NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property		
Historic Name: San Jacinto Warehouse Other name/site number: 1101-1125 Providence Street, The Docks Name of related multiple property listing: NA		
2. Location		
Street & number: 1101-1125 Providence Street City or town: Houston State: Texas County: Harris Not for publication: □ Vicinity: □		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 Information 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		
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Signature of certifying official / Title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date	75-	
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:		
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

Current Functions: MIXED USE

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater = playhouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum = art gallery, art studio RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility = recording studio

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification: NO STYLE/warehouse

Principal Exterior Materials: BRICK/CONCRETE

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-7 through 7-10)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: COMMERCE/ARCHITECTURE (local level of significance)

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Period of Significance: 1926-1975

Significant Dates: 1926, c.1960

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

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

Architect/Builder: Damon Wells Company

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-11 through 8-17)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-18 through 9-19)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. (Part 1 approved 6-23-23)
- _ 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:

- X 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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.05 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. 29.769183° -95.356527°

Verbal Boundary Description: City of Houston, Block ABST 1, Track 2, J Austin (subdivision), Houston, Harris County, Texas, Harris Central Appraisal District data accessed July 6th, 2023.

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Boundary Justification: The boundary is the legal parcel historically and currently associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Amanda Coleman (Senior Consultant) with Anna Mod (Director), and Marie Martinsen (Intern)

Organization: Ryan, LLC

Address: 1233 West Loop South, Suite 1600

City or Town: Houston State: Texas Zip Code: 77023

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Date: July 1, 2023

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets MAP-20 through MAP-26)

Additional items (see continuation sheets FIGURE-27 through FIGURE-41)

Photographs (see continuation sheets PHOTO-42 through PHOTO-58)

Photographs

San Jacinto Warehouse Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photographed by Amanda Coleman, April, October, and December 2024

Photo 1

South façade at right, west (side) elevation at left, view northeast (Photo taken: April 2024)

Photo 2

East elevation, view north (Photo taken: April 2024)

Photo 3

North elevation, view southeast (Photo taken: April 2024)

Photo 4

Section 18/K,1125 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 5

Section 17/J, 1123 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 6

Section 16/J, 1121 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 7

Section 15/I, 1119 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 8

Section 14/H, 1117 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 9

Section 13/G, 1115 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 10

Section 12/G, 1113 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 11

Section 11/F, 1111 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 12

Section 10/E, 1109 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

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Photo 13

Section 9/D, 1107 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 14

Section 8/C, 1105 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 15

Section 7/B, 1103 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 16

Detail: awning brackets and steel windows, view north (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 17

Section 6/A, 1101 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 18

Freestanding sign, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 19

1101/A and 1103/B Providence rear elevations, view southeast (Photo taken: October 2024)

Photo 20

Rear west elevation, view facing southeast (Photo taken: December 2024)

Photo 21

Rear north and west elevations, view facing southeast (Photo taken: December 2024)

Photo 22

Section 7/B, 1103 Providence, view northeast (Photo taken: April 2024)

Photo 23

Section 9/D, 1107 Providence, view northwest (Photo taken: April 2024)

Photo 24

Sections 12 1113 Providence, view southeast (Photo taken: April 2024)

Photo 25

Section 13/G, 1115 Providence, view northwest

(Photo taken: April 2024)

Photo 26

Section 17/J, 1123 Providence, view northwest, view east (Photo taken: April 2024)

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Photo 27

Section 18/K, 1125 Providence, view northwest (Photo taken: April 2024)

Photo 28

Section 18/K, 1125 Providence, view northeast (Photo taken: April 2024)

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

Narrative Description

The San Jacinto Warehouse is a one-story, rectangular plan, thirteen-bay red brick commercial warehouse at 1101 to 1125 Providence Street in Houston, Texas. The front elevation faces east toward Jackson Street and its form is a horizontally arranged warehouse facility. Its repetitive march of triangular parapets, consistent bays, and extended front loading dock with exaggerated steel brackets are unique for the warehouse area of Houston. The property was built c.1926 and its architecture represents an increased focus on rail-to-road shipping and receiving in Houston (truck transport at the front, rail at the rear). The rear (east elevation) faces Vine Street. The warehouse was designed to serve the needs of multiple business types with vehicle/rail access and modular interiors. The building consists of thirteen, repetitive triangular parapet bays on a raised concrete foundation with interior metal bow trusses. The extended frontloading dock canopy has exaggerated steel brackets. The property has a modified bitumen roof behind the triangular parapets. The warehouse is unique in its long and repetitive gabled fronted bays strategically sited between the former tracks of the Galveston, Harrisburg, San Antonio Railroad from the west and the Texas-New Orleans from the east; it is south of the former location of the Southern Pacific Rail Yard and Shops. The rear elevation had a private rail switch, and the front was designed for vehicular transport. Originally eighteen bays long, the building was shortened in the 1960s by five bays for the construction of Interstate 10. Most original openings are maintained in size with some variation. Overall, original steel windows and roll-up doors remain throughout. Despite some alterations, the building retains integrity and continues to convey its use as a multi-unit warehouse designed and sited to allow truck and railroad access to a mix of tenants. A large freestanding sign is classified as a noncontributing structure.

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The San Jacinto Warehouse is in the northernmost portion of Houston's former warehouse area, directly northeast of downtown Houston and Buffalo Bayou. Located just north of an elevated section of Interstate 10 (I-10), the building is bound by Providence Street to the south, Vine Street to the west, Naylor Street to the north, and Jackson Street to the east. The neighborhood is light industrial/warehouse in feel with new infill development from the recent two decades.

San Jacinto Warehouse is about three blocks east of Main Street, two blocks north of Buffalo Bayou, and just south of "Hardy Yards," the former Southern Pacific rail yard site and shops. The Union Transfer and Storage Building (NRHP, 2000) is located directly to the west across Vine Street. Other NRHP-listed properties in the vicinity include:

- Willow Street Pump Station on San Jacinto (NRHP 2004), approximately 0.3 miles to the northeast
- Merchants & Manufacturing building, now the flagship building of the University of Houston-Downtown's campus (NRHP 1980) 0.2 miles east
- Main Street Viaduct (NRHP, 1984) 0.5 miles to the southeast
- Bute Paint (NRHP, 1994) 0.3 miles to the southeast
- National Biscuit Company Building (NRHP, 1998), 1 mile to the southeast
- San Jacinto Street Bridge over Buffalo Bayou (NRHP 2007) 0.5 miles to the south
- Palace Hotel (NRHP, 2006) 0.8 miles to the south

Houston's Main Street Market Square, a local and NRHP historic district, is located 0.7 miles to the southwest. New, non-historic development includes the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) multi-level parking garage at 1207 Vine Street. Non-designated historic, 1930s-era brick and clay tile warehouses are extant at 1116 Naylor Street, 1207 Vine Street, and 1120 Naylor Street to the west. To the east across Jackson Street are two mid-century era warehouse spaces (1133 Providence and 33 Jackson Street) that have a combined triangular footprint also formed by the rail lines.

¹ This concept is reinforced by a TexDOT Historical Resources Survey Report Update for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project survey written by Mead & Hunt, Inc. https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/project-sites/nhhip/docs/appendix-h-historical-studies-survey-technical-report.pdf

The building is surrounded by surface parking with no significant landscaping. One active rail line is just north of the building and runs east-west. Minor landscaping includes young trees within a small grass area towards the southwest within the parking area facing I-10. Existing signage includes a mixture of recent tenant graphics and the non-original, free-standing, sign at the southern end adjacent to and visible from the I-10 roadway above.

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Exterior

The San Jacinto Warehouse at 1101-1125 Providence Street is rectangular in plan with thirteen bays, and a brick exterior, and sits on a raised concrete foundation. Constructed ca. 1926, the warehouse has no distinctive style yet its sits between two former rail lines, and its repetitive gable-fronted bays clearly evidence its primary function to efficiently move goods from rail to road transportation. The curved roof system is modified bitumen with tar patching and is in poor condition. Currently, the addresses for sections 6 through 18 are 1101-1125 Providence Street, although the property is generally referred to as 1125 Providence or "The Docks" (Photo 18). Each tenant has their own sequential address.

East Façade

The warehouse faces east and has 13 low-slung front-facing gabled bays. Each bay has two large window openings, a single door opening, and one larger opening for vehicular loading. The majority of the original corrugated rolling metal doors and steel window frames are extant as are the majority of the single-entry larger door openings. Single-entry doors have mostly been replaced over time. A steel frame canopy runs the full width (N-S) and is supported by original large steel brackets and round columns; a continuous raised loading dock faces east and is accessible by inset concrete steps (Photo 16). A soldier course of brick runs above the concrete foundation, as well as above the window and door openings and below the parapets. Each separate tenant address has dedicated concrete steps or ramps (either concrete or metal) which are not original from the street/parking. Some sections have non-original metal safety railings. Non-original lighting is present under the awning. The building is clad with red brick except for the truncated southern end that is infilled with clay tile block. Each gabled parapet has its original terracotta coping cap.

South Elevation

Five sections were removed from the southernmost end of the warehouse in the 1960s for the construction of I-10, locally known as the East Freeway. The interstate is a raised through-way in this area and cut the warehouse area in two and created a significant physical and psychological barrier between the two sides.

West Elevation

The rear (west) elevation of the San Jacinto Warehouse repeats the gabled composition of the east façade, only here one corrugated rolling metal door/opening is centered under the gabled parapet, with two small flanking steel windows. Original steel frame windows are fixed, true divided 6 lite, however, some windows have been bricked over or removed (Photo 19-20).

