLR: **Yes** **No**

Database Change:

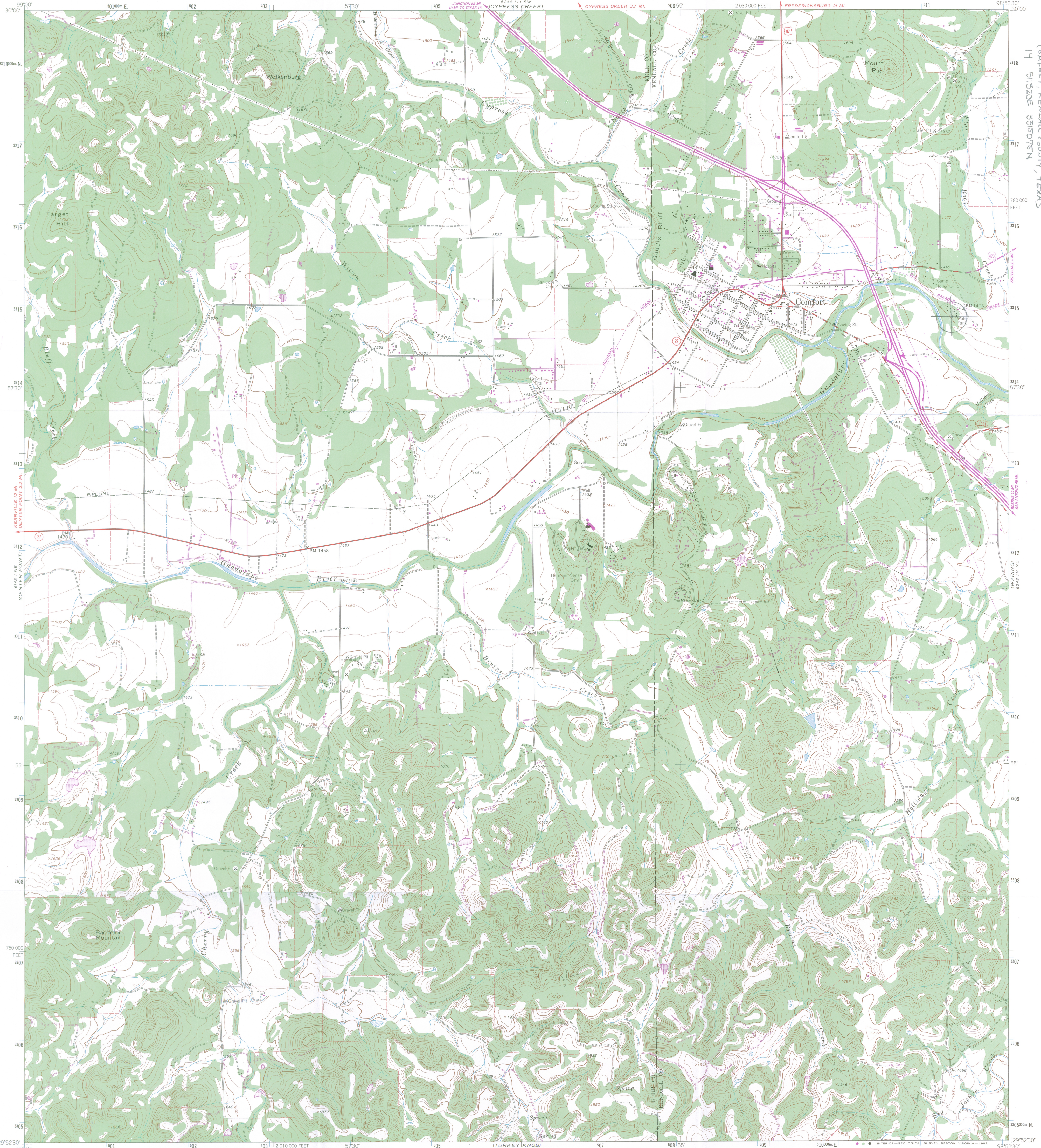


Gazebo for Albert Stiles
Comfort, Kendall Co.

Dionicio Rodriguez
Gazebo
Comfort, Tx
March, 1998
Photo: Patsy Light
1 of 2

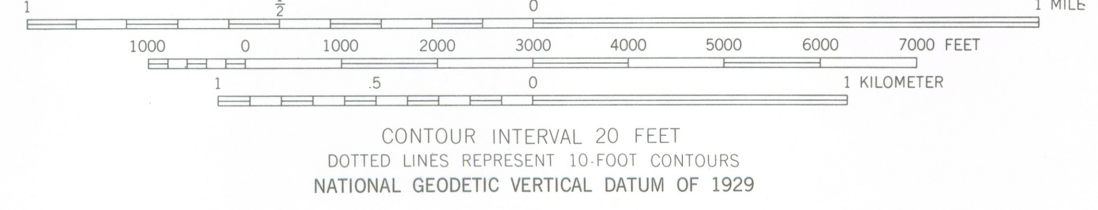
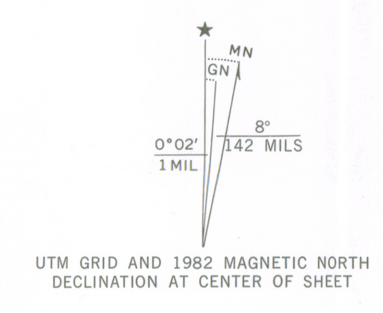


Dionicio Rodriguez
Roof detail
Gazebo
Comfort, TX
March, 1998
Photo: Patsy Light
TMX 100, Roll 4
2 of 2



GAZERS FOR ALBERT STEVES
105 FM 473
COMFORT, KENDALL COUNTY, TEXAS
14 S11520E 5310705N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Texas
coordinate system, south central zone. 1000-meter Universal
Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue. 1927
North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American
Datum 1983 move the projection lines 19 meters south and
31 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1979 and other sources. This information
not field checked. Map edited 1982



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

2998-333

COMFORT, TEX.
N2952 5-W9852 5/7 5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 6243 IV NW-SERIES V882