

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



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

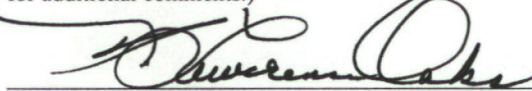
HISTORIC NAME: First Evangelical Church
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: First Evangelical Lutheran Church

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 1311 Holman Street
CITY OR TOWN: Houston
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Harris
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
CODE: 201 ZIP CODE: 77004

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 _____ Date 9/27/2006
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 11-21-06

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Buildings

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	3	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	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: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: RELIGION/religious facility, church school, church-related residence

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: RELIGION/religious facility, church-related residence

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Italian Renaissance

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE
WALLS BRICK, CONCRETE
ROOF CERAMIC TILE
OTHER WOOD, GLASS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

The First Evangelical Church is in central Houston, about two miles southwest of the historic commercial center of the city. The property, oriented forty-five degrees from the cardinal directions, occupies a city block bounded by Caroline Street on the northwest, Frances on the northeast, Austin on the southeast and Holman Avenue on the southwest. The church complex consists of five historic elements clad in buff brick and featuring ceramic tile roofs – a sanctuary, campanile, educational building, rectory, and garage, all designed by Houston architect J. W. Northrop, Jr. in Italian Renaissance style. A single non-historic building, a wooden gazebo, is on the well-shaded grounds facing Holman Avenue near the educational building and rectory. With a small addition to the rear of the original design occurring in 1949, and other minor changes only, the First Evangelical Church retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to a high degree.

Setting

The First Evangelical Church is in a mixed function neighborhood with many other historic buildings and sites. The Richardson House which was located on this property when the church was built was moved across the street to 3307 Austin. The subsequent church structure erected faces south towards the entrance of San Jacinto High School, presently the campus of Houston Community College. The church campus is diagonally across the street from Temple Beth Israel, and to the north of the church campus is the Edward W. Sewale estate.

The lot to the east, which includes the 1903 three-story cypress construction Richardson House, is named Brennen Park. The Brennen Park land and improvements were a gift of the Strake Foundation in 1998 in honor of attorney Thomas Brennen. The house and land are currently used by Manificat Houses, Inc., a Catholic faith-based nonprofit charitable organization. This organization occupies four other buildings on Austin Street north of the Richardson House. They refer to this building as the St. Joseph House, and it serves as a rehabilitation center for residents with diagnoses of mental illness.

The former San Jacinto High School was built as South End Junior High School in 1913, a Classical Revival building erected in 1913 with subsequent additions. Formerly housing classes for Houston Junior College, predecessor of the University of Houston, the campus became part of the Houston Community College system in 1971. Many members of the First Evangelical Church attended classes at San Jacinto High School, and Reverend Clark Chamberlain's mother was the school registrar in the 1920s.

Temple Beth Israel, also with emigrant roots in Germany, was organized in 1854. This third temple for the congregation was built in 1925, designed by Houston architect Joseph Finger (1887-1953), who was a member of their congregation. The square plan synagogue has limestone, brick and concrete façade elements that include stylized Ionic columns and friezes containing quotations from the Torah. The building is often described as having an Egyptian decorative motif. The two neighboring congregations have much common history, including similar names among members, and occasional reciprocal sermons from the Lutheran ministers and their Rabbi counterparts. Reverend Baltzer and Rabbi Shactel annually gave instruction to at least one confirmation or bar mitzvah class. The building is now a theater used by the community college campus, as the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

congregation moved to a new location in 1969. In 1984 the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The magnolia tree located in front of the Religious Education Building was originally planted by Senator Joe Henry Eagle in front of his home to commemorate the birth of his son, who would later be killed in World War II. By covenant the church agreed to perpetually protect this tree, which the congregation has done since 1926 and will continue to do so. A plaque on the southwest elevation of the sanctuary commemorates the trees and shrubbery on the grounds given in memory of seventeen of the parishioners in 1939.

Exterior description

The church building is situated on the western side of the block and extends 59 feet across Holman and 110 feet north on Caroline. Exterior side walls, three feet thick, are reinforced with four rectangular pier buttresses with sandstone caps. The church's front façade is flanked by triple terraced telescoping buttresses connected above the entrance arch by a decorative frieze of 26 Ionic plaster columns. Above the pilasters are located three Romanesque semicircular arches housing opalescent glass windows. A white sandstone Celtic cross carved in deep relief is centered above the arched windows near the pinnacle of the southwest elevation gable. The main entrance facing Holman is deeply recessed and approached on foot by ascending multicolored brick steps flanked by black wrought iron railings and black cast iron ornate octagonal light fixtures set on white stone. Two large raised-panel oak doors, flanked by white marble Corinthian columns, provide access to the narthex. These columns support a white sandstone fluted arch with grape leaf motif. The doorway's masonry lintel bears an inscription from Psalm 100, verse four.

A 100-foot tall, 19-foot square campanile at the rear of the church connects this building to a seven-bay (heptastyle) arched cloistered portalis paved with multicolored brick. The bell tower contains the original church bell purchased in commemoration of the church's thirtieth anniversary. The bell was forged in 1880 at the Buckeye Bell Foundry by Vanduzen and Tift of Cincinnati, Ohio.¹ This bell has rung over all three churches the congregation has raised. Inside the base of the bell tower's southern wall is located the gray granite cornerstone, inscribed in German, from the second church. Architectural historian Stephen Fox wrote that "the setback upper stage of the campanile...evokes the skyscraper profiling that traditionalists used in the 1920s to connote modernity."²

The heptastyle portalis provides covered access to the two-story Religious Educational Building, with attic and basement, and spans 115 feet across Holman Street and extends north 70 feet. Also moved to the present church from the previous location are leaded glass picture windows, dating from 1901, depicting Jacob's Well described in John 4:6-19, donated by the Houston pioneer Warnecke family.³ This education building's floor

¹ The company was active from 1857 to 1956.

² Houston Architectural Guide p. 65.