North Elevation

The north elevation is a single bay with a gabled parapet (Photo 3). The five large original window openings are now bricked in, yet the windows remain visible on the interior (Photos 27 & 28).

² In the 1990s, warehouse was referred to as "The Docks" as seen on the freestanding sign.

Interior

Steel trusses and columns form the interior structural composition and divide the interior warehouse (Figure 33; Photos 22-26). Each warehouse bay is about 50 feet wide by 100 feet in depth; some are currently combined on the interior with clay tile removed or partially in place. Each bay has a variety of skylight openings, some original and others more recent alterations. Similarly, circular vent openings on each roof have been altered section by section. The steel trusses are reinforced with arched wood rafters and patched in places with anodized metal reinforcement panels. The floors are concrete throughout and the walls are a combination of clay tile block and brick.

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Interior appearance and conditions vary based on current tenant occupancy and needs, but the essential structural integrity and distinctive steel, brick, and clay tile building systems are intact, and alterations have been sensitive to historic fabric. Five original steel frame windows remain behind the bricked-in openings at the north elevation.

Alterations

To make way for the I-10 construction c.1960, five sections were removed on the southern portion of the buildings, exposing the clay tile between warehouse spaces. Since the 1960s, five large steel framed north-facing windows at 1125 Providence Street and some rear, west elevation small window openings have been bricked in. Some of those rear windows have also been removed for air conditioning units. Most of the single-entry doors have been replaced with original openings retained with the exception of 1117 Providence. Most of the original corrugated rolling doors and all front-facing large format steel window frames are extant and have been refurbished; burglar bars cover some of the openings on the exterior and interior. Some of the glass in the large format steel windows have been replaced. 1101 Providence openings have been painted with a mural by W3R3ON3, AKA Gelson D. Lemus, which also covers some of the brick.

Almost all the original corrugated metal rolling doors at the front, east elevation remains except for 1113 Providence where the opening has been filled in with steel frame windows, 1111 Providence where the rolling door has been removed with the opening retained and filled in with a contemporary 3-panel entry door with pill-shaped glass with synthetic black surround (Photo 11), 1109 Providence has a replacement corrugated metal rolling door with an increased opening height (Photo 13; Photo 12).

Exterior lighting is all replacement and hung on a plywood reinforcement for the awning. Contemporary signage varies by the tenant and typically consists of painted doors/windows or is applied in front of the steel frame windows. Each front warehouse section can be accessed from the street/parking area through concrete steps or ramps (either concrete or metal) which are not original. Some sections have non-original metal safety railings.

Each space has a variety of skylight openings (originally each section had four wired glass skylights). Similarly, circular vent openings on each roof have been altered section by section; historically there appear to have been six rounded vents on each, of which many remain. Each of the remaining warehouse bays has its own address on Providence Street, some still retain early numbering from the 18 spaces pre-1960.

Interior

Some of the warehouse bays are combined on the interior, giving some tenants about 10,000 square feet or more; several are vacant (Photo 28). Tenants currently occupy 1101, 1105, 1109, 1111, 1117, and 1119 Providence (formerly sections 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, and 15) and the interiors vary with white box or shell construction, unaltering significant historic fabric and typically leaving the trusses exposed (Photo 26). Steel trusses are reinforced with original arched wood rafters and patched in places with anodized metal reinforcement panels.

Integrity

The San Jacinto Warehouse retains a high degree of architectural integrity despite the loss of several repetitive bays. The warehouse retains its essential structure and distinctive design representative of the 1920s era and setting, an important period of development in Houston. The design is related to the building's site directly adjacent to rail lines and convenient for road travel before and after I-10's construction. The raised reinforced concrete foundation, bowstring steel truss structure, steel canopy brackets, and extended dock platform all relate to this use and association of the property, as well as a commercial warehouse style of architecture related to the Damon Wells Company during the period. Original materials are extant and give the San Jacinto Warehouse the feeling of the era it was built and how it functioned throughout time as a hub for shipping, storing, and receiving. The essential form and design of the extant portions of the building are intact, although interior changes have been made over time for business needs and handicap accessibility (ramps). Most of the original openings are maintained, along with the front elevation steel frame windows and corrugated metal rolling doors both in the front and rear elevations that continue to reference the industrial heritage of Houston. The original feeling and association of the nominated building are deeply intertwined with the warehouse area of Houston and have been maintained for almost 100 years.

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San Jacinto Warehouse, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The San Jacinto Warehouse, designed and built c.1926 by the Damon Wells Company, is a commercial warehouse located at 1101 to 1125 Providence Street in Houston, Texas. ³ The design of the building is informed directly by its location and function and stands out as a unique example for the area and city-wide. The orientation angled towards the rail lines and considerable length set the San Jacinto warehouse apart from others surrounding it during this interwar period of construction before the Great Depression. Its repetitive march of triangular parapets, consistent bays, and extended loading dock with exaggerated steel brackets are unique for the warehouse area of Houston. ⁴ Originally 18 bays long, the building was shortened in the 1960s by five bays for the construction of Interstate (I-10). Despite this alteration, the building retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture and Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The building is a rare extant example of steel warehouse construction that is largely intact. The period of significance is 1926-1975, ending at the fifty-year mark.

Development and Damon Wells Company

The Damon Wells Company, one of Houston's real estate, mortgage, and investment companies in the first half of the twentieth century, owned [and leased out] the building until the early 1960s. Wells Property Company (developer, designer, builder, owner) was established by Damon Wells (Sr.) in 1924 when the eponymous company expanded upon his previous real estate endeavors to focus on building and financing, and refinancing residential and commercial properties. In 1926, the company began to advertise warehouse spaces near the railroads of Houston. In 1930, the company advertised that it had erected 17 buildings with 55 individual warehouse spaces. By 1938, The Damon Wells Company would own and operate one million square feet of leasable space through the construction and acquisition of other Houston warehouses through their association with Pyramid Asbestos and Roofing Company.

The company offices were in the Houston Chronicle building formerly at 801 Texas Avenue (demolished in 2017). The family business would continue under the supervision of Damon Wells, Jr. after his father's death in 1958. Damon Wells, Jr. was president of multiple companies including Wells Properties Co., Damon Wells Co., Milby Properties Co., East Side Properties Co, International Properties Co., Industrial Realty Corp., United Properties Corp, and Crescent Realty Co. By the time of this mid-century generational transition, the company had built and managed 28 warehouse buildings with 150 individual spaces. The ownership of the San Jacinto Warehouse by Wells Co. ended in the early 1960s during the adjacent Interstate 10 construction when they sold the company.

³ Advertisements in City Directories state "If buildings completed do not suit, I will build one to meet your particular requirements...Every detail is handled in my office such as designing, financing, and erecting, thereby eliminating delay." 1930 ⁴ This concept is reinforced by a TexDOT Historical Resources Survey Report Update for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project survey written by Mead & Hunt, Inc. https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/project-sites/nhhip/docs/appendix-h-historical-studies-survey-technical-report.pdf

⁵ "Damon Wells Co. Directors are Elected," Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), February 24, 1924: 17. NewsBank.

⁶ "Warehouse for Rent," Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), December 9, 1926: 22. NewsBank.

⁷ "Lay Roof on Warehouse," Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), July 31, 1938: 38. NewsBank.

^{8 &}quot;Houston Chronicle Building - The Arch-Ive." Accessed April 6, 2023. https://arch-ive.org/archive/houston-chronicle/.

⁹ City Directory, Houston 1959

¹⁰ City Directory, Houston 1959

¹¹ Slotboom, Erik. Houston Freeways; A Historical and Visual Journey. S.I.: O.F. Slotboom, 2003. pg. 235

San Jacinto Warehouse, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Damon Wells Family

Damon Wells, Sr. (1898-1958), founder of the Wells family real estate and investment company, was born in Devers, Liberty County, Texas. He married Margaret Corrinne Howze (1898-1999) in 1932. The couple's son, Damon Wells, Jr., (1937-2021) graduated from Yale University, and following the death of his father in 1958, took over the family's business. He continued his education abroad and established significant relationships in England specifically with Oxford's Pembroke College where he earned a Master of Arts in 1964. He returned to Houston and received a Ph.D. in history from Rice University in 1968 when he also created Damon Wells Interests which specialized in mining markets. Damon Wells Jr. passed on October 16, 2021, in his native Houston, Texas. 14

Strategic Location

The warehouse originally consisted of eighteen warehouse bays or sections and was strategically located between the Southern Pacific (S.P.H.R) and T. Missouri Pacific, Santa Fe, Galveston, Harrisburg, Houston (G. H. and H.) and Missouri, Kansas, Texas (M. K. T.) and Texas New Orleans railroads. In addition to direct access to the railroads from the west, east, and north elevations, the warehouse was a distribution hub for a fleet of Central Forwarding Inc. trucks that connected distribution for their clients in north and south Texas in the 1930s until the late 1960s or early 1970s (Figure 1). The warehouse is located south of the Southern/Union Pacific or "Hardy" Rail Yards (demolished c. 2002) that were developed in the late 1800s and early 1900s as a comprehensive rail service yard.

