

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Registration Form**JUN 24 2011
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

513

1. NAME OF PROPERTY**HISTORIC NAME:** Brackenridge Park
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A**2. LOCATION****STREET & NUMBER:** Roughly bounded by Hildebrand Avenue, Broadway, Avenue B, Josephine Street, U.S. Highway 281, River Road, Alpine Drive, North St. Mary's Street and the San Antonio Zoo.**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio☐ **VICINITY**☐ **NOT FOR PUBLICATION****STATE:** Texas**CODE:** TX**COUNTY:** Bexar**CODE:** 029**ZIP CODE:** 78212**1. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark Wally
Signature of certifying official / title

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

6/15/11

Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ other, explain
☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

8.4.11

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5. CLASSIFICATION**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY**

	private
X	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY

contributing	noncontributing	
24	13	buildings
22	5	sites
29	3	structures
7	5	objects
82	26	total

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 20. These are: Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works (NRHP 1976; 1 site, 5 structures); Water Works Pump House No. 2 (Borglum Studio) (NRHP 1981; 1 building); Chinese Sunken Garden Gate (NRHP 2004; 1 object); Dionicio Rodriguez Bridge in Brackenridge Park (NRHP 2004; 1 structure); and Miraflores Park (NRHP 2006; 1 building, 1 site, 9 objects)

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: NA

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: (see page 6-5)

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: (see page 6-5)

7. DESCRIPTION**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:**

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Italian Renaissance, Mission Style; Beaux Arts

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman

OTHER: bowstring arch bridge; lenticular truss bridge; faux bois sculpture; NPS rustic; landscape

NO STYLE

MATERIALS:

FOUNDATION

WALLS

ROOF

OTHER

STONE, CONCRETE

STONE/limestone, CONCRETE, BRICK, WOOD, STUCCO

CERAMIC TILE, METAL, ASPHALT, OTHER/thatch

CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

(see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-26)

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HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Irrigation facility = canals, headgates, dams

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION

Waterworks = pumphouse, canal

Extractive facility = quarry

Manufacturing facility = tannery, sawmill

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Outdoor recreation = park, picnic area

Sports facility = playing fields, golf course

Work of art = sculpture, statue

Museum = museum

Music facility = concert hall

DOMESTIC

Camp = temporary habitation site, seasonal residence

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Outdoor recreation = park, picnic area, hiking trail

Sports facility = playing fields, golf course

Work of art = sculpture, statue

Museum = museum

Music facility = concert hall

OTHER

Archeological site

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Brackenridge Park is comprised of 344 acres located approximately four miles north of downtown San Antonio. It is immediately south of the headwaters of the San Antonio River which runs through the entire park from north to south. The irregularly-shaped, city-owned park is generally bounded by Hildebrand Avenue on the north, McAllister Freeway, Alpine Drive, the San Antonio Zoo and River Road on the west, Josephine Street and US Highway 281 on the south and Avenue B and Broadway on the east. Contributing resources range from mid- to late-eighteenth-century Spanish colonial irrigation features to Depression-era improvements made in the 1930s to mid-twentieth century amusements including a miniature train. The original park bequest (1899) comprised 199 acres east of the San Antonio River. The park was extended west of the river in the early twentieth century when additional bequests were combined with Spanish land grant property already owned by the city. No formal plan was developed as the park grew; instead, it evolved informally as new recreational features were introduced over several decades. These include a golf course (114 acres), ball fields, a museum, a sunken garden and outdoor theater. The eastern half of the park accommodates primarily passive activities, featuring picnic spots and wooded areas interspersed with meandering roads and walking paths. The park's western half accommodates more active uses and features ball fields and a golf driving range; the Brackenridge golf course spans both sides of the river. The river in the park is partially contained within Depression-era stone walls and has been re-channelized in some areas, but remains in its natural state from Tuleta Drive to Craig Place. Natural rock outcroppings characterize the northwestern portion of the park. Though park structures have been remodeled and extensive landscape renovation projects have been completed, the park's general appearance is largely unchanged since the 1950s. The most notable alteration took place in the early 1970s when construction of US Highway 281 severed a portion of the park's western edge. Remnant pieces of parkland on the west side of the highway are not included in this nomination.

Brackenridge Park is comprised of 344 acres located approximately four miles north of downtown San Antonio. It is immediately south of the headwaters of the San Antonio River, which runs through the entire park from north to south. The irregularly-shaped, city-owned park is bounded on the north by Hildebrand Avenue, a heavily trafficked arterial street, and Tuleta Drive, a lightly traveled connector street. The park's western boundary is defined by the US Highway 281 right-of-way and Alpine Drive which separates the park from the highway as well as River Road, North St. Mary's Street and the San Antonio Zoo. Alpine Drive was preserved as part of the highway construction mitigation plan which included constructing a tall rock wall to provide sound protection for the Sunken Garden Theater and Japanese Tea Garden below. **(Figure 1)**

The eastern boundary of Brackenridge Park is defined largely by Broadway and Avenue B. Like Hildebrand, Broadway is a heavily trafficked arterial street. Avenue B is a two-lane park road that is lined on the east by commercial uses. Some of these businesses are located in converted residential structures. The park extends east to Broadway at three points—the Witte Museum/Pioneer Hall area north of Tuleta Drive, the Parfun Drive entrance between Tuleta and Mulberry, and Lions Field south of Mulberry Avenue. Traffic moves east/west through the park along Mulberry Avenue which bridges the river. The park tapers to a narrow southern boundary that is defined by Josephine Street and US Highway 281. **(Photo 1)**

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Local philanthropist George W. Brackenridge, owner of the San Antonio Water Works, deeded 199 acres on the east side of the river to the City of San Antonio in 1899; his bequest comprises the original portion of the park, and so the park bears his name today. The park was extended west of the river in the early twentieth century, when additional bequests were combined with land owned by the city since Spanish colonial rule in the 1730s. The park grew piecemeal, and it was not until 1979, after its uses were well-established, that a master plan was developed. The only known original design feature—a meandering road system—is still visible today.

It should be noted that several areas on the western perimeter of the park are not included in this nomination. These include three small, remnant portions of the park that were cut off when US Highway 281 was constructed in the early 1970s. The 56-acre San Antonio Zoo, located in the northwest portion of the park, also is not nominated due to the size, complexity, and unique nature of the resource; a separate nomination to the National Register is recommended for this property. Alamo Stadium, located west of US Highway 281 and the San Antonio Zoo and constructed under the Works Projects Administration in 1940, is the subject of a separate nomination.

Early planning documents for Brackenridge Park are not known to exist, and the park's development is documented only through newspaper accounts, photographs, and maps. The park largely represents the vision of two successive parks commissioners: Ludwig Mahncke (1846–1906), who initially laid out the park in 1899–1900; and Ray Lambert (1870–1927), parks commissioner from 1916 until 1926. During his tenure as parks commissioner, Lambert used local laborers and prisoners to construct roads and buildings in Brackenridge Park. Later contributing features were the result of Depression-era projects completed under the Works Projects Administration (WPA) and National Youth Administration (NYA). Early park structures are built of native limestone drawn from the city quarry, while later structures are made of brick; roofs are made of tile or metal.

The terrain of the park is primarily flat except at its northwestern edge, where limestone outcroppings are remnants of the city quarry that operated until the early twentieth century. The old quarry pit was converted to the Japanese Tea Garden (1917) and the Sunken Garden Theater (1930; 1937). The zoological garden (not included in this nomination) is also set within the quarry's rough stone walls. **(Photo 2)**

Vehicular roads within the park are paved with asphalt, and walking trails are of compacted base material. Some changes have been made to the park's automobile and pedestrian routes in the past forty years. When construction of US Highway 281 necessitated reconfiguration of the golf course, a meandering roadway connecting Broadway with Mulberry Avenue was closed; entry gates at Broadway and a short road remnant are the only vestiges of this circulation pattern. Avenue A, extending south from Mulberry Avenue, also was closed through the golf course, and the remnant of Avenue A is now a favored walking and bird watching area in the park. A roadway that extended between the east side of the zoo and the river was converted to a pedestrian pathway when the zoo was expanded in 1987. Finally, several of the meandering roads through the original park acreage were closed to automobile traffic when the park was renovated in 2003–2006. The rights-of-way were preserved and converted to pedestrian trails. **(Photos 3)**

Due to the lack of a cohesive development plan and its diverse historic and landscape features, Brackenridge Park is most clearly described geographically from north to south. For purposes of this description, the park is divided into three sections, each of which is further subdivided into the areas east and west of the river: Hildebrand

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Avenue to Tuleta Drive (North Section); Tuleta Drive to Mulberry Avenue (Middle Section); and Mulberry Avenue to Josephine Street (South Section).

I. North Section: Hildebrand Avenue to Tuleta Drive

The earliest documented development within the boundaries of today's Brackenridge Park occurred in the northern portion just below Hildebrand Avenue. The area is notable for resources that represent the delivery of water to the city from the seventeenth through the late nineteenth centuries. In times of abundant rainfall, springs bubble from the Edwards Aquifer to feed the San Antonio River on both its east and west banks. While the majority of springs forming the river are located north of Hildebrand Avenue, on the grounds of the University of the Incarnate Word and adjacent land, other springs are found within the park.

East of the River

Miraflores (c. 1923; NRHP 2006)

Immediately south of Hildebrand and east of the river is Miraflores Park, the outdoor sculpture garden built by Dr. Aureliano Urrutia (1923–c. 1926). This property, now owned by the City of San Antonio, was individually listed on the National Register in 2006 and declared a State Archaeological Landmark in 2009. Miraflores is connected to Brackenridge Park by a pedestrian bridge built in 2009.

Alamo Dam and Acequia (1719) **(Photo 4)**

Spanish colonists constructed a dam on the east bank of the river to divert water into the ditch that served Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo). The acequia, which provided water for agricultural and household use, ran southeasterly toward Broadway and south to mission before returning to the San Antonio River below today's downtown area. The irrigation ditch provided water for agricultural and household use. The dam (c. 1719) was located on the river's east bank, just above Pioneer Hall and the Witte Museum, and the ditch (c. 1719) angled across the open area between the river and Broadway. The site also features towering cypress trees. The dam and ditch are not visible today.

Archaeological investigations in late 2010 identified the locations of both features. These investigations indicate that there were modifications to the acequia at various times. Two ditch outlines have been discovered. The earlier outline undercuts the later one, indicating that the later version was used for a longer period. Further excavations will be conducted at a later time.

Reptile Garden (1937)

The reptile garden is located north of Pioneer Hall near the location of the Alamo acequia dam. First constructed at another location closer to the museum, it was moved twice before being rebuilt on this site in 1937. The reptile garden closed many years ago. The deteriorated roof structure has been removed, but the perimeter limestone walls with "snake apartments" and metal gate are intact.

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Pioneer Hall (1937) (Photo 5)

Pioneer Hall is sited immediately north of the Witte Museum. It was one of two projects in the park constructed with Federal funds allocated to celebrate the Texas centennial; the second was Sunken Garden Theater (to be described later). The Mediterranean-influenced limestone building with red tile roof was designed by the architectural firms of Phelps & Dewees and Ayres & Ayres. Constructed as a memorial to the state's pioneers, trail drivers, and rangers, Pioneer Hall is designated as a Texas State Archaeological Landmark.

Witte Museum (1926; 1962 and later) (Photo 6)

The Witte Museum was built on land acquired by the city in 1908. Constructed with a bequest from local businessman Alfred G. Witte and named for his parents, it was the city's first public museum. The original museum building, designed by Atlee B. Ayres and Robert M. Ayres, was completed in 1926. The museum has been expanded and remodeled several times since 1926. An extensive remodeling in 1962 altered the original Ayres & Ayres façade.

Three historic structures stand behind the museum near the river: the Francisco Ruiz House (c. 1760; relocated 1943) **(Photo 7)**; the Celso Navarro House (c. 1835; relocated 1947); and the John Twohig House (c. 1841; relocated 1942). These buildings, originally located in downtown San Antonio, were preserved from demolition and relocated to the museum grounds in the 1940s through the efforts of local preservationists. Although they have been moved, these buildings are counted as contributing resources because they reflect the interests and concerns of San Antonio residents for their built heritage in the years before the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Noncontributing resources associated with the Witte include the H-E-B Science Treehouse (1997; Lake Flato Architects) and the Onderdonk family art studio, relocated in 2008 from the Monte Vista Residential Historic District (NRHP 1998).

Perimeter Wall and Entry Gates (1936-1937) (Photos 8)

A low limestone perimeter wall built in 1936-1937 separates Broadway and the adjacent sidewalk from the green space in front of the Witte and Pioneer Hall. The wall, which runs the length of the property, was built by Witte museum and WPA workers. Entry points through the wall connect to sidewalks leading to both the Witte and Pioneer Hall. A stone bench is built into the wall, presumably to provide seating for bus patrons. The wall culminates at Tuleta Drive on the south and on the north at the northeast corner of the park property. Curved wing walls and planting beds flank entrances at both the south and north ends of the wall.

West of the River

Meandering south, a road runs from Hildebrand Avenue into the park. On the left (east) just below Hildebrand is a pool that is full or dry depending on spring flow; historically, water from this pool was diverted into the acequia.

Upper Labor Dam and Acequia (c. 1776-1778) (Photo 9)

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The Upper Labor dam diverted water from the river's west bank into an acequia that ran southwesterly through today's San Antonio Zoo and near the alignment of Rock Quarry Road (now North St. Mary's Street). During park renovation in the 1990s, the dam was partially excavated and documented and then covered for protection. The stone-lined channel remains intact and is visible in both the park and within the boundary of the San Antonio Zoo.

Water Works Raceway (1877)

The Water Works raceway is a straight, earthen ditch with sloping sides constructed to deliver water from the west bank of the river to the Water Works pump house. As originally constructed, the ditch measured approximately 40 feet wide and 650 feet long. The raceway was designed with a nine foot fall that provided power to drive turbines and pumps. Water re-entered the river at the pump house. Today the raceway is abandoned and dry.

Donkey Barn (c. 1920 and 1956) (Photo 10)

Just below Hildebrand Avenue, a service road branches to the right off the main road. On the right (west) of the service road is a rubble stone structure known as the donkey barn. It was originally constructed c. 1920 as a 1-story hay barn for the adjacent zoological garden. A second story with an "Alamo-shaped" façade was added in 1956 when the building was converted to Parks and Recreation Department offices. To the rear of the donkey barn is the former park maintenance yard, which is paved and contains four non-contributing warehouse structures.

Electric Pump Station #3 (1940) (Photo 11)

As the service road proceeds southeast to reconnect with the main road, there is a small square limestone structure on the left. Located on the west bank of the Upper Labor acequia channel, this building was constructed to house an electrically powered pump that sent water to an elevated storage tower northwest of Brackenridge Park. The building has metal casement windows on two sides and is roofed with red and green clay barrel tile. A plaque on the building reads:

City Water Board, Brackenridge Park

Electric Pump Station #3

March 1940

Conrad A. Goeth, Chair, Lamar G. Seeligson, Martin C. Giesecke,
James A. Gallagher, Maury Maverick, Mayor

Beyond the electric pump station, the service road first crosses the Upper Labor acequia channel and then the water works canal channel. The water works channel, which goes underground at this point, originally carried water to power the adjacent pump house. The bridge over the acequia channel has an arched railing of concrete and stone, while the bridge over the water works channel has a stone rail on the north side and no railing on the south side.

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Bathroom Structures (c. 1926) (Photo 12)

Two almost identical rectangular structures, thought to have been designed by Will Noonan, were built under the administration of Ray Lambert to house bathrooms. The first, originally a men's restroom, is now used for storage; it is located on the left side of the service road between the old acequia channel and water works channel. The second, originally a women's restroom, has been remodeled to serve both men and women; it is located on the right side of the main park road. Both are constructed of stone rubble and feature hipped roofs with projecting eaves and a central louvered ventilation pavilion that rises above the roof level. The first is roofed in red asphalt shingles and the second is roofed in flat red tile. Both likely were roofed in green barrel ceramic tile, originally. These two buildings exhibit the same design motifs as two other bathroom structures in the south part of the park.

Dionicio Rodriguez Bridge in Brackenridge Park (1926; NRHP 2004)

Proceeding south from the donkey barn, the main park road meanders in an irregular course. The road crosses the Upper Labor acequia and Water Works channel on a simple bridge faced in stone with a low stone railing. On the left side of the road, the Dionicio Rodriguez Bridge spans both the Upper Labor acequia and Water Works channel. This *faux bois* footbridge of concrete and reinforcing steel consists of thirty-three pairs of vertical tree trunks spanned by horizontal branches. The structure is considered to be one of Rodriguez's masterpieces. Other works by Dionicio Rodriguez located in Brackenridge Park are included in a National Register Multiple Property Submission.