³ August Warnecke (1845-1914) was born in Volkmarsdorf, Germany, and sailed the *Karl Ferdinand* from Bremen to Galveston with his family in 1846, a journey of more than three months. Wernecke's family settled south of Houston near Brays Bayou. His land became part of the campus of Rice University.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

plan was innovative for its time, as it provided for a departmental church school. Four large assembly auditoriums, two on each floor, are at opposite ends of the building, each surrounded by adjacent smaller classrooms. The facility is equipped with an indoor basketball court, dressing rooms, a stage and two kitchens, one on each floor.

A two-story parsonage extends north 60 feet facing Austin and 26 feet west across Holman. The first floor contains cobblestone entrance hall, pastor's study, living room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen and half bath. A spiral staircase provides access to the upstairs hall, with entry to four bedrooms and two full bathrooms. An associated detached two-car garage with upstairs custodian's apartment extends 22 feet facing Austin and 18 feet west along Francis.

All campus buildings were built of interlocking hollow concrete tiles covered with rough buff face brick, set in Flemish bond with white sandstone trim. All structures are built up on massive concrete footings. All buildings are roofed with variegated red Italian terra cotta tiles. These tiles were manufactured by the Ludowici Company of Chicago, Illinois. Strict ecclesiastical motifs and lines were adhered to, with the architectural style of the buildings stressing "beauty through simplicity."

Interior description

The narthex, with a multicolored cobblestone floor and paneled with Zenitherm stone, is separated from the nave by a richly carved oak wall with inset frosted leaded glass panels at eye level. A balcony seating 75 resides above the narthex and is accessed by a tri-directional staircase from the left. A small plain chapel is found to the right. The narthex also contains two bronze plaques, one listing members who gave their lives during World War II, and the other commemorating life accomplishments of Reverend Baltzer who raised this church. A framed copy of the church's 1851 charter is also found here.

Massive plain masonry arches connect the nave, rising 48 feet to an open timber truss roof, with the sanctuary and transepts. The roof trusses support ten large strap iron and cast brass lighting fixtures finished in rust-colored iron and gold leaf fabricated by Jacobe Brothers of Houston. As seen from the nave, the sanctuary and transepts form a cross. The largest central arch measures 22 feet wide and 35 feet high. Set on either side of this arch is a 36-inch diameter circular polychrome boss tile seal. The right boss depicts the Evangelical Synod Seal and the left boss depicts the Evangelical Union Seal. Transept arches on either side measure 18 feet wide and 30 feet high. The nave contains 22 rows of oak pews separated by a central aisle, comfortably seating 700 in all. The pine floor beneath the oak pews is covered only in the aisles by red carpet. A ten-foot high Zanitherm stone daedal surrounds the nave walls, which are finished above with troweled plaster. The sanctuary is surrounded on three sides by a raised paneled oak wainscot. The oak pews and chancel furniture, designed by the architect Joseph Northrup, was crafted by the American Seating Company,⁴ which maintained a production facility in Houston. Their master wood carvers Alois and Anton Lang are credited with crafting the pulpit and the altar

⁴ Today the company's corporate offices are in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1927 the company operated a Houston factory, turning out wooden pews for seating. District manager Sara Shirer was helpful in documenting the craftsmen who carved the church's furnishings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

carving of Da Vinci's "The Last Supper," respectively. Above and behind the sanctuary is the choir loft, which also houses the two-manual Kilgen and Son pipe organ⁵ number 3751, originally purchased in 1903 for the previous church building but relocated by the Hinners Organ Company to this location during the building's construction. The church interior is bathed in filtered light from numerous opalescent glazed stained glass windows set in Romanesque semicircular arches. The opalescent windows were purchased from the Browne Window Company, and were manufactured by Richy, Browne & McDonald, Inc. of Maspeth, New York, who had patented the middle hinged opening design on October 13, 1916.

Changes since 1927

The only appreciable architectural changes to the property occurred in 1949, when additional rooms were built on the Frances Street side of the educational building. These were finished in similar materials to the original design. Other minor changes include the installation of thick plastic to protect original windows. On several occasions the church has been on architectural tours, including those sponsored by the Rice University Architectural Alliance in 1989 and 1995. These events, organized by Rice faculty members Stephen Fox and Gary Moorhead, were developed to showcase Northrop's design contributions in several Houston buildings. In 2002 the First Evangelical Church was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

Table of resources, First Evangelical Church

Built	Resource	Category	Status
1927	Church building (sanctuary, tower and education building)	BUILDING	C
1927	Rectory	BUILDING	C
1927	Garage	BUILDING	C
c. 1990	Gazebo	STRUCTURE	NC

⁵ The Kilgen family first started making organs in Dulach, Baden, Germany, in 1640. George Kilgen Sr. came to New York in 1851 and then St. Louis in 1873, forming the George Kilgen and Sons Organ Company. Their organs were also found in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and the Majestic Theater in Houston. The company closed in 1960.

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: A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1927

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1927

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Joseph W. Northrop, Jr., architect; James West, general contractor.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-14).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-15).

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 9

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

The First Evangelical Church has deep roots in Houston history. The church was founded in 1851 by German immigrants, and three church buildings at three different locations have served the congregation. The architecture of the 1927 campus is a notable example of Italian Renaissance architecture. The architect, J. W. Northrop, Jr., came to Houston with the Boston firm Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson to oversee construction of their buildings designed for Rice Institute (now Rice University), and stayed in practice here for more than forty years. Northrop designed several churches and notable residences in Houston. The congregation is notable in Houston history for its association with German immigration and the ethnic diversity of the city's development, and for several notable members of the congregation who made important contributions to Houston history. The First Evangelical Church is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. Criterion Consideration A for Religious Properties is met, since the property derives its primary significance from architectural distinction.