Given its location, the property was surrounded by other warehouses and industrial facilities. It became the city's center for rail-to-road transit of goods in the early decades of the twentieth century. This was after commercial water transportation at Allen's Landing moved in 1914 from the foot of Main Street thirteen miles east to the Houston Ship Channel. Earlier warehouses in Houston were designed to create space vertically instead of horizontally in order to maximize storage area close to downtown. Warehouse facilities typically consisted of two or more stories. For example, at four stories, the James Bute Company Warehouse at 711 William Street was built c.1910 in close proximity.¹⁷

After water transit became less prevalent, the warehouse area of the Subject Property was where Houston received much of its goods from around the country by rail. The Union Transfer and Storage Building at 1113 Vine Street to the rear (west) of the Subject Property consisted of two stories. It was built between 1917 and 1920. In the 1920s, the rise of paved roads and automobile transport led to the development of this repetitive, extended-one-story building type designed for rail-to-road access. This contrasted with previous designs which catered primarily to either water or rail transportation.

¹² "Family Group Sheet for Damon Wells / Margaret Corinne Howze (F25619) m. 12 Jul 1932: Howes Howse House and Hows Surname Families Worldwide: Family History (Tree) and Genealogy." Accessed February 21, 2023. https://www.howesfamilies.com/familygroup.php?familyID=F25619&tree=Onename.

¹³ Wells, Jr. was awarded "Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)" by Queen Elizabeth II in 1991 due to his philanthropy in association with the Winston Churchill legacy. He helped to build the Churchill Museum in London, was a board member of the Winston Churchill Foundation, and trustee of the Churchill Grave Trust. He was a dedicated philanthropist who started the Damon Wells Foundation in 1993.

¹⁴ "Dr. DAMON WELLS, CBE 1937-2021." Accessed February 21, 2023. https://pcfna.org/?p=1881, https://pcfna.org/?p=1881, https://pcfna.org/?p=1881, https://pcfna.org/?p=1881. And https://pcfna.org/?p=1881, https://pcfna.org/?p=1881. And https://pcfna.org/?p=1881.

¹⁵ Warehouse for Rent, Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), December 9, 1926: 22. NewsBank.

¹⁶ "Fifty Trucks Operated by Central Forwarding Inc. Link North, South Texas," Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), October 13, 1934: 8. NewsBank.

¹⁷ Wagner, Janet, Randall Davis Company, James Bute Company Warehouse, National Register of Historic Places, 1994.

¹⁸ Mod, Anna and Barrie Scardino, Union Transfer and Storage Building, National Register of Historic Places, 2000.

The c. 1944 aerial view shows the distinctive footprint and location in proximity to downtown Houston (Map 5). The footprint of the building was informed directly by its distinct location and function and is noticeably different from others surrounding it due to its large scale, extended loading dock, and repeating triangular parapeted bays. ¹⁹ Warehouses from this development period have been demolished at a high rate in recent years. The San Jacinto Warehouse is representative of an important era in Houston's commercial history and the rise of vehicular transport.

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Alterations Over Time: Addressing and Interstate 10

The original address of the San Jacinto Warehouse was 1101-1125 North San Jacinto Street until the 1930s when it was renamed Rothwell Ave. The 18 attached spaces were also referred to as the "San Jacinto Bonded Warehouse" in 1938, due to their fused or connected side walls. ²⁰ Before the construction of Interstate 10 in the 1960s, the property was addressed as 1121 North San Jacinto Street. The south elevation consists of the exposed clay tile walls that previously connected the warehouses on the interior. The Rothwell Ave address would last until around the late 60s or early 70s when the East Freeway, which is this portion of Interstate 10 (I-10 or I-10 East), was completed in 1966. The building used the East Freeway address until the late 2010s.

The warehouse is directly north of I-10 East (known locally as the East Freeway), an east-west freeway with a "long section depressed below grade and a long section elevated on the embankment." The portion to the south of the San Jacinto Warehouse is elevated above the building's roof; it has three lanes running east and four running west towards the 45 North split. The State of Texas purchased the lower portion of the warehouse on May 11, 1959, in preparation for the construction of I-10 (Figure 2). Five sections of the warehouse were removed in the 1960s towards the south. These portions historically housed Wholesale Paper, BBS & Pails (1 through 3) and 4/5 was just a general warehouse space according to Sanborn maps. After the I-10 development, the property would first be known as 1101-1125 East Freeway, according to *Houston Chronicle* articles starting in the 1970s.

The building was designed for warehousing and support business space. Early tenants included storage/distribution, wholesale sales, production, and office concerns. Each space was advertised as "built to suit" so some of the clay tile block wall partitions have been removed to combine spaces. ²² Today, most of the spaces are leased to emerging and established artists, musicians, and performers. This legacy trend arose in the 1980s as the Houston warehouse area became known as an artist enclave. The San Jacinto Warehouse would become home to DiverseWorks, a Houston-based non-profit gallery, and performance space, during this period until the 2010s. Other organizations would continue this tradition in the space.

San Jacinto Warehouse, Ownership History

Prior to the construction of the San Jacinto Warehouse and before, the property was part of the Southern Pacific Railroad Freight Depot, across from the Oil Well Supply Co.²³ The two buildings that were originally at this location during the early 1920s had connected wooden platforms; of which one building was two stories and another was one story, following the rail lines, in a similar orientation as the San Jacinto Warehouse. Those early buildings were demolished in the mid-1920s to make way for the current building, a fire-proof steel frame and raised concrete

¹⁹ This concept is reinforced by a TexDOT Historical Resources Survey Report Update for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project survey written by Mead & Hunt, Inc. https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/project-sites/nhhip/docs/appendix-h-historical-studies-survey-technical-report.pdf

²⁰ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 27, 1938: 53. NewsBank.

²¹ Slotboom, Erik. Houston Freeways: A Historical and Visual Journey. S.l.: O.F. Slotboom, 2003. pg. 236

²² Advertisements in City Directories state "If buildings completed do not suit, I will build one to meet your particular requirements...Every detail is handled in my office such as designing, financing, and erecting, thereby eliminating delay." 1930 ²³ Sanborn Maps c. 1924

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foundation. Located on what was originally North San Jacinto or Liberty Avenue, it would later be called 1121 Rothwell. Once the southern portions were removed for Interstate 10 construction in the 1960s, the warehouse address changed to East Freeway and later, Providence Street.

The warehouse was constructed in c.1926 along with many other buildings built by the Damon Wells company. Early advertisements note the fire-resistant qualities and flexible interior layouts: "Warehouse for Rent - Now available, warehouse spaces in new fire-proof buildings. Any amount of space desired on S.P.H.R. and T. Missouri Pacific, Santa Fe, G.H. and H. and M.K.T. railroads. All conveniently located on good streets at reasonable rent. See owner at the Chronicle Bldg. or phone Preston -Damon Wells Co.." The c.1950 Sanborn maps and records c.1931 from the Harris County Archives associate the property with Wells Properties Company and refer to it as the San Jacinto Warehouse.

In the 1960s ownership was still claimed by Wells Properties Co., but also by San Jacinto Warehouse Inc., and JNO Austin. In February of 1965, Robert H. Arnow (at 1121 Rothwell) claims ownership, and starting in February of 1969, H.B.S. Warehouses, Inc. is the recorded owner; this company is part of the large real estate holdings of HelmsleySpear real estate management company based in New York which includes the Empire State Building. Formed by Harry Helmsley in the 1930s, he purchased Spear and Company in 1955. Part of the empire was Helmsley Hotels, of which his wife Leona Helmsley was president starting in 1980. The highlight of the hotel group was Helmsley Palace (now New York Palace) on Madison and 50th Street. Between this property and Dunnellen Hall in Greenwich, Connecticut, the couple would be indicted for tax evasion in the late 1980s. Williamsburg Enterprises, LLC, the current owner, purchased the building from H.B.S. Warehouses, In. in 2022. Page 1969.

Notable Tenants

Various businesses, from cracker and candy companies to auto parts, would occupy the San Jacinto Warehouse in the 1920s and 30s. Having a private railroad spur or switch, the spaces were initially occupied by oil/industrial supplies and would pivot more to consumer goods distributed by truck to downtown Houston and the proximity.²⁷ The San Jacinto Warehouse had tracks running from the rear, western side of the building for loading and unloading from trains to the rear roll-up doors. The front of the building was intended for office entrances and trucks to transport or unload goods. The Houston City Directory from 1930 documents that the San Jacinto Warehouse located on North San Jacinto had multiple tenants with variations of combined interior spaces, but also vacancies throughout the 20s and 30s. The most notable tenants would be the Ford Motor Company, Central Forwarding Inc, and, in later years, DiverseWorks.

In February of 1931, an article in the Houston Chronicle states that Ford Motor Company would lease half of the entire warehouse, then addressed 1121 North San Jacinto, from Damon Wells. The lease was for five years, allowing them 50,000 square feet at a rate of \$16,000 per year to store and distribute parts.²⁸ In support of this article, the City Directory from 1932, identifies that they occupied sections one through eight.

In 1934, the *Houston Chronicle* highlighted the San Jacinto Warehouse and its relationship to Central Forwarding in the paper's "Weekly Business Industrial Review." The article featured a photo of the warehouse and the personnel of the trucking firm: H.L. Callan, R.K. Young, O.J. Umberfield, and C.O. Davis (Figure 1). The company had fifty trucks to link north and south Texas. They operated in Waco, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Auston, and Houston.

²⁴ Harris County Archives – BLA Documents

²⁵ "History of Helmsley Enterprises, Inc. – FundingUniverse." Accessed April 11, 2023. http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/helmsley-enterprises-inc-history/.

²⁶ Harris County Archives – BLA Documents

²⁷ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), September 20, 1928: 21. NewsBank.

²⁸ Ford Motor Company Leases Warehouse, *Houston Chronicle* (Houston, Texas), February 20, 1931: 6. NewsBank.

