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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: The Wedgwood
Other name/site number:
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 6701 Blanco Road
City or town: Castle Hills State: Texas County: Bexar
Not for publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

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 at the following levels of significance:
☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title
Date 1/2/17
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, explain:

For Edwin H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2.21.17
Date of Action

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Domestic/Multiple dwelling

Current Functions: Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Modern Movement: International Style

Principal Exterior Materials: concrete, glass, aluminum

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6 through 8)

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

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.
X	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 values, 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: NA

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1965

Significant Dates: 1965

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Ahlschlager, Walter W., Sr. (architect); Bateson, T.C. (general contractor)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 9 through 15)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 16)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ 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, Austin*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 7.899 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 29.517686° Longitude: -98.508019°

Verbal Boundary Description: The Wedgwood site is comprised of CB 5007A BLK LOT 7 and CHCB 123 & P16A at 6701 Blanco Road in Castle Hills, Texas. The 7.899 acre site is on the west side of Blanco Road one block south of its intersection with Loop 410. The site is bounded on the north by the rear of a 1-story strip shopping center complex, on the east by Blanco Road, on the south by the side of a 1-story commercial building, and on the west by a natural drainage area.

Boundary Justification: The site includes the property historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Maria Watson Pfeiffer and Ann Benson McGlone
Organization: ReSearch/ Ann Benson McGlone, LLC
Street & number: 213 Washington Street (Pfeiffer)
City or Town: San Antonio State: TX Zip Code: 78204-1336
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Date: July 18, 2016

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 17 and 18)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 19 through 33)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 5, and 34 through 50)

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photographs

The Wedgwood
6701 Blanco Road
Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas
Photographed by Ann McGlone, December 2015 (except as noted below)

Photo 1
Blanco Road entrance looking southwest
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, July 2016

Photo 2
Southeast elevation looking north

Photo 3
North elevation looking south

Photo 4
Garden pond, facing northwest

Photo 5
Garden pool, facing northwest

Photo 6
North entrance canopy, facing southeast
Photographed by Gregory Smith, October 2015

Photo 7
North Elevation detail, facing south

Photo 8
East wing fire stair setback, facing north

Photo 9
East wing window detail, facing north

Photo 10
Lobby, facing southeast

Photo 11
Lobby elevators, facing west
Photographed by Ann McGlone, July 2016

Photo 12
Lobby mailboxes

Photo 13
Patio access from first floor, facing north

Photo 14
Typical hallway, 9th floor

Photo 15
Typical kitchen with original stove

Photo 16
West wing 11th floor balcony, facing south
Photographed by Gregory Smith, October 2015

Photo 17
View from west end of the 11th floor, looking east
Photographed by Gregory Smith, October 2015

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Description

The Wedgwood is an 11-story “Y” shaped apartment building on a 7.899-acre site at 6701 Blanco Road, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas. The building, designed by Dallas architect Walter W. Ahlschlager, Sr. in the modern style, was completed in 1965. It is set back from Blanco Road in the center of the site which is largely paved in asphalt. Trees and grassy areas surround the entrances to the building on its north and southeast sides, and a landscaped garden is located on the west side. The Wedgwood features three wings, each connected by a curved radius. Fire stair towers at the end of each wing are set back from the building’s façade. The three elevations are generally identical in appearance with the exception of open terraces on the 11th floor of the northwest wing. Aluminum frame ribbon windows define the exterior of the concrete slab building. The windows sit atop a three-foot high plaster base and extend to the slab above. The otherwise flat roof features a round 1-story mechanical enclosure centered on the curved radius and a low pitched gable above public spaces on the 11th floor of the northwest wing. On the interior, the lobby and all upper floors retain their original central corridor layout. The lobby is finished in grey and white marble and features a curved wood wall. On the ground floor, two of the wings had apartments while the third included a game room, restaurant, convenience store, beauty salon, and insurance agency. The building’s 301 apartments generally retain their original one and two bedroom layouts. Wall and floor coverings, as well as some bathrooms and kitchens have been updated over the years. Some original bathrooms and kitchen appliances remain. The original public spaces on the 11th floor of the northwest wing were remodeled into smaller spaces and a large apartment in the 1990s. A fire in late 2014 resulted in removal of interior partitions on the third floor, as well as a portion of the second floor. With these exceptions, in 2016 the Wedgwood retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Site and Exterior

The Wedgwood is located on CB 5007A BLK LOT 7 and CHCB 123 & P16A at 6701 Blanco Road in Castle Hills, Texas. The 7.899-acre site is on the west side of Blanco Road one block south of its intersection with Loop 410. The site is bounded on the north by the rear of a 1-story strip shopping center complex, on the east by Blanco Road, on the south by the side of a 1-story commercial building, and on the west by a natural drainage area.

Vehicular access to the site is from Blanco Road through metal security gates (photo 1). A xeriscaped traffic island with stone pylons separates the entrance and exit lanes. Entering the site, the primary entrance to the building is to the left (southeast) and the secondary entrance to the right (north) (photos 2, 3). Landscaped grassy areas with trees buffer these entrances from surrounding asphalt parking lots. Free-standing parking canopies are located along the north and south perimeters of the property (figure 1).

The Wedgwood is a “Y” shaped 11-story concrete slab structure with continuous aluminum frame ribbon windows. It is comprised of three wings, each approximately 120 feet long. Each wing is connected by a curved radius. The building sits in the center of the site with surface parking on the north, east and south sides. To the west is an enclosed landscaped area with trees (1 contributing site), a 49,000-gallon capacity pool and a garden pond (2 contributing structures), and other amenities for tenants (photos 4, 5) (figure 2).

The building is designed in a midcentury interpretation of the International Style. The primary entrance is centrally located between two wings and generally faces southeast. A detached cantilevered concrete slab canopy denotes the primary entrance (photo 6). There is a secondary entrance that faces directly north and is also centrally located between the two adjacent wings (photo 3).

The elevations feature cantilevered concrete slabs at each floor level that serve as a canopy/sun shade for the ribbon windows on the floor below. The canopy is a continuation of the concrete floor and clearly articulates each floor level. The aluminum windows sit atop a three-foot-high plaster base and extend to the slab above (photo 7). Fire stairs

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

located at the end of each wing are set back from the main façade (photo 8). There is also a fourth stairwell located in the center of the structure. A large concrete slab projects perpendicular to the main façade at the transition and provides a visual bookend to the projecting slab canopies and ribbon windows. These end slabs project above the roof line. On the roof at the juncture of the wings in the center of the “Y” is a round 1-story enclosure that contains mechanical equipment. The concave shape of the circular structure provides a contrast to the convex curves of the building’s façade (photo 7).

All of the exterior facades are generally the same. The ground floor differs on the west elevation of the northwest wing where public spaces occur. The roof elevation of the northwest wing differs from those of the other two flat roofed wings. On the northwest wing, half of the roof is a low pitched gable over what were originally the public spaces on the eleventh floor. Corner balconies also exist on the upper floor of this wing (photo 3).

The ground floor height is twelve feet, and on all other floors, the height is eight feet to the underside of slab. The ground floor aluminum frame windows are the same as other floors, with the exception of an extra panel on the top to make up for the additional height. The panels are black metal (photo 9).

Interior

The interior of the Wedgwood retains the original apartment and corridor layouts (figures 3-5). The elevators are located in the central intersection of the three wings and open facing an easterly direction. The elevator lobbies on each floor are also in their original configuration. Individual storage closets and a laundry room are located across the small lobby to the south, and a janitor and maintenance room is located to the south. A central corridor extends down each wing. Apartments are located on either side of the corridor and a fire stair is located at the far end. There are 301 apartment units – 1 three-bedroom; 89 two-bedroom; 127 one bedroom; and 84 studios (figure 6). The original carpet in the corridors has been replaced, and it is believed that the hallway light fixtures have been replaced.

The ground floor features the original lobby layout with white and gray marble slab walls, and a curved wood wall with vertical 2x2’s spaced 4-inches on center (photos 10, 11). The lobby occupies the area in the center of the “Y” wings. The elevators are on the west and open directly into the main lobby. The two elevators are original, although the interior finishes have been changed. Opposite the marble elevator wall is the curved wood wall. All the remaining columns are clad in the same grey and white marble slabs. The floor has been replaced with a beige 12 X 12 porcelain tile. The suspended ceiling was removed due to water damage from a fire in 2014, and the concrete structure is exposed. Behind the elevators are restrooms and an area for the mailboxes. The original mailboxes were replaced (photo 12). Behind the mailboxes is the entrance to the garden/patio area.

Radiating out from the lobby are the three wings. Two of the wings, to the northeast and the south, have central corridors with apartments on either side. The northwest wing housed common use public functions including a restaurant, a convenience store, an insurance agency and a beauty salon. A game room also was provided for the residents. The restaurant faced west and was the only area that had access to the open patio (photo 13). The interior finishes of the various amenity rooms have been updated with new paint colors, new wallpaper reflecting varying decoration style of primarily the 1980s and 1990s. The insurance office appears to have its original finishes including the 2 X 4 fluorescent light fixtures with their yellowing plastic lenses.

The apartment layouts on each floor remain the same as originally built. Generally, the apartment entrance off the main corridor is a narrow hallway with the kitchen on one side and the bath on the other. All of the plumbing for the building is adjacent to the central corridor. The living room is straight ahead and separated from the kitchen by a raised counter with shutters. The bedrooms are located next to the living room and a second bedroom is accessed by a hallway located on the opposite wall away from the living room windows. The walls are gypsum sheetrock, some

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painted and some with wall coverings. The floors are carpeted and the ceiling is painted concrete. A few units retain their original bathroom tile, finishes and fixtures, but most have had their finishes updated and changed. The same is true of the kitchens. Only a few original kitchen appliances remain. Original Frigidaire oven/ranges can be found in a handful of units (Photo 15). Many kitchen cabinets and countertops have been modified and changed, although some original wooden kitchen cabinets can be found. Paint schemes are not original.