Stone footbridge (c. 1900 and later)

Immediately below (to the right) of the road, a concrete and stone footbridge spans the old Water Works channel. The footbridge is supported on stone rubble arches and features a modern iron railing. The supporting structure dates to the park's early history and is thought to have been the foundation for an older bridge that connected Madarasz Family Park (now Koehler Park) on the west with Brackenridge Park on the east.

Softball Field (c. 1950 and later)

A softball field (noncontributing) is located between the main road and San Antonio River just below the Dionicio Rodriguez foot bridge. Both stone and metal and wood picnic units are scattered on both sides of the road. The stone units resemble earlier units in the park, but were constructed in the 1990s.

San Antonio River Walls (1937-1938) (Photo 13)

The main road crosses the river immediately south of the ball field. From this point to Tuleta Drive, the river is contained within stone walls. The walls were built in 1940 by the National Youth Administration (NYA). They have been partially reconstructed in recent years to repair collapses caused by heavy flooding.

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Iron Truss Bridge (1890; relocated 1925) **(Photo 14)**

The road crosses the river on an iron truss bridge that was originally erected at a downtown site in 1890, but was moved here in 1925. The lenticular truss bridge was manufactured by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company. The bridge is a prominent feature of the area known as "Lambert Beach," in honor of parks commissioner Ray Lambert. Lambert was responsible for many of the improvements still standing in the park today and was developing this area when he died in 1926. A plaque on the bridge bears the inscription "National Youth Administration, 1937-38." It is not clear if this refers to work done on the bridge or the adjacent retaining walls.

First Water Works Pump House (1877-1878) **(Photo 15)**

The one-story pump house stands to the right of the bridge. Designed to raise water to a reservoir approximately one mile southeast (beyond the park boundaries), the building is constructed of smooth-finished, cut limestone extracted from the city rock quarry a short distance to the south. Arches over doors and windows are of rusticated stone with central keystones. The low hipped roof is covered with corrugated metal. Tall wooden doors are set in the central entrance arch and there are double-hung wood sash windows on all elevations. A center column and beam support the pump house as it spans the river. The raceway exits into the river on the south side of the building. Stone rubble wing walls curve from the building along the river. The interior space is not partitioned and possibly was used as an office for the Water Works. This pump house is the oldest intact industrial building remaining in San Antonio.

Lambert Beach and Bathhouse (1915; 1925) **(Photos 15, 16)**

The "beach" was one of park commissioner Ray Lambert's first projects in Brackenridge Park, and its remodeling and expansion was one of his last projects. Initially constructed in 1915 as a gravel-lined pool in the natural river channel, the swimming area was transformed into a more formal swimming pool in 1925, only one year before Lambert's death. In 1925, concrete stairs and landings were added to provide easy access to the river, and a stone bathhouse replaced rustic dressing rooms. The rustic stone rubble bath house was designed by Emmett Jackson. Arched openings on both the north and south sides of the building accessed changing rooms. The roof of the bathhouse was removed in 1992 when the structure was converted to an open-air "playscape." A stone retaining wall separates the bathhouse from the river level. It is partially collapsed. Stairways leading down to the river and adjoining walkways that allowed swimmers to access the river are badly deteriorated.

Joske Pavilion (1926) **(Photo 17)**

Immediately on the left (east) of the road after crossing the iron truss bridge are the Eleanor Brackenridge playground (non-contributing) and Joske Pavilion. The playground, named for George Brackenridge's sister, has occupied this site since the 1920s. It has been remodeled several times to keep pace with changing trends and code requirements and was enlarged in 2003.

Joske Memorial Pavilion, one of the park's signature structures, was built with a \$10,000 bequest to the city from the estate of retailer Alexander Joske. The structure of dark random-coursed stone was designed by Emmett

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Jackson and erected in 1926. It has massive chimneys at the north and south ends. The chimney on the south end has a splayed base with inset, arched openings that reflect larger openings on the east and west sides of the structure. A tall chimney pot tops the structure on the south. An interior stone stairway with wrought iron railing leads to a balcony overlooking the river on the south end. The north end features a parapet in the "Alamo" style. A stone stairway with wrought iron railing accesses a second story balcony which overlooks the playground and river below. The projecting balcony is supported by round stone columns.

Prior to 2003, the road branched around a concession structure in front of Joske Pavilion. The concession building, known as the "Water Works Snack Bar" (noncontributing), was constructed in 1979 and replaced an earlier building. The portion of the road between the snack bar and Joske Pavilion was closed when the playground was expanded in 2003. The road between the concession stand and river follows its original right-of-way.

Picnic Area (1938–1940) (Photo 18)

The area of the park extending to Tuleta Drive south of Joske Pavilion features nineteen picnic units. The concrete and stone tables, benches, and barbecue pits—built by WPA workers—are scattered among the trees overlooking the river. A glazed tile number is set in the edge of each picnic table. Some tables also have an inset bronze plaque reading: "Works Projects Administration, 1938–1940." Modern concrete pads and stone water fountains have been added.

Other bridges (c. 1930; 1957)

Two iron bridges span the river below Lambert Beach. The first bridge downstream (south) is a pedestrian structure with arched iron trusses. Tall concrete stairs with curved pipe railings lead to either side of the bridge, which features metal lattice siding. The center of the bridge is the dividing line between Koehler Park to the west, where alcohol may be consumed, and Brackenridge Park to the east, where it cannot be consumed. The bridge was moved to the park in 1925 from its original location on Fourth Street at the river in the downtown area.

The second bridge below Lambert Beach is a simple iron truss structure built in 1957 as a crossing for the park's miniature train, the Brackenridge Eagle. The miniature train tracks, tunnel, and this bridge are counted as one contributing structure.

Koehler Pavilion (c. 1925; remodeled 1982) (Photo 19)

Koehler Pavilion is one of only two large shelters in Brackenridge; the second is the aforementioned Joske Pavilion. It is built of stone, concrete, and wood and is roofed with standing-seam sheet metal. The overhanging roof is supported by columns that rest on stone perimeter walls. A central frame structure, covered by a hipped roof, rises in the center. The entire roofing system is supported by regularly spaced interior columns. A pavilion likely was constructed on this site shortly after Koehler Park was acquired by the city in 1915. Original photographs have not been located, but the perimeter wall stonework indicates that the structure dates to the period between the middle 1920s to the late 1930s. The structure was remodeled under the direction of Carragone and Reyna architects in 1982; as part of that project, an adjoining concrete patio was constructed overlooking the river.

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Auxiliary Structures

Two auxiliary structures are located adjacent to Koehler Pavilion. A small modern picnic shelter (non-contributing) to the south was built c. 1982. The one-story masonry rectangular structure north of Koehler Pavilion was built c. 1930; its original use is not known. The gable roof and deep, projecting porch roof are covered in standing seam metal. The building was later converted to restrooms.

Water Features (c. 1915)

A stone-lined channel with small bridges carries water from the San Antonio Zoo to the river near Koehler Pavilion. The channel runs under the old St. Mary's Street right-of-way, which now is a pedestrian pathway and service road. The age of the channel and bridges can only be estimated. It is possible that the channel was diverted from the old Upper Labor acequia that ran through land now occupied by the zoo. The work might also be associated with Madarasz Family Park (now Koehler Park) prior to its donation to the city in 1915.

Works by Dionicio Rodriguez (c. 1925)

Two *faux bois* works by Dionicio Rodriguez are situated between the Koehler Park entry gates and the San Antonio River. The first, located close to the low water crossing, is a palapa-roofed bench, counted as one contributing object. The second is a palapa table and two benches, counted as one object, located just north of Koehler Pavilion.

II. Middle Section: Tuleta Drive to Mulberry Avenue

East of the River

The park east of the river is bounded by Tuleta Drive (north), Mulberry Avenue (south), Broadway and Avenue B (east) and the San Antonio River (west). It is characterized by wooded areas and curving vehicular roads and walking paths that most closely resemble the park's circa 1900 appearance. **(Photo 3)** An earthen water canal was built through this area in 1885 after a second water works pump house was built in the south part of the park. Water entered the canal from the river near Tuleta Drive. The channel was partially filled many years ago, but the right-of-way is still discernable in the wooded area.

Statues, Memorials, and Public Art Works (Photo 20)

This portion of the park contains memorials to both George W. Brackenridge and his sister, Eleanor. A simple bronze plaque is mounted at the base of a large oak tree in the center of the wooded area adjoining a walking path. The plaque was erected in 1925 on the first anniversary of Eleanor Brackenridge's death by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, one of Miss Brackenridge's active interests. It reads simply, "W.C.T.U., In memory of Eleanor Brackenridge, February 26, 1925."

A bronze figure of a seated George W. Brackenridge, sculpted by Pompeo Coppini, is located just north of the

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Parfun Way entrance to the park. Coppini died in 1957, yet his plaster sculpture of Brackenridge was not cast in bronze until 1969, under the direction of his long-time colleague, Waldine Tauch. The statue was placed near its current site in 1970 and was reoriented in 2006, when this entrance was reconfigured. A bronze plaque adjoining the statue reads:

George W. Brackenridge
January 14, 1832–December 28, 1920
The world knew him as a great financier, a great philanthropist,
a great friend of lower and higher and eternal education.
The students past, present, and future, for whose education he provided, are his memorial.

The entry drive is flanked by stone pillars and Art Nouveau-influenced metal work (non-contributing) constructed in 2006.

There is a single *faux bois* "hollow log" shelter by Dionicio Rodriguez located on a walking trail immediately south of Tuleta Drive. This piece was moved to the park from a temporary location in about 2006. It is thought to have originally been located downtown on Alamo Plaza.

Public art pieces are scattered through the wooded area. These include three fired clay sculptures mounted on stacked stone bases by Susan Budge and "Glorietta," consisting of cast bronze tree sections by Anne Wallace. Directional signs and three interpretive signs are also placed throughout the area. The art pieces and signage, all non-contributing pieces were commissioned and installed in 2006.

Parking Garage

The three-story Brackenridge Park parking garage (non-contributing) is located on the west side of Avenue B near Tuleta Drive. The garage was designed by Lake Flato Architects and completed in 2009. It contains an art piece by Cakky Brawley.

West of the River

Tuleta Drive, which defines this section on the north, crosses the San Antonio River over a low water crossing (c. 1917) that has been a popular attraction for generations of park visitors. The base of the crossing is concrete and the sides are defined by stones arranged to allow water to flow across the crossing. The crossing was built to connect attractions in Koehler Park west of the river with those in Brackenridge Park east of the river. **(Photo 21)**

Mulberry Avenue, which defines this section on the south, crosses the San Antonio River on a contemporary bridge that is being rebuilt in 2011.

Koehler Park Entrance (c. 1915) (Photo 22)

The St. Mary's Street entrance into Koehler Park is marked by massive red sandstone columns with decorative iron work set on each side of St. Mary's Street. The columns were erected soon after Emma Koehler donated the park to

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the city in 1915. The designer is unknown. They carry simple plaques reading "Otto Koehler Park."

Auxiliary Structures (Photo 23)

On the west side of St. Mary's Street south of the Koehler Park entrance are two restroom buildings constructed of rubble stone and roofed in standing seam metal. (The buildings were likely roofed originally in green clay barrel tile.) They are similar in design to structures in the north part of the park and were constructed c. 1920 when Ray Lambert was parks' superintendent. Like the other structures, the restroom buildings are thought to have been designed by Will Noonan. It is worth noting that nearly identical structures are found in San Antonio's Woodlawn Lake Park, which dates to the same period.)

The Brackenridge Eagle miniature train depot (noncontributing) is situated immediately east of the Koehler Park entry gates; the depot structure was built c. 1980.

Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works/Japanese Tea Garden (1900; 1917; 1920; NR 1976) (Photos 2, 24, 25)

West of St. Mary's Street and south of the Koehler entry gates is the Japanese Tea Garden complex. It includes kilns and a smokestack built by Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works (c. 1900); the Japanese Tea Garden (1917) built in the abandoned rock quarry; and the Mexican Village (1920), a complex of four small houses.

There are two entrances to the Japanese Tea Garden complex. The first leads from St. Mary's Street to a pathway connecting to the lower portion of the garden. Decorative stone work and conical stone columns line the entryway. The columns were originally topped with light fixtures. The more widely-used entrance features a gate designed and constructed by Dionicio Rodriguez in 1942 (NRHP 2004). The archway reads "Entrance to Chinese Tea Garden," reflecting the garden's renaming after the outbreak of World War II. The gateway's supporting posts are lettered with calligraphy translated to mean "China Garden." *Faux bois* railings flank the gate.

Brick kilns and a smokestack with iron fittings are all that remain of quarry operation that produced lime and Portland cement at this site between 1880 and 1908. Parks commissioner Ray Lambert incorporated these structures into the landscaped water garden that he formed in the old quarry pit. The garden is irregularly shaped and measures approximately four hundred by three hundred feet. It consists of two pools connected by walkways and bridges. An expansive, thatched roof pagoda structure and two-story stone house overlook the pools. A high pedestrian bridge connects the house and pagoda to an overlook adjacent to the brick stack. The house was originally built for the Jingu family that lived here and operated the tea garden and its concessions until 1941. It continued to be used for a concession area and bathrooms were added later. **(Photos 24, 25)**

The Mexican Village is located between St. Mary's Street and the entrance to the Japanese Tea Garden. The village consists of four small stone structures that were constructed to house food and craft concessions to serve visitors to the garden and adjoining park. It is possible that one of the structures dates to the operation of the cement company and served as a model for the other buildings. The houses were later used as artists' studios, but have been vacant for many years. **(Photo 26)**

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The Tea Garden is designated a Texas Civil Engineering Landmark (1979) and a portion of it falls within the boundary of the Alamo Cement Works National Register nomination (1976) in recognition of its origin as a rock quarry that played a prominent role in the development of the cement business. While the 1976 nomination acknowledged the site's later redevelopment by Ray Lambert, it included only a one-acre site and five quarry-related structures, and its period of significance ended in 1899, excluding the era of the Japanese Tea Garden. This nomination for Brackenridge Park includes the Japanese Tea Garden site, its large pagoda and bridge structures; the Jingu House; and the Mexican Village as contributing resources. A complete renovation of the Japanese Tea Garden was completed in 2007, and the Jingu House was renovated in 2010-2011.

Sunken Garden Theater (1930; 1937) **(Photo 27)**

Immediately adjoining the Japanese Tea Garden to the south is the Sunken Garden Theater. The theater site is entered from St. Mary's Street by way of a driveway culminating in a parking lot that extends south and west of the theater. The theater is then reached by foot along a service road.

The entryway at St. Mary's street is a three-part structure. The centerpiece consists of an iron entry arch mounted on a cast stone base. The archway reads "Sunken Garden Theater." The Art Moderne-influenced supporting base consists of lighted side pieces and a central decorative panel that reads "A memorial to the heroes of the Texas Revolution, 1836-1936." The central panel depicts a trail drivers' camp scene rather than an image related to the revolution. This is possibly explained by the involvement of the Old Trail Drivers Memorial Association in planning local Centennial commemorations.

On the face of the northern side piece is a bronze plaque that reads: "1926-1951, San Antonio Civic Opera Company. This arch was made possible through the effort and courtesy of Jack White, Mayor; Henry Hein, Commissioner." Following Hein's name is a list of individual and corporate donors including architect Harvey Smith, Voss Metal Works, and Alamo Iron Works, all likely involved in designing and fabricating the entryway. Driveways along both sides of the centerpiece are flanked by lighted structures matching those in the center and curved wing walls with decorative balusters, all of cast stone.

The theater originally was constructed in 1930 and expanded and renovated in 1937 using Texas Centennial funding. The architect for the 1930 project was Harvey P. Smith, who was joined by George Willis and Charles T. Boelhauwe to design the 1937 project.

The old quarry wall forms the western (back) edge of the theater site, providing an open-air setting with natural acoustic features. The 1930 design included the stage and classical wings, while the 1937 expansion added dressing rooms and stage support buildings, restrooms, seating, and a concrete floor for the seating area. The 1937 project was constructed by WPA workers, while NYA workers built the concession area in 1937-1938.