First Evangelical Church congregation

The *Erste Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Kirche*, translated as First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, was founded on July 1, 1851 by Reverend Caspar Messon Braun (March 16, 1822-August 14, 1880).⁶ This church was issued a charter by the State of Texas on September 5, 1851 (photograph 1). The congregation originally purchased a lot in 1852 and built their first church, a white wooden Gothic/Classical Revival structure, located on the south side of Texas Avenue facing west on Milam Street. This was later the site of the Interurban Train Terminal and is now the location of the Chase Bank Building.⁷

On October 15, 1901, under the leadership of the fourth pastor, Reverend William L. Blasberg (September 3, 1862-September 23, 1935), the congregation moved to its second location at the northwest corner of Texas and Caroline streets. A Gothic structure was erected consisting of red brick walls with white sandstone trim and a gray slate roof. The building was embellished with many stained glass windows. This property was purchased by former governor Ross Sterling in January 1926 for \$300,000 and the building was sadly subsequently demolished. The site remains used only for surface parking to this day. The proceeds from this sale allowed the congregation to build their third and present house of worship.

1927 church campus

In April 1926, under the direction of the church's seventh pastor, Reverend Detlev Baltzer (July 29, 1889-August 2, 1962),⁸ a Houston city block bounded by Holman, Austin, Francis and Caroline streets was purchased

⁶ Reverend Braun was previously honored with a State of Texas grave marker at his gravesite in Greenwood Cemetery, Houston, in 1989. *Sesquicentennial History of First Evangelical Church*, pp. 18-34, has a detailed history of his life.

⁷ *Sesquicentennial History of First Evangelical Church*, pp. 10-57, has a detailed early church history and a history of the first building. This account additionally describes the history of German immigration and its influence on Houston, Harris County, and Texas.

⁸ *Sesquicentennial History of First Evangelical Church*, pp. 68-91, has a detailed account of Reverend Baltzer's life. The account includes a genealogy of his family starting in 1817 with his grandfather, who immigrated to America and helped found this church's evangelical denomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

for a sum of \$80,000 from Texas State Senator Joe Henry Eagle (1870-1963).⁹ The Richardson House¹⁰ then located on this property was moved across the street to 3307 Austin.

By September 1926, a six man building committee comprised of T. Werner, A. L. Scharck, A. J. Weiss, W. F. Puls, L. F. Schweikart, and G. H. Winkler had approved building plans and issued contracts totaling approximately \$170,000.¹¹ A groundbreaking ceremony was held October 13, 1926, and following that building operations began in earnest. Joseph W. Northrup, a Houston architect known for his association with the original construction of the Rice Institute (now Rice University), designed and drew the building plans. Northrup advanced the North Italian or Lombard Romanesque style of architecture that is so well adapted to Houston's climatic conditions. The cornerstone for the complex was set on January 30, 1927. Three separate contracts issued to Houston companies were let, with James M. L. West assuming the role of general contractor, J. C. Nolan receiving the heating and plumbing contract, and Star Electric and Engineering Company (owned by Ed Dupree and Ed Greber) awarded the electrical contract.¹²

On completion of the building in October 1927, Northrup engaged Houston photographer Litterst¹³ to take detailed photographs of the church that were eventually used in a professional article he published in The Architect, September 1928 issue, showcasing the project. In addition to these photographs, Mrs. Baltzer took eleven photographs periodically during the construction of the complex.

The church campus was modeled after Italian churches of the 13th-15th centuries, specifically those in the Lombard region. Hallmarks of Italian Renaissance architecture visible in the First Evangelical Church include an entry area accentuated by small classical columns, hipped roofs of low pitch with tile roof covering, overhanging eaves, arches above doors and first-story windows, smaller upper-story windows, and a symmetrical façade.¹⁴ The major church campus components of a sanctuary, campanile, and cloistered portalis are modeled after historical Italian churches. The First Evangelical Church is a well-designed local example of the Italian Renaissance style.

Historical figures of the congregation: Heroes and civic leaders

- Conrad Bohmert, father of Reverend Braun's wife Margaret, who fought at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836.

⁹ See the New Handbook of Texas for a detailed biography of Joe Henry Eagle. Eagle practiced law until 1957.

¹⁰ Houston's Forgotten Heritage states that the Richardson House was built in 1903 for Edward R. Richardson, a cotton and grain broker.

¹¹ Dedication Souvenir Booklet of the First Evangelical Church dated October 16, 1927.

¹² Dedication Souvenir Booklet of the First Evangelical Church dated October 16, 1927.

¹³ J. D. and J. E. Litterst were commercial Houston photographers with offices at 2007 Polk. Their archives are part of the Litterst-Dixon collection of the Houston Heritage Society, now visible in the Texas Room of the Houston Public Library.

¹⁴ McAlester and McAlester 396-407.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

- Captain E. B. H. Schneider of the Turner Rifles fought in the Civil War at the Battle of Galveston. He is also one of the founders of the Houston chapter of the Texas Turnverein, organized Houston's first volunteer fire department and was the tax assessor-collector of Harris County.
- Lawrence Jensen was the first Houstonian killed in World War I, and Jensen Drive is named in his honor.
- Church members founded and continue the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* (German Society cemetery), now known as Washington Cemetery (Official Texas Historical Marker 1980), and the local chapter of the Sons of Hermann, Magnolia Lodge, now located on Yale.
- Local philanthropists Lucille Birmingham and Leroy Melcher were confirmed in the church and married in this building.
- Leon Jaworski of Nuremberg and Watergate trial fame served as president of the Church Brotherhood in 1931, and his daughter Joan was confirmed in the church in 1946.
- Ben W. Shudde of Shudde Brothers Hats, still serving Houstonians at 915 Trinity, was on the church council at the time the church was built. His son Lee and seven other church members died for their country during World War II.
- Major General Bruno A. Hochmuth was the highest ranking American officer killed during the Vietnam War. Pilot First Lieutenant Edward Murff was killed in a jet crash over Korea in 2001.
- Julius Knigge was the founding father of the Houston Patrol Officer Association, president of the Texas Metropolitan Police Association, and developed the content of Texas civil service law 1269A.