San Jacinto Warehouse, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Founded by W.W. Callan c. 1925, the company first operated in Houston at this location in 1933. They were connected to Central Freight Lines Inc. founded c. 1926 in Waco that operated throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. The company employed about 14 men at the Houston location. ²⁹ It is unclear exactly which portion of the warehouse they occupied but based on a historic photograph it appears they were centrally located. Central Forwarding would remain in this location until sometime in the late 1960s. Starting in 1955, fourteen of the eighteen warehouse spaces were up for rent. ³⁰ There was also an auction to liquidate Central Forwarding, Inc's assets at the property on Thursday, February 26th, 1959. ³¹

Changing Uses after 1980

In the early in the early 1980s, the Houston warehouse area became the center for the visual, performing, and literary arts centered around DiverseWorks and Houston Studios. DiverseWorks, the Houston-based non-profit organization was established in 1982 by local artists, arts administrators, and supporters led by Charles Gallagher. The first directors were Michael Peranteau and Caroline Huber. Later directors included Emily Todd (dates unknown), Sara Kellner (1999 -2006), and co-directors Diane Barber and Sixto Wagan. The organization supported the early careers of local artists including Dale Jensen, Mel Chin, Jesse Lott, Dee Wolff, Richard Lewis, and James Surls, and gave many now nationally and internationally known artists their first or early career shows William Pope L, Karen Finley, Annie Sprinkle, and Blue Man Group. DiverseWorks had intensive programming and hosted ten to thirteen exhibitions a year and in addition to live stage and dance performances and film and video screenings.³²

DiverseWorks operated in the San Jacinto Warehouse spaces beginning in 1989 after a fire in their downtown space in the Foley Building on Travis Street (Figure 5). At the time, the entire San Jacinto Warehouse building was addressed under 1101-1125 East Freeway. Originally, DiverseWorks occupied two combined warehouse spaces to form one unit at 1117-119 East Freeway where they had offices, performance, and gallery space.³³ DiverseWorks and other artists created studio spaces, starting in 1990. Throughout the next decade, the organization would be associated with the Warehouse Art Crawl and various studio tours.³⁴ In 1997, the group organized the location as a polling place.³⁵ The organization was unafraid of political and more controversial topics. DiverseWorks moved c. 2012.³⁶ And is currently located at 3400 Main Street in the MATCH in midtown Houston and remains a nationwide artist-centered organization leader with Xandra Dren as the current director.³⁷

Preservation History of the Houston Warehouse Area

The area surrounding was proposed as a National Register Historic District in the early 1990s. The first known historic resource survey of the general warehouse area north and east of downtown Houston was completed in 1991/1992 by Minnette Boesel, Barrie Scardino, and Stephen Fox and supported by the City of Houston's Department of Planning and Development.³⁸ The study consisted of more than 350 structures in the North Side Buffalo Bayou (NSBB) tract of Fifth Ward. Warehouses in the area were first associated with lumber and cotton storage and then transitioned to concerns supporting the oil and gas industry. The area was deemed eligible for listing in the National Register as a

²⁹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), October 13, 1934: 8. NewsBank.

³⁰ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), June 3, 1955: 53. NewsBank.

³¹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), February 22, 1959: 53. NewsBank.

³² "TSHA | Diverseworks." Accessed April 3, 2023. https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/diverseworks.

³³ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), April 21, 1989: 78. NewsBank

³⁴ Houston Chronicle c.1990-2012

³⁵ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), August 9, 1997: 31. NewsBank...

³⁶ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), December 23, 2012: 95. NewsBank.

³⁷ DiverseWorks. "About U4/10/23s." Accessed April 3, 2023. https://diverseworks.org/we-are-diverseworks/about-us/.

³⁸ "Houston Warehouse District Survey - Atlas: Texas Historical Commission." Accessed April 6, 2023. https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/About/AtlasData/HoustonWarehouseDistrictSurvey-NRSRV HR.

historic district, but the official designation failed due to a lack of owner support. Many warehouses in the vicinity continue to be demolished. Owners supportive of preservation have individually listed their properties such as Bute Paint (James Bute Building) by the Randall Davis Company in 1994 for residential conversion. This warehouse was designated under the areas of architecture, commerce, industry, and transportation (Criteria C Design/Architecture and A Historic Events). The Randall Davis Company also redeveloped the Rice Hotel, Clark & Courts Printing (Dakota lofts on W. Clay Street), and Hogg Palace all for residential use. ³⁹ The Union Transfer and Storage Building (now Vine Street Studios), located directly to the west of the San Jacinto Warehouse, was listed in 2001 under Criterion A for Commerce. This nomination resurfaced a conversation about the formation of a NRHP historic district but the concept would again dissolve. In 2004, the Willow Street Pump Station was designated under Criterion A under Community Planning and Development; it is owned by the University of Houston Downtown. Examples of other properties individually listed in the NR within the vicinity:

- Palace Hotel in 2006, Criterion C for Architecture
- San Jacinto Street Bridge over Buffalo Bayou in 2007, Criterion A for Community Planning and Development, Criterion C for Engineering
- National Biscuit Company Building in 1997, Criterion C for Architecture and A for Industry

The next comprehensive survey would take place in 2016 for the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). The study would consist of 460 acres and 182 resources on either side of Buffalo Bayou. It proposed four smaller districts due to the demolition of previously contributing resources since the 1990s (Figure 6). ⁴⁰ The bulk of the warehouse spaces are to the south of the San Jacinto Warehouse, on the other side of I-10 (Figure 7). East of downtown is very well known as a destination for the Houston art scene of the 1980s that continues today and has prompted more current adaptive reuse and rehabilitation efforts, south of the proposed Hardy Yards Development.

From 2019 to 2020, additional historic resource surveys were completed for Section 106 environmental review by the Texas Department of Transportation prompted by the proposed freeway relocation around downtown Houston. Within this study, the San Jacinto Warehouse is recognized as being individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for Architecture. Within the direct vicinity, the Readers Distributors Warehouse at 1201 Naylor Street built c. 1954 was also recommended for individual listing under Criterion C for Architecture but has since been demolished.

Conclusion

The San Jacinto Warehouse meets Criterion C for Architecture and A for Commerce at the local level of significance, as a building that exemplifies the increased need for warehouses near downtown Houston in the 1920s. It is representative of the strategic location in Houston for goods traveling by combination of rail and road in the early to mid-1920s. It is a distinctive historic bonded or connected warehouse with an elongated rectangular footprint and design that reflects the historic location of the railroads and increased reliance on vehicular transport. The building was strategically developed by the Damon Wells Company, directly positioned towards rail lines, and had its own private switch at the rear.

It was home to Ford Motor Co. parts department in the 1930s and Central Forwarding Inc. from the 1930s through the 1950s and their fleet of trucks. The series of original 18 bonded warehouses were used for various businesses and distribution activities over the decades and were interiorly altered to suit. Five sections towards the south were

³⁹ Anna Mod, conversation 4/10/23

⁴⁰ Anna Mod, Re-Survey of the Warehouse Historic District Houston, Harris County, Texas. 2016 for HCFCD/SWCA

⁴¹ This concept is reinforced by a TexDOT Historical Resources Survey Report Update for the North Houston Highway Improvement Project survey 2020 written by Mead & Hunt, Inc. https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/project-sites/nhhip/docs/appendix-h-historical-studies-survey-technical-report.pdf.

San Jacinto Warehouse, Houston, Harris County, Texas

removed in the 1960s for Interstate 10 or "East Freeway" development, exemplifying the changing needs of Houston transit patterns and the increased need for freeways in the United States.

The San Jacinto Warehouse qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its elongated rectangular plan and its distinctive repetitive gable parapeted primary elevation; and Criterion A in the area of Commerce as an early twentieth-century example of the increased need for warehouses near downtown Houston that served both rail and road. The period of significance is 1926-1975, ending at the fifty-year mark.

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Maps

City Map Viewer

Google Earth Pro

Sanborn Maps (Accessed via the Houston Public Library Database)

Architectural Drawings

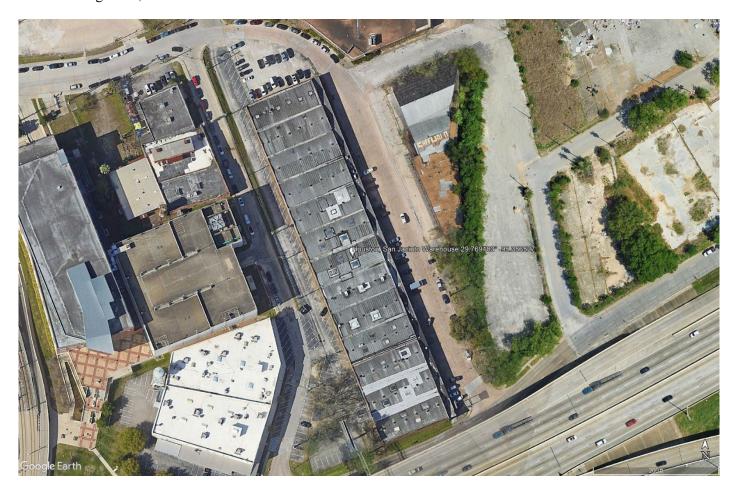
Metalab Architects. San Jacinto Warehouse, 2023. Williamsburg Enterprises, Houston.