The theater has been renovated several times since its completion, including in 1984, when a \$320,000 project was completed. Though seating has been replaced and ancillary structures renovated or rebuilt, the site's defining feature, the stage structure, retains its integrity. Two Art Moderne-influenced ticket booths, one at the north and one at the south entrance also retain their integrity. Due to locked gates, it was not possible to access the theater to

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evaluate auxiliary buildings and determine if they were indeed built by WPA or NYA. The stone bathroom structure, built of random-course limestone, appears to date to the WPA/NYA era. The date of the rectangular structure at the top (west) of the seating area has not been determined.

The Sunken Garden Theater is a Texas State Archaeological Landmark.

Alpine Drive (c. 1917)

Alpine Drive extends from Tuleta Drive near the zoological garden entrance up a steep incline that defines the old quarry wall on the north side of the Japanese Tea Garden. The drive was designed to provide a scenic overlook above the Tea Garden and the adjoining Sunken Garden Theater. It descends to meet North St. Mary's Street on the south side of the theater. Stacked stone pylons with lights were located along Alpine Drive; several of these pylons remain, but are in poor condition. The Alpine Drive right-of-way above the Tea Garden and Sunken Garden Theater was preserved and reconstructed as part of the US Highway 281 mitigation plan. Today the drive is closed to vehicular traffic.

The Tuesday Musical Club (1950) **(Photo28)**

South of the Sunken Garden Theater is the Tuesday Musical Club, also known as the Anna Hertzberg Memorial Music Center. The organization, founded in 1901 by Anna (Mrs. Eli) Hertzberg, constructed the building as an auditorium for musical performances. The rectangular structure consists of a one-story curved entry portico and one and one-half story auditorium and stage house. The auditorium, which seats three hundred, was designed by Atlee B. Ayres and Robert M. Ayres. The simple concrete structure features multi-pane metal casement windows and cast concrete hood moldings over the doors and windows. Busts of three unidentified musicians are set in high recesses on both the north and south elevations. Concrete stairs lead into the building on all elevations.

A monument to Anna Hertzberg stands between the building and St. Mary's Street. A cast bronze figure playing a flute, perhaps inspired by the Greek god Pan, is mounted on a tall pink granite base. The inscription reads:

Genius of Music
Memorial erected in memory of
Anna Hertzberg
Founder of Tuesday Musical Club
by her son
Harry Hertzberg
January 1951
Sculptors Pompeo Coppini-Waldine Tauch

Kampmann House (circa 1870)

The Kampmann house ruins are located in an overgrown area near the southwest corner of the park just south of the Tuesday Musical Club. The house is thought to have been built by J.H. Kampmann in conjunction with his

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quarry activities. The limestone structure is in poor condition.

The Polo Field/Golf Driving Range (circa 1920; 1952)

The largest open space in the park lies east of St. Mary's Street across from the Japanese Tea Garden, Sunken Garden Theater, and Tuesday Musical Club. The north portion of this flat site is occupied by an asphalt parking lot and a lighted softball field (noncontributing). The larger portion of the space was used for polo matches from the early 1920s until the 1980s. Beginning in 1952, use was jointly shared with a golf driving range—a function that continues today. The rectangular limestone and concrete masonry clubhouse building at the south end of the driving range near Mulberry Avenue was constructed in 2008 and is non-contributing; it serves as the headquarters for First Tee, a program to teach golf to inner city children.

Sheriff's Mounted Posse Building (c. 1951)

North of Mulberry Avenue and west of the Polo Field is a one-story, rectangular structure of hollow clay tile. The building is not painted or plastered, has metal windows and has no architectural detailing. It is currently used in conjunction with the driving range to repair golf clubs. The structure was used by the Bexar County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, which maintained its stable and tack room in Brackenridge Park from 1949 until about 1961. The building replaced an earlier structure that burned in 1951.

III. SOUTH SECTION—Mulberry Avenue to Josephine Street

The southern portion of the park, between Mulberry Avenue and Josephine Street, lies primarily east of the river; only the tract known as Allison or Davis Park and a portion of the golf course are west of the river. The construction of US Highway 281 severed three parcels of the park, and because these are now isolated from the remainder of Brackenridge Park, they are not included in this nomination.

East of the River

The park to the east of the river, extending to Broadway and Avenue B, is devoted largely to two uses—Lions Field and the Brackenridge golf course.

Lions Field (1925) (Photo 29)

Lions Field is a flat open area bounded on the north by Mulberry Avenue, south by Avenue B, west by a drainage ditch that separates it from the golf course, and on the east by Broadway. The land was acquired by the city from the Water Works Company in 1916.

A clubhouse and playground were constructed on the site in 1925. The stone rubble clubhouse has been extensively remodeled and expanded since its completion; the building's architect is not known. The playground (noncontributing) has been modernized to meet current code requirements. The signature identifying monument for Lions Field is a life-sized lion sculpture that is mounted on a stone pedestal. The monument was designed and

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executed by Louis Rodriguez.

A softball diamond (noncontributing) is located close to Broadway at the south end of Lions Field. Stone and tile abutments (c. 1930) mark the park entrance at Avenue B at the southeast corner of Lions Field. Avenue B originally curved north from this point through the golf course to intersect Mulberry Avenue. This portion of Avenue B was eliminated when the golf course was reconfigured in the late 1960s. The continuation of Avenue B south of Lions Field forms the park's eastern edge.

Brackenridge Golf Course and Clubhouse (1916 and 1923) (Photos 30, 31)

Noted golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast of Philadelphia designed the eighteen-hole Brackenridge Golf Course, which was completed in 1916. The wooded site, filled with native trees, spanned both sides of the river and the water works channel that ran directly through the course. Footbridges spanned the river and channel. The course has been extensively remodeled since its completion, most notably in the late 1960s when US Highway 281 cut through the park's western edge. The Tillinghast layout was left intact with the exception of the twelfth and thirteenth holes. The course was redesigned to fit the reconfigured site by course manager Murray Brooks and consultant George A. Hoffman. A major course renovation in 2008 restored Tillinghast's design, to the extent possible.

Three stone bridges, built to span both the old water works channel and river, still stand at various points on the golf course. Originally there were five of these structures, all likely built by NYA workers; NYA construction of the bridge over the water works channel on hole number three is documented in newspaper accounts. NYA workers also completed a starter house (standing), caddy house, tee boxes and drinking fountains.

The Tudor style clubhouse of rubble stone, concrete, and wood was designed by local architect Ralph Cameron and completed in 1923. The main entrance to the building is on the north through an arched doorway topped with a fanlight. The west elevation features a tall chimney and rounded tower with conical roof. The tower is topped with an original weather vane depicting a golfer. An open porch and doorway on the east elevation has been closed in. A gable-roofed room projects from the east elevation, connecting to a second story gabled dormer with tall chimney. Walls are of rubble stone and the east elevation features half timber finishes on the upper level. Chimneys are of brick and stone. Windows and doors have a combination of curved and flat brick lintels and arches and brick and concrete sills. Windows are a combination of wood casement and steel frame. The original shingled roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The building was remodeled in 1968 by Johnson and Dempsey architects.

Lower Pump House (1885; NRHP 1981)

The lower pump house, also known as the Borglum Studio for its use by sculptor Gutzon Borglum, was built during the expansion phase of the water works' development. It was powered by water that flowed from the river approximately one mile to the north through a long earthen raceway. The rectangular building of ashlar limestone and wood framing is situated southeast of the golf clubhouse at the edge of the abandoned river channel. The raceway was filled many years ago, though its path is partially visible. At its intersection with Mulberry Avenue, remnant rubble stone wing walls are visible on the south side of the street. The remaining channel is visible as a

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low depression that runs through the golf course. Wood steps, built later, lead to the building's entrance on the west elevation, where tall wood doors are set in a stone archway. There are windows on the west and south elevations at both the upper and basement levels. Windows on the east elevation have been filled. Large pipes that were once part of the pumping system protrude from the basement level on the west elevation. Pumps were powered by water that entered the lower level of the building at the north elevation. When the building was converted to other uses, a frame addition was constructed on its stone base at the north end. Remnants of piping remain in both the lower and upper levels. The building is roofed in asphalt shingles.

Electric Station #2 (1939)

A small, square stone structure stands a short distance south of the pump house along Avenue B. Like Electric Pump Station #3, which stands just north of the upper pump house, it is presumed to have housed an electrically powered pump. The structure has metal casement windows on two sides and a flat roof. A plaque on the building reads:

City Water Board, Brackenridge Park
Electric Station #2
January 1939
Conrad A. Goeth, Chair, Lamar G. Seeligson, Martin C. Giesecke,
James A. Gallagher, C.K. Quin, Mayor

South of the electric station is a contemporary above-ground water storage tank and related pumping equipment (non-contributing). An open concrete trapezoidal drainage channel drains to the old river channel.

West of the River

Davis (Allison) Park (1917)

Established in 1917, this 10-acre open space is bounded on the north by Mulberry Avenue, on the east by the San Antonio River, by private property on the west, and on the south by Huisache Avenue. The park has trees but no standing structures. Along Mulberry Avenue, a cedar post fence defines an old horse trail that originally served the stable at the west side of the park. Adjoining the fence to the south is an asphalt walking path, constructed in 2010. The stable, which was located on private property, closed and was demolished in the late 1990s.

Low Water Crossing (1939)

Avenue A runs south from Mulberry Avenue between the golf course and the river's east bank. It originally branched east through the golf course, and it also connected to River Road (formerly Memorial Drive) on the river's west bank by way of a low water crossing at Woodlawn Avenue. The road was closed through the golf course in the late 1960s, and it now culminates at the river. Though the river crossing also was closed many years ago, the concrete structure remains intact and is used today by pedestrians and fishermen. A faint stamp in the concrete reads "NYA 1939."

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Summary

Brackenridge Park is an excellent example of an evolutionary landscape that spans local history from the Spanish colonial era through the years following World War II. Resources within the park's boundaries document trends in water supply, landscape design, recreation, and culture. Lacking a formal plan, the land comprising the park developed according to public needs and political will over the course of three centuries. The resulting collection of resources represents a unique and eclectic spectrum of local history. Though renovations and alterations have impacted Brackenridge Park, it nonetheless retains a high degree of integrity of design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association.

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Section 7 Page 23Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas**CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

Archeological sites described on pp 29-34.

I. North Section—Hildebrand Avenue to Tuleta Drive (Map on page 80)

Map Key	Name of Resource	East / West of River	Date of Construction	Type	Photo #
2	Alamo dam and acequia	E	1719	Structure	4
3	Reptile Garden	E	1937	Structure	
4	Pioneer Hall	E	1937	Building	5
5	Witte Museum	E	1926 & later	Building	6
7	Francisco Ruiz House	E	c. 1760; relocated 1943	Building	7
8	John Twohig House	E	c. 1841; relocated 1942	Building	
9	Celso Navarro House	E	c. 1835; relocated 1947	Building	
10	Perimeter wall and entry gates	E	1936-1937	Structure	8
11	Upper Labor dam and acequia	W	c. 1776-1778	Structure	9
12	Water Works raceway	W	1877	Site	
13	Donkey Barn	W	c. 1920; 1956	Building	10
14	Electric Pump Station #3	W	1940	Building	11
15	Bathroom building (men's)	W	c. 1926	Building	12
16	Bathroom building (women's)	W	c. 1926	Building	
18	Stone footbridge	W	c. 1900 and later	Structure	
20	San Antonio river wall	E/W	1937-1938	Structure	13
21	Iron truss bridge	E/W	1890	Structure	14
22	First Water Works pump house	W	1877	Building	15
23	Lambert Beach	E/W	1915; 1925	Site	15
24	Lambert Beach bathhouse	W	1925	Structure	16
25	Joske Pavilion	W	1926	Structure	17
28	Picnic area	W	1938-1940	Site	18
29	Pedestrian bridge	E/W	c. 1890; relocated 1926	Structure	13
30	Miniature railroad tracks, tunnel, and bridge	E/W	1957-c. 1960	Structure	
31	Koehler Pavilion	W	c. 1925	Structure	19
32	Auxiliary building	W	c. 1930	Building	
33	Water feature	W	c. 1915	Structure	
35, 36	Faux bois bench, table-and-bench set by Dionicio Rodriguez (NRHP 2004)	W	c. 1925	Object (2)	

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II. Middle Section—Tuleta Drive to Mulberry Avenue (Map on page 81)

Map Key	Name of Resource	East / West of River	Date of Construction	Type	Photo #
37	Eleanor Brackenridge memorial	E	1925	Object	
38	George Brackenridge statue	E	pre-1957; 1969	Object	20
40	Faux bois shelter by Dionicio Rodriguez	E	c. 1925	Structure	
44	Low water crossing	E/W	c. 1917	Structure	21
45	Koehler Park entry gates	W	c. 1915	Structure	22
46	Bathroom buildings	W	c. 1920	Building (2)	23
48	Japanese Tea Garden (excluded from 1976 NRHP nomination of the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works)	W	1917	Site; Structure (2)	2, 25
48	Jingu House	W	c. 1920	Building	24
49	Mexican Village houses (excluded from 1976 NRHP nomination of the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works)	W	1920	Building (4)	26
50	Sunken Garden Theater entry	W	1937	Object	
51	Sunken Garden Theater	W	1930; 1937	Structure (4)	27
52	Alpine Drive	W	c. 1916	Site	
53	Tuesday Musical Club building	W	1950	Building	28
53	Tuesday Musical Club statue	W	1951	Object	28
54	Kampmann house ruins	W	c. 1870	Building	
55	Polo Field/Driving Range	W	1920; 1952	Site	
57	Sheriff's Mounted Posse building	W	c. 1951	Building	

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III. South Section—Mulberry Avenue to Josephine Street (Map on page 82)

Map Key	Name of Resource	East / West of River	Date of Construction	Type	Photo #
58	Lions Field	E	1925	Site	
58	Lions Field statue	E	1925	Object	29
59	Lions Field clubhouse	E	1925	Building	29
62	Brackenridge Park Avenue B entry gates	E	c. 1930	Structure	
63	Brackenridge Park golf course	E/W	1916 and later	Site	30
64	Golf course stone bridges	E		Structure (3)	30
65	Old snack shop	E	c. 1930	Building	
66	Brackenridge Park golf clubhouse	E	1923	Building	31
66a	Brackenridge Park golf course starters' shack	E	1957	Structure	30
68	Electric Station #2	E	1939	Building	
70	Horse Trail cedar post fence	W	c. 1940	Structure	
70	Davis (Allison) Park	W	c. 1940	Site	
71	Low water crossing	E/W	1939	Structure	

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Map Key	Name of Resource	East / West of River	Date of Construction	Type	Photo #
1	Miraflores Park (NRHP 2006)	E	c. 1923	Building; Site; Object (9)	
17	Dionicio Rodriguez Bridge in Brackenridge Park (NRHP 2004)	W	1926	Structure	
48	Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works (NRHP 1976)	W	1900	Site; Structure (5)	
48	Chinese Sunken Garden Gate (by Dionicio Rodriguez) (NRHP 2004)	W	1942	Object	
67	(Lower) Water Works Pump House No. 2 (Borglum Studio) (NRHP 1981)	E	1885	Building	

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NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

I. North Section—Hildebrand Avenue to Tuleta Drive (Map on page 80)

Map Key	Name of Resource	East / West of River	Date of Construction	Type	Photo #
6	H-E-B Science Treehouse	E	1997	Building	
9a	Onderdonk studio	E	relocated 2008	Building	
13	Donkey Barn warehouses	W	c. 1956 and later	Building (4)	
19	Softball field	W	c. 1950 and later	Site	
26	Eleanor Brackenridge playground	W	2003	Site	
27	Concession building	W	1979	Building	
34	Picnic shelter	W	c. 1982	Structure	

II. Middle Section—Tuleta Drive to Mulberry Avenue (Map on page 81)

Map Key	Name of Resource	East / West of River	Date of Construction	Type	Photo #
39	Parfun Way entry arch	E	2006	Object	
41	Public art	E	2006	Object (4)	
42	Parking garage	E	2009	Building	
43	Miniature train maintenance warehouse	E	c. 1980	Structure	
47	Miniature train depot	W	c. 1980	Building	
55a	Softball field	W	c. 1980	Site	
56	First Tee clubhouse	W	2008	Building	

III. South Section—Mulberry Avenue to Josephine Street (Map on page 82)

Map Key	Name of Resource	East / West of River	Date of Construction	Type	Photo #
60	Lions Field playground	E	c. 2006	Site	
61	Lions Field softball field	E	c. 1950	Site	
65	Golf course maintenance buildings	W		Building (3)	
69	Water storage tank	E	c. 2005	Structure	

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic 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