On the eleventh floor of the northwest wing, the public rooms under the low sloped roof were greatly modified in the 1990s. The original ballroom and assembly spaces were divided into a fitness room, a library, and a bar. The major portion of the remaining ballroom area was converted to a large, 3-bedroom apartment in the 1990's. The apartment has two exterior corner balconies one off the living room that faces to the west and the other off a bedroom that faces east.

In December 2014 a devastating fire occurred on the third floor. The fire resulted in major smoke damage to the interior, especially on the third floor where the fire originated and on the 11th floor where the smoke damage was heaviest. The damage occurred in the south wing of the third floor. The interior partitions of the entire third floor were completely demolished as a result of the fire, as well as the south wing of the 2nd floor which sustained major damage. Only the pipes and electric conduit remain on the third floor and the south wing of the second floor. The building closed after the fire and remains vacant.

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Statement of Significance

The Wedgwood, an apartment tower designed in the modern style for older residents, opened in September 1965. It was constructed in the incorporated community of Castle Hills on a large and prominent 7.899-acre site that had remained undeveloped throughout the 1950s. Located a short distance south of Loop 410 (formerly Loop 13) and immediately adjacent to rapidly developing commercial and residential areas, the Wedgwood became a stylish residential address. Designed by Dallas architect, Walter W. Ahlschlager, Sr., the Wedgwood epitomized contemporary high-rise apartment living. Whereas other local apartment complexes—both low and high rise—were traditional in design, the irregularly-shaped Wedgwood offered wide-ranging tenant amenities including a garden with waterfall and swimming pool, meeting and game rooms, a restaurant, beauty salon, and insurance office. The Wedgwood was the culminating design of Walter Ahlschlager's long career that began in 1912 in Chicago and ended in Dallas where he died in 1965. Among Ahlschlager's wide-ranging projects were the Chicago's Sheraton Plaza Hotel and Madinah Athletic Club, the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, and the Carew Tower in Cincinnati, all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Involved in both architecture and real estate development, Walter Ahlschlager came to Texas in 1940, designing and developing buildings with his son, Walter Ahlschlager, Jr. and other partners. His final works in the 1950s and 1960s reflected the mid-century style that became popular in the years after World War II. Notably, he designed an apartment building in Dallas named "The Wedgwood" that was completed in 1964. Ahlschlager and his partners modified the Dallas Wedgwood's design and essentially duplicated the project in San Antonio. San Antonio's Wedgwood was already under construction when Walter Ahlschlager died in March 1965. The Wedgwood continued to serve its intended clientele of older residents for 49 years. The building was vacated following a devastating fire in December 2014 and remains vacant in 2016. The Wedgwood is nominated under Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture as an excellent mid-century interpretation of the International Style, and as the last notable project of renowned architect Walter W. Ahlschlager, Sr. whose remarkable career spanned from 1912 until his death in 1965. The period of significance is 1965, the date of the building's completion.

The Wedgwood Site: 1838-1962

The Wedgwood is located in the city of Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas at 6701 Blanco Road. (Though located in the incorporated city of Castle Hills, the commonly used address is 6701 Blanco Road, San Antonio, Texas.) The building occupies 7.899 acres of land that was originally part of a 320-acre tract known as Survey 87, Section 2. Jethro R. Bancroft, who had been awarded property for his service during the Texas Revolution, assigned his land certificates to Sterling N. Dobie in 1838. Dobie located his land in Bexar County. It included this tract that extended to Olmos Creek. The property was held by several owners until 1873 when Dobie's tract was purchased by Ellen C. Teele. Teele and her husband Edward had recently arrived from Red Wing, Minnesota, where they operated a hotel. Edward Teel was enumerated on the 1880 and 1900 Texas census as a farmer, and the property was later referred to as the "Teele farm."¹

Shortly before Edward Teel's death on March 17, 1901, he and his wife moved into the city. Ellen sold the farm property in late 1902 to prominent San Antonio real estate developer Jay E. Adams. Adams was responsible for the early development of today's Monte Vista neighborhood (NRHP 1998). By the time of the sale, 47 acres of the original 320-acre tract had already been sold, and the property included 273 acres.²

¹ Bexar County Deed Records (BCDR) N2:278-280 (Estate of Nathaniel Dobie to S.S. Dobie, April 11, 1856); N2:280-281 (Bancroft to Dobie, April 11, 1856; 8:189 (Robinson to Teele, December 20, 1876); United States Federal Census, Minnesota, 1870. Jethro Bancroft participated in the Storming of Bexar.

² BCDR 208:526-528 (Teele to Adams, November 15, 1902). According to the 1901-1902 San Antonio city directory, Edward Teele was living at 724 San Pedro Avenue near downtown. Ellen Teele died on August 29, 1916 at 428 Woodlawn Avenue in the Monte Vista neighborhood.

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The Teele farm property was six miles from San Antonio and when it was purchased by Jay Adams in 1902, was still too remote for residential development. Adams held the rural site until 1906 when he sold it to John S. Sweet and George Bodet for \$7,100. Sweet conveyed his one-half interest to Bodet the following year.³

George Bodet anticipated that increased automobile ownership would improve access to his newly acquired property. The first automobile was registered in Bexar County in 1907. By early 1910, the county registered 789 vehicles, and by 1922, there were 31,730 local registrations. In response to both the growing number of motorists and overall population, Bexar County Commissioners, improved old county roads and built new ones. This allowed residents to build houses on large lots in outlying areas and commute into the city.⁴

George Bodet subdivided and platted the property in 1910 and named his new subdivision Blanco Heights (figure 7). The development consisted of forty-nine, five-acre lots, and four lots that were approximately six acres. Bodet began to sell the parcels in early June 1910, at prices ranging from \$100 to \$125 per acre.⁵ “The location is a beauty, six miles from the City Hall, overlooking the city. Ideal location for country homes, on the main auto loop.”⁶ Bodet’s advertisements touted the air and view as “grand” and the tracts as suitable for “fine country homes.” George and Sophie Bodet sold 21.3 acres, including lots 1,10,11, and 12, to Harry and Vivian Meyer on October 5, 1910. The couple separated by 1915 and later divorced. Vivian, who lived in Galveston and then Tampico, Mexico, deeded her interest to her husband. It is not known how Harry Meyer used the property, and the area was still undeveloped when an aerial photograph was taken in 1938.⁷

Harry Meyer married Clara Juanita Reed in 1931, and after his death in 1941, she began selling their property. Mrs. Reed conveyed land to Bexar County in 1941 for the construction of the Harry Wurzbach Highway. The 17-mile highway, which connected Fort Sam Houston with Camp Bullis, was part of a network of military roads linking army posts and air fields in San Antonio. In 1941, only 5.53 miles remained to be completed, and the Meyer’s property comprised a critical portion of that right-of-way (figure 8). In May 1944, three years after selling land for Wurzbach Highway, Clara Meyer sold 22.77 acres of the “former plat, now vacated, of Blanco Heights to W.T. and Doris Head, local residents who owned and developed real estate.”⁸

Post-World War II population growth was accompanied by expansion of the city’s infrastructure including highways and residential construction. The Texas State Highway Department began to acquire right-of-way for Loop 13, later renamed Loop 410, in the middle 1950s. The construction of this 55-mile “super highway,” which incorporated a

³ BCDR 256:188-189 (Adams to Sweet and Bodet, October 30, 1906); San Antonio *Daily Light*, October 31, 1906; San Antonio *Daily Light*, March 10, 1907:8.

⁴ HB 93, 30th Leg, RS, 1907; San Antonio *Light and Gazette*, March 6, 1910. Texas House Bill 93, signed into law in 1907, required that all vehicles operating on public roads to be registered with county clerks. Motor vehicle registration in Texas was transferred to the State Highway Department when that agency was created in 1917 (HB 37, 35th Leg., RS, 1917).

⁵ Bexar County Plat Records 105:317.

⁶ San Antonio *Light and Gazette*, June 5, 1910, 37.

⁷ San Antonio *Light and Gazette*, June 16, 1910, 14; June 23, 1910, 8; BCDR 341:213-214 (Bodet to Meyer, October 5, 1910); BCDR 462:308-309 (Meyer to Meyer, June 9, 1915); BCDR 456:539-540 (Meyer to Meyer, January 28, 1915).

⁸ BCDR 1829:104-105 (Meyer to Bexar County, May 1, 1941); BCDR 2053:132-134 (Meyer to Head, May 19, 1944); “Lack of Funds Leavee One-Third Section of Wurzbach Military Road with no Construction,” San Antonio *Light*, December 11, 1941, 14-A.. Harry and Juanita Meyer have not been located on the 1940 census and a death certificate has not been found for Harry. Harry Wurzbach Highway was built to connect Fort Sam Houston to Camp Bullis north of the city (BCDR 1827:224-225). The plat for Blanco Heights was vacated and converted to acreage for the Bexar County tax rolls in 1941 (1811:368-369 (Belle Realty Company to Public, March 17, 1941).