Maps

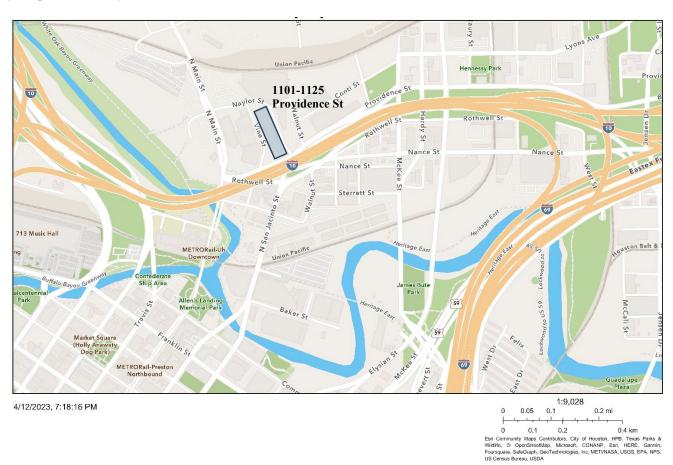
Map 1: Harris County, Texas



Map 2: Google Earth Map Accessed August 29, 2023



Map 3: Location Map City Map Viewer, City of Houston



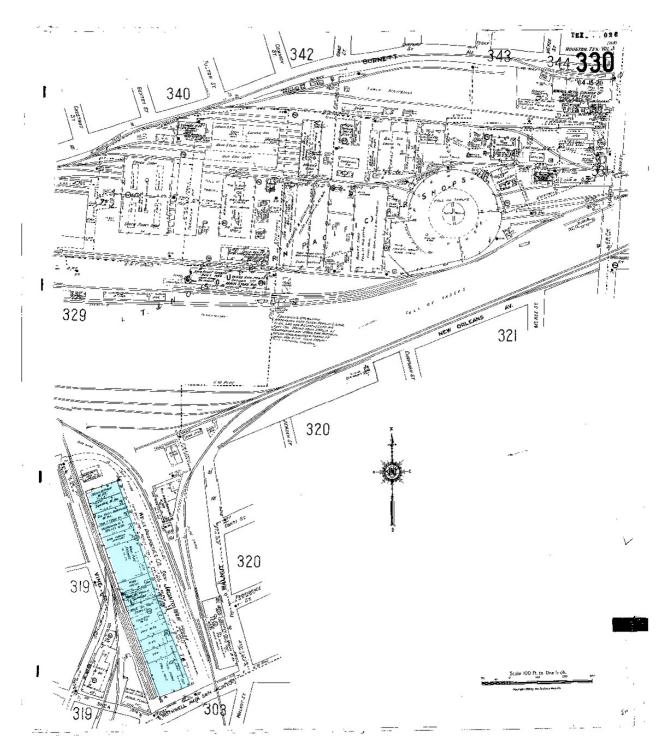
Map 4: Sanborn Map, c. 1924, Vol 3 (Texas Digital Sanborn Maps)



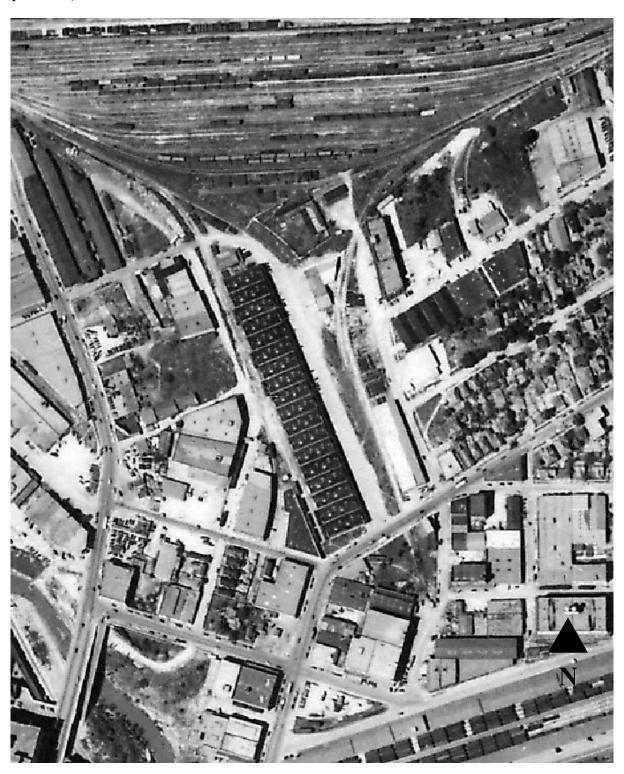
Map 5: Historic Aerial c1944 (Courtesy Metalab)



Map 6: Sanborn Map, c. 1950, Vol 3, Sheet 330 (Texas Digital Sanborn Maps)



Map 7: Historic Aerial c1944 (Courtesy Metalab)



Map 8: c. 2022 San Jacinto Warehouse in relationship to Hardy Yards and Downtown Houston, view facing southwest (Courtesy: Google Earth)

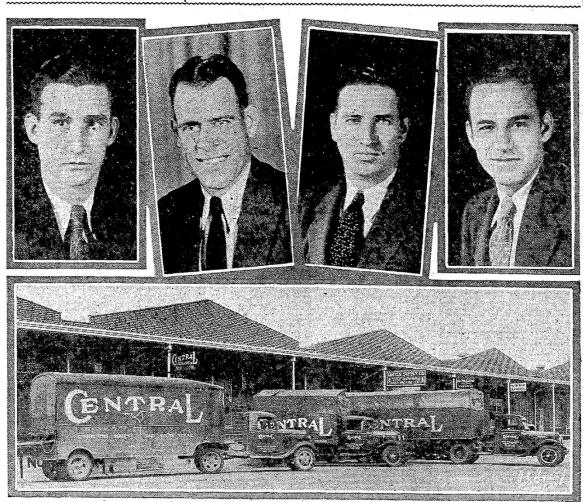


Figures

Figure 1

1121 North San Jacinto Warehouse c. 1934 Central Forwarding Inc. (Courtesy Houston Chronicle/Newsbank, October 13, 1934: 8)

PERSONNEL OF TRUCKING FIRM'S OFFICE HERE



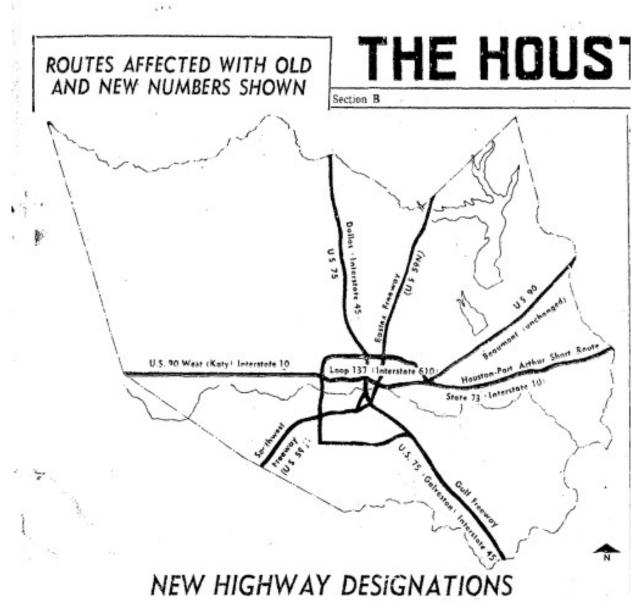
Houston officials and the warehouses of the Central Forwarding, Inc., are shown above. The men are, left to right: H. L. Callan, office manager and chief clerk; R. K. Young, stenographer; O. J. Umberfield, manager, and C. O. Davis, bill clerk. The warehouse is at 1121 North San Jacinto, and is shown with three of the fleet of 50 Central Forwarding trucks in the foreground.

FIFTY TRUCKS OPERATED BY CENTRAL FORWARDING, INC., LINK NORTH, SOUTH TEXAS

Rewinding and Rebuilding
Electric Motors and Generators
HOUSTON
ARMATURE WORKS
6. 4 Preston Ave, Houston. Texus
Phone Preston 2174 Day or Night

JANITOR SUPPLIES
Industrial Soaps, Chemicals,
Til-Sodium Phosphate
PAPER AND INSECTICIDES
Commercial Sales Co.

Figure 2 Interstate 10 U.S. 90 Route c. 1958 - Houston to Beaumont (courtesy Houston Chronicle/Newsbank, December 28, 1958: 19.)



The State Highway Department is changing designations on its interstate highways, using route numbers authorized by the federal government. This map shows the routes affected with their old and new numbers. U.S. 90 West, (Katy Highway) and State 73 (Houston-Port Arthur Short

Route) became Interstate 10. U.S. 90 (Houston to Beaumont) remains unchanged. U.S. 75, linking Houston to Galveston and Dallas, changes to Interstate 45. Loop 137 becomes Interstate 610. Old markers will stay up until motorists become familiar with the new designations.

Figure 3
San Jacinto Warehouse c. 1969
(Courtesy Harris County Archives)

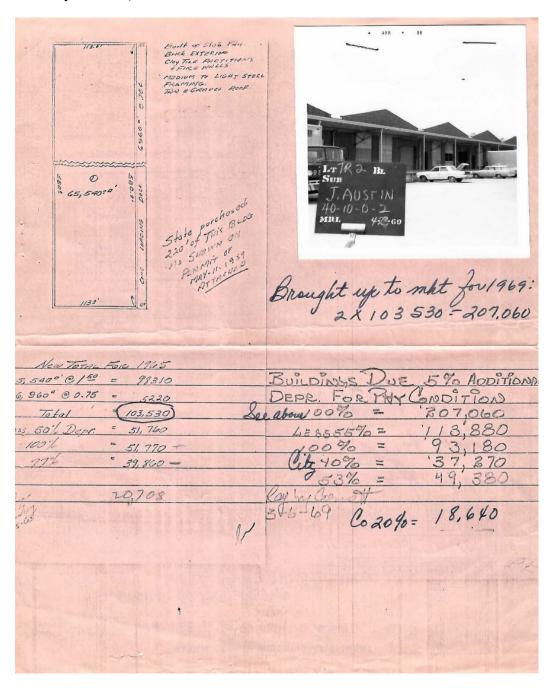


Figure 4
San Jacinto Warehouse c. 1969
(Courtesy Harris County Archives)



Figure 5 San Jacinto Warehouse Interior, DiverseWorks Gallery Opening c. 1989 (Courtesy Houston Chronicle/Newsbank, November 14, 1989: 58)

What artists collect

New location, revealing show at DiverseWorks

By ANN HOLMES

Chronicle Crific-at-Large

HAT objects or works of art do
Houston artists surround themselves with in the privacy of
their own studios, lofts and houses?