- A** Property is owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Property is removed from its original location.
- C** Property is a birthplace or grave.
- D** Property is a cemetery.
- E** Property is a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** Property is a commemorative property.
- G** Property is less than 50 years of age or has achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHEOLOGY--Prehistoric--Aboriginal; ARCHEOLOGY--Historic--Non-Aboriginal; ARCHITECTURE; ART; CONSERVATION; ENGINEERING; ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION; INDUSTRY; LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: ca. 12,500--350 BP (Paleoindian to Late Prehistoric) and 1719--1961 (Historic)

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1719, ca. 1776, 1852, 1863, ca. 1870, 1880, 1899, 1916, 1917, 1937

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT / BUILDER: Ludwig Mahncke; Ray Lambert; Ralph Cameron; Atlee B. Ayres and Robert M. Ayres; Will N. Noonan; Harvey P. Smith; George Willis; Charles T. Boelhauwe; Emmett Jackson; Raymond Phelps and Dahl Dewees; A.W. Tillinghast; Dionicio Rodriguez

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-27 through 8-71)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-72 through 9-76)

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 (*City of San Antonio, Department of Parks and Recreation*)
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

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Statement of Significance

Brackenridge Park in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, is one of the preeminent public parks in the state of Texas. Formally established in 1899, when George Brackenridge's Water Works Company donated 199 acres of property to the City of San Antonio for public use, the park includes a wide array of prehistoric and historic sites, including two Spanish-built irrigation ditches, and a former rock quarry. Beginning in 1915, recreational areas were introduced into the park, adding pavilions, playgrounds, bathhouses, and picnic areas. The park is nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation and Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the development and design of San Antonio's parks system, and in the area of Industry for its association with the production of limestone and cement from about 1850 until 1908. The park is also nominated at the state level of significance under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture, Art, and Landscape Architecture for its rich collection of objects, structures, and buildings that span from the pre-park era through the Great Depression, and in the area of Engineering for its association with water delivery from 1719 through 1899. Noteworthy buildings and structures of statewide significance within the park include Pioneer Hall and the Sunken Garden Theater, two of the largest products of the Texas Centennial program, a federal and state-funded commemoration of Texas Independence from Mexico that sponsored the construction of monuments, museums, and markers statewide in the 1930s. The Japanese Sunken Garden, a major component of the park, is also significant at the state level, as a one-of-a-kind redevelopment of a former industrial site for public use as recreation facility, exhibiting a high degree of craftsmanship and design. Finally, Brackenridge Park is nominated under Criterion D at the state level in the area of Archeology-Prehistoric-Aboriginal because of its documented archaeological deposits and potential sites related to the Paleoindian (12,500-8,800 BC), Archaic (including Early Archaic [8,800 to 6,000 BP]; Middle Archaic [6,000 to 4,000 BP]; and Late Archaic [4,000 to 1,200 BP]), and Late Prehistoric (1,200 to 350 BP) periods; and in the area of Archeology-Historic-Non-Aboriginal, for its documented and potential archeological deposits from the Spanish colonial period through the turn of the twentieth century. The historic period begins with the arrival of Europeans in Texas, and its earliest evidence in the park is the Alamo acequia and dam system, which dates to 1719. The historic period continues through the park era to 1961, the current fifty-year mark.

Overview

Brackenridge Park is comprised of 344 acres of land immediately south of the headwaters of the San Antonio River, which runs from north to south through the entire park property. The irregularly-shaped, city-owned park, located approximately four miles north of downtown San Antonio, is bounded generally by Hildebrand Avenue and Tuleta Drive on the north, McAllister Freeway, Alpine Drive, River Road and North St. Mary's Street on the west, Josephine Street and US Highway 281 on the south and Avenue B and Broadway on the east.

The park includes a wide array of prehistoric and historic sites. Two Spanish-built irrigation ditches—the Alamo Acequia (east of the river) and Upper Labor Acequia (west of the river)—originated in today's park. Within the park boundaries, a city-owned rock quarry provided stone for local building and production of Portland cement, and a Confederate tannery operated during the Civil War. Much of the park was used for farming until the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The property east of the river was acquired by George W. Brackenridge in 1876 and leased to entrepreneur Jean B. Lacoste for a water works that delivered pure water to city residents. Brackenridge

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assumed ownership of the struggling water works by 1883.

Brackenridge Park was formally established in 1899, when George Brackenridge's Water Works Company donated 199 acres of property east of the river to the City of San Antonio for public use. Park Commissioner Ludwig Mahncke supervised the creation of roads through the wooded areas adjoining the San Antonio River, and the park opened to the public in 1901. Over the next two decades, the park expanded west of the river, as Brackenridge and other owners donated or sold property to the city. The city also incorporated a portion of its original Spanish land grant tracts that had been used to quarry limestone.

Beginning in 1915, recreational areas were introduced into the park, adding built improvements to the natural landscape. These included pavilions, playgrounds, bathhouses, and picnic areas. Many of these features were envisioned by parks commissioner Ray Lambert.

While the park's structures have undergone some alterations during the last one hundred years, the historic park landscape as a whole has remained remarkably unchanged since the 1950s. The most substantial change occurred in the late 1960s when US Highway 281 (McAllister Expressway) severed the western edge of the park.

In addition to the Water Works tract, Brackenridge Park is comprised of several parcels including Spanish land grant property that has not left the city's ownership since the eighteenth century, access parcels acquired by condemnation (1908), the Koehler bequest (1915), Lions Field (1916), Davis Park (1917) and the Tannery Tract (1917).

A twelve-acre section of Brackenridge Park was determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981; this determination was made in conjunction with an Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) grant that funded park improvements. Other National Register listings within the boundaries of Brackenridge Park include the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works (NRHP 1976); Water Works Pump House No. 2 (Borglum Studio) (NRHP 1981); works by Dionicio Rodriguez, including the Japanese ("Chinese") Sunken Garden Gate and the Brackenridge Park Bridge (NRHP 2004); and Miraflores Park across the San Antonio River (NRHP 2006).

Several other National Register listed properties are located near Brackenridge Park, including Fort Sam Houston, one mile southeast of the park (NRHP 1975; National Historic Landmark 1975); the Source of the River Archaeological District (NRHP 1978)¹; the Monte Vista Residential District, one mile west of the park (NRHP 1998); and the University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building, immediately north of the park (NRHP 2010).

¹ National Register of Historic Places, *Source of the River National Register Historic District*; Stothert (1989), *The Archaeological and Early History of the Head of the San Antonio River*, Southern Texas Archaeological Association, Special Publication Number Five. This archeological district is located immediately north of the park and includes thirteen prehistoric and historic sites.

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Archaeological Resources in Brackenridge Park – REDACT pp. 29-34 before publication

There are numerous recognized archaeological sites within the boundaries of the nominated property. The sites are as follows:

41BX13	prehistoric (Archaic and Neohistoric periods); a State Archaeological Landmark
41BX170	historic
41BX264	prehistoric
41BX293	prehistoric
41BX321	prehistoric
41BX322	prehistoric
41BX323	prehistoric (Late Prehistoric; Archaic and Late Paleoindian periods); a State Archaeological Landmark
41BX396	prehistoric
41BX1425	prehistoric
41BX1273	prehistoric and historic
41BX 1396	prehistoric
41BX1773	prehistoric
41BX1798	prehistoric and historic

The Brackenridge Park area has been a gathering place since prehistoric times and therefore contains a wealth of historic and prehistoric resources. Because of this rich history, numerous archaeological projects have occurred in and near the park. Much of this work was conducted by the University of Texas at San Antonio's Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) and by SWCA, Inc., Environmental Consultants. An area currently being studied crosses two sites, 41BX264 and 41BX1396, which have been previously examined by SWCA and others. These investigations have produced evidence of human visitation and occupation extending back at least 11,000 years, into the late Paleoindian era (12,500–8,800 BC). Prehistoric sites have been identified north of the park in Olmos Basin, at the headwaters of the San Antonio River, in the park itself, and south of the park.²

Brackenridge Park Survey

In 1977, Katz and Fox of CAR conducted an archaeological survey of Brackenridge Park to inventory all prehistoric and historic resources in the park. This included a pedestrian survey of the entire park but did not include subsurface excavations. They documented four prehistoric archaeological sites, eleven collecting localities (CLs), and twenty seven historic sites. The collecting localities were areas where artifacts were observed in quantities too low to be considered a site. The four prehistoric sites (41BX264, 41BX321, 41BX322 and 41BX323) contained debitage, stone tool fragments, and burned rock dating from the Early to the Transitional Archaic. From site 41BX264 (the Polo Field Site), Katz and Fox recovered multiple tools including Pedernales, Nolan, and Castroville points; bone and mussel shell; debitage; and hearth features. Sites 41BX321 and 41BX322 were small lithic

² Fox 1975, 1.

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scatters, but site 41BX323 (the Paddle Boat Concession Site), was more substantial and has seen additional archaeological excavations. It was recorded as a large lithic scatter (300-x-75 m) with at least 30 cm of cultural deposits below ground surface and contained one Late Archaic Frio point. The historic features included water control features, industrial features, and recreational features. Katz and Fox recommended nomination of Brackenridge Park to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a Historic District.³

SWCA Water Main Survey

SWCA performed the archaeological survey and backhoe trench excavations ahead of installation of a 16-inch San Antonio Water System (SAWS) water main. This survey crossed three site boundaries (41BX264, 41BX1396, and 41BX321) discussed individually below. The pipeline began west of the San Antonio River on East Mulberry and was bored under River Road and the river. The route continued along the north edge of the golf course and through an area that is being investigated in 2011 and turned south, crossing 41BX1396 and 41BX321 before ending near the Brackenridge Golf Course Clubhouse.

SWCA did not recommend any archaeological work along the pipeline segment that ran through the current study area along Mulberry Avenue east of the river. They did excavate one backhoe trench west of the river on Mulberry and a series of backhoe trenches along the pipeline, parallel to the ditch within the golf course. Cultural materials related to both 41BX264 and 41BX321 were observed in backhoe trenches. Houk found the paucity of materials, lack of buried features and disturbed subsoil (in the case of 41BX321) did not warrant eligibility status as a State Archaeological Landmark (SAL) or NRHP listing for either site based on his findings.⁴

41BX264 (the Polo Field site)

The western portion of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for work being done in the park in 2011 crosses site 41BX264, which is on the Brackenridge Driving and Practice Range and former Polo Field. The site was examined by Bob Dunphy in 1963, by Fox and Katz in 1976, by Kevin Miller of SWCA in 2001, and by Herbert Uecker and Douglas Molineu of South Texas Archaeological Research Services (STARS) in 2003. The site boundaries were determined by Katz and Fox based on a surface scatter of stone tools, faunal remains, debitage, and burned rock features but were expanded by Miller and Barile after subsurface trenching during a renovation project of the driving range. Houk discussed the site again when he assigned artifacts identified in a backhoe trench south of Mulberry to 41BX264.⁵

Miller and Barile's work included a surface survey and mechanical trenching of a 20-acre project area that encompassed the driving range from Mulberry Avenue in the south to the train track in the north and from North St. Mary's on the west to the San Antonio River on the east. This project was undertaken ahead of construction on the driving range that involved extensive modifications to the landscape and renovations to the club house. Surface visibility was poor but debitage was noted in the northern portion of the project area within the boundaries of site

³ Katz and Fox, 1979. For further information on the Paddle Boat Site, see Houk et al., 1999; Meskill, 2000; Miller et al., 1999; Houk and Miller, 2001; Houk, 2002b; and Figueroa and Dowling, 2007.

⁴ Houk, 2002a, 10.

⁵ Katz and Fox, 1979; Miller and Barile, 2001; Uecker and Molineu, 2004; Miller, 2001; and Houk, 2002.

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41BX264. Eight backhoe trenches revealed a low density of lithic debitage, burned rocks, and tools, including one Langtry projectile point, from 5 to 130 cmbs. However, most of these artifacts were within the upper 60 cm of disturbed deposits. SWCA concluded that though intact cultural materials may remain on some portions of the site, they would not yield information important to prehistory, and therefore the site was not recommended for listing on the NRHP or considered eligible as a SAL. This work revealed a larger site boundary than previously recorded though the northern extent remained undefined. They recommended monitoring during construction. This monitoring was conducted by Uecker and Molineu in 2003. In the interim, Houk recorded artifacts he considered part of 41BX264, south of Mulberry, in a backhoe trench along a proposed pipeline.⁶

Uecker and Molineu monitored excavations that exceeded 40 cmbs and conducted some data recovery excavations of features observed during scraping and trenching. They observed three distinct areas of cultural materials in the eastern portion of the site near the San Antonio River. Area A contained 36 burned rock clusters and associated cultural materials that were uncovered by paddle scraping. Three such clusters were identified in Area C from ground scraping. In Area B, two small burned rock clusters with other artifacts were identified in a trench wall. Features in Areas A and C were mapped and recorded but not investigated. These areas were covered with sterile sand and topsoil in efforts to preserve the deposits for future work. Limited data recovery efforts were conducted on features in Area B which were hand excavated in a 1-x-2 m unit. Artifacts recovered from scraping in Areas A and C include projectile points dating to the Middle to Late Archaic and to the Late Prehistoric periods. Some of the typed points include Marshall, Pedernales, Castroville, Langtry, Noland, and Travis. A Guadalupe tool fragment was also found.

These investigations confirmed what previous archaeologists had reported, clusters of burned rock and associated chipped stone artifacts, which was also heat altered, scattered across the landform. Though the research potential was considered low, preservation of the deposits below the construction impact and outside the project area was deemed sufficient to recommend eligibility as a State Archaeological Landmark, especially within 150 m of the center of the river channel. The site also has historic elements that contributed to the site's eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP, SAL, and the City of San Antonio Historic Landmark or Heritage Property list.⁷

41BX1396

In 2002, SWCA also conducted archaeological investigations in Brackenridge Golf Course for SAWS Water Recycling Program. This work involved shovel testing and monitoring along a water line running parallel to the cart path at the ninth hole in the vicinity of two CLs (1 and 3) recorded by Katz and Fox. Barile *et al.* formally recorded 41BX1396 after observing an area dense with lithic materials including stone tools around two of Katz and Fox's CLs (1979; CL1 and CL3). Further impacts to 41BX1396 occurred with the installation of a 16-inch water main installed by SAWS in 2002. As described above, a 16-inch water main was bored under the river and through the boundaries of 41BX1396.⁸

⁶ Miller and Barile, 2001; Houk, 2002; and Uecker and Molineu, 2004.

⁷ Historic overviews of the Polo Field are provided in Miller and Barile, 2001; Houk, 2002; and Uecker and Molineu, 2004.

⁸ Barile *et al.*, 2002; Houk, 2002a.

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SWCA again investigated site 41BX1396 in 2008, in conjunction with the restoration of the golf course to its original design. This project involved a complete assessment of cultural resources in the golf course, including sites 41BX1396, 41BX13 and 41BX321 and involved pedestrian survey, shovel testing, and data recovery. Backhoe trenches exposed cultural material (burned rock, debitage, tools, and bone) from the surface to approximately 70 cmbs, the upper portions of which had been impacted by previous projects on the golf course. The data recovery excavations occurred to explore deeper deposits 50-70 cmbs. Carpenter *et al.* recommended that the site is eligible for designation as an SAL.⁹

More recently, during the spring of 2011, the CAR conducted data recovery excavations in three locations across the northern portion of 41BX1396. These excavations recovered Early Archaic (Guadalupe adzes) tools and late Paleoindian projectile points (Angostura and Saint Mary's Hall). More importantly, the Saint Mary's Hall component has been dated to range between 8390/8180 to 10490/10230 BP (2 sigma calibrated; Beta samples 297513 and 298093, respectively).

41BX13

Witte Museum staff recorded site 41BX13 in 1966. No other work is noted until SWCA's investigation in 2008, ahead of the golf course restoration project noted above. At this time, the site boundaries were redefined based on surface inspection and backhoe trenching. Most cultural materials were found in a buried stratum 60-100 cmbs of the T2 terrace, though scattered burned rock and debitage were also noted eroding out of the surface of the T1 terrace in disturbed areas. The integrity of the deeper deposits contributed to the site's SAL eligibility.¹⁰

41BX321

Katz and Fox recorded 41BX321, on the eastern edge of the golf course, in their survey of Brackenridge Park in 1976. They noted the site was damaged by the large drainage ditch and sewer line, but observed artifacts 30 cmbs. The site was mentioned again in 2002 during backhoe trenching for the water main. Cultural materials seen in BHTs 5 and 6 of this work were attributed to 41BX321, though the site boundaries were not revised. A few artifacts were noted 80-100 cmbs in these trenches. The quality of the deposits and the quantity of artifacts were not sufficient to recommend further testing. Houk did not recommend SAL eligibility for 41BX321.¹¹

Site boundaries were explored in 2008 when SWCA returned for the golf course restoration project. Three backhoe trenches excavated here revealed 20-50 cm of fill, some debitage and burned rock. The burned rock was found in Trench 3, 110 cmbs. Carpenter concurred with Houk's previous recommendations concerning SAL status that the site was ineligible for SAL status.¹²

⁹ Carpenter *et al.*, 2008.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Katz and Fox, 1979; Houk, 2002a.