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portion of Wurzbach Highway, was reportedly the first of its kind to encircle a major Texas city. Begun in 1955, it was completed in 1966.⁹

The state's acquisition of land for Loop 410 included 0.386 acres of W.T. and Doris Head's property which was purchased in 1955. The Head's sold their remaining tract totaling 23.0402 acres to Homecraft Builders, Inc. in 1960. That property was subsequently divided into three parcels—12.3283 acres (north); 7.8997 acres (central); and 2.8122 acres (south) — and conveyed to a trustee in late 1962. It was acquired by Castle Gardens Ltd. in October 1963.¹⁰

The Head's 23-acre property was subdivided just as construction of Loop 410 was proceeding from Honeysuckle Lane east of the future Wedgwood site to McCullough Avenue west of the site. That segment was completed in 1962. The anticipated completion accelerated commercial and residential development in the area. Most notably, the Rouse Company opened North Star Mall, San Antonio's first major indoor shopping center, two blocks east of the Wedgwood site in 1960.¹¹

City of Castle Hills

Immediately north and west of North Star Mall, lots were selling quickly and new homes were being built in the upscale Castle Hills neighborhood. The neighborhood was characterized by larger homes, many of them sprawling brick ranch houses. To the east of North Star Mall, Ridgeview, a dense subdivision of small, moderately priced tract houses, was developed beginning in 1954 prior to construction of North Star Mall.¹²

Castle Hills was still sparsely populated in 1951 when residents, anticipating the coming wave of development, sought to preserve their lifestyle by voting to incorporate. One of the advocates of incorporation was Chester Slimp, a local oil man who hired prominent architect Ralph Cameron to build his 2-story stone house on a small hill north of the city in 1931. Slimp and his neighbors formed the Castle Hills Improvement League, and when they successfully achieved incorporation, the city was named for Slimp's house, popularly known as "the Castle."¹³

The first Castle Hills subdivision opened in 1935. Comprised originally of 270 acres, the area featured native trees including many live oaks, and was described as "close enough to the city to make it easy of access yet sufficiently far out to afford the delights of a country residence."¹⁴ By 2014, Castle Hills had a population of 4,247 and comprised 2.5 square miles. The small city remains primarily residential, with commercial uses concentrated along Blanco Road, Lockhill Selma Road, and Loop 410.¹⁵ (figure 9)

San Antonio Apartment Living in the 1960s

Residential living in San Antonio had been characterized since the 1800s by single-family housing. This housing pattern continued in the post-World War II era as San Antonio began to annex additional land, expressways were built,

⁹ "San Antonio Notes Big Stride for Roads," *San Antonio News*, January 20, 1966, 16-A.

¹⁰ BCDR 3715:311-313 (Head to Texas State Highway Department, July 15, 1955); BCDR 4417:418-420 (Head to Homecraft Builders, February 18, 1960). A subsequent deed restated the sale of the three parcels to Homecraft Builders, Inc. and Castle Point Land Company (BCDR 4873:639-643, Head to Homecraft Builders and Castle Point Land Co, January 3, 1963). At the time the State Highway Department acquired right-of-way from the Head's, the property was fenced and had a water well. The Head's retained right of access to the future frontage road.

¹¹ "Shopping Mall to Open," *San Antonio Light*, August 14, 1960, 2-E.

¹² Bexar County Plat Records, 3377:145, March 8, 1954; 3535:36, September 13, 1956.

¹³ "Castle Hills Election Slated," *San Antonio Light*, June 3, 1951, 8-D; <http://cityofcastlehills.com/859>, accessed July 16, 2016.

¹⁴ "New Subdivision 'Castle Hills' will be Opened Today," *San Antonio Express*, April 21, 1935, 20.

¹⁵ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml, accessed July 16, 2016.

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and new subdivisions constructed to accommodate the influx of residents and their growing families during the Baby Boom years. San Antonio's population grew from 253,854 in 1940 to 406,811 in 1950, and 618,944 in 1960—an increase of 144 % in twenty years.¹⁶

Though single family residences dominated the new housing market, many low-rise multi-family apartment complexes were built, typically along or near major thoroughfares and retail centers. By the early 1960s, both public agencies and private developers also began to construct high-rise residential structures.¹⁷

The San Antonio Housing Authority, which had built pioneering, low-rise public housing projects in the 1940s, began to construct multi-story projects including Victoria Plaza (1959; 9-story) and Villa Tranchese (1967; 11-story). Private developers, observing the success of market-rate high-rise projects in Dallas and Houston, also began to build taller apartment or condominium structures, generally in the city's rapidly growing north side sector. By 1967, these included Regency House Apartments (1962; 7-story), Olmos Tower (1964; 14-story); 2001 New Braunfels (1965; 11-story); and North View Tower (1967; 11-story).¹⁸

In February 1964, it was announced that an 11-story, 312-unit apartment building would be constructed at the corner of Loop 410 and Blanco Road in Castle Hills. The unnamed \$4.5 million structure, owned by Vannie E. Cook, Jr. of McAllen and J.A. "Brad" Martin of Dallas, was planned for renters over the age of 62. In addition to Martin, both the architect, W.W. Ahlschlager and contractor, T.C. Bateson, were from Dallas.¹⁹

The Wedgwood: 1963-1965

Dallas architect Walter W. Ahlschlager's earliest plans for an unnamed senior citizens' apartment building were issued on July 2, 1962, with numerous revisions throughout 1963. Prior to the construction of San Antonio's Wedgwood, Walter Ahlschlager had designed a similar structure, also named "The Wedgwood," in Dallas. On June 9, 1963, the *Dallas Morning News* reported "Wedgwood to Provide Past-50 Luxury Living." The 3-wing, Y-shaped, 11-story structure was owned by Harry H. Davidson of Dallas and Vannie E. Cook, who later became a co-owner of the building's San Antonio "twin." The Dallas Wedgwood was completed in mid-1964 in the Stevens Park area of Oak Cliff after two years of planning.²⁰

The Dallas Wedgwood contained 311 apartments in various configurations from 400 to 1,200 square feet. The 8.5 acre wooded site contained a lake, 9-hole golf course, swimming pool, and other recreational facilities. Inside, there were shops, restaurants, a health clinic, game room, private club, library and a large room for special events.²¹ As the building neared construction in May 1964, Walter Ahlschlager commented, "It'll be the first time I've ever designed with my comfort in mind. I plan to live there."²² The Wedgwood was Ahlschlager's last major project and he did not move there. He died on March 28, 1965.

The design of San Antonio's Wedgwood appears to have been largely completed at the time its Dallas antecedent opened. In May 1964, the *Dallas Morning News* wrote that the structure was "going up near Stevens Park in Dallas—

¹⁶ Edward W. Heusinger, *A Chronology of Events in San Antonio* (San Antonio: Standard Printing Company, 1951) 76.

¹⁷ San Antonio Public Library, Texana/Genealogy Department, Apartments vertical file.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ "Apartments Starting Up- 11 Floors," *San Antonio Light*, February 21, 1964, 29; "Construction on Apartment Begins Today," *San Antonio Express*, February 21, 1964 [n.p.].

²⁰ *Dallas Morning News*, June 9, 1963, 8:1.

²¹ Ibid.

²² *Dallas Morning News*, May 3, 1964, 1:27.

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

and due for duplication in San Antonio and Houston.”²³ The Houston project was apparently not constructed. In 2016, the Dallas Wedgwood has been fully renovated and renamed the View at Kessler Park. San Antonio’s Wedgwood was constructed on the central, 7.89-acre tract of W.T. and Doris Head’s former 23-acre site along Blanco Road. Construction was begun on San Antonio’s Wedgwood on February 21, 1964, and the building opened in October 1965.²⁴

The San Antonio building was quite similar to the Dallas project, though the site was slightly smaller and the structure had twelve fewer apartments. Leasing advertisements began appearing in local newspapers in March 1965. Described as “San Antonio’s finest address,” the 11-story building had 299 apartments with nine different floorplans. (The construction announcement called for 312 apartments.) There were six types of 1-bedroom apartments, two plans for 2-bedroom/1-bath units, and two plans for 2 bedroom/2 bath units. (figure 6) Tenants had the option of a furnished or unfurnished unit, all of which had a “gorgeous view.” Each unit had central heating and air conditioning, custom-made drapes, and wall-to-wall carpeting. The units were “all electric” with Frigidaire kitchens. Each floor had laundry facilities and extra storage space. The ground floor contained amenities for residents and the 11th floor penthouse featured a hobby room, private club room, game room, and terrace on three sides of the building. A central bank of Westinghouse elevators provided access to all floors. The building had gardens and a lighted waterfall, a 49,000-gallon capacity swimming pool, putting greens, and a spacious parking lot.²⁵

Described as a “city within a city,” the Wedgwood featured a restaurant, grocery, drugstore, insurance office, clinic, beauty salon and barber shop, dry cleaners, dress shop, and stockbroker’s office. The Wedgwood was a “complete residential apartment building that puts the dweller above the skyline and provides him with wonderful scenic views, in luxurious comfort and convenience.”²⁶

The Architect: Walter W. Ahlschlager

Walter William Ahlschlager (1887-1965) was born in Chicago and died in Dallas. He was the son of architect John Ahlschlager (1861-1915) and the nephew of architect Frederick Ahlschlager (1858-1905), both of Chicago. Frederick was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Walter Ahlschlager studied at the Lewis Institute of Technology for four years, graduating in 1909. He also studied for three years at the Illinois College of Technology and Art Institute of Chicago, graduating from both schools in 1912. Ahlschlager went into private practice immediately after graduation in 1912, first working with his father. After his father’s death in 1915, Ahlschlager partnered with real estate developers Louis H. Stafford and W.C.D. Trankle to assemble land and financing for construction of hotels in Chicago. Ahlschlager was involved in both design and real estate development for the remainder of his long and distinguished career.²⁷

Ahlschlager became vice president of the Sheridan Plaza Hotel Corporation when it was organized, and designed the company’s hotel that opened in 1921 (1919; NRHP 1980). He went on to develop four motion picture houses in Chicago between 1918 and 1926—the Pantheon, Stratford, Senate, and Belmont. During this period, he also designed

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ “Construction on Apartment Begins Today,” *San Antonio Express*, February 21, 1964 [n.p.]..