Joseph Northrop Jr., architect

Joseph Walter Northrop, Jr. (also Northrup) was born on July 21, 1886 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the son of Joseph Walter and Mary Ogden Northrop. Joseph Sr. was a noted Connecticut architect, whose designs include Bridgeport City Hall (McLevy Hall), Bridgeport, Connecticut (additions to 1854 building, NR 1977), Blythewood, Skerry Point, Gull Bay, New York (1887-1902), Taylor Memorial Library, Milford, Connecticut (1893, NR 1979), First Baptist Church (126 Washington, NR 1990, 203-335-0234), Bridgeport, Maplewood School (434 Maplewood Avenue, NR 1990), Bridgeport, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Nantucket, Massachusetts (1901). Joseph Sr. is also listed as an architect of structures in Beardsley Park in Bridgeport (NR 1999), with landscape architecture designed by Frederick Law Olmstead in 1884, and as an architect for the New Milford Center Historic District, New Milford, Connecticut (NR 1986). Joseph Sr.'s design for a Bridgeport house that was featured in the May 1892 issue of the Architects and Builders Edition of Scientific American was replicated in the M. T. Patrick house in Waxahachie, Texas (1899-1900, NR 1986).¹⁵

Joseph Jr. earned an A.B. degree from Wesleyan University of Technology in 1907. Joseph then studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, receiving a B.S. in Architecture in 1910. The same year he went to work for the Boston architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson. In 1911 Cram sent Northrup to Houston to oversee the construction of the original buildings at Rice Institute (now Rice University). He became an independent architect in 1914. From the 1920s through the 1950s he was responsible for the designs of a

¹⁵ Culbertson pp. 46-47, 98-101.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

number of prominent buildings in Houston and east Texas. These include a series of warehouses and retail buildings for Jesse Jones, the First Congregational Church (1927, now St. Matthew Lutheran), Trinity Episcopal Church (1926-27), the Public Library in Marshall, Texas (1926), the San Jacinto Trust Company Building (1927-28), and the Houston Title Guaranty Building (1952). Some additional examples of Northrup's North Italian architectural style, similar to that employed in the design of the First Evangelical Church, can be found in other Houston buildings like Rice University's Administrative Building (now Lovett Hall) and Houston's original downtown library. Northrup additionally designed the gray granite arch base supporting the bronze statue of General Sam Houston in Houston's Herman Park.

Northrup served as chief architect for the Federal Housing Administration in Houston. His designs were published in several professional journals including Architect, American Architect, and Architectural Forum. The American Architect awarded Northrup a certificate of merit for the Henry M. Holden residence (1924). Two homes on South Boulevard in the West Edgemont subdivision were featured in Home & Garden in the early 1930s. He is perhaps best-known for his suburban single family houses, especially those designed in an American Georgian style. Northrup worked extensively in the South End neighborhoods of Houston and was one of the first architects commissioned by the Hogg family to design homes for the exclusive new River Oaks subdivision. He also built a home for John H. Crooker (1923-24) in his Shadow Lawn subdivision.

West Eleventh Place (NR 1997) was cooperatively developed by J. W. Slaughter, R. W. Henderson, W. C. Averill, Jr. and T. W. Blake. Slaughter, Henderson and Averill, according to Northrop, had approached him to commission houses. He convinced them to acquire a common site. They purchased a block in the Turner Addition. An adjoining property owner, T. W. Blake, agreed to incorporate his triangular site with the block and the four then had Northrop prepare a design which was platted as West Eleventh Place. Northrop designed the houses of John Willis and Betsy Perkins Slaughter (Slaughter was a sociologist, lecturer in civics and philanthropy at Rice Institute, a member of the City Planning Commission, and director of the Houston Foundation), Robert W. and Lois Jackson Henderson (president of the Henderson Cotton Company), and Willard C. and Vernon King Averill (Averill was manager of the Texas Exploration Company). Thomas H. and Ellen Moseley Blake retained E. H. Stubee to design their house at the head of the central drive built in 1922. Blake was the president of Thomas W. Blake Lumber Company. Robert W. Henderson's sister and brother-in-law, Edna Henderson and William V. Bowles (Bowles was a general regional superintendent for the Texas Company) had Northrop design their house, also completed in 1922, at the entrance to West Eleventh Place. Across the street, in 1925, Egbert O. Hall (an insurance man) built a house designed by William Ward Watkin.¹⁶

In 1924 Will Hogg commissioned three architects who would "conform in style and compete in detail" to sketch houses that would not exceed a construction cost of \$18,000 to \$20,000, but preferably \$17,500 including the architect's fee, garage, and driveway, with the intention of selling them from \$25,000 to \$27,500. The four Houston architects chosen to design the models were Birdsall P. Briscoe; Sam H. Dixon, Jr.; Joseph

¹⁶ Houston Architectural Survey, pp. 1123-1125

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

W. Northrop, Jr.; and John F. Staub.¹⁷ Joseph married Mary Harris in Houston in 1915. They raised three sons. The second son, Page Harris, joined his father's firm in 1942. Joseph and his family were lifelong members of Trinity Episcopal Church, the closest Protestant neighboring church two blocks away on Holman at Fannin. Joseph Walter Northrop, Jr. died in 1968 and was buried in Glenwood Cemetery. Surviving relatives include Joseph W. Northrop III of Metairie, Louisiana and Monroe Northrop of Houston.

Conclusion

The First Evangelical Church in Houston, Harris County, Texas qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by meeting Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. As the third church of a congregation dating back to 1851, and as a good local example of the Italian Renaissance style of architecture, the property has been a landmark in Houston since its construction in 1927. Notable architectural features, including a campanile and cloistered portalis, entry area accentuated with small columns, and ceramic tile roofs, are characteristic of the Italian Renaissance style. With only relatively minor alterations since its original construction, the property retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, materials, design, feeling and association to a high degree.