¹² Carpenter *et al.*, 2008; Houk, 2002a.

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41BX323 (the Paddle Boat Concession site)

Site 41BX323 has been excavated by CAR, the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), and SWCA since it was first identified during the Brackenridge Park Survey in 1979. TARL conducted testing and data recovery excavations on the eastern portion of the site in 1995 for the Witte Museum's H.E.B. Science Tree House. These archaeological and geological investigations identified Archaic components with rock features, lithics, floral and faunal remains in twenty-three test units. Meskill *et al.* concluded that the site had been impacted by natural erosion and bioturbation.¹³

From 1997 to 1999, SWCA conducted testing and data recovery at the site ahead of construction of the proposed water pipeline for the SAWS Water Recycling Program. The initial testing included backhoe trenches, mechanical augering and hand excavation of test units). Chipped stone and lithic tools, burned rock features, and ceramics were found across the tested area. The results suggested that Early Archaic and Late Prehistoric materials were compressed within the upper meter of the site's deposits. Miller *et al.* determined that the site was potentially eligible for listing as an SAL and recommended avoidance of the site or data recovery.¹⁴

Houk *et al.* reported on the data recovery that followed these recommendations. They targeted Archaic deposits with intact burned rock features in two locales (including a burned rock midden) and a shallow Late Prehistoric component in another. The block excavations found that the site dates primarily to the Middle Archaic but also has Late and Transitional Archaic components, with a near-surface Late Prehistoric component.¹⁵ Lee Nordt conducted a geomorphological study of the site during the data recovery excavations. He observed the site occupied two terrace landforms which were associated with four stratigraphic units. Lower levels of Unit 3 date to the Middle and Late Archaic periods, and the upper portion of Unit 3 date to the Late Prehistoric. Compression and bioturbation were again observed and thought to have negatively affected the deposits. The site was determined to be a SAL after this data recovery work.¹⁶

In 2000, SWCA returned to 41BX323 to conduct auger testing as part of the Brackenridge Park Rehabilitation Project Survey. The auger testing confirmed that intact deposits were located in the western portion of the site, which prompted additional testing in 2002, as reported by Houk. Testing concluded that Late Prehistoric materials may be better preserved on the site south of Tuleta Drive, where minimal park development and erosion occurred.¹⁷

In 2007, CAR conducted eligibility testing at 41BX323 at the location of a proposed parking garage facility. CAR's testing expanded the site boundaries south with evidence of Late Prehistoric and Archaic occupations recovered. Artifact recovery was sparse and the southeastern portion of the site was not found to contribute to the site's significance.¹⁸

¹³ Katz and Fox, 1979; Meskill and Frederick, 1998; Meskill *et al.*, 2000.

¹⁴ Miller *et al.*, 1999; Houk *et al.*, 1999.

¹⁵ Houk *et al.*, 1999.

¹⁶ Nordt, 1999.

¹⁷ Houk and Miller, 2001; Houk, 2002b.

¹⁸ Figueroa and Dowling, 2007.

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Historic Archeological Properties

There are several historic properties located within the boundaries of the nominated property that pre-date the park's creation, including the Mill Race or Second Waterworks Canal, which is associated with the expansion of the city's water system in 1886. This long, linear earthen canal extends south from Tuleta Drive, through the park, to Mulberry Avenue, continuing south to the site of the Second Water Works building (NRHP 1981), where it re-enters the San Antonio River. The canal's width varies from 10 to 30 meters with berms, 2-3 m high, on each side in a section north of Mulberry Avenue. The berms likely were constructed from intact deposits within the canal. Wing walls of this canal are exposed just south of Mulberry Avenue on the northern edge of the golf course.¹⁹

In 1997, SWCA conducted archaeological investigations of the Second Waterworks Canal in order to record the structure and assess its preservation. Three backhoe trenches were excavated in the northern end of the canal near its juncture with the San Antonio River. Two more trenches were placed near Mulberry Avenue. These provided a cross-section view of the canal and berms between Mulberry Avenue and Tuleta Drive. Miller *et al.* reported the canal narrows from 20 m to 10 m as it approaches Mulberry and reaches depths below 2.5 m. The ground surface on which the berms were constructed was evident in the berm profiles, as were intact prehistoric deposits beneath the berms along the canal. They found the canal was filled in the 1950s or 1960s with modern concrete, limestone blocks, asphalt, gravels, and recent trash.

The *Paso de Tejas* river crossing was thought to be in the area and has been mentioned in historic documents. These anecdotal accounts place the crossing at two different locations, one north and one south (near the Lone Star Brewery). The only definitive documentation found to date in the historical record—a map dated 1879—shows the crossing within the site boundary of 41BX1396, near Katz and Fox's CL 1, and to the north of the Zambrano House in the River Road neighborhood. This does not, however, discount other sources mentioning the crossing. It is possible that the same or similar names were used for multiple crossing locations along the river in San Antonio.²⁰

Summary of Brackenridge Park Archaeological Resources

Overall, the area today encompassed by Brackenridge Park has a lengthy history of human occupation and utilization, extending from the Paleoindian period through the historic period. This is due largely to both abundant water and shelter found along the San Antonio River. While fewer Paleoindian components have been identified than later deposits, the recent excavations at 41BX1396 indicate that such deposits are present within Brackenridge Park. It is particularly this upper portion of the drainage basin that attracted hunter-gatherers to the area thousands of years ago, and later provided an attractive location for Spanish colonial settlement in the region.

¹⁹ Katz and Fox, 1979:14.

²⁰ Miller *et al.*, 1999, 43, 45; Cooley, 1900; Cox, 2005.

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Spanish Colonial Occupation, 1719–1821

The oasis-like environment of the San Antonio River and the San Pedro Creek, located west of Brackenridge Park, attracted Spanish expeditions traveling through the region in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. On June 13, 1691, a group led by Domingo Teran de los Rios and Father Damian Massanet arrived at a Payaya Indian village named Yanaguana. Because the explorers arrived on the feast day of St. Anthony, they called the place San Antonio de Padua. The location of Yanaguana is unknown.

A permanent settlement comprised of Mission San Antonio de Valero and the Villa de Bexar was established in the spring of 1718 by the governor of Texas, Martín de Alarcón, and a small group of priests, soldiers, and families. The mission was sited west of the river and the villa was established a short distance away on San Pedro Creek. Raids by Lipan Apaches soon threatened the villa and mission, and they were moved south to more protected areas in today's downtown San Antonio. Civilian, military, and religious settlers were joined in 1731 by sixteen Canary Island families sent by the King of Spain to establish a permanent municipality. As the community grew, its residents were often at odds over control of land and water, issues that ultimately shaped the area that became Brackenridge Park.²¹

Soon after arriving, the Spanish began to construct an elaborate system of hand-dug ditches (*acequias*) to carry water from the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek for domestic and agricultural use. Two of these ditches—the Alamo acequia (often referred to as the Acequia Madre) and Acequia Labor de Arriba (Upper Labor acequia) flowed from the river in what is now Brackenridge park.

The Alamo acequia (1719–1720) originated on the river's east bank just above today's Witte Museum, ran south to water the lands of Mission San Antonio de Valero, and returned to the river below the mission. The land between the river and the ditch was controlled by the mission. It was not until after the mission's secularization in 1793 that these fields were granted to individual owners, notably the *Adaesanos* who had relocated to San Antonio when the Presidio de Adaes in east Texas was abandoned in 1773.

Archaeological testing conducted by UTSA's Center for Archaeological Research in late 2010 documented the location of the Alamo dam and acequia channel north and west of the Witte Museum. Further excavations will be conducted at a later time. Portions of the Alamo acequia outside the park have also been documented in various studies.

The portion of the "Adaesanos farm" lying within today's Brackenridge Park was granted to Vicente Flores and Jose Antonio de la Garza. The Flores family's property at the north end of the park included the dam and head gate of the Alamo acequia where the ditch was diverted from the San Antonio River. To the south, the de la Garza property included a return or waste channel of the Alamo acequia that joined the river below the park. Much of the Flores and de la Garza land remained family-owned until the middle of the nineteenth century.²²

²¹ de la Teja, 8-9. The villa, which grew to become the Presidio de Bexar, was constructed on the east bank of San Pedro Creek on the site of today's Military Plaza/Plaza de las Armas (NR 1979). The mission was initially moved east of the river and a short distance south of its final location (1724) on today's Alamo Plaza (NRHP 1977).

²² de la Teja, 83-84.

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By the 1760s, serious consideration was given to building an acequia to irrigate land west of the river to San Pedro Creek. The area became known as the "upper farm"—formally named Nuestra Senora de los Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows). The Upper Labor acequia (1776–1778) branched from the river's west bank within the park just below Hildebrand Avenue. Twenty-six long, narrow parcels (*suertes*) running from the acequia to the river were awarded in the late 1770s to those who financed the ditch. The northernmost parcels were retained by the city and not sold until the nineteenth century. Other land within today's park boundaries and west of the Upper Labor acequia was retained by the city. Much of this property has remained publicly owned since the Spanish era.²³

The Upper Labor dam was partially excavated, documented and refilled in 1995 during park renovation. The acequia channel is still visible within the park and zoological garden.²⁴

The Antebellum and Post-Civil War Period, 1846–1874

The land that is now Brackenridge Park remained a rural, agricultural area with scattered dwellings until after Texas was annexed to the United States in 1845. The San Antonio river and Spanish-built acequias continued to provide water for farmers and households. Travelers passed east and west of the park on roads leading to Austin and Fredericksburg. Land to the north of today's park was used for farming and ranching.

San Antonio grew from 3,488 to 12,256 residents between 1850 and 1870. The demands of this growing population ultimately led to the introduction of industrial and commercial uses into the rural landscape below the river's headwaters. This process began in the early 1850s, and accelerated during and after the Civil War.

City Land Sales

In the early years of statehood, the City Council planned to sell surplus tracts of city-owned property to meet its growing budgetary needs. Because records of the original town tract boundaries had been lost, the City entered into a lawsuit that re-established its claims and hired Francois Giraud to complete a new survey of the town tract. Land sales finally began in 1852. The majority of land comprising Brackenridge Park was already privately owned, but the 1852 land sale included property immediately to the north and east, where springs forming the San Antonio River were located. The "head of the river," as it came to be called, was purchased by city alderman James Sweet in three transactions that took place in 1852 and 1859. Sweet built a house on the property and then sold this land to George W. Barnes in August 1859. Barnes then sold it to Isabella Brackenridge, mother of George W. Brackenridge, in September 1869.²⁵

Hard Rock Quarry

The City did not sell the rocky area west of the river and Upper Labor ditch, which was a source of high-quality,

²³ Ibid., 80-83.

²⁴ Cox et al (1995); Ulrich to Pfeiffer, e-mail correspondence, January 19, 2011.

²⁵ Bexar County Deed Records (BCDR) K2:506, 508, November 26, 1852; R1:187, 189-190, August 29, 1859; V1:220, September 15, 1869.

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hard limestone. Stone was needed to sustain the city's building boom, and the City Council chose to lease the quarry to private interests. The quarry operated on a small scale until 1880, when the Alamo Roman and Portland Cement Company leased the area for a major plant that ultimately produced cement used in construction throughout the state. The quarry's stone outcroppings are still visible in and near the park.

Kampmann House

Though the City retained the main quarry tracts, it did sell lots south of the quarry. A nineteen-acre parcel, sold to R.E. Clements in 1852, was acquired by prominent local builder John H. Kampmann in 1863. Because Kampmann constructed many of the city's finest structures, it is likely that he used the property to quarry stone. A small stone house was built sometime after Kampmann acquired the property. The structure, now in ruins, remains known as the Kampmann House. It is unlikely that family members resided here. Kampmann and his family lived in an imposing stone house just two blocks north of the Alamo. It is more likely that the house was used by workers.²⁶

Following the deaths of Kampmann and his wife, their heirs sold this land back to the City in two transactions—the first in 1905 and the second in 1916. The 1905 deed included land west of the house extending to Shook Avenue, together with a 25-foot wide strip leading to the house as a "public thoroughfare." The 1.33-acre tract containing the house was acquired by the city on September 14, 1916, to be used for "park purposes." The property was subsequently used for the municipal rifle range until about 1927.²⁷

Garza Mill

Land on the east bank of the river at the southeast corner of the park was granted to José Antonio de la Garza and inherited by his son, Leonardo de la Garza. Leonardo left San Antonio to study at Williams College in Massachusetts and returned after the Civil War. His East Coast education had been financed by the family's close friend, Nathaniel Lewis, a wealthy merchant and mill owner. Perhaps influenced by his mentor, de la Garza's many successful business ventures included a mill on his family's property. The mill was the uppermost of several operating along the river in the late nineteenth century. The site of the de la Garza mill is not identifiable today due to changes to the San Antonio River channel and construction of US Highway 281.²⁸

The de la Garza family sold two *suertes* of their property to noted horticulturalist Francois Guilbeau in 1856. Guilbeau's many enterprises included wine production and he was credited with shipping mustang grape vine cuttings to Europe when phylloxera devastated the wine industry there in the 1870s. It is possible that Guilbeau used this riverfront property for agriculture.²⁹

Confederate Tannery

In the 1850s, Pedro Flores was farming the land bounded on the north and west by the Upper Labor ditch, by the

²⁶ BCDR 11:249, October 1, 1878. Clements acquired Lot 19, Range 1, District 3.

²⁷ BCDR 242:318-19, December 4, 1905; 491:422, October 19, 1916; CCM B:107, September 14, 1916. The City acquired the 1.33 acre tract containing the house for \$800.

²⁸ Daniell, 450-56; Barnes, 244.

²⁹ BCDR 01:95, June 13, 1856; Klier, 1996: 3:371. The Guilbeau and de la Garza families were related by marriage. Francois Guilbeau's daughter, Adele, married Bryan Callaghan, Jr., brother to Mrs. Leonardo (Carolina Callaghan) de la Garza.

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river on the east, and on the south by property belonging to the heirs of Anastacia Zambrano. Today, much of this tract lies within the boundaries of the San Antonio Zoological Gardens. Flores and the City were involved in litigation over this property at the beginning of the Civil War.³⁰ The war was in its second year when the Confederate States of America made plans to establish "a system of home manufacturers" in western Texas to supply critical materials and benefit the local economy. Confederate representatives wanted to build a tannery in San Antonio and approached the City to purchase the 75-acre tract on the river. The City was willing to sell only if the Confederacy assumed litigation with Flores, an offer that was refused. The matter was settled in January 1863, when the City Council and Flores both accepted \$5,000 from the Confederacy for their interest in the property.³¹

The tannery was under construction by April 1863, when the City Council granted permission for the Confederate government to "quarry hard rock from No. 24 and 25 quarries at no charge for constructing their works at the head of the San Antonio River."³² Though the full extent of the tannery's operation and production has not been researched, it is known that the completed facility also included a saw mill.

Period accounts and maps provide some details about the facility. The tannery and mill were reportedly capable of processing 15,000 hides annually and 3,000 feet of lumber daily. Water was provided by a hewn stone raceway that ran between the Upper Labor ditch and San Antonio River. When advertised for sale after the war in 1867, the facility consisted of "twelve stone lime vats, fifty-two wooden vats, seven stone pools...one steam saw-mill capable of sawing 3,000 feet of lumber daily...one small stone building."³³ **(Figure 2)**

The tannery was leased after the war and the City Council became alarmed that the occupants were making unauthorized use of water flowing through the raceway. There was further concern in January 1867, when the United States Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands advertised the property for sale at an estimated value of \$150,000. Not wanting to lose control of this valuable asset, the City had the property appraised and offered the government \$25,000.³⁴

No resolution had been reached in May 1868, when a storm devastated the city, badly damaging the tannery. The planned sale of the plant's moveable property was canceled, and the tannery stood in ruins for two more years. Negotiations continued between the City and Federal government, and in July 1870, the tannery property was transferred to the city for \$4,500. There have been no archaeological excavations to document the tannery.³⁵

The City continued to own the tannery property for another four years, leasing it to the banking firm of Bennett and Thornton. In late 1874, the council voted to subdivide approximately 47-acres of the 75-acre tract into ten lots that were sold at auction in January 1875. The City retained the property at the junction of the Upper Labor ditch

³⁰ BCDR K2:428-430, November 22, 1852; S2:497-99, January 13, 1863. It is unclear if Pedro Flores purchased it in the land sale of 1852 or if he inherited it.