²⁵ *San Antonio Light*, March 14, 1965, 11-A; *San Antonio Light*, October 2, 1965, special section. Original plans for San Antonio’s Wedgwood are held by the building owner.

²⁶ *San Antonio Light*, October 2, 1965, special section. Leif Zars, founder of Gary Pools, recalls that the 42-foot-wide pool was “fancy for the time.”

²⁷ The American Institute of Architects Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 1, April 1905, 22; United States Federal Census, Illinois, 1870; American Institute of Architects Archives, Walter W. Ahlschlager file. *Dallas Morning News*, May 3, 1964, 1:27. Ahlschlager was a student at the Armour Institute which later merged with Lewis Institute of Technology and became Illinois Tech.

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

hotels and apartment structures throughout the Chicago area. His most notable Chicago design was the Medinah Athletic Club (now the InterContinental Hotel) was completed in 1929 (NRHP). He also designed the Uptown Broadway Building (1926; NRHP 1986). According to Ahlschlager's son, for a time his practice was the third largest in Chicago after Graham, Anderson, Probst and White and Holabird and Root.²⁸

Walter Ahlschlager developed a national reputation and designed buildings throughout the United States. At various times he was licensed to practice in Illinois, Oklahoma, Arizona, Alabama, Georgia, Colorado, Florida, and Texas. In 1921 he incorporated his business as Walter W. Ahlschlager, Inc., and later became president of the Realty Trust and North Shore Development Company. His work includes the Peabody Hotel in Memphis (1926; NRHP 1977); Roxy Theater, New York (1927; demolished 1960); Cincinnati's Carew Tower (1930; NRHP 1994); City Place Tower in Oklahoma City; and the Beacon Hotel and Theater in New York (1928). Ahlschlager's later work included the Mercantile Bank Building in Dallas (1942), the project that brought him to Texas, and Wichita's Plaza Building (1962).²⁹

Ahlschlager came to Dallas in 1940 to design the Mercantile National Bank Building. Construction of the 31-story building began in 1941. Material shortages during World War II prolonged construction, and the building finally opened in November 1943. Ahlschlager and his family, including his son, Walter, Jr., who was also an architect, remained in Dallas after the building's completion.³⁰

After arriving in Texas, Walter Ahlschlager continued to engage in the design and construction of buildings that he helped develop. From 1943 until 1949, he maintained a partnership with architect James A. McCammon. Subsequently he worked closely with his son in design and development of projects. Ahlschlager's 1951 application for AIA membership indicated that he owned many businesses including Ahlschlager and Ahlschlager, Continental Corporation of Texas, Turtle Creek Apartment Company, Will-Walt Company and Sam-Walter Corporation. It is assumed that in addition to Ahlschlager and Ahlschlager, the other businesses were all related to real estate development.³¹

As a result of Ahlschlager's many business interests, his Texas portfolio was extensive. A full listing of his Texas designs has not been compiled, but in Dallas they include the Lighthouse for the Blind (1941); 3200 Rinehart Oil News Company (1950); Skillman Medical Building (1951); Maple office building (1952); Wholesale Furniture Mart (1954); and Sabena World Airlines offices (1959). In the late 1940s Ahlschlager opened a branch office in Corpus Christi where, with Sam Wilson (hence the firm of Sam-Walter), he designed and constructed a building that was leased to J.C. Penney Company (1947). He also collaborated with the Murchison Brothers to design a 612-unit housing facility, Randolph Village, at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio (1951).³²

²⁸ Sheridan Plaza Hotel, NRHP nomination, 1980. His residential hotels in Chicago included the Parkway, Webster, Sovereign, Jackson Towers, and Graemere.

²⁹ Ibid; Genie Cooper, "A Brief Biography of Architect Walter William Ahlschlager and a Description of Some of His Important Buildings," 2015; American Institute of Architects Archives, Walter W. Ahlschlager file. According to the 1940 Federal census, Ahlschlager, his wife, and son, Walter, Jr., lived in New York City in 1935. The Florida State Census indicates that they also lived in Florida in 1935 (United States Federal Census, Illinois, 1940; Florida State Census, 1935).

³⁰ *Dallas Morning News*, November 14, 1943, 16. Ahlschlager, his wife Jennie, son Walter, Jr. who was also an architect, and mother were still living in Chicago on April 15, 1940, when they were enumerated on the 1940 Federal census (United States Federal Census, Illinois, 1940). Correspondence in Walter Ahlschlager's AIA file indicates that he was not always enjoy collegial relationships with some of his peers, a situation not uncommon in the competitive business of design and development. Confidential inquiries by the AIA absolved him of professional improprieties. His lapsed AIA membership was reinstated in 1952 and he became a member of the Dallas chapter.

³¹ American Institute of Architects Archives, Walter W. Ahlschlager file; *Dallas Morning News*, April 24, 1949, IV:2.

³² This list is compiled from various editions of the *Dallas Morning News*, *Corpus Christi Caller Times*, and *San Antonio Express*.

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Walter Ahlschlager was an astute real estate developer and architect, adapting his designs to changing architectural trends throughout his long career. His final works in the late 1950s and early 1960s, including the Wedgwood, reflected the mid-century modern style that became popular in the post-World War II era. Reaching the both the end of his career and his life, Ahlschlager created the Wedgwood design for “active senior citizens near or in retirement...with himself and others facing retirement or retired in mind, he is pleased with his designs for Wedgwood...”³³

The Wedgwood: 1965-2015

San Antonio’s Wedgwood was ready for occupancy in September 1965, and formally opened the following month. A special section in the San Antonio *Light*, published on October 2, 1965, provided details of every feature from tenant amenities to colors of carpeting (figures 11,12, 13). “The sensational new Wedgwood Apartments is such a startling new concept in design that it is being praised by experts as a unique type building. As an apartment building it opens up a whole new world of possibilities for the apartment dweller.”³⁴

Surrounded by increasingly dense commercial and residential development, the Wedgwood remained a convenient address on San Antonio’s near north side. The building continued to serve its intended audience of older residents for 49 years. Castle Gardens Limited, the company that had developed the Wedgwood, sold the property in 2004 to CDC Real Estate Corporation of Dallas which conveyed it to a group of partners comprising Wedgwood Apartments, LLP. The property was acquired by its current owners, Wedgwood Senior Apartments LLC and Bellamar Texas LLC, in August 2013.³⁵

The Wedgwood was damaged by a fire on December 28, 2014, in which several residents died. The fire was contained to the third floor of one wing, causing extensive smoke damage to that area. The building was vacated, and fire and smoke damaged areas were demolished or remediated. The building remains unoccupied in 2016 pending renovation. The renovation will be completed as both a state and federal tax credit project. Though the Wedgwood was damaged by fire in 2014 and dense commercial development has surrounded the site, the building and its setting retains a high degree of integrity.

³³ *Dallas Morning News*, May 3, 1964, I:27.

³⁴ *San Antonio Light*, October 2, 1965.

³⁵ BCDR 10556:1140-1143 (Castle Gardens Ltd. to CDC Real Estate Corporation, February 5, 2004); BCDR 10556:1144-1146 (CDC Real Estate Corporation to Wedgwood Apartments Ltd., February 5, 2004); BCDR 16317:2075-2088 (Wedgwood Apartments Ltd. to Wedgwood Senior Apartments LLC and Bellamar Texas LLC, August 30, 2013).

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

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Monte Vista Historic District, San Antonio, Texas
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Peabody Hotel, Memphis
Sheridan Plaza, Chicago, Illinois

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Corpus Christi Caller Times
San Antonio Daily Light
San Antonio Express
San Antonio Light
San Antonio Light and Gazette
San Antonio News

San Antonio City Directories, various years

San Antonio Public Library, Texana/Genealogy Department, vertical files.
Apartments- San Antonio
Castle Hills