¹⁷ River Oaks Property Owners, Inc. web site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Joseph W. Northrop, Jr. designs in Texas

Year	City	Property	Address	Comments
1920	Houston		4 W. 11 th Place	West Eleventh Place
1920	Houston		5 W. 11 th Place	West Eleventh Place
1920	Houston		6 W. 11 th Place	West Eleventh Place
1922	Houston	William V. Bowles residence	2 W. 11 th Place	West Eleventh Place
1923-24	Houston	John H. Crooker residence	14 Shadowlawn	Shadowlawn
1924	Houston	Henry M. Holden residence		1931 award of merit, <u>American Architect</u>
1924	Houston	River Oaks		one of four architects chosen
1925	Houston	Sam Houston Statue	Hermann Park	Designed base and plinth for Enrico F. Cerracchio statue
1925	Houston	Country Club Estates, Inc. house	3352 Del Monte Drive	River Oaks
1926	Marshall	Public Library	213 W. Austin	
1926	Houston	Randolph L. West residence	3 Shadowlawn	Shadowlawn
1926-27	Houston	Trinity Church		
1926-27	Marshall	Trinity Episcopal Church	S. Grove and W. Houston	
c. 1927	Houston	warehouse	100-104 Jackson Street	built for Jesse Jones
1927	Houston	O.B. Andrews Company warehouse	1701 Commerce Street	built for Jesse Jones
1927	Houston	First Evangelical Church	1311 Holman	RTHL 2002
1927	Houston	First Congregational Church	5315 Main Boulevard	now St. Matthew Lutheran
1927	Houston	George F. Howard residence	1707 South Boulevard	West Edgemont
1927	Houston	Forum of Civics Building	2503 Westheimer Road	With John F. Staub and Birdsall P. Briscoe, conversion of 1910 John Smith County School, now River Oaks Garden Club Building
1927	Marshall	Fry Memorial Parish House, Trinity Episcopal Church		Quisle & Andrews, Fort Worth, contractor
1927-28	Houston	San Jacinto Trust Company Building		
1928	Houston		1715 South Boulevard	
1928	Houston		1749 South Boulevard	
1929	Houston		1813 South Boulevard	
1930	Houston		3451 Del Monte Drive	River Oaks
1930	Houston	J. L. Jones warehouse	1901 Ruiz Street	demolished
1931	Houston		1817 South Boulevard	
1936	Houston	Roberts Elementary School	6000 Greenbriar Drive	CCC project
1952	Houston	Houston Title Guaranty Building		

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places ***Continuation Sheet***

Section 9 Page 15

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter. Houston: An Architectural Guide. Houston, 1972.

American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter. Houston Architectural Guide. Houston: Herring Press, second edition, 1999.

Culbertson, Margaret. Texas Houses Built By The Book. College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 1999.

"The Entrance to Shadowlawn, Newest Home Center," Houston Post, May 6, 1923.

"First Congregational Church, Houston, Texas," Architect, April 1928, v. 57, pp. 217-220.

Fox, Stephen. "Northrop, Joseph Walter, Jr.," in The New Handbook of Texas. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

"Judge Crooker's New Home," Houston Post, July 15, 1923.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

"New Church for First Congregational is to be Built on Main Street," Houston Post Dispatch, March 21, 1926.

The New Encyclopedia of Texas. Ellis A. Davis and Edwin H. Grobe, editors. Dallas: Texas Development Bureau, c. 1926, pp. 245, 301, 342, 458, 534, 1241, 2027.

Northrop, J. W., Jr., "A Texas Residential Development," The Architectural Forum. August 1921, pp. 73-75.

Oran M. Roberts Elementary web site, <http://es.houstonisd.org/RobertsES/Heard/mascot.htm>, accessed December 8, 2005.

River Oaks Property Owners, Inc. web site, <http://www.ropo.org/neighbor.html>, accessed December 8, 2005.

Southwest Center for Urban Research and the School of Architecture, Rice University. Houston Architectural Survey, 1981.

Texas General Contractors Association Monthly Bulletin. July 1926, v. 7, p. 15.

"Three Beautiful Churches," The Warwick Window. December 1927, v. 2, pp. 6-7.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: approximately 1.15 acres

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	15	270250	3292180

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 1 through 10, Block 10, Holman Outlot 40, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The boundaries encompass all property historically associated with the site.

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

NAME/TITLE: Dr. Pat Speck

ORGANIZATION: First Evangelical Lutheran Church

DATE: December 2, 2005

STREET & NUMBER: 7506 Morningside Drive

TELEPHONE: (713) 667-9274

CITY OR TOWN: Houston

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 77030-3620

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS (see continuation sheets FIGURE-16 through FIGURE-24)

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet PHOTO-25)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: First Evangelical Lutheran Church, ATTN: Dr. Pat Speck