³¹ CCM C:377-379, September 9, 1963; BCDR S2:498-499, January 13, 1863.

³² CCM C:392, April 20, 1963.

³³ San Antonio *Herald*, January 25, 1867.

³⁴ CCM C:588, February 20, 1867; San Antonio *Herald*, January 25, 1867.

³⁵ CCM C:655, May 21, 1868; BCDR U2:593, July 22, 1869.

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and river that included the greatest amount of river frontage as well as some springs.³⁶

Six of the tannery tract lots were acquired by prominent local individuals and firms: J.H. Kampmann (Lots 1, 3, and 4, totaling 16.65 acres); F. Groos and Company (Lots 2 and 5, totaling 9.3 acres); and Lockwood and Manning (Lot 8, totaling 3.33 acres). Most significantly, prominent banker George W. Brackenridge purchased four of the five uppermost lots— Lots 6, 7, 9, and 10, totaling seventeen acres.³⁷

Brackenridge Water Works, 1875–1899

San Antonio continued to grow and prosper in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Many new residents moved to the city after the Civil War and the United States Army established a permanent post east of the river on a rise known locally as Rattlesnake Hill; this post is now known as Fort Sam Houston. After years of planning, a rail connection was finally completed in 1877. Rapid growth forced the City Council to consider public works projects to improve the city's quality of life. One of those projects—the water works—would be the catalyst that ultimately transformed the wooded land on the east and west sides of the San Antonio River into Brackenridge Park.

A Water Supply for the City

George Brackenridge moved to San Antonio in late 1865. He had enjoyed success as a cotton trader during the Civil War, and his acquaintances included both statewide and national political and business leaders. In early 1866, Brackenridge established the San Antonio National Bank, which became the foundation of his extensive business holdings. Three years later, he purchased property with an antebellum home at the head of the San Antonio River. Because the word “bracken” was the Scottish word for “fern,” Brackenridge named his new home “Fernridge.”³⁸

The property acquired by Brackenridge contained springs that formed the river and fed the city's two major acequias a short distance to the south. The “head of the river” had remained city-owned until 1852, when it was acquired by James Sweet at the auction of public lands. The sale was controversial; not only was the city's main water supply sold to a private owner, but the owner was a sitting city alderman. The transfer of the river's headwaters from public to private control was still remembered by locals when, in the aftermath of the cholera epidemic of 1866, local physicians argued for construction of a safe municipal water system. Progress on this issue was slowed by Reconstruction politics and an overall lack of public support.

A local newspaper began to campaign for repurchase of the head of the river property in 1872, leading the City to begin negotiations with George Brackenridge. A \$50,000 contract was accepted by the City Council, but after public outcry over Brackenridge's potential profit, the sale was eventually voided in April 1872, and he retained control of the headwaters.³⁹

³⁶ CCM D:14, February 1, 1871; CCM D:134, December 16, 1874. The property was leased to Bennett and Thornton for \$10,000 “to meet current expenses and liabilities contracted.” No further explanation is given.

³⁷ BCDR 2: 237, November 19, 1875; 2:243, January 15, 1875; BCDR 2:237, January 19, 1875; 2:249, January 15, 1875. Brackenridge paid \$3,271 for the lots.

³⁸ Sibley, 91. Brackenridge purchased the land in the name of his mother, Isabella.

³⁹ Sibley, 128-130; CCM D:36, May 6, 1872.

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The City had failed to reacquire the headwaters and was making no progress in establishing a public water system. It was in this context that George Brackenridge began to purchase additional riverfront land. Though his motives are not proven, he was likely positioning himself to play a key role in the future water system.

George Brackenridge acquired four of the upper five lots in the tannery tract adjoining and west of the river in 1875, and purchased the fifth lot in 1881. Brackenridge made his most significant purchase in June 1876, when he and his brother paid \$25,000 to Mary A. Maverick for a wooded 200-acre tract on the east side of the river that ran from the head gate of the Alamo acequia south to the property of Francois Guilbeau. The land was bounded on both the west and north by the river and on the east by the Alamo acequia.⁴⁰

The 200-acre tract had been acquired in Mary Maverick's name in June 1843, shortly after her husband, Samuel A. Maverick—a signatory of the Texas Declaration of Independence—returned to Texas after being held for seven months in Mexico's Perote prison. Mary Maverick wrote in her diary, "In June, and again in September, Mr. Maverick visited San Antonio—to attend to court and land business." Apparently, it was during his June trip that Maverick purchased the property at auction for the high bid of \$267 and placed it in his wife's name.⁴¹

The Mavericks' land remained largely undeveloped and was used for farming during their thirty-two year ownership. A lease signed only six months before the property was acquired by George and John Brackenridge provides a glimpse of the property and its use. The lessee, M.M. Morales, was to maintain the irrigation ditches and protect the pecan, walnut, oak, and elm trees. Mr. Morales was allowed to cultivate and harvest crops in addition to the sugar cane that was already growing on the property.⁴²

The Brackenridge family's acquisition of the Mavericks' property gave them control of approximately one-and-one-half mile of frontage on the river's east bank. When John Brackenridge conveyed his interest in this land and 1,400 acres north of Fernridge to his brother in 1885, George Brackenridge became the sole owner of over 1,600 acres of land along the San Antonio River and its tributary, Olmos Creek.⁴³

Though the City Council was faulted for selling and then failing to reacquire the river's headwaters, it did retain twenty-eight acres of the tannery tract that adjoined the Upper Labor ditch and the river's west bank. It was here that the city envisioned constructing a water works.⁴⁴

In October 1876, Jean Baptiste (J.B.) Lacoste offered "to construct a water works to supply the city of San Antonio with water for fire protection, sanitary, public and domestic purposes." Lacoste immigrated to Texas in 1848, and subsequently settled in Mexico, where his various enterprises included the production of ice. He returned to San Antonio after the fall of Emperor Maximilian and became a well-respected businessman. Lacoste established the

⁴⁰ BCDR 4:473, June 6, 1876; BCDR 25:612, November 24, 1882.

⁴¹ BCDR B2:162, June 7, 1843; Green, Rena Maverick, editor, *Memoirs of Mary A. Maverick* (San Antonio: Alamo Printing Company, 1921), 78-81. Sam and Mary Maverick and their children were living near La Grange to escape invasions from Mexico, Indian raids, and disease.

⁴² BCDR 4:470, November 7, 1875.

⁴³ BCDR 42:118, May 4, 1885.

⁴⁴ *San Antonio Express*, April 5, 1877. The water works would have to draw water from the San Antonio River. Technology was not yet available to pump water from the vast limestone aquifer deep below the city.

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San Antonio Ice Company in 1866.⁴⁵

The City Council was confident that Lacoste and his associate, W.R. Freeman, could provide reliable water and fire protection to the city. Freeman was an engineer who had helped design water works in Kansas City and Austin. On April 3, 1877, the council approved a contract to construct the municipal water system. Lacoste's agreement with the City stipulated that the head of the San Antonio River would be used to supply the water works and that it would be "erected on the land heretofore set aside by the city for the purposes of water works..." Lacoste was given permission to use the city's rock quarry for building material. He was required to begin construction within six months of the railroad's arrival in San Antonio, and had to finish fifteen months from the contract's inception.⁴⁶

Construction of the water works began immediately. A raceway was excavated and a one-story stone pump house was built "with an eye to beauty as well as use." The 40-foot wide raceway began on the river's west bank near the dam of the Upper Labor acequia, crossed the old tannery property, and re-entered the river at the pump house approximately 650 feet to the south. The raceway's nine-foot fall provided power to drive turbines and pumps. Both the raceway and the pump house remain today. Archaeological excavations conducted by the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research in late 2008 and early 2009 revealed a limestone water control feature that is likely associated with the pump house raceway.⁴⁷

The water works was in operation by July 5, 1878, when it was accepted by the City Council. Five months before the water works was completed, the City Council voted to extend Avenue C from Grand Avenue north to the head of the river, a distance of approximately three miles, and to name the new street River Avenue. This straight, direct route to downtown on the east side of the river was an improvement over the many twists and curves of Jones Avenue and Rock Quarry Road, both to the west of the river.

Lacoste's contract also required construction of a reservoir to provide a backup water supply of five million gallons. He was given two years to complete the structure that was built on an elevated site one mile southeast of the water works. The pump house raised water to the reservoir and gravity flow delivered it to hydrants in the city. The reservoir was accepted by the city ten months after the water works began operation. It is visible today at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, outside the park boundaries.⁴⁸

Lacoste also used the pure water supply that powered the water works to produce ice. Heavily indebted to creditors, Lacoste posted the water works and "the new ice factory...which I have erected toward the head of the river" as collateral for a loan in August 1878. In April 1879, the San Antonio *Freie Presse* reported that Lacoste's factory at the water works was manufacturing ice in four hundred pound blocks. The location of the ice plant in

⁴⁵ Tyler 3: 1187; CCM D:326. October 17, 1876.

⁴⁶ Gould, 84; CCM D:292, April 18, 1877; CCM D:294, April 28, 1877; CCM D:303, June 19, 1877; San Antonio *Express*, April 5, 1877. The railroad arrived in San Antonio on February 19, 1877, giving Lacoste until August to begin construction. It is assumed that the railroad was needed to transport cast iron pipe and other necessary materials and equipment.

⁴⁷ Ibid, Ulrich to Pfeiffer.

⁴⁸ Gould, 84; CCM D:288-294, April 3, 1877; San Antonio *Express*, July 10, 1878; Cox, 134.

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relation to the pumping station is not known.⁴⁹

George Brackenridge did not become a supporter of the water works concept until construction was underway. He observed the project as it progressed and decided to negotiate with Lacoste to lay waterlines to Fernridge for household and irrigation use. Lacoste was given permission to use Brackenridge's telegraph poles to extend a line from the pump house to the water works' office in the city. Brackenridge also accepted stock in the San Antonio Water Works in exchange for loans to Lacoste. He soon held controlling interest, and by 1883, he had acquired full ownership of the water works.⁵⁰

Expansion of the Water Works: The Second Pumphouse

The San Antonio Water Works was capitalized for only \$90,000, which was inadequate to keep up with needed expansion. In 1885, George Brackenridge reorganized the firm as the Water Works Company, and increased the capitalization to \$500,000. Brackenridge continued to serve as president of the Water Works and to be closely involved with its day-to-day operation until he sold the company in 1906.⁵¹

The new Water Works Company began a rapid expansion of the system's infrastructure. Key to this expansion was Brackenridge's acquisition of the remaining forty-five acres between the river and River Avenue north of today's Josephine Street. Brackenridge acquired Francois Guilbeau's thirty-acre parcel in 1878, and with the purchase of the fifteen-acre de la Garza family tract in late 1885, he controlled the land and water rights of 250 acres between the San Antonio River and the Alamo acequia.⁵²

Ownership of this large block of riverfront land allowed Brackenridge to expand the system's plant. In 1885, an earthen canal and a second pump house were constructed. The earthen canal left the river at a bend below the original pump house and culminated at the new pump house to the south. Though the canal has been filled, the right-of-way is still partially visible. An investigation by UTSA's Center for Archaeological Research in late 2010, documented the long-buried mill race north of the pump house near Mulberry Avenue. In addition, the old river channel that once ran east of the building was rerouted to the west. The dry channel remains.⁵³

The one-story stone pump house was used by the Water Works Company until the early 1900s, and it was vacant when the City purchased the water system in 1925. Noted sculptor Gutzon Borglum (1867-1941) had moved to San Antonio the previous year to begin the design for a monumental memorial statue commemorating the Texas trail drivers. He needed a studio and was given permission by the City to use the pump house. Borglum repaired the building at a cost of almost \$7,000, and used it for over ten years. It was during Borglum's time here that he completed many important commissions and began the design for Mount Rushmore. Though he completed the

⁴⁹ BCDR 10:288, August 3, 1878; San Antonio *Freie Presse*, April 23, 1879: 4: 10. Though a 1929 San Antonio *Express* article states that Lacoste operated an ice plant at this site as early as 1871, no proof has been located and the date appears to be an error ("Second Artificial Ice Plant in U.S. Built Here," San Antonio *Express*, October 29, 1929).

⁵⁰ BCDR 7:420, February 6, 1878; Sibley, 131-132.

⁵¹ BCDR 37:38, March 31, 1884; San Antonio *Express*, October 12, 1883; Cox, 151.

⁵² BCDR 9:1, January 22, 1878; BCDR 44:91, December 2, 1885.

⁵³ Ulrich to Pfeiffer, e-mail correspondence, January 19, 2011.

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model for the trail drivers' memorial, the 40-foot statue never was cast; instead, a small-scale bronze model was made. Borglum also became involved in civic affairs, and in 1930 he submitted a design for the open air theater now known as the Sunken Garden Theater; his plan was rejected in favor of a design by architect Harvey P. Smith.⁵⁴ Borglum reportedly left the key to his studio with Witte Museum director Ellen Quillin when he departed for California in 1937. The museum subsequently rented the building for \$10 a month and, in turn, rented it to artists Henry Lee McFee and Boyer Gonzalez. They used it for their studio until 1939, when the Witte established the Museum School of Art there. The school closed at the outbreak of World War II. Alice Naylor, one of the artists associated with the Lime Kiln Colony, opened the Mill Race Art Studio in early 1943 to offer art classes to servicemen and women from the area's military installations. It is not known when the building was vacated, but it had fallen into disrepair again by the early 1980s. It was renovated and used as an architectural office until 1996 and is again vacant.⁵⁵ (Figure 3)

Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works

The hard rock quarry west of the Upper Labor ditch was still being leased for small-scale quarry operations in 1879 when William Loyd, an Englishman with experience in cement making, visited San Antonio on a hunting trip. In the area north of town, Loyd identified a blue argillaceous limestone which he believed to be cement rock. He worked with George H. Kalteyer, the city's leading druggist, and W.R. Freeman, the engineer who designed J.B. Lacoste's water system, to analyze the material. Kalteyer had trained in chemistry in his native Germany and assisted his mentor, German scientist Carl Remigius Fresenius, in studying cements for the German government. Further testing determined the material to be "natural cement rock" containing the proportion of lime and clay needed to manufacture Portland cement. George Kalteyer, William Loyd, and others organized the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company (later called Alamo Cement Company) on January 15, 1880.⁵⁶

The road that followed the meanders of the river and Upper Labor acequia north from town became known as Rock Quarry Road, and workers built their homes in the area. The cement company first burned lime for mortar and sold building stone from the quarry, but expanded to fulfill contracts for large projects, including the Texas State Capitol and sidewalks at Fort Sam Houston. An early timber plant was replaced by a larger facility that included the smokestack and kilns that remain standing today. Though new kilns were installed, at the turn of the twentieth century the plant was able to produce only 140 barrels of cement per day. Alamo Cement Company, which had continued to lease the quarry from the city, purchased 300 acres of land to the north, and built a new

⁵⁴ "Borglum to get local color for sculpture," *San Antonio Light*, September 22, 1925; "Borglum to answer critics," *San Antonio Light*, February 14, 1930; "Borglum Plan is withdrawn," *San Antonio Light*, March 30, 1930, 1; "Historic pumphouse No. 2," *San Antonio Express-News*, August 7, 1982, 1-C. The bronze trail drivers' memorial was displayed in front of Pioneer Hall for many years. It was removed from display in 2011 during the building's renovation. It will be put on display in a courtyard behind Pioneer Hall following the project's completion.

⁵⁵ Woolford and Quillin, 120-122; Gutzon Borglum file, Witte Museum Archives; "Mill Race Art Studio meets popular demand," *San Antonio Express*, November 11, 1945; "Historic pumphouse No. 2," *San Antonio Express-News*, August 7, 1982, 1-C; "Historic Borglum Studio deserves to be restored, put to use," *San Antonio Express-News*, April 1, 2007, 4-J.

Sources vary on the date of Gutzon Borglum's departure from San Antonio. Some sources state 1935, while others state 1937.