United States Federal Census
Illinois, 1870; 1940
Minnesota, 1970

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Map

Source: Google Earth, accessed August 4, 2016

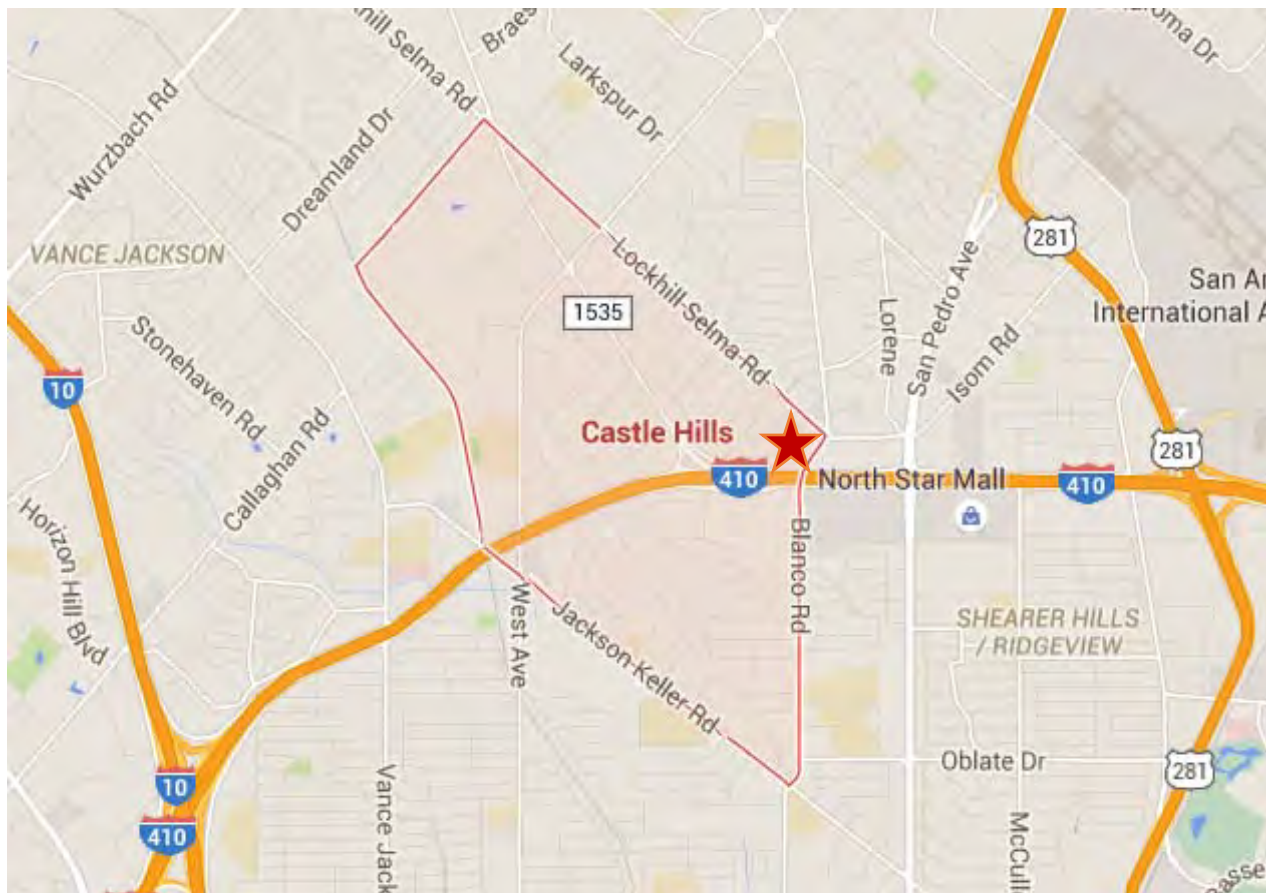
Latitude: 29.517686° Longitude: -98.508019°



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Location Map

The Wedgwood
6701 Blanco Road
Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas



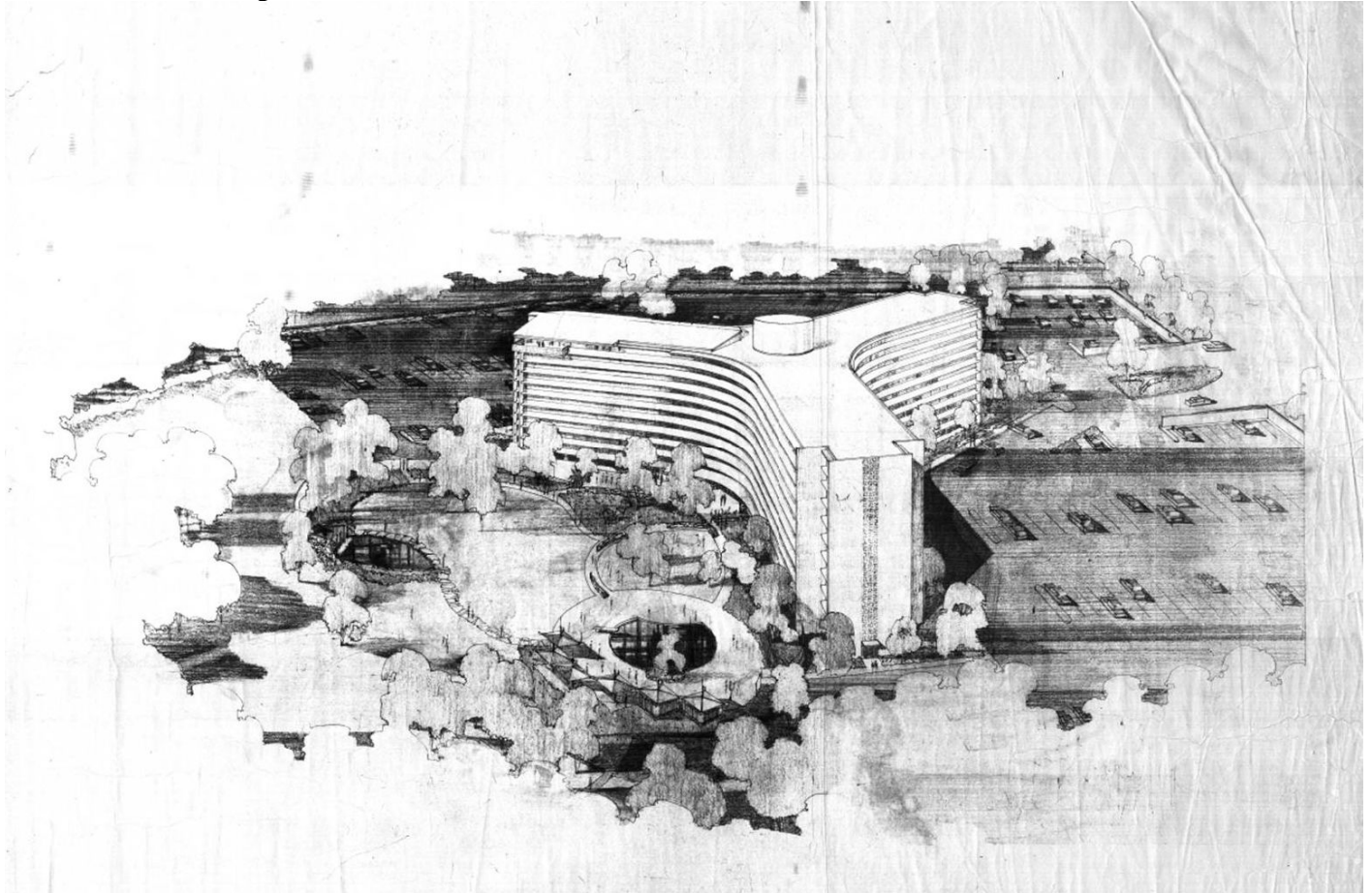
The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 1.
Aerial view, Google Earth



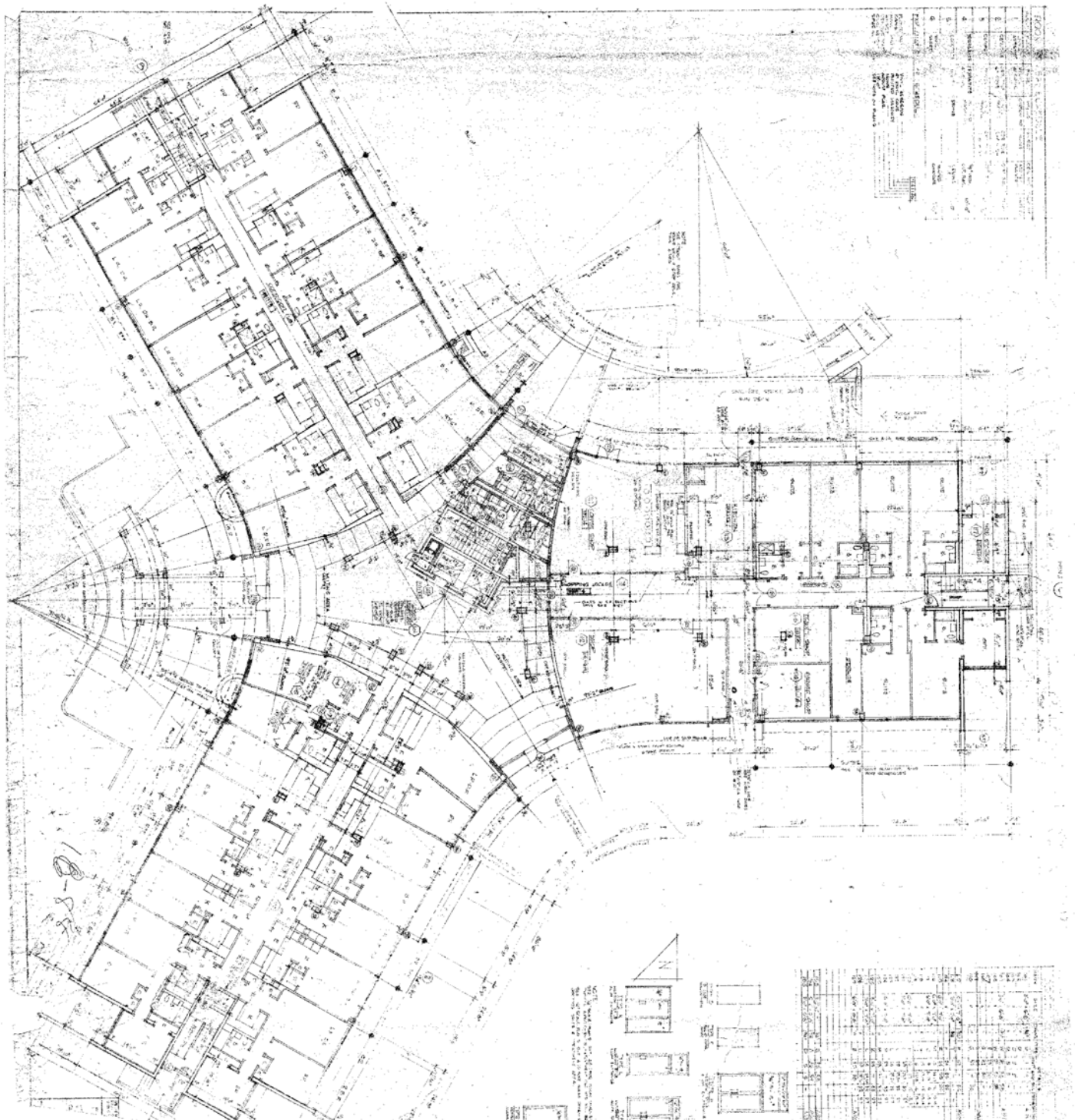
The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 2.
Conceptual drawing by Walter Ahlschlager
Collection of the Wedgwood