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 88317

TELEPHONE: (713) 529-3589

CITY OR TOWN: Houston

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 77004

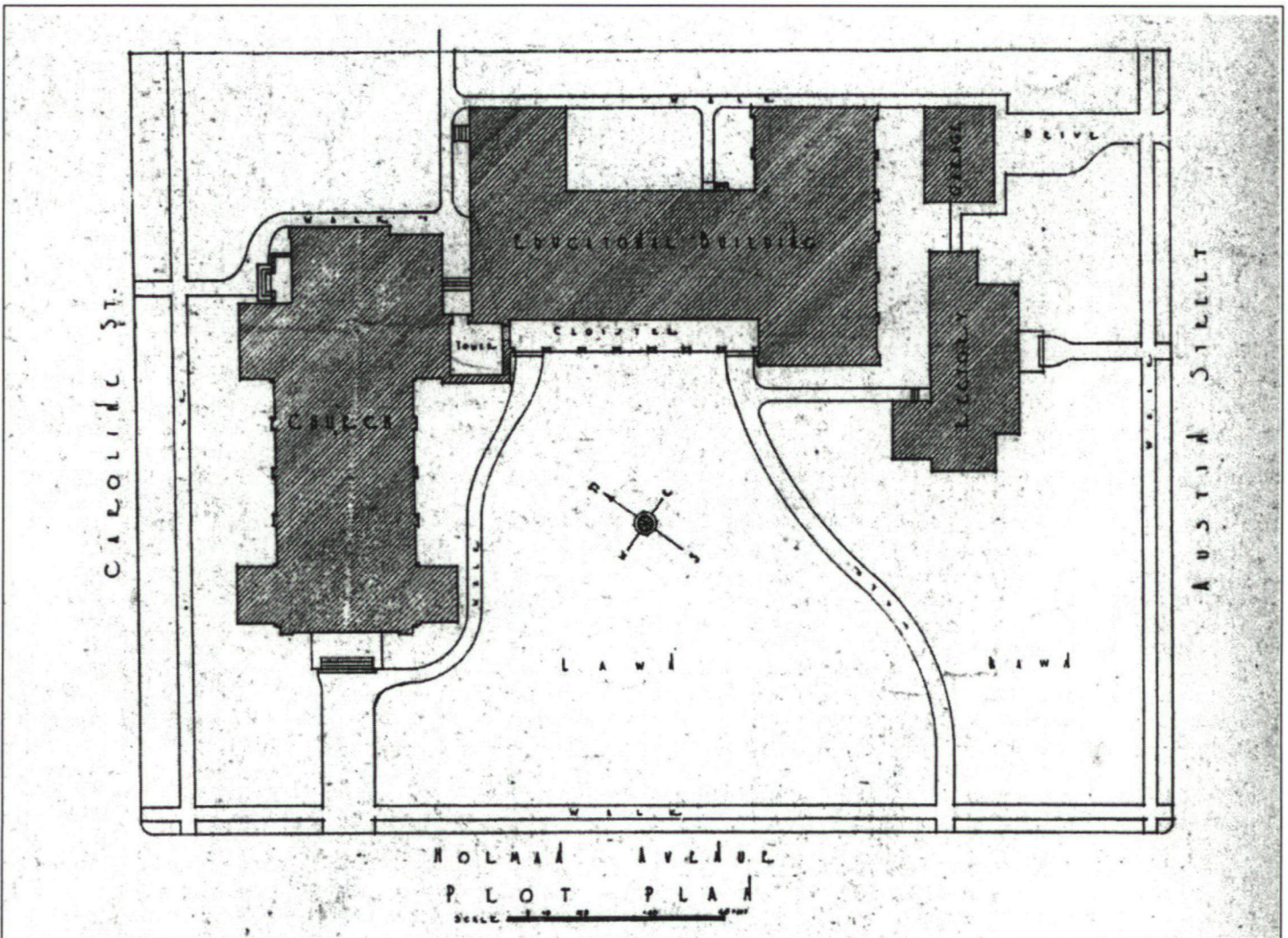
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 17

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Site plan of First Evangelical Church property, drawn by J. W. Northrop, Jr. North at top left.



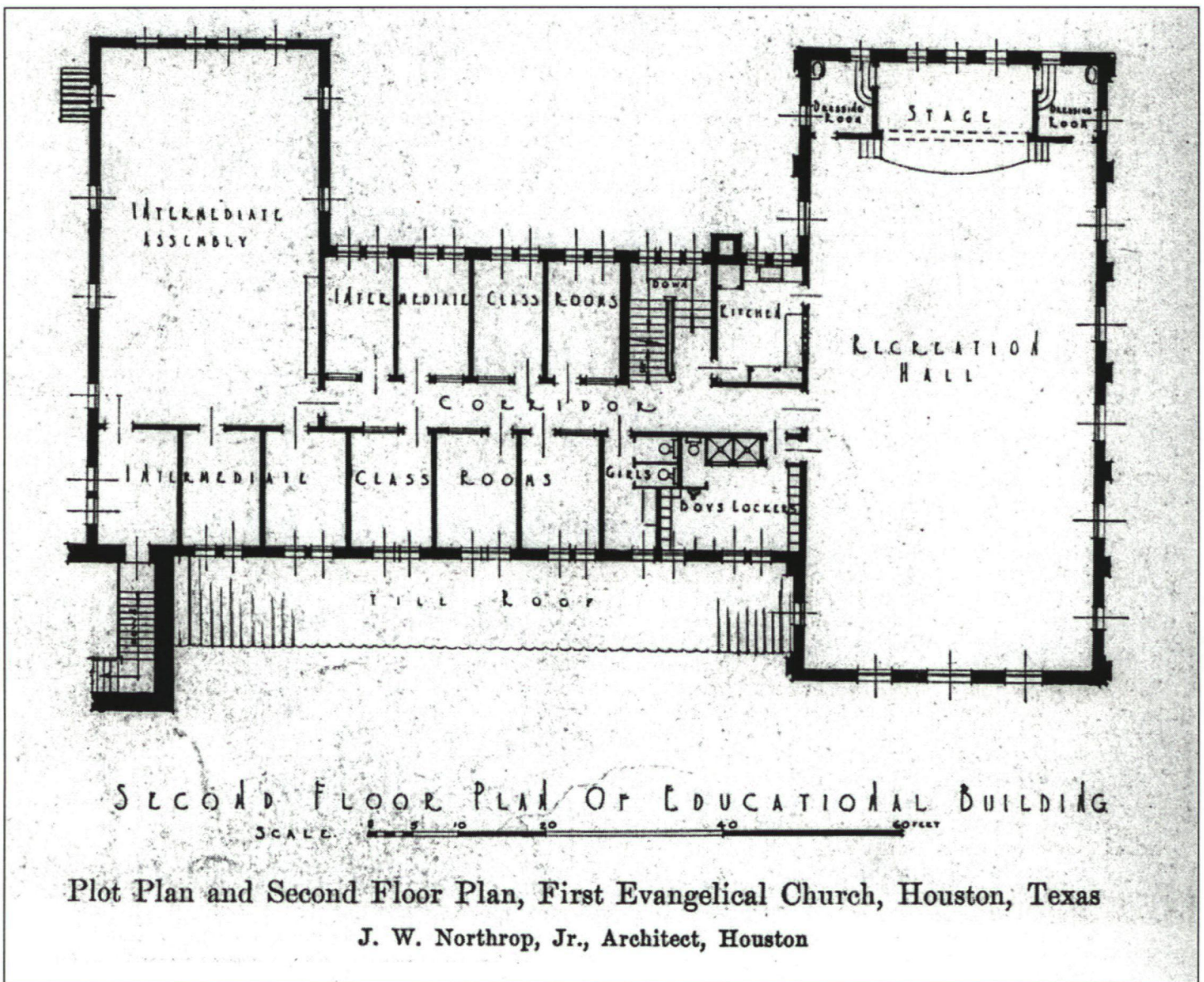
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 18

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Floor plan of Educational Building, drawn by J. W. Northrop, Jr. North at top left.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 19

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Southwest elevation of completed First Evangelical Church campus, 1927. Photo by Litterst.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 20

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Nave looking toward Narthex, 1927. Photo by Edison Studio.