⁵⁶ Vertical files, San Antonio Public Library, Texana-Genealogy Department; Kalteyer, Charles F., unpublished typescript. N.d.; Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works National Register nomination.

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plant there in 1908. The stacks of the old kiln remain today and one acre of the property was listed on the National Register (1976) as Alamo Portland and Roman and Cement Works. **(Figure 4)**

Ilka Nursery

George Brackenridge consolidated his ownership of the upper five lots of the tannery tract (Lots 6-10) in 1881, the year after Alamo Cement Company was established. Though Brackenridge retained all of his other properties that later formed the park, he chose to sell these lots that were immediately east and north of the quarry. In 1878, he sold Lots 6 and 7 to local gardener, Frank Gutzeit, and in 1882 and 1883, Lots 8, 9, and 10 were sold to Helen Madarasz. Brackenridge did, however, reserve "all water power and right of riparian proprietor."⁵⁷

Helen Madarasz was the youngest daughter of Laszlo Ujhazi, whose *Sirmezo* farm occupied much of today's Olmos Basin north of the river's headwaters. Ujhazi, a member of Hungary's minor nobility, fled to America with other exiles after the Hungarian Revolution of 1848-1849, settling first in Iowa. In June 1853 they began the trip to Texas, where the family planned to make their permanent home on land purchased for Ujhazi in the 1852 land sale. Helen did not accompany her family to Texas; shortly before they departed, she married Vilmos Madarasz against her father's wishes, and they were estranged for five years.⁵⁸

Helen Ujhazi Madarasz's marriage was strained, and in 1858, after reconciling with her father, she moved to the San Antonio area to live with her family at *Sirmezo*. Helen divorced in 1864, and struggled to maintain a small farm on the Cibolo Creek. She moved into the city in the late 1860s and became successful in the real estate loan business. Her son, Ladislaus, was hired as a bookkeeper at George Brackenridge's First National Bank, and the mother and son became close friends with Brackenridge and his sister, Eleanor. Ladislaus Madarasz was interested in horticulture, and in 1879-80, established Ilka Nursery.⁵⁹ **(Figure 5)**

The site of the nursery in 1879 has not been firmly established. Generally, it lay east of the river and the Upper Labor acequia. It is thought that the majority of the nursery lay within the boundaries of today's zoological garden. Helen Madarasz did not purchase Lot 8 until 1882; with her son, she purchased Lots 9 and 10 in 1883. Helen built her residence at the nursery and by 1891, she was maintaining six greenhouses and flower beds despite a drought. Ladislaus married and moved, leaving his mother to operate the nursery.⁶⁰ The San Antonio *Freie Presse* wrote in 1880: "Mr. Madarasz....has built greenhouses and experimented with shrubs for about a year. The Madarasz Place is located opposite Maverick's Grove on the west side of the river near the rock quarries."⁶¹ Ladislaus Madarasz left San Antonio suddenly in May 1895, under suspicion of embezzling funds from the Brackenridge bank and

⁵⁷ BCDR 25:612, November 24, 1882; BCDR 26:484, October 3, 1883.

⁵⁸ McGuire, 35-46. McGuire presents a full discussion of Laszlo Ujhazi's emigration to the United States and Texas in his chapter, "Laszlo Ujhazi, the Great Exile," pages 35-77.

⁵⁹ Ibid, 79-110. McGuire's chapter, "Ujhazi's Family in Texas after 1870," contains a full discussion of Helen Madarasz's life in San Antonio.

⁶⁰ It is possible that the land was leased and then purchased. Ladislaus Madarasz also planned to build a house on the property in 1891, but did not do so.

⁶¹ San Antonio *Freie Presse*, November 12, 1880, as quoted in McGuire, 103. It is assumed that "Maverick's Grove" is a reference to land owned by the Maverick family on the opposite side of the river.

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never returned to San Antonio. His mother, a valued and liked member of the community, became a recluse. She was brutally murdered at Ilka Nursery and her home burned on April 30, 1899.⁶²

The most detailed description of Ilka Nursery is found in Helen Madarasz's obituary:

Her house was located in a beautiful Eden-like grove near the head of the San Antonio River; on it and its shrubs, flowers, and foliage, as well as the grounds, she expended considerable of her means, and their beauty was famous. The old Madarasz home is one of the most beautiful natural parks in Texas. It is a grove of tall, thick-boughed trees which rise several of the large springs that form the San Antonio River. A footway over a stile directly in front of Limburger's garden on River Avenue is one entrance to the place, but the main gateway is reached from the Rock Quarry Road on the west side of the river after passing the Alamo Cement Works. In the midst of this grove, with beds of former lagoons and feeders to the river, the head arm of the river itself flowing close by, stood the neat little old-style cottage of Mrs. Madarasz. On the large tract of land were numerous beautiful flower gardens and hothouses containing the Ilka Nursery of which Mrs. Madarasz was the proprietor.⁶³

Eight months after Helen Madarasz was murdered, George Brackenridge's Water Works Company conveyed its holdings across the river from Ilka Nursery to the City of San Antonio to create the town's largest public park.

Jockey Club

The San Antonio Jockey Club built a racetrack, grandstand and clubhouse in 1893 on land just east of the river that was presumably leased from the Water Works Company. Club members viewed races from the building's broad verandas and non-members sat in adjacent grandstands. The club featured a bar, pool and card rooms and an elevator. The track was used for both horse and bicycle races. A local bicycle club, the Alamo Wheelmen, raced there and hosted guest cyclists including the famous African American racer Major Taylor and Otto Zeizler the "California Demon." It is not clear when the Jockey Club closed, but it was likely soon after the George Brackenridge's company donated 199 acres of land that included the site to the city in 1899.⁶⁴ (Figure 6)

The Development of Brackenridge Park, 1899-1914

San Antonio's population in 1890 numbered 37,673—an increase of 83% since 1880. While there had been extremely wet years during the 1880s, there had also been years of low rainfall. The San Antonio River springs ceased flowing in times of drought, drying up the river, creeks and shallow wells, and placing the city's water supply in jeopardy. The city had required construction of a five million-gallon reservoir to provide water in times of emergency and drought, but this did not provide a permanent solution. Additional water was needed to operate a much-needed sewage system. The long-term answer lay in the vast underground aquifer beneath the city.⁶⁵

⁶² San Antonio *Daily Express*, February 4, 1891; May 1, 1899.

⁶³ San Antonio *Express*, May 1, 1899.

⁶⁴ Newcomb, J.P., II. "Some Notes on Brackenridge Park," May 1962; San Antonio *Light*, June 5, 1938.

⁶⁵ Average rainfall for San Antonio is about 32 inches. Though 41.91 inches fell in 1880, only 20.12 fell in 1887 (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ewx/html/cli/sat/satmonpcpn.htm>).

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Brackenridge's bank had weathered financial crises during the years of Reconstruction, and prospered during the 1880s. His mother died in late 1886, just after he completed a large house adjoining Fernridge; he coped with this loss in the middle of a drought that extended from 1886 into 1887. Brackenridge no longer wanted to live in the house where his mother died, and he made the decision to build a townhouse adjacent to his downtown bank.⁶⁶

Mayor Bryan Callaghan and Brackenridge discussed the city's need for a sewer system and agreed that, in advance of constructing this system, the City should purchase the water works. When the City made this offer in 1890, Brackenridge included 600 acres of riverfront property and his home for \$2 million. Fiscally cautious voters again rejected acquisition of Brackenridge's property.⁶⁷

Brackenridge already was considering how to provide a reliable and adequate water supply for the city when voters rejected purchase of the water works. The Crystal Ice Company had successfully drilled the city's first artesian well in early 1889, and others followed. Brackenridge attempted and failed to drill a well in 1890, but succeeded the following year when his first well was completed on Market Street. The protracted drought of the 1890s continued, more wells were drilled, and by 1895, the water system was entirely dependent on artesian wells. The combination of the drought and wells that depleted spring flow had a devastating effect on the river.⁶⁸ Brackenridge is said to have remarked to a friend, "I have seen this bold, bubbling, laughing river dwindle and fade away...this river is my child and it is dying and I cannot stay here to see its last gasps...I must go."⁶⁹

George Brackenridge was approached in 1897 by Mother Madeleine Chollet of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who was looking for a site for the order's new convent. When she offered to purchase forty acres of Brackenridge's head of the river property, he countered that he would sell her 283 acres, his home and its furnishings for \$120,000. The offer was accepted, and the order assumed ownership on May 31, 1897.⁷⁰

Two years after selling the head of the river property to the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, George Brackenridge's Water Works Company donated 199 acres of riverfront land to the City of San Antonio for use as a park; the City Council accepted the gift on December 4, 1899, an event celebrated in both of the local newspapers. The *San Antonio Light* stated, "This place [*sic*] of property is one of the loveliest pieces of land of Texas and for beauty is unrivaled. It is the largest natural park in the south controlled by a city, its scenery back on the river bank being unsurpassed."⁷¹ The *Daily Express* claimed, "Outside of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, there is probably no city park that is in any way comparable to it."⁷²

The gift of the water works property was generous, but tightly constrained by reservations and restrictions. These caveats were at least partially attributable to years of distrust between Brackenridge and the city over financial

⁶⁶ Sibley, 140-41.

⁶⁷ Sibley, 153.

⁶⁸ *San Antonio Daily Express* April 18, 1889; Sibley, 155. Rainfall for the decade of the 1890s averaged only 24.39 inches (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ewx/html/cli/sat/satmonpcpn.htm>).

⁶⁹ Sibley 141.

⁷⁰ BCDR 158:644, June 3, 1897.

⁷¹ *San Antonio Light*, November 7, 1899.

⁷² *San Antonio Daily Express*, November 11, 1899.

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dealings. The Water Works Company retained a 250-foot wide strip running the length of the property along the west side of River Avenue, and a 25-foot strip along each side of the river and the east bank of the Upper Labor ditch. The company retained full control of ingress and egress to the park as well as the banks of the river and acequia. A fence was built around the park and access was restricted to two locations. The issue of access remained unresolved until after Brackenridge sold the water works in 1906. Perhaps most notably, the bequest was restricted by its prohibition of the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the park.⁷³ (Figure 7)

San Antonio Parks in 1900

San Antonio had only a fledgling parks program when George Brackenridge made his gift in 1899. The city's parks at the turn of the twentieth century were limited to small downtown plazas and several squares in residential neighborhoods. San Pedro Park, set aside by the Spanish as public land in the 1730s and declared a public reserve by the city in 1852, was the only public park of any substantial size. Apart from these municipally owned spaces, recreational venues were limited to privately owned and operated venues and the open pastures surrounding the city.

Municipal funding for park development in San Antonio was virtually non-existent until the 1870s. Until then, the public squares were simply dirt patches that had become brushy eyesores littered with trash. When the city's economy improved after the Civil War and Reconstruction, businesses and new residential areas began to develop around these "parks," and citizens petitioned elected officials to clean and improve the public spaces with fencing, irrigation, trees and walkways. These modest efforts were initiated by local amateur horticulturalist, Anton F. Wulff, and it was not until 1886 that the city hired a "park keeper." Four years later, the city also funded the jobs of park inspector and park commissioner, but staffing fluctuated with the unstable economy of the 1890s.⁷⁴

The short-lived position of parks commissioner was abolished in 1897, the same year that respected hotelier and restaurateur Ludwig Mahncke was elected as a city alderman. Mahncke served two consecutive terms from 1897 until 1901, and it was during that period that he played an active role in his close friend George Brackenridge's decision to donate his riverfront land to the city. It was likely Mahncke's role in establishing the city's largest public park that led to his appointment as parks commissioner when the position was reinstated in early 1901.⁷⁵

⁷³ BCDR 185:183, December 28, 1899; CCM N:284,291, 304-05; San Antonio *Daily Express*, December 5, 1899. The park deed contained a clause stating that violation of the provision against alcohol or use of the property for non-park purposes would result in reversion to the State of Texas for the benefit of the University of Texas. City Council approved the gift by a vote of 8 to 1, but only after disagreements over the terms of the gift were resolved.

⁷⁴ CCM G:186, December 6, 1886; CCM G:191, December 20, 1891; CCM G: 236, March 7, 1887; CCM H: 38, December 10, 1888; CCM I:88, May 19, 1890; CCM I:137, June 16, 1890; CCM I:221, September 1, 1890; CCM L:180, April 22, 1895; CCM M:268; March 1, 1897.

⁷⁵ The dates of Mahncke's City Council terms were February 8, 1897-February 12, 1899 and February 13, 1899-February 11, 1901. Ludwig Mahncke was appointed parks commissioner on February 25, 1901, by Mayor Marshall Hicks and again on March 11, 1903, by Mayor John P. Campbell (CCM N:713-14, February 25, 1901; P:174, March 11, 1903). He continued to serve under Mayor Bryan Callaghan who was elected in June 1905, but resigned in early 1906. San Antonio Public Library, Texana/Genealogy Department, listing of elected officials; CCM N: 713-14, February 25, 1901; P:174, March 11, 1903.

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San Antonio had been unwilling and unable to sustain a professional staff to maintain its small park holdings and add acreage to its inventory. Though this was largely due to finances, it is also explained, at least in part, by a lack of urgency. Unlike large cities of the Eastern and Midwestern United States, San Antonio was a relatively small city with low urban density and little polluting industry. It was also surrounded by easily accessible, vast open spaces with flowing creeks and rivers. There was the rolling hill country to the north and the decaying but picturesque Spanish colonial missions to the south. Residents could find a lovely picnic or camping spot only a short carriage or horseback ride away. They could quaff cold, locally brewed beers at various beer gardens and dine in the town's open air plazas. In short, San Antonians simply could not afford, nor did they think they needed, the romantic, designed pleasure grounds being built in larger, more affluent cities.

It is difficult to ascertain if George Brackenridge's decision to donate 199 acres of riverfront land to the city for perpetual park use was simply an act of philanthropy, or a combination of philanthropy and convenience. He no longer needed the land and was saddened by the decline of the river, which was at least partially attributable to the artesian wells that he and others had drilled. Motives aside, Brackenridge was a well-traveled person who clearly understood the value of parkland as did his friend, German-born Ludwig Mahncke. Together they set out to create the city's largest public park from the dense woodland along the San Antonio River. **(Figures 8, 9)**

Ludwig Mahncke: Designing the Park, 1900-1906

The City Council gave Ludwig Mahncke, chairman of the parks and plazas committee, direction to open the park to the public immediately and to begin improvements. Typical of park funding to date, Mahncke was given few resources to work with, and nine months elapsed before \$2,500 was appropriated for park improvements.⁷⁶

Mahncke lost no time in developing Brackenridge Park, and his efforts enjoyed the full support of his friend Brackenridge. He did not have the budget and training of premier park designers such as Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, but Mahncke nonetheless set out to create a rural retreat for urban residents. It was decided that the park "should be a driving park more than a picnic place." To this end, Mahncke designed and opened seven miles of driveways that all converged on the river at the north end of the park where he hoped some day to build an area for band performances. The newspaper noted: "These roads have been opened through the dense forest upon a plan to give the most pleasure and variety of scenery." Roads were constructed with "care being taken not to disturb the throne of a single monarch of the forest." The last driveway to be completed in September 1902 followed the river channel. Mahncke's future plans included a "grand picnic place" west of the park proper in a level area of several acres fringed by trees.⁷⁷

Brackenridge Park was quite modest in comparison with other rural parks in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. Improvements were limited to winding roads, and there were no imposing entryways, grand fountains, towering sculptures, or manicured gardens. Visitors had only limited access to the park across land still owned by the Water Works Company. Undeterred by these limitations, San Antonians were content to take their carriages on a drive along the river and lay a picnic under the spreading trees. **(Figures 10, 11)**

⁷⁶ CCM M:268, March 1, 1897; N:713, February 25, 1901; CCM N:548, August 6, 1900; N:569, September 4, 1900.

⁷⁷ *San Antonio Daily Express*, September 29, 1902.