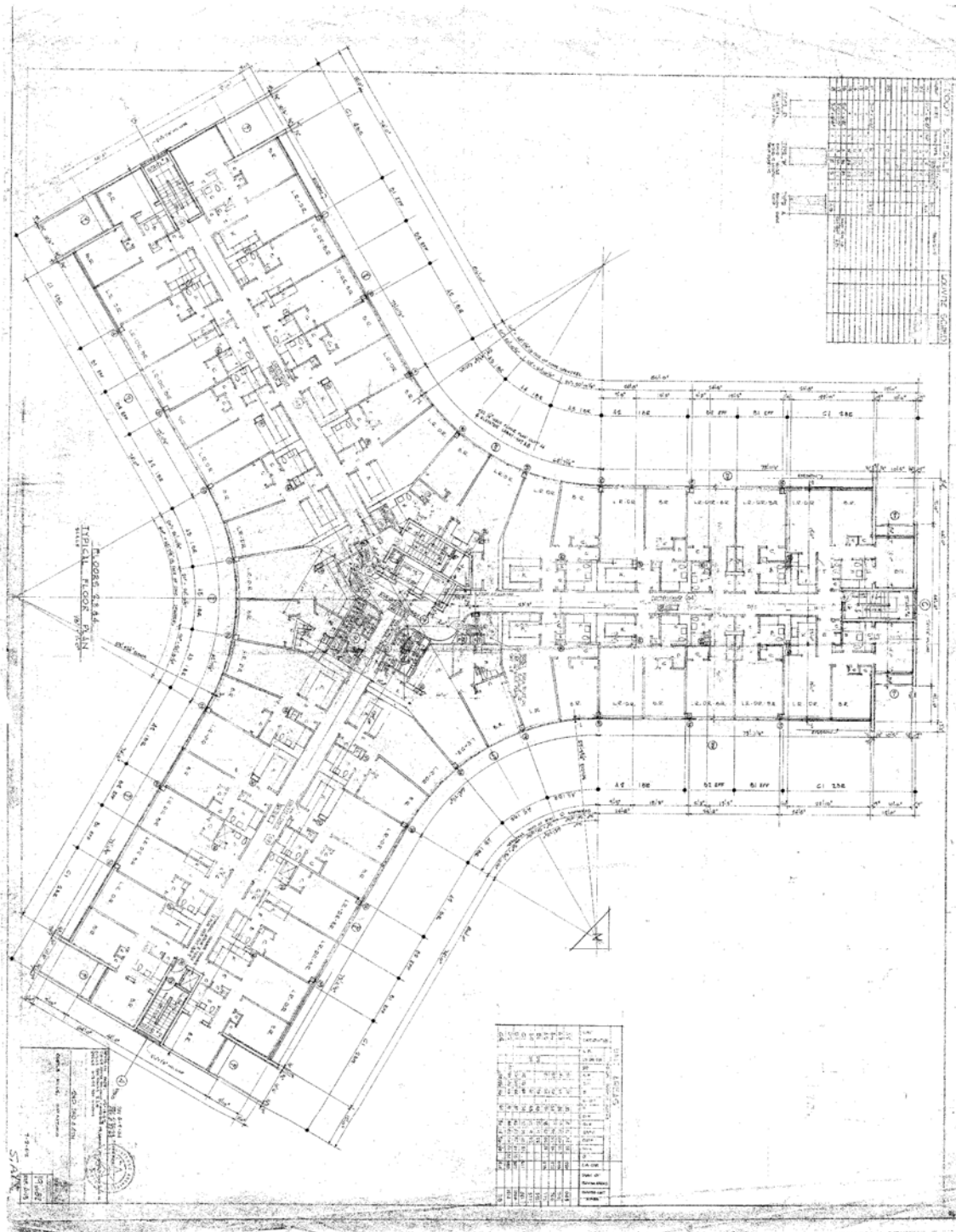
The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 3.
Floorplan, 1st floor
Collection of the Wedgwood



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 4.
Floorplan, 2nd- 4th floors
Collection of the Wedgwood



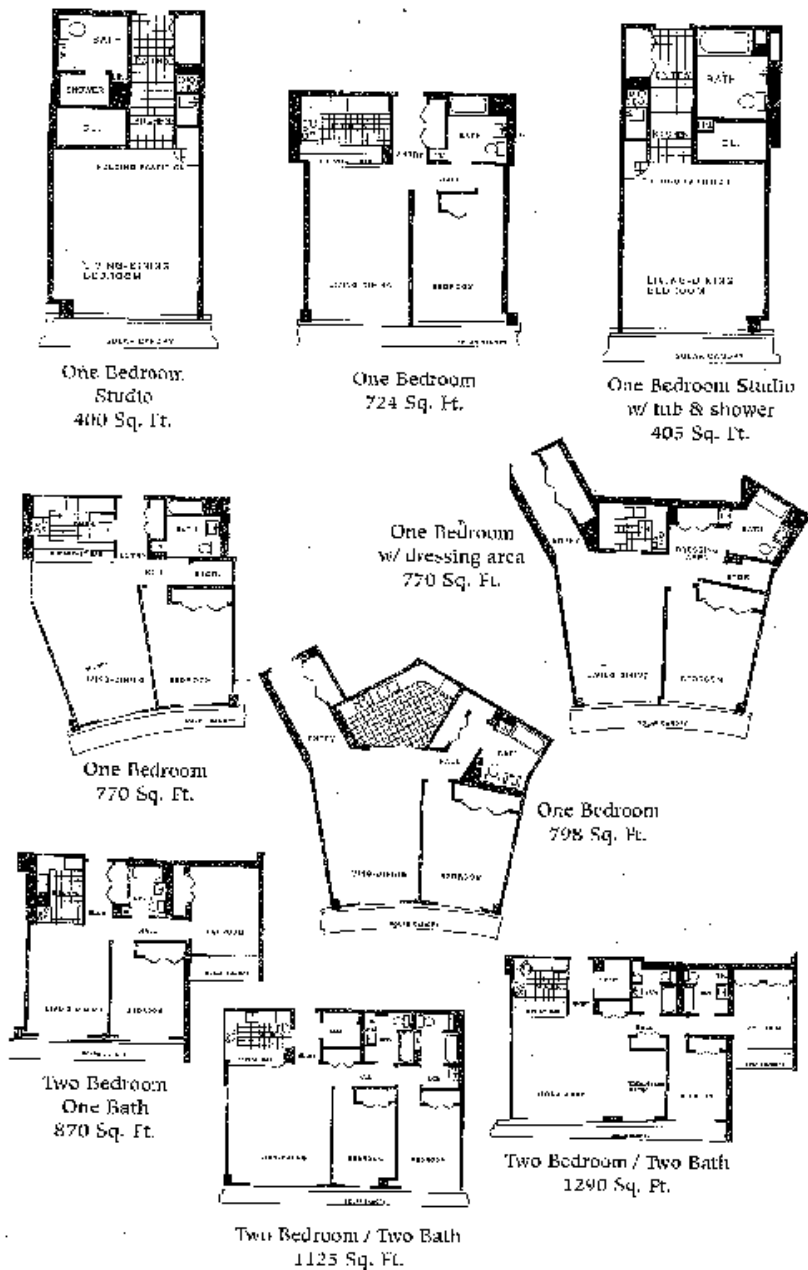
The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 5.
Floorplan, 5th to 10th floors
Collection of the Wedgwood



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 6.
The Wedgwood Apartment layouts
Collection of the Wedgwood



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 7.
Blanco Heights Advertisement
San Antonio Light and Gazette, June 5, 1910, 37.

A black and white photograph of a newspaper advertisement for Blanco Heights. The ad is enclosed in a double-line rectangular border. At the top, the words "Blanco Heights" are printed in a large, bold, serif font. Below this, the words "5 ACRE TRACTS" are printed in a slightly smaller, bold, serif font. The main body of the ad contains several lines of text in a standard serif font, describing the location and terms of the property. At the bottom, the name "Stone, Trice & Ludolph" is printed in a bold, serif font, followed by the address "225 St. Mary Street." in a smaller font.