Photograph by Edison Studio

J. W. Northrop, Jr., Architect, Houston, Texas

Nave, looking toward Narthex, First Evangelical Church, Houston, Texas

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 21

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Nave looking toward narthex, 2002. Photo by Dr. Pat Speck.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 22

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas



South oblique with gazebo (noncontributing), educational building, and rectory.



Rectory, southeast elevation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 23

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas



Educational building, campanile and sanctuary, north oblique.



Cloistered portalis, west oblique view.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 24

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas



Campanile (bell tower), south oblique view.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 25

First Evangelical Church
Houston, Harris County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
Photographs by Bob Brinkman, 2005
Negatives in Texas Historical Commission files.

All building names refer to the site plan on page 17:

Photo 1 of 14, southwest elevation of base of tower and part of cloister and education building, camera facing northeast

Photo 2 of 14, south oblique of tower, camera facing north

Photo 3 of 14, south oblique of tower and church, camera facing north

Photo 4 of 14, southeast elevation of church, camera facing northwest

Photo 5 of 14, southwest elevation detail of church entry, camera facing northeast

Photo 6 of 14, southwest elevation of church, camera facing northeast

Photo 7 of 14, west oblique of church and tower, camera facing east

Photo 8 of 14, northwest elevation of church, camera facing southeast

Photo 9 of 14, north oblique of church and tower, camera facing south

Photo 10 of 14, northeast elevation of church and tower, camera facing southwest

Photo 11 of 14, east oblique of education building, camera facing west

Photo 12 of 14, southeast elevation of garage and part of education building, camera facing northwest

Photo 13 of 14, southeast elevation of rectory, camera facing northwest

Photo 14 of 14, southwest elevation of education building and rectory, camera facing northeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Evangelical Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Harris

DATE RECEIVED: 10/11/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/31/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/15/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/24/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001066

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 11-21-06 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

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



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
photo 1 of 14

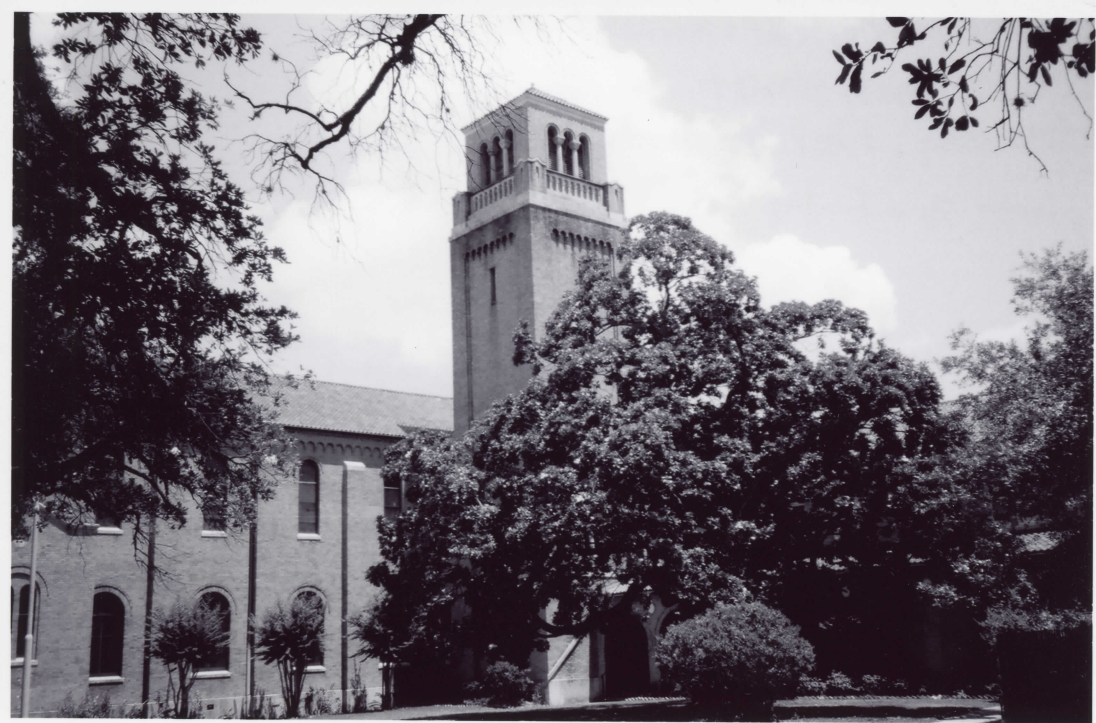
0119nd <ND> ###> 007 © BN
3731 078 N N N+2 52 AC+01 GR08 Z096.9/ 100-0



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas

photo 2 of 14

Holland <No. #####>010 © BN
3731 078 N N N+4-13 AC+01 GR08 2096.9/ 100.0



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
photo 3 of 14

3731 078 N N N+3-13 AC+01 GR08 Z096.97 100.0
<NO> ###> 008 © BN



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas

photo 4 of 14

3731 078 N N N+6-45 AC+01 GR08 Z095.9 / 100.0
HOLLAND & COMPANY © 1999



ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING
AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

First Evangelical Church

1311 Holman Street

Houston, Harris County, Texas

photo 5 of 14

Holl and <NO - ###> 011 © BN
3731 078 N N N+3-29 AC+01 GR08 2096-9/ 100.0





First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas

photo 7 of 14

3731 078 N N N+2-26 AC+01 GR08 Z096-9 100-0
H011 and <NPO - ###> 019 © BN



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas

photo 8 of 14

© 1995 Kodak Professional Imaging Systems
3731 078 N N N+2-21 AC+01 GR08 Z096.9 / 100.0