This has been a nagging question for Patricia Johnson, the Houston Chronicle's art critic, and she has done something about it. She has curated the sometimes ng, often startling, always revealing

Art review

exhibition The Artist's Eye: Fourteen Collections. It is also the opening show at DiverseWorks' airy new location at 1117-119 East Freeway.

The obvious affection these artists have showered on the most surprising objects brings to mind Oscar Wilde's remark: "He who does not love at it all things does not love it at all, and he who does not need it at all." These artists clearly need it and love it, in whatever guise it travels.

Lohnson, wisted, the horner of the 14

Mattever guise it revers.

Johnson visited the homes of the 14 artists and selected pieces and works that range from old bones and cheapo American lunch boxes to paintings, sculpture, African and Oceanic carvings and family prisures.

antiques.

Johnson spends most of her working hours in galleries reviewing Houston artists works turned out for public consumption. But her research for this appropriately licenset voyeurism was prompted by the sense that in their own confines, artists reveal their sevent or private. artists reveal their secret or private seives. Their collections sied new light on

selves. Their collections shed new light on the works they create.

Johnson and the gallery staff have arranged for each of the 14 artists to have a separate space, with a variety of pieces reflecting their interests and personalities. The result is an extravaganza of unexpected objects, often side by side with choice artworks. One strong touch is that each artist's personal treasures are complemented by a solected work by that artist.

artist.

If rich people are different because they have more money, then artists are different because they have more skeletons and relics in their closets and cabinets. And surely more good art. Artists often exchange works among bemselves or puy one another's good pieces.

That the artists enrich one another's lives and collections is visible in this show. Most of them are also deeply aware of our proximity to Mexico and its many-layered culture.

The several portraits of Jim Love were

culture.

The several portraits of Jim Love were done by friends Guy Johnson; Charlle Williams, who turned out a bowler-hatted, Magritte-like Love; and Bob Camblin. There's even a Roy Fridge whitted wood piece that's supposed to have captured a dream Love told him about. Best of all, there's a flat, gray, cloth, stuffed elephant with the consistency of a bot-pan holder that Dave McManaway made as "mail art," stamped and sent to Love through the U.S. mails. There's a slender New Caledonian art piece given to him by the Late Jermape MacAgy that suggests a kinship to Love's own elongated pieces. Nearby stands the suit of armor that Sharon Kopriva acquired, but far more telling in connection with her own art are

See ARTISTS on Page 4D.





... Ben DeSoto photos / Chronicle

DiverseWorks' airy new home at 1117-1119 East Freeway opened last week with The Artist's Eye: Fourteen Collections.



Mary Hayslip's corner includes a lunch-box assortment.

Figure 6 c. 2016 Re-Survey of the Warehouse District Study Area, Potential sub districts, existing NR designations (Courtesy: SWCA/HCFCD)

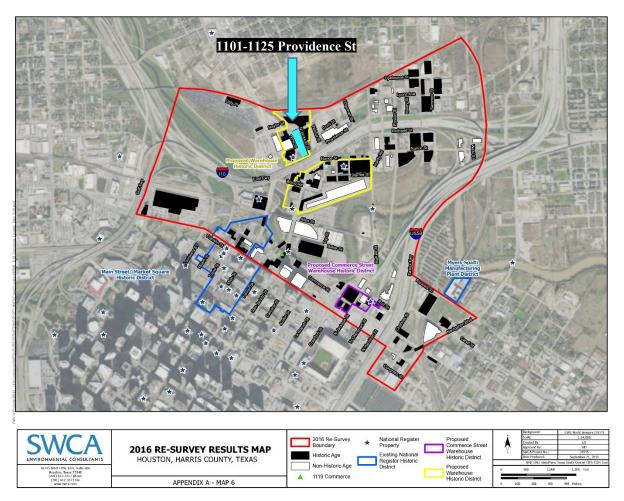


Figure 7 c. 2016 Re-Survey of the Warehouse District Study Area, potential sub district including San Jacinto Warehouse (Courtesy: SWCA/HCFCD)

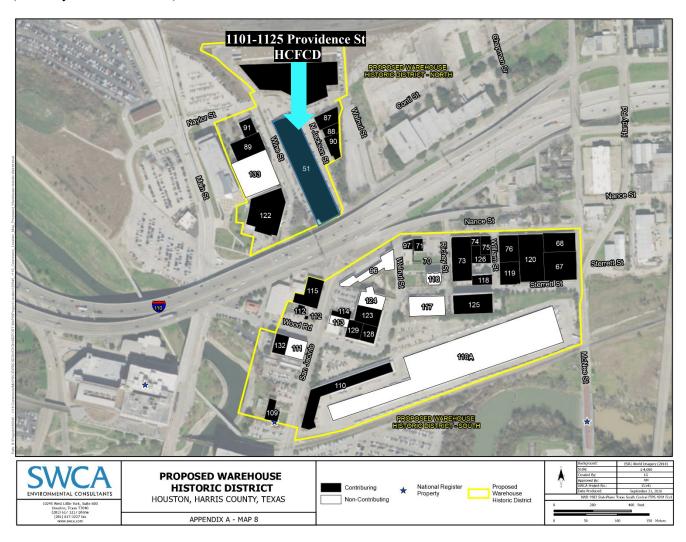


Figure 8
North Elevation
(Courtesy: Metalab Architects/Williamsburg Enterprises)

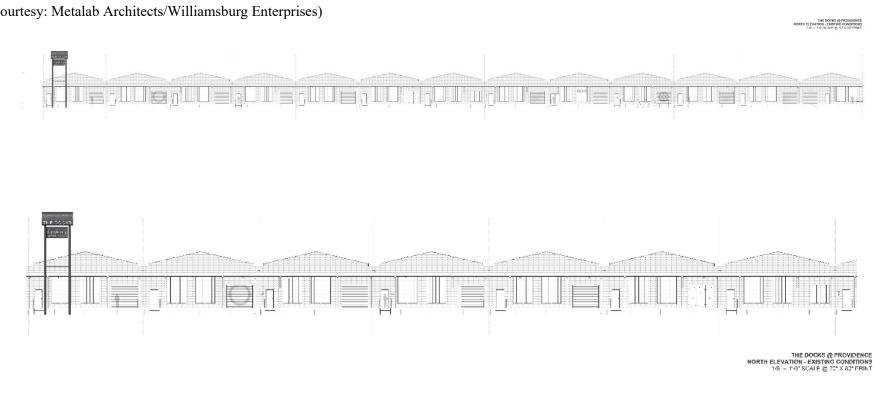
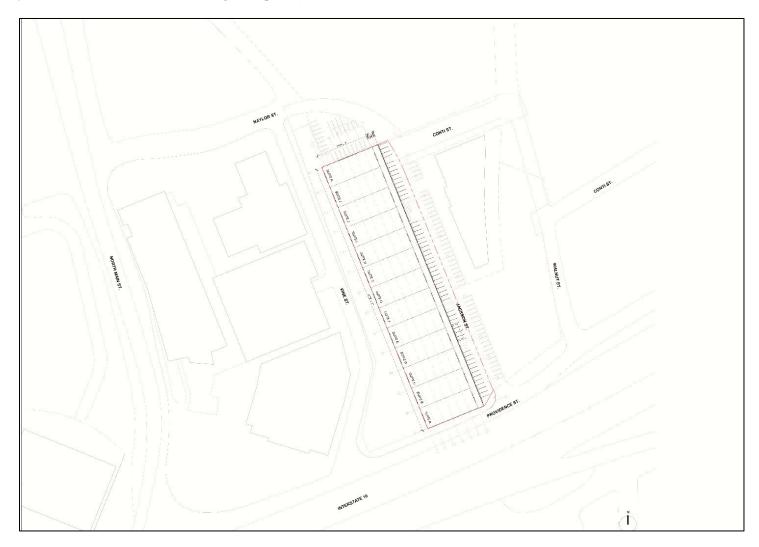




Figure 9
Site plan (Courtesy: Metalab Architects/Williamsburg Enterprises)



Appendix: San Jacinto Warehouse Tenants

Various businesses, from cracker and candy companies to auto parts, would occupy the San Jacinto Warehouse due to their proximity to multiple rail lines and their direct access to the building in the 1920s and 30s. Advertisements in 1928, refer to the building having a private railroad switch.⁴² The San Jacinto Warehouse had tracks running from the rear, western side of the building for loading and unloading which dictated the raised concrete foundation. The front of the building was intended for office entrances and trucks to transport or unload goods. The Houston City Directory from 1930 documents that the San Jacinto Warehouse located on North San Jacinto had the following tenants:

- Sections 1-8: Houston Compress Co. Warehouse
- Sections 9-10: Southwestern Victor Distributing Co.
- Section 11: Brickley Bros. Warehouse
- Section 12-13: Radio Equipment Co of Texas
- Section 14: Jenkins Bros. Valves
- Sections 15-17: Vacant
- Section 18: United States Gypsum Co.