Blanco Heights

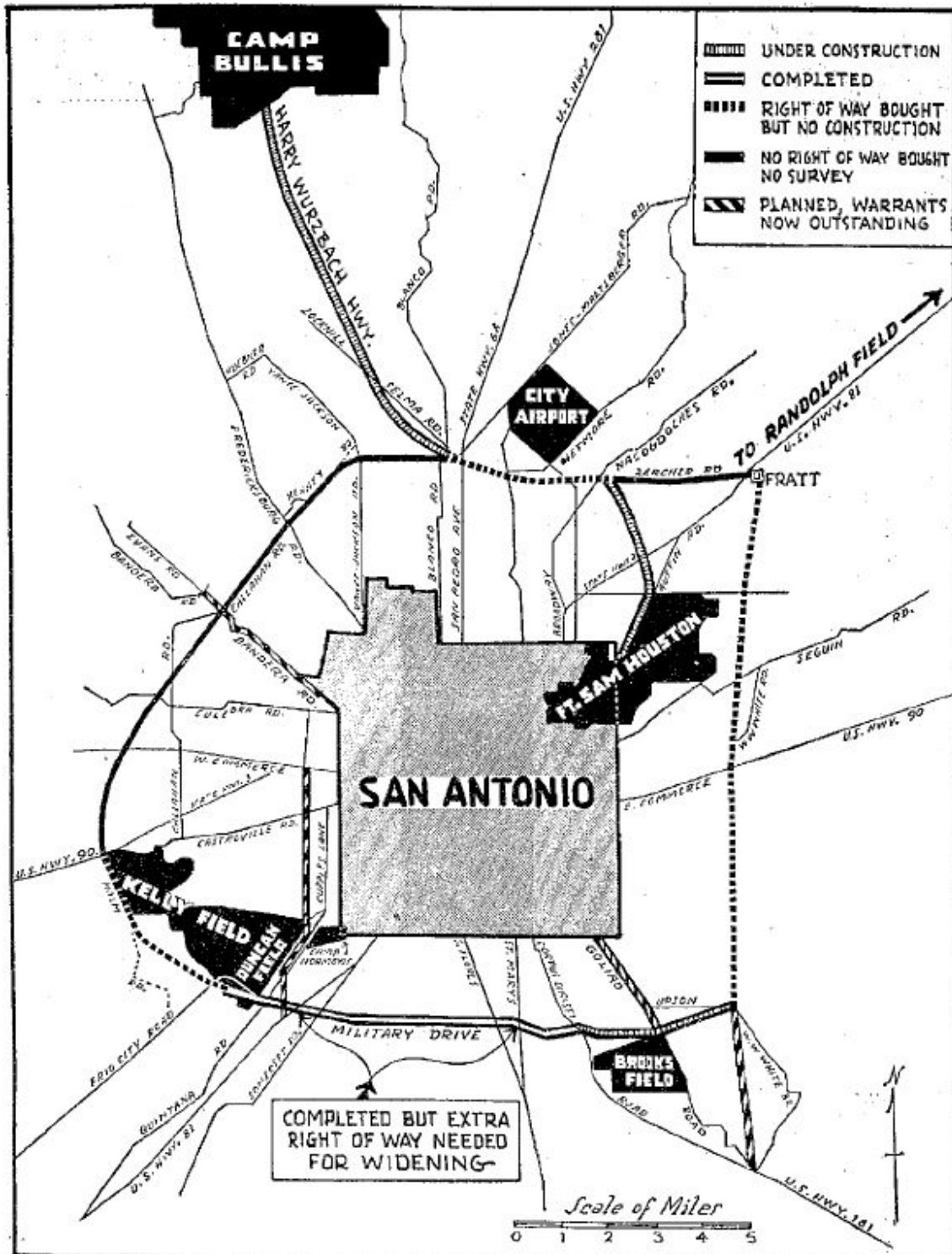
5 ACRE TRACTS

Is now on the market. The location is a beauty.
Six miles from the City Hall, overlooking the city.
Ideal location for country homes, on the main auto loop.
You can get five acres or more.
Prices ranging from \$100 to \$125 per acre.
Easy terms.
Make a date and see us.

Stone, Trice & Ludolph
225 St. Mary Street.

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 8.
Harry Wurzbach Highway layout
San Antonio *Light*, December 11, 1941, 14-A.



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 9.
Map of Castle Hills



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 10.

Walter Ahlschlager, Sr.

"Work of Walter W. Ahlschlager,"

American Builder Magazine, 1921, 131. www.compassrose.org, accessed on July 1, 2016.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF
PAYING PROPERTIES — RESIDENTIAL HOTELS

Fiscal Architecture; or the Art of Making It Pay

THE BUSINESS OR INVESTMENT SIDE OF THE SERVICE AN ARCHITECT SHOULD RENDER HIS CLIENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLANNING OF A MODERN HOTEL ENTERPRISE

By Walter W. Ahlschlager, Architect

MODERN hotel architecture is divisible into three departments, each of which is absolutely necessary to the success of the other two; namely, *design, construction fiscal*.

DESIGN of an architecturally harmonious exterior and interior, enveloping a well defined plan of subdivisions, exuding pride and comfort to the guests, and insuring efficient and profitable operation to the owner.

CONSTRUCTION—This should be of a kind and character so based upon good engineering that the maximum of space is obtained with the minimum of initial cost, operation and depreciation.

FISCAL—A well analyzed plan of financing giving safety to the buyers of the hotel securities and yet so related as to financing costs, interest charges and maturities, as to justify the hotel owner in assuming the obligations of the securities.

On the Page Opposite—Two Interior Views, the Upper One Showing Mr. Ahlschlager's Private Office and Consulting Room, the Lower, the Reception Hall. The inset is a snapshot of Mr. Ahlschlager at work.



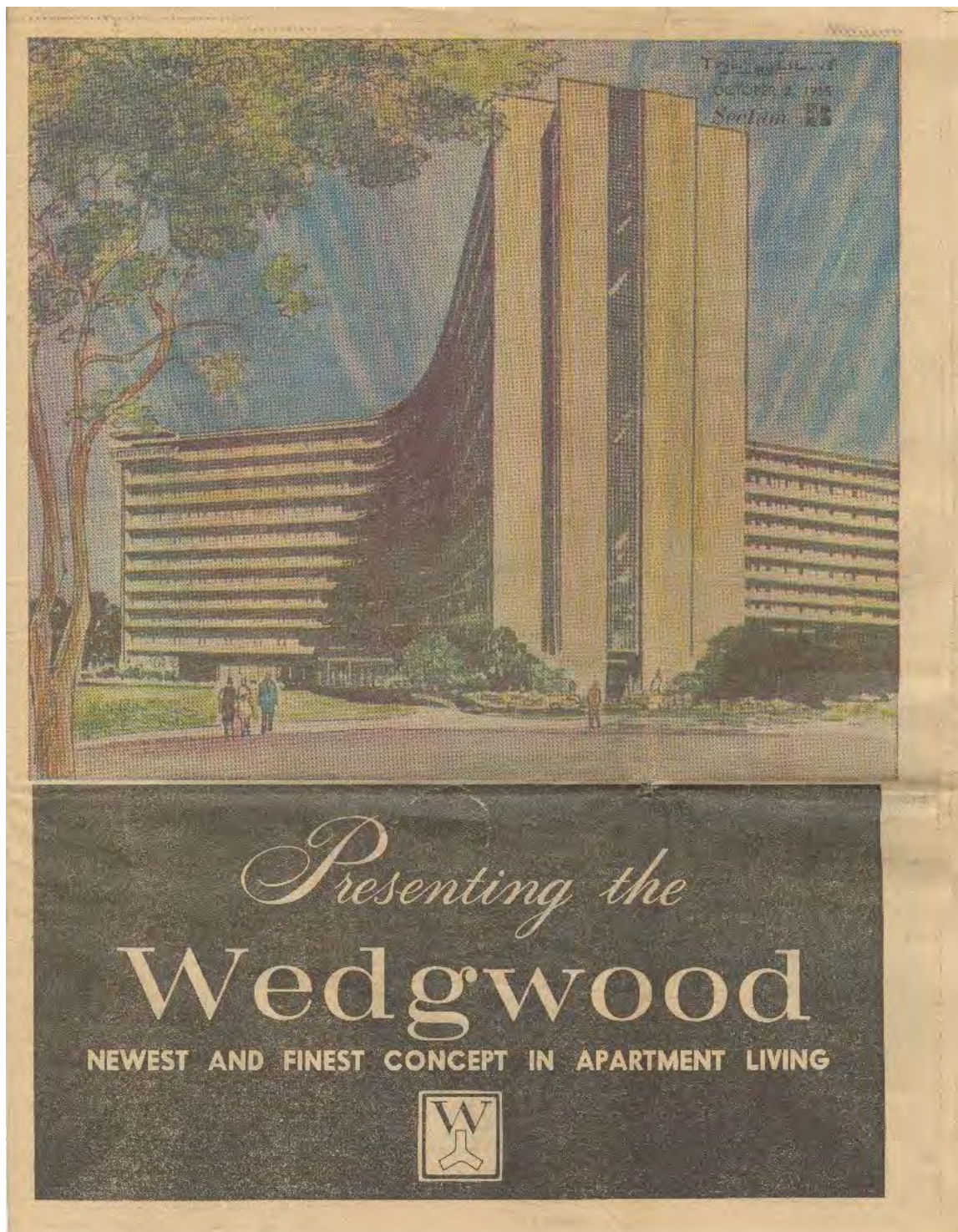
MR. WALTER W. AHLSCHLAGER and Three Views of His Offices at the Southwest Corner of Rush and Huron Streets, Chicago. The Entire Facilities of This Building Are Required for the Draftsmen, Engineers and Executives of Mr. Ahlschlager's Organization.

ARCHITECT **WORK OF WALTER W. AHLSCHLAGER** ENGINEER FINANCE

Page 132

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 11.
Special section, Wedgwood opening
San Antonio *Light*, October 2, 1965, 1-B.



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 12.
Special section, Wedgwood opening
San Antonio *Express and News*, September 19, 1965, 3-W.

(CLASSIFIED DISPLAY) EXPRESS and NEWS Sunday, Sept. 19, 1965 PAGE 3-W

A New Landmark

Luxurious New Wedgwood Opens Today

San Antonio's magnificent and newest high-rise apartments, The Wedgwood, a new landmark at Blanco Rd. and Loop 410, will observe formal opening ceremonies today.

The Wedgwood, 11 stories of concrete and steel, with 299 apartments and all the related services is, in fact, a community within itself and larger than many well-known Texas towns.

The 299 apartments have been architecturally designed to fit on the nine floors between the lobby on the first floor and the magnificent club rooms on the 11th.