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas

photo 9 of 14

© 1996 Kodak Professional
3731 078 N N N+2-40 AC+01 GR08 Z096.9 / 100.0



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
photo 10 of 14

Holland <No. #####> 016 © BN
3731 078 N N N+2-16 AC+01 GR08 2096.9/100.0



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
photo 11 of 14

Holland & KNO - #### > 015 © BN
3731 078 N N N+2-21 AC+01 GR08 2096.9 / 100.0



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
photo 12 of 14

Holland <NO> ###> 014 @ BN
3731 078 N N N+4 06 AC+01 GR08 Z096.9/100.0



First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas

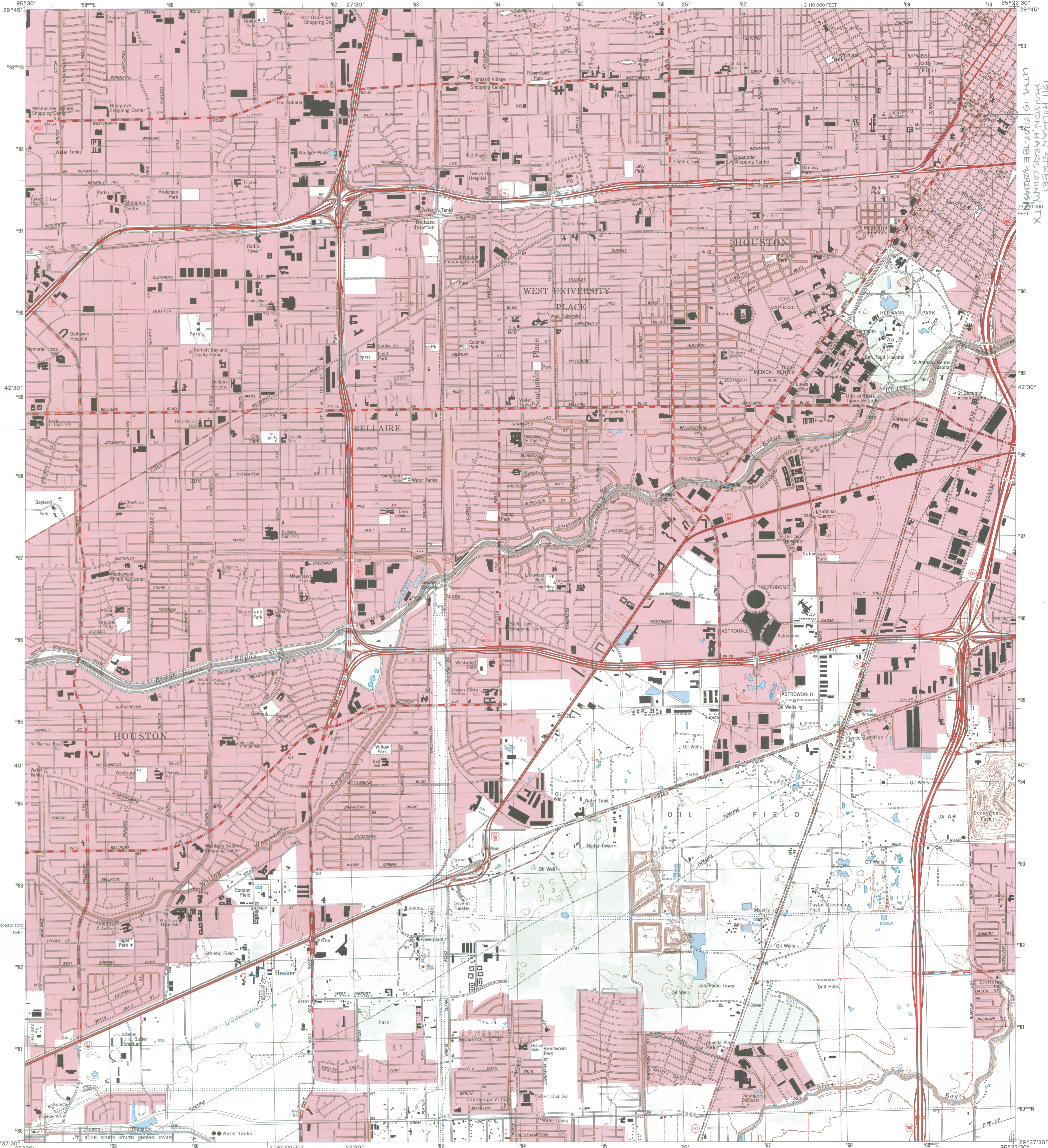
photo 13 of 14

001 6 902 808 10 04 N N 820 122
<NO - ###> 013 @ BN
3731 028 N N +4-15 AC+01 GR08 2096.9 / 100.0



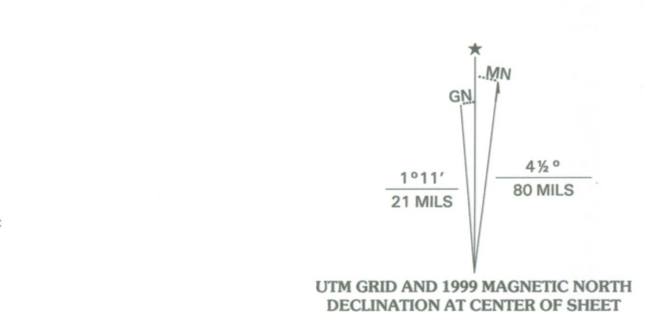
First Evangelical Church
1311 Holman Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
photo 14 of 14

HOLLAND & KNOLL - PHOTOGRAPHY & PRINTING
3731 078 N N N+4-46 AC+01 GR08 2096* 9 / 100.0



FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH
1511 HOLMAN STREET
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TX
UTM 15 270278E 929249N
15 280 000 FEET

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1976. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1995. Survey control current as of 1976
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15 10 000-foot ticks: Texas Coordinate System of 1983 (south central zone)
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
Landmark buildings verified 1976
This quadrangle covers a subsidence area



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048
MILLER BLUEPRINT CO.
P.O. BOX 2055 78766 501 W. 6TH 78701
AUSTIN, TEXAS PH. #512-478-5792
1-800-258-3489 FAX #512-474-7096

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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION 2995-423

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

1 Hedwig Village
2 Houston Heights
3 Settegast
4 Allief
5 Park Place
6 Missouri City
7 Alameda
8 Pearland

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