In February of 1931, an article in the Houston Chronicle states that Ford Motor Company would lease half of the entire warehouse, then addressed 1121 North San Jacinto, from Damon Wells. The lease would be for five years, allowing them 50,000 square feet at a rate of \$16,000 per year and utilized to store and distribute parts. ⁴³ In support of this article, the City Directory from 1932, identifies that the following sections were occupied by the following:

- Sections 1-8 Ford Motor Co (parts dept)
- Sections 9-10: Vacant
- Section 11: Vacant
- Section 12-13: Vacant
- Section 14: Vacant
- Section 15: Oliver Farm Equipt. Co Philips R L agrl impts
- Section 16: Rice Belt Implement Co Case J I Co agrl impts
- Section 17: Leggett Francis H & Co food products
- Section 18: Vacant

In 1934, the Houston Chronicle highlighted the San Jacinto Warehouse at 1121 North San Jacinto and its relationship to Central Forwarding Inc. In the "Weekly Business Industrial Review," the article featured a photo of the warehouse as well as the personnel of the trucking firm: H.L. Callan, R.K. Young, O.J. Umberfield, and c.O. Davis. The company had 50 trucks that were said to link north and south Texas, all linked by the strategic location of the warehouse. They operated in Waco, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Auston, and Houston, founded by W.W. Callan c.1925. The company began operating at this location in 1933 and was connected with Central Freight Lines Inc. founded c.1926 in Waco and operated throughout Texas and also lines in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. The company employed about 14 men at the Houston location. 44 It is unclear exactly which warehouse sections they occupied but based on the photograph it appears the two buildings with their signage were centrally located (see exhibit 003).

⁴² Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), September 20, 1928: 21. NewsBank.

⁴³ Ford Motor Company Leases Warehouse, *Houston Chronicle* (Houston, Texas), February 20, 1931: 6. *NewsBank*.

⁴⁴ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), October 13, 1934: 8. NewsBank.

Other 1121 North San Jacinto Warehouse Tenants from the 1930s and 40s (Houston Chronicle):

- Brown Cracker & Candy Co. 45 (See exhibit 002)
- Jenkins Valves
- Oliver Farm Equipment Sales Co
- Metal Goods Corporation
- Oliver Farm Equipment Sales Co.
- Girten Supply Co (Rope, Field Supplies)
- B-1 Bottling (lemon-lime sparkling water with vitamin B-1) distribution center⁴⁶
- Owens-Illinois Glass Co.

Starting in 1935, the *Houston Chronicle* begins to present the property at various addresses at Rothwell Ave, a street name also denoted on the Sanborn maps from c.1950. Based on the advertisements and appearances in the Houston Chronicle, the building was generally referred to as 1121 Rothwell and the sections were not noted within and so, it is unclear as to exactly which section each business may have been housed. The following businesses were associated with the property on Rothwell Ave:

- c.1935 1121 Rothwell: Mathieson Alkali Works⁴⁷
- c.1935 1121 Rothwell: United Liquors Co. ⁴⁸
- c.1937-1945 1121 Rothwell: South Texas Casket Company⁴⁹
- c.1938 1121 Rothwell: Henry H. Paris, Manufacturers Agent/Distributor Oil Well and Refinery Supplies^{50 51}
- c.1939 1121 Rothwell: W.P. Ballard & Co., Inc.⁵²
- c.1940-1974 1121 Rothwell: Le Sage Co. (Liquor distributor)⁵³
- c.1941 1119 Rothwell: Oilwell Supply Company Repair building
- c.1944 1121 Rothwell Sec.18: Eagle Building Insulators⁵⁴
- c.1944 1121 Rothwell: Doughnut Corporation of America⁵⁵
- c.1945 1121 Rothwell: Industrial Insulators⁵⁶
- c.1945-8 1121 Rothwell: Carpenter Paper Company⁵⁷
- c.1953 1119 Rothwell: United States Steel Oil Well Supply Division⁵⁸
- c.1954 1121 Rothwell: Marsh Instrument and Valve Company⁵⁹
- c.1954-1959 1121 Rothwell: Central Forwarding Company⁶⁰

⁴⁵ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), April 2, 1931: 10. NewsBank.

⁴⁶ "B-1 Bottling Firm Starts Distribution," Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), July 10, 1941: 31. NewsBank.

⁴⁷ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), May 26, 1935: 37. NewsBank.

⁴⁸ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 27, 1935: 4. NewsBank.

⁴⁹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), September 2, 1937: 15. NewsBank.

⁵⁰ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), February 22, 1938: 139. NewsBank:

⁵¹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), January 17, 1949: 98. NewsBank.

⁵² Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), September 11, 1939: 5. NewsBank.

⁵³ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), October 10, 1940: 27. NewsBank.

⁵⁴ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), July 24, 1944: 10. NewsBank:

⁵⁵ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), October 6, 1944: 28. NewsBank.

Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), April 9, 1945: 2. NewsBank.
 Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), August 10, 1945: 28. NewsBank.

⁵⁸ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), October 29, 1953: 79. NewsBank.

⁵⁹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), October 10, 1954: 133. NewsBank

⁶⁰ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 22, 1954: 38. NewsBank.

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- c.1955 1121 Rothwell: United Supply and Manufacturing Company of Tulsa⁶¹
- c.1964 1121 Rothwell: Paul Collins Company (distributor of Kentile Floor Covering)⁶²
- c.1966 1121 Rothwell; Maclay Hurst Company⁶³

Starting in 1955, fourteen of the eighteen warehouse spaces were up for rent.⁶⁴ There was also an auction to liquidate Central Forwarding, Inc's assets at the property (generally referred to as 1121 Rothwell Avenue) on Thursday, February 26th, 1959.⁶⁵

The building was also referred to as the "San Jacinto Bonded Warehouse" in 1938.⁶⁶ Before the construction of Interstate 10 in the 1960s, the property was addressed as 1121 North San Jacinto Street. According to Harris County records, the State of Texas purchased three warehouses (5 sections) on the south side on May 11, 1959. The c.1950 Sanborn maps show that those portions were sections 1,2,3, 4, and 5 which housed Wholesale, Paper, BBS & Pails (sections 1-3), and sections 4/5 were simply warehouses. The south elevation consists of the clay tile walls that previously connected the warehouses.

Originally, there were 18 warehouse sections, some of which have been combined in various ways since the original construction throughout the decades. For instance, sections 11,12, and 13 were previously combined c.1950. Addresses have been renumbered since the creation of the new address at Providence Street in the late 2010s, but this would include what is now building G, or 1113 and 1115 Providence, and building J, or 1121 and 1123 Providence. The original address was 1101-1125 North San Jacinto Street until the 1930s when it was renamed Rothwell Ave and the address would last until around the late 60s or early 70s when the East Freeway which is this portion of Interstate 10 was completed. The East Freeway address would appear until the late 2010s. The following timeline traces tenants of each thirteen remaining spaces associated with their current address, former section number, and current architect's reference letter:

6/A: 1101 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930 Houston Compress Co. Warehouse
- c.1932 Ford Motor Co (parts dept)
- c.1948 Associated with the Doughnut Corporation of America⁶⁷
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Warehouse
- c.2000 Don Foster Studios (Gallery)⁶⁸
- c.2002 Gallery 3⁶⁹
- c.2005 Studio EM⁷⁰
- Current Tenant: Texas Music Studios since 2003

⁶¹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), May 29, 1955: 39. NewsBank

⁶² Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), April 26, 1964: 127. NewsBank.

⁶³ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), April 16, 1966: 33. NewsBank:

⁶⁴ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), June 3, 1955: 53. NewsBank.

⁶⁵ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), February 22, 1959: 53. NewsBank.

⁶⁶ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 27, 1938: 53. NewsBank.

⁶⁷ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), March 14, 1948: 41. NewsBank.

⁶⁸ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), March 9, 2000: 147. NewsBank:

⁶⁹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), May 30, 2002: 95. NewsBank.

⁷⁰ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), September 15, 2005: 89. NewsBank.

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7/B: 1103 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930 Houston Compress Co. Warehouse
- c.1932 Ford Motor Co (parts dept)
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Pipe Warehouse
- Previously Donkey Paw Screen Print Design until c.2020
- Currently vacant

8/C: 1105 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930 Houston Compress Co. Warehouse
- c.1932 Ford Motor Co (parts dept)
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Linoleum Warehouse
- c.1989 Preservation of Art (art conservationist Ray Balinskas)⁷¹
- c.1989 Preservation of ART gallery⁷²
- c.1996 studio⁷³ Currently Dope House Records, a recording studio

9/D: 1107 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930 Houston Compress Co. Warehouse
- c.1932 Vacant
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Wholesale Oil Well Supplies
- c.1974 Coastal Supply Company (pipes, valves, fittings)⁷⁴
- c.1987 event space for artists' organization⁷⁵
- c.1990 DiverseWorks Artists' Studios⁷⁶
- c.1992 Studio 1107⁷⁷
- c.1994 Dan Allison exhibit⁷⁸
- c.1996 East Freeway Studios/Warehouse Art Crawl⁷⁹
- c.1997 First referred to as H.B.S Warehouse⁸⁰
- c.2004-8 Studio 7 (Gallery)⁸¹⁸²
- Currently vacant

10/E: 1109 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930 Southwestern Victor Distributing Co.
- c.1932 Vacant

⁷¹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), June 28, 1989: 52. NewsBank.

⁷² Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 16, 1989: 99. NewsBank.

⁷³ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), May 3, 1996: 63. NewsBank.