Thousands upon thousands of San Antonians have watched with pride as the massive Wedgwood thrust its "Y" shape upwards. They have wondered for months how the great building would look, when completed.

Now it's open. Not only for viewing, but for occupancy, with apartments ranging from trim and smart efficiencies to more grand two-bedroom suites.

And these apartments have been furnished to suit the royal taste. Elegant drapes, fashionable lamps, smart-looking furniture, the latest and finest in new Frigidaire kitchen appliances, have been installed throughout.

Central air conditioning and heating force cool air at this time and later hot air, through the building with each apartment resident able to pick and choose his or her own choice of heat or cold by use of a thermostat.

Excellent taste has been shown in the choosing of the carpets that sweep down the long halls of The Wedgwood. The various colors of the carpet run lengthwise of the carpet, thus complementing the soaring construction of The Wedgwood.

Visitors and new residents of The Wedgwood are impressed by the grand lobby. Luxurious lounges and soft chairs are spaced about lending an air of true hospitality.

Elsewhere on the first floor are the executive offices of The Wedgwood and there are or will be such other various enterprises as a cleaners, barber shop, beauty shop, restaurant with room service, doctors' offices and a grocery store.

Take one of the air conditioned elevators from the ground floor to the top floor and perhaps the top feature of The Wedgwood.

Much of this 11th floor is given over to a gigantic club atmosphere.

There's the magnificent lounge area with six great sofas, huge easy chairs and the native rock walls and sweeping draperies that add elegance to this Starlight Room.

And this top floor also contains a fantastic club area with leather chairs and a bar to carry out the authenticity of the cocktail lounge. Across the hall is the card room, with its tables and comfortable chairs and a larger table for those who may wish to have a game in which more can participate.

'Tis an odd feeling to stand at the great windows, atop The Wedgwood and watch the traffic scurrying by on Loop 410. You see the many cars, trucks and buses, but not a sound leaks through the protective armor of the elegant Wedgwood.

A visit into some of the apartments show such space saving items as the electric range that slides out to cook on and back out of the way, when cool. The cabinets are pretty and the kitchen's decor is carried out in the color of appliances such as the refrigerator.

One of the most impressive things about these apartments in The Wedgwood is the size of the many closets in each apartment. They are huge.

And there is more storage space in the basement for each tenant. Space in which he or she can store the items they do not want and put them under your own lock and key.

Another impressive item includes the king-sized beds available. The beds are featured in every one of the apartments and some have a serving bar between the kitchen and the dining area.

To see these grand features of The Wedgwood this weekend drive on Loop 410 to Blanco Rd., or on Blanco Rd. to Loop 410.

You positively cannot miss seeing The Wedgwood. It looms over everything in the neighborhood.

Famed Dallas Firm Built Wedgwood

One of the nation's largest and best-known general contractors, the T. C. Bateson Construction Co. of Dallas, built the mighty Wedgwood.

Co-incidentally The Wedgwood in San Antonio is a twin of The Wedgwood built by Bateson at 2511 Wedgela Dr. in Dallas.

Other well-known projects done by Bateson include the Love Field Air Terminal for the City of Dallas at a cost of \$6 million; a 15-story U.S. Navy Hospital in Great Lakes, Ill., for \$12.5 million; administration buildings and cadet's physical education complex at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., at a cost of \$15 million; a multi-story brick annex to the Methodist Hospital in Dallas, \$2 million and the 30-story high-rise Preston Tower in Dallas for \$19 million.



Wedgwood
Distinctive Apartment Residences



T.C. BATESON

GENERAL CONTRACTORS
DALLAS, TEXAS

214 - FL 7-2801 P. O. BOX 20099



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 13.
Special section, Wedgwood opening
San Antonio Express and News, September 19, 1965, 8-W.



WHY THE WEDGWOOD IS BEST FOR YOU

Because you will be thrilled by the sheer majesty of The Wedgwood. It's lofty height, spaciousness and vastness combined with the warmth and friendliness of your neighbors and the official staff.

Enjoy the day-by-day bird's eye view of San Antonio from the club and card rooms on the top floor. Thrill to the scene as you watch the cars by night speeding on the nearby Loop 410 Expressway, or the distant airplane lights as they come in and take off from International Airport.

Enjoy the lofty cocktail lounge, read in the library, lounge in the sky-high Wedgwood Club, eat in the ground-floor restaurant, shop in the commissary for groceries, have your hair set or trimmed. You don't leave The Wedgwood to enjoy these comforts and privileges.

They are all there and many more such as the inviting pool and swank, plush apartments. The residents of The Wedgwood enjoy all these features.

You too, can be a resident. Your apartment is ready.



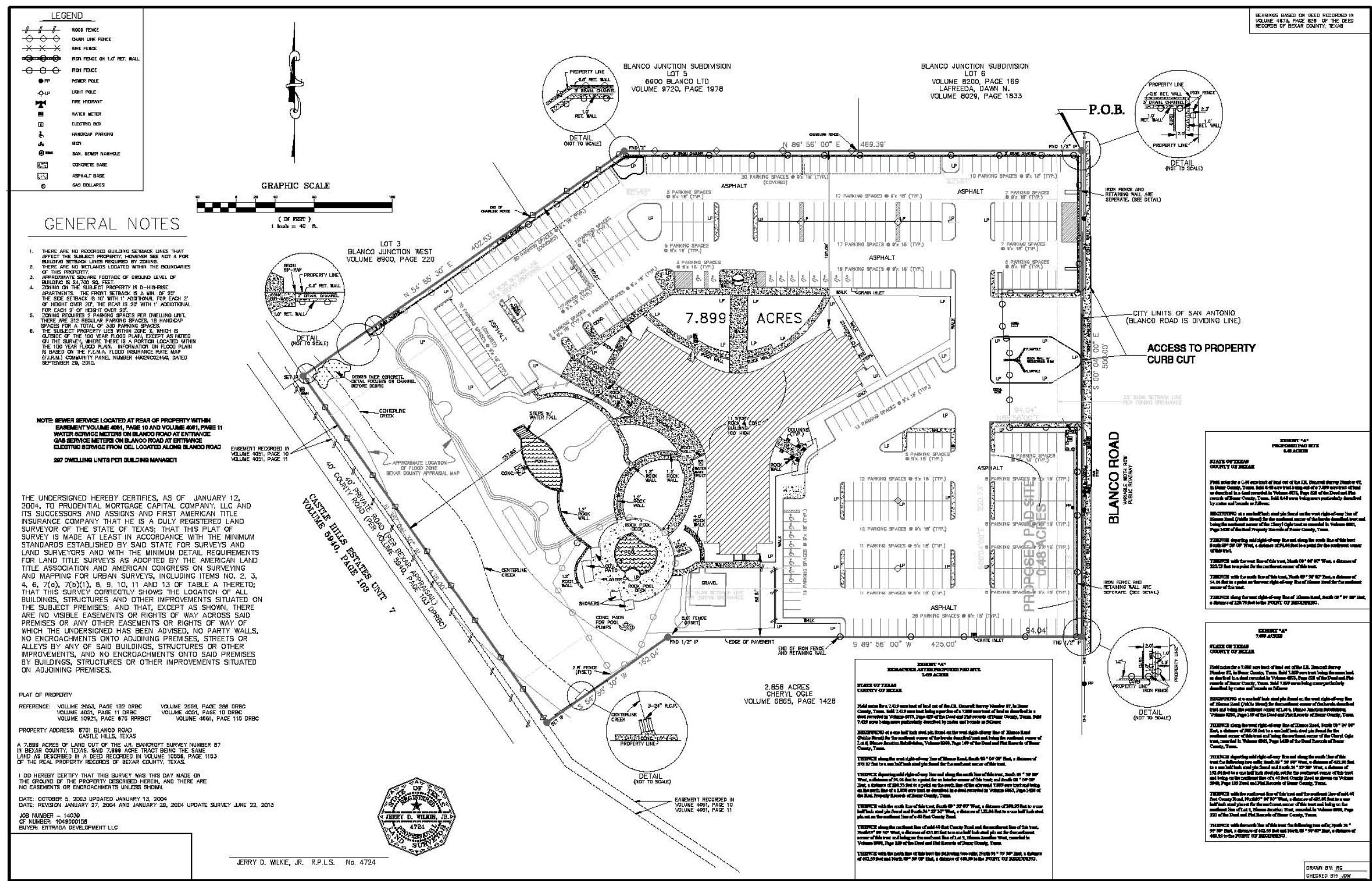
Wedgwood
Distinctive Apartment Residences

DI 4-0261

6701 Blanco Road at Loop 410

The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Figure 14. Property survey, 2013.



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

The Dallas Wedgwood (1964)
2511 Wedglea Drive, Dallas



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1

Blanco Road entrance looking southwest
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, July 2016



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 2
Southeast elevation looking north



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 3
North elevation looking south



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 4
Garden pond



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 5
Garden pool, facing northwest



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 6

North entrance canopy, facing southeast

Photographed by Gregory Smith, October 2015



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 7
North Elevation detail, facing south



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 8
East wing fire stair setback, facing north



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 9
East wing window detail, facing north



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 10
Lobby, facing southeast



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 11
Lobby elevators, facing west
Photographed by Ann McGlone, July 2016



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 12
Lobby mailboxes



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 13
Patio access from first floor, facing north



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 14
Typical hallway, 9th floor



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 15
Typical kitchen with original stove



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 16

West wing 11th floor balcony, facing south

Photographed by Gregory Smith, October 2015



The Wedgwood, Castle Hills, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 17

View from west end of the 11th floor, looking east

Photographed by Gregory Smith, October 2015



- *fin* -



WEDGWOOD

WEDGWOOD

SENIOR
LIVING