⁷⁴ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), September 1, 1974: 55. NewsBank.

⁷⁵ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), June 16, 1987: 37. NewsBank.

⁷⁶ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), May 27, 1990: 599. NewsBank.

⁷⁷ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), December 11, 1992: 59. NewsBank

⁷⁸ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), April 22, 1994: 60. NewsBank.

⁷⁹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 16, 1996: 64. NewsBank.

⁸⁰ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 15, 1997: 112. NewsBank.

⁸¹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), August 19, 2004: 126. NewsBank.

⁸² Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), March 6, 2008: 70. NewsBank.

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- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Wholesale Oil Well Supplies
- Currently part of Sanman Studios, functions as a photography studio and open space with kitchen at rear, https://www.sanman.company/about

11/F: 1111 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930 Southwestern Victor Distributing Co.
- c.1932 Vacant
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Whole(sale) Machinery
- Currently part of Sanman Studios, housing a gallery space and artist studios at rear with Concrete Club vintage fashion at the front. https://www.sanman.company/about

*11, 12,13 were combined in the c.1950 Sanborn map

13,12/G: 1113/1115 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave (currently combined):

- Section 11: c.1930 Brickley Bros. Warehouse
- c.1932 Vacant
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Wholesale Pipe Fittings
- c.1999 DiverseWorks⁸³
- Currently vacant

14/H: 1117 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave (once combined with 1119):

- c.1930 Southwestern Victor Distributing Co.
- c.1932 Vacant
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Wholesale Rubber Supplies
- c.1989 DiverseWorks (two spaces)⁸⁴
- c.1991 DiverseWorks film screenings⁸⁵
- c.1998 DiverseWorks polling place⁸⁶
- Currently Noir Studio Rentals, curated rooms for themed photography. https://noir-studio-rentals.business.site/?utm source=gmb&utm medium=referral#summary

15/I: 1119 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave (once combined with 1117):

- c.1930: Vacant
- c.1930 Southwestern Victor Distributing Co.
- c.1931: Brown Cracker & Candy Co.
- c.1932: Oliver Farm Equipt. Co Phillips R L agrl impts
- c.1950: Sanborn maps: Instruments & Valves Warehouse
- c.1989 DiverseWorks (two spaces)⁸⁷
- c.2012 Catastrophic Theatre⁸⁸

⁸³ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), May 16, 1999: 273. NewsBank.

⁸⁴ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), April 21, 1989: 78. NewsBank.

⁸⁵ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), January 11, 1991: 59. NewsBank.

⁸⁶ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), March 16, 1998: 18. NewsBank:

⁸⁷ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 14, 1989: 58. NewsBank.

⁸⁸ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), December 23, 2012: 95. NewsBank.

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- c.2016: Landing Theatre (landingtheatre.org) and 89
- Currently Art Factory (Theatre) since January of 2018, non-profit organization began in EaDo, as EaDo Playhouse and focuses on musical theatre as well as plays. https://www.artfactoryhouston.com/about

16/J2: 1121 Providence: East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930: Vacant
- c.1932: Rice Belt Implement Co Case J I Co agrl impts
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Oil Well Supplies
- c.1993 Etching Studio⁹⁰
- c.2001-4 Dramos Studios⁹¹⁹²

*16 and 17 are currently combined with partial clay tile wall remaining between at the rear of space

17/J1: 1123 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930: Vacant
- c.1932: Leggett Francis H & Co food products
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Tubing Warehouse
- Currently vacant, combined space of two warehouses (sections 16 and 17)

18/K: 1125 Providence, East Freeway, Rothwell Ave:

- c.1930: United States Gypsum Co.
- c.1932 Vacant
- c.1950 Sanborn maps: Insulation Warehouse
- c.1991 DiverseWorks Complex (expanded)⁹³
- c.2000 Art Crawl headquarters, first referred to as "The Docks" 94
- Formerly an open gym Cityside Crossfit, https://uslocalgyms.com/texas-gyms/houston/20413-cityside crossfit/
- Currently vacant

⁸⁹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), March 31, 2016: 99. NewsBank

⁹⁰ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), December 11, 1992: 59. NewsBank.

⁹¹ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), September 13, 2001: 135. NewsBank.

⁹² Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), March 11, 2004: 121. NewsBank.

⁹³ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), October 30, 1991: 131. NewsBank.

⁹⁴ Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas), November 15, 2000: 250. NewsBank.

Photographs

San Jacinto Warehouse Houston, Harris County, Texas Photographed by Amanda Coleman, April, October, and December 2024

Photo 1South façade at right, west (side) elevation at left, view northeast (Photo taken: April 2024)



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Photo 2East elevation, view north (Photo taken: April 2024)



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Photo 3North elevation, view southeast (Photo taken: April 2024)



Photo 4Section 18/K, 1125 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



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Photo 5 Section 17/J, 1123 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 6 Section 16/J, 1121 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 7Section 15/I, 1119 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 8
Section 14/H, 1117 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



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Photo 9 Section 13/G, 1115 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 10 Section 12/G, 1113 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



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Photo 11Section 11/F, 1111 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 12
Section 10/E, 1109 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



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Photo 13 Section 9/D, 1107 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 14
Section 8/C, 1105 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 15Section 7/B, 1103 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)



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Photo 16
Detail: awning brackets and steel windows, view north (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 17 Section 6/A, 1101 Providence, view west (Photo taken: October 2024)

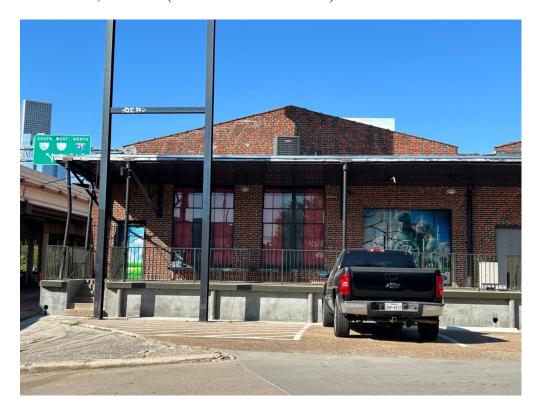


Photo 18
Freestanding sign, view west (Photo taken: April 2024)

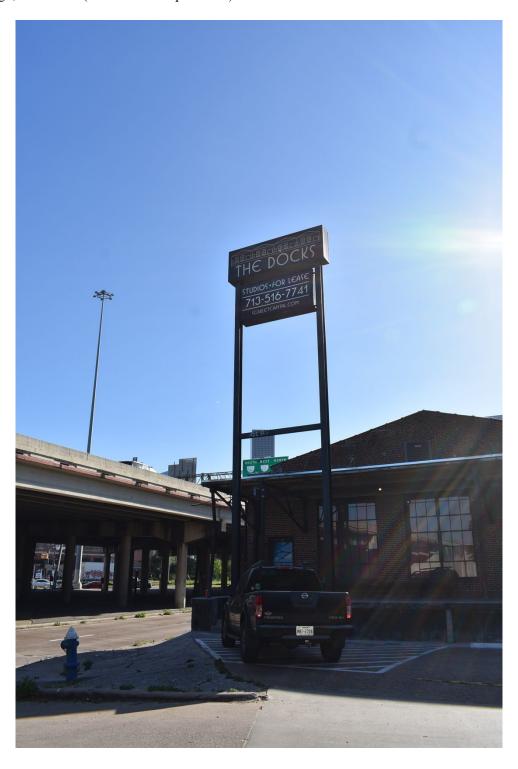


Photo 19 1101/A and 1103/B Providence rear elevations, view southeast (Photo taken: October 2024)



Photo 20Rear west elevation, view facing southeast (Photo taken: December 2024)



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Photo 21Rear north and west elevations, view facing southeast (Photo taken: December 2024)



Photo 22 Section 7/B, 1103 Providence, view northeast (Photo taken: April 2024)



Photo 23Section 9/D, 1107 Providence, view northwest (Photo taken: April 2024)

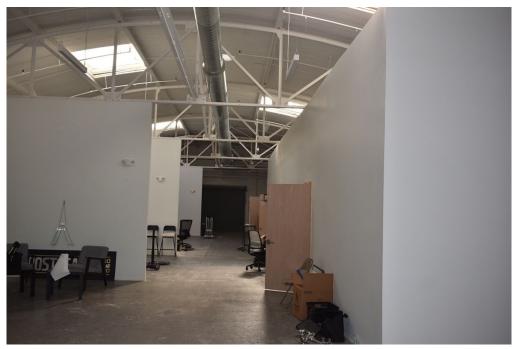


Photo 24Sections 12 1113 Providence, view southeast (Photo taken: April 2024)



Photo 25Section 13/G, 1115 Providence, view northwest (Photo taken: April 2024)



Photo 26Section 17/J, 1123 Providence, view northwest (Photo taken: April 2024)



Photo 27Section 18/K, 1125 Providence, view northwest (Photo taken: April 2024)

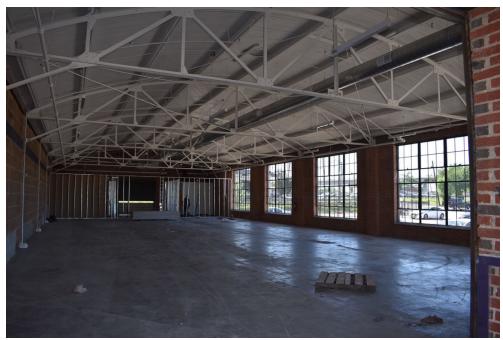


Photo 28
Section 18/K, 1125 Providence, view northeast (Photo taken: April 2024)