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It is not clear if there was an official opening event, but the park opened within a year and immediately proved popular. At the end of the first full year of operation, it was reported that "the woods and winding walks and drive ways were full of people, some afoot, some [on] horseback, and lots of them in vehicles of different kinds. Brackenridge Park grows prettier as it grows older and the crowds to it are growing larger week after week. Park Commissioner Mahncke is putting new beauties in the park all the time and it will soon be a formidable rival of San Pedro [Park]."⁷⁸

By 1902, Mahncke had established a fenced deer preserve in the park and was building enclosures for buffalo and elk. These animals, pastured along River Avenue near today's Lions Field Clubhouse, were fed with hay raised in the park. "Mr. Mahncke is due the credit of establishing the deer preserve and other attractions. The city has not contributed a cent to this feature except the extra feed required."⁷⁹ **(Figure 12)** The Brackenridge Park menagerie grew rapidly with gifts from Mahncke, Brackenridge, and their friends. By early 1906, there were six buffalo, nineteen elk, forty-three deer, four goats, one sheep, four swans, three geese, forty-nine peafowls, thirteen white turkeys, twelve bronze turkeys, two silver pheasants, two Mexican pheasants, and three guineas.⁸⁰

Mahncke's efforts to develop Brackenridge Park attracted national attention. In 1907, George Wharton James of Boston, editor of the magazine *Arena*, wrote, "Brackenridge Park is the most magnificent piece of parking in the United States that has come under my observation. It cannot be improved... You have now a woodland that is unsurpassed, traversed by excellent driveways, into which it is a boon to plunge for an hour or two to relieve the fatiguing monotony of city life."⁸¹ James argued against a designed landscape of "exact proportions," extolling the virtues of a more natural area.

Unfortunately, this accolade was written after Mahncke's unexpected death from pneumonia in March 1906. He had resigned as Parks Commissioner only two months earlier, following a dispute with Mayor Bryan Callaghan. Departing his office, Mahncke remarked, "I have done my duty and treated him with courtesy, and in return I have been treated like a dog."⁸² The Ludwig Mahncke Memorial Association commissioned sculptor Pompeo Coppini to complete a bust of their friend shortly after his death. The bust was erected on January 17, 1909, near the old Jockey Club headquarters in Brackenridge Park, today the site of the golf clubhouse. The monument was moved to nearby Mahncke Park in 1968.⁸³ **(Figure 13)**

Mahncke and his contributions to Brackenridge Park were remembered at the statue's dedication. "He loved the trees, the beautiful shining river and the timid, dumb creatures who were placed here by his hands, knew his voice and responded to his call. The winding drives faced by living walls of green, the quiet shaded walks by the waters,

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ *San Antonio Daily Express*, January 31, 1906. Ten tons of hay were said to be in storage in 1906.

⁸¹ Lewis Publishing Company (1907), 334-335.

⁸² *San Antonio Daily Express*, January 18, 1906; March 27, 1906. Mahncke resigned on January 17, 1906, after Mayor Callaghan criticized him for overspending his budget by \$2,000.

⁸³ The City Council rejected the first proposed location of the bust on Main Plaza, and it was placed in the park. Texas Historical Commission subject marker honoring Ludwig Mahncke was erected in Mahncke Park adjacent to Mahncke's bust in 2011.

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where stately swans float gracefully on the placid surface, the grand old pecan trees that lift their giant arms heavenward, the venerable oaks with their trailing mossy vestments, were all dear to the heart of Mahncke."⁸⁴

Madarasz Park (1901)

The old Ilka Nursery property, immediately across the river from the water works, was still owned by Helen Madarasz's estate when the City accepted the Brackenridge bequest in 1899. George Brackenridge's prohibition of alcohol consumption might have encouraged local brewery owner, Otto Koehler, to purchase the Madarasz property for his own private park. In 1901, Koehler's San Antonio Brewing Company, producer of Pearl beer, acquired the property and named it Madarasz Family Park, which was open to the public for "picnics and jollifications." Park custodian L. Dethleffesen invited visitors: "Come, bring your family and friends to spend a pleasant day. Everything in a first-class style. Sandwiches, ice cream, cream cheese, milk of all descriptions and the famous Triple XXX Pearl Beer and soda water and cigars always on hand."⁸⁵ The stone bridge that spanned the river linking the two parks became known as the Madarasz-Brackenridge Park Bridge.⁸⁶ **(Figure 14)**

Access to Brackenridge Park, 1906-1908

George Brackenridge was intent on retiring, and in 1905 he began to seek potential buyers for the water works. His employees lacked the necessary capital, and so Brackenridge turned to George J. Kobusch, a capitalist from St. Louis, Missouri. In March 1906—the same month that Ludwig Mahncke died—George Brackenridge sold the water works to Kobusch and his investors for over \$500,000.⁸⁷ The new owners reorganized the company in December 1906 and named it the San Antonio Water Supply Company; they also blocked access to the park. Mayor Callaghan informed the City Council that "it was necessary for the City to own for the benefit and pleasure of its citizens a means of ingress and egress" to Brackenridge Park. He instructed the City Engineer to begin a complete survey of the park in order to assist the City Attorney if a lawsuit became necessary.⁸⁸

Based on the survey and an estimated land value of \$1,000 per acre, the City Engineer reported that \$6,673 was needed to acquire land for six gates and to install fencing to assure park access. Condemnation proceedings were underway by May 1908, and the case, titled the City of San Antonio v. San Antonio Water Supply Company, was settled before going to trial. On July 27, 1908, the Council approved \$6,700 to compensate the Water Supply Company for 6.683 acres to provide access to the park. Entrances were opened along the park's eastern edge on River Avenue (Broadway) and to the south on Avenue A and Schomann Street. Eight years later, another 1.3 acres were acquired opposite Mahncke Park for another park entrance.⁸⁹

⁸⁴ San Antonio *Daily Express*, January 18, 1909.

⁸⁵ San Antonio *Express*, June 16, 1901, 32.

⁸⁶ BCDR 184:655, January 28, 1901; 199:104, February 26, 1901. The Madarasz property was first sold to S.G. Newton and conveyed by him the following month to the San Antonio Brewing Company.

⁸⁷ McLean 1924:11-12; Cox, 264; San Antonio *Express*, March 2, 1906. Kobusch soon sold a large interest in the Water Works to a Belgian syndicate in Antwerp. One of George Kobusch's interests was the American Car and Foundry Company.

⁸⁸ BCDR 248:631, December 20, 1906; CCM S:142, December 5, 1907; Sibley, 158; MacLean, 11-12.

⁸⁹ CCM S:342, May 18, 1908; CCM S:418-419, July 20, 1908; S: 429-430, July 27, 1908; San Antonio *Express*, July 17, 1908; BCDR 289:482-91, July 30, 1908; BCDR 498:328, December 13, 1916.

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The issue of access to Brackenridge Park contributed to the ongoing animosity between George Brackenridge and Mayor Callaghan. Callaghan, who was not in office when the City accepted the park and named it for Brackenridge, was re-elected in June 1905 and served until his death in July 1912. After the access issue was resolved, Callaghan took great satisfaction in changing the park's name to "Water Works Park." Brackenridge responded, "This little incident of Bryan and his pals...has not disturbed me even for a moment.... Whether the park bears my name or not, it will meet the purposes and wishes of the donors fully well under any other name."⁹⁰ Brackenridge's name was restored on July 7, 1913—one year after Callaghan's death.⁹¹

The Zoological Garden, 1915

The menagerie that Ludwig Mahncke established in a pasture on River Avenue was the only place where locals could observe exotic animals after the small, private zoological garden in San Pedro Park closed in 1911. Three years later, the City Council approved setting aside twelve acres of the old tannery property for a museum of natural history and the zoological garden. The plan for the Brackenridge Park Zoological Garden was presented by the Scientific Society of San Antonio and was touted as "the most complete ever attempted for a small park."

(Figure 15) The area was described as "a high piece of ground near the upper entrance of the park. Water surrounds the location on all sides, making it an ideal spot for the housing of animals and birds."⁹²

The zoo plan had not been implemented when Ray Lambert became parks commissioner in 1915. Lambert saw the abandoned rock quarry west of the selected site as the opportunity to place the zoo in a unique natural setting and concluded, "...we can put a zoo here, which will be a world better and won't cost too much. Nature has done most of the work."⁹³

Lambert gained the support of zoo advocates and began transforming the old rock quarry into the city's zoological garden. Deer, elk, and buffalo pastures were created, the old Upper Labor Ditch became the center of the bird exhibit, and quarry walls were terraced for animal displays. Supporters helped secure animals and funding for the facility. The San Antonio Zoological Society was formed in 1928 and assumed control of the zoo in 1931. The society continues to operate the zoo today under agreement with the City of San Antonio.

It should be noted that due to the separate nature of the zoo's function and the complexity of its landscape—filled as it is with ever-changing exhibitions and structures—it is not included in this nomination; the zoo will be evaluated for nomination at a later time.

The Development of Brackenridge Park, 1915–1927

Several individuals succeeded Ludwig Mahncke in caring for the city's parks between 1906 and 1915 when John Raymond "Ray" Lambert was elected city parks commissioner. Though Mahncke helped establish and open

⁹⁰ San Antonio *Express*, May 23, 1911, as quoted in Sibley, 164.

⁹¹ CCM V:629, July 7, 1913.

⁹² San Antonio *Express*, May 19, 1914; May 31, 1914. The zoological garden in San Pedro Park was operated by F.A. Amrhein and his heirs for over thirty years (San Antonio *Light*, August 22, 1911).

⁹³ San Antonio *Light*, January 21, 1917.

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Brackenridge Park, the infrastructure, buildings, and boundaries of the park today are largely Lambert's legacy.⁹⁴ Ray Lambert came to San Antonio around 1892, worked as a stonecutter and saloon operator, and in 1903 was elected alderman of the First Ward, a position he held for ten years. When the City changed from the aldermanic to commission form of government in 1915, Lambert was elected Commissioner of Parks and Sanitation and began his twelve-year tenure that changed the face of Brackenridge Park.⁹⁵

Lambert was unschooled in park design. At the time of his death in 1927, it was noted, "Lambert was not, what technical ones would call, an artist. He had never studied landscaping, but he confessed to at least one reporter that the longing of his life was for beauty."⁹⁶ Lambert assumed the job of parks commissioner during the period when social reformers advocated for the integration of active recreational features into parks, and supporters of the City Beautiful Movement urged beautification of public spaces.⁹⁷ Perhaps guided by these national trends, but with no training and limited funding, Lambert transformed Brackenridge Park.

Like Mahncke, Lambert realized substantial funding was required to purchase and maintain parks for the growing city. He requested a \$60,000 budget for 1915 (the 1914 parks' budget was \$23,000) and earmarked much of it for Brackenridge Park. His plans included construction of three artistic stone gateways at the River Avenue entrances to Brackenridge Park to replace the existing wood and wire gates. He also proposed construction of an eighteen-hole public golf course, tennis courts, baseball grounds, and improved roadways. Before his death, Lambert had introduced these improvements as well as new pavilions, a bathing beach, rifle range, golf course and polo field. Perhaps most impressively, he had converted the park's abandoned rock quarries into elaborately landscaped gardens.⁹⁸

M. Eleanor Brackenridge Playground and adjacent bathing beach (1915-1916)

One of Lambert's early projects was construction of the city's first public playground at the river bend in the north part of the park. He named the play area for George Brackenridge's sister, Eleanor, an active child welfare advocate. The playground also served as a swimming beach, "as it is located on a peninsula around which the river meanders." This was already a popular swimming spot.⁹⁹ **(Figure 17)**

⁹⁴ Henry Steingruber held various titles including park superintendent, head gardener, and park commissioner between 1903 and 1910. S.R. Walker was park commissioner in 1913 and Rudolph Gras was park foreman from 1913 until 1953.

⁹⁵ *San Antonio Express*, May 31, 1915; *San Antonio Light*, December 18, 1927. Ray Lambert was born in West Virginia in 1870. He trained as a stonecutter in Iowa, served his apprenticeship in Chicago in 1887, and traveled to Mexico in search of gold. Lambert remarked in later years, "I was young, ripe for adventure, I went." On January 1, 1915, the city changed its form of government giving five elected officials the power to govern various aspects of the city's affairs, rather than thirteen representing various sectors of the city.

⁹⁶ "Life of action closed by death," *San Antonio Light*, December 19, 1927, 4-A

⁹⁷ See Galen Crazz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1982).

⁹⁸ *San Antonio Express*, June 24, 1915. The gravel for roads in the park was brought from River Avenue that was being paved at the time.

⁹⁹ *San Antonio Express*, June 6, 1915.

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Ray Lambert replaced the old rambling frame bathhouse with a corrugated iron bathhouse that had seven changing compartments for women and children. The old pump house across the river was proposed for conversion into a men's bathhouse, and a rustic swinging bridge was built to connect the two. To make the area more appealing, mud was removed from the river bottom and replaced with gravel. The bathing beach opened in mid-June 1915 and was an instant success. Within several weeks, it was reported that attendance had increased from a dozen or so to hundreds. The newspaper reported, "The daily dip is the thing." A contemporary playground still occupies this site, and the bathing beach is still identifiable, though no longer used.¹⁰⁰

Lambert had many other projects in mind, most of which were realized. The bathing beach had just been completed, and he was already proposing its expansion down the river. He also planned to build a regulation baseball diamond "on the big cleared space near the bathing beach" and to enlarge the zoological garden. All of these projects were completed. Picnic facilities with barbecue pits and tables were also installed.¹⁰¹ **(Figure 18)**

Envisioning today's Alpine Drive on the western edge of the park, Lambert proposed a "winding driveway for motor cars and other vehicles" on the cliff of the rock quarry. He also anticipated the design of the future Japanese Tea Garden, describing how vines and ferns would be trellised on the cliff and a sprinkling system would splash water down the quarry wall "irrigating the plants and presenting a pleasing effect."¹⁰²

Lambert was concerned that the river could not be seen from the main park drive that ran along its banks, and proposed that trees be cleared to create a "well-kept lawn sloping down from the roadway to the river throughout the entire extent of the driveway." The opposite side of the road would remain in a natural state. Today, a sloping lawn extends west from Red Oak Drive to the river, and the wooded area extends to the east.¹⁰³

Otto Koehler Park (1915)

Lambert had just assumed responsibility for Brackenridge Park in 1915, when a major bequest expanded the park's boundaries. Until 1915, the park consisted only of the land deeded to the city by the George Brackenridge's Water Works Company. Immediately across the river from the north end of the park, the San Antonio Brewing Company was still operating Madarasz Family Park. After the sudden death of the company's owner, Otto Koehler, his widow, Emma, donated the 10.93-acre private park to the city. She stipulated that the park be named "Otto Koehler Park," and that alcohol consumption be permitted. To enlarge Koehler Park, the City added 3.37 acres of adjacent land from its own holdings.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁰ Ibid. "To Convert Brackenridge Park into real "beauty spot," ns, nd. DRT Library file

¹⁰¹ Ibid. San Antonio *Express*, June 6, 1915.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ BCDR 471:416-17, December 24, 1915. Otto Koehler was killed on November 12, 1914. The land donated by Mrs. Koehler originally was to revert to her heirs if not used as a public park. The reversionary rights were assigned to the San Antonio Conservation Society in 1986 (Fisher (1996), 461).

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Municipal Rifle Range (1916-1927)

The Kampmann family had sold the majority of its nineteen-acre tract south of the rock quarry in 1906, but retained the 1.33 acre parcel and small stone house facing on Rock Quarry Road. In September 1916, a year after acquiring Koehler Park, commissioners voted to purchase the remaining Kampmann property for \$800. The land was to be used "for park purposes."¹⁰⁵

The same day commissioners approved the Kampmann purchase, they also took steps to establish a "Municipal Rifle Range" on the site. The range, operated by the city's parks and plazas department, was managed by W.J. Reed, a sergeant at nearby Fort Sam Houston. Reed lived in the old Kampmann house with his family.¹⁰⁶

Over the next decade, the area west of the rifle range developed into one of San Antonio's most stylish neighborhoods, today known as the Monte Vista Residential District (NRHP 1998). The city responded to neighbors' concerns and began to eliminate incompatible uses in the old quarry, including the rifle range and a garbage dump. A resolution was approved in September 1927, to discontinue the "Municipal Rifle Range and Municipal Gun Traps and remove the equipment;" the "use thereof for discharge of firearms" was revoked and the equipment dismantled.¹⁰⁷ Today, a concrete and stone fountain inscribed "San Antonio Municipal Rifle Range" remains adjacent to the Kampmann house ruins. It is assumed that the fountain was built to provide water for shooters.

Golf Course and Clubhouse (1916, 1923)

Lambert's bathing beach and municipal rifle range were the first of many projects that contributed to Brackenridge Park becoming the city's premier recreational area in the early twentieth century. A public golf course had been advocated for years by the San Antonio Hotel Men's Association; until 1916, golf was played in San Antonio only on private courses. The Hotel Men's Association envisioned a course "intended primarily to serve the winter tourists who come here and have no means of playing golf on the private links here." The Brackenridge Park golf course became Ray Lambert's most ambitious project to date. The site selected for the golf course encompassed the lower portion of the 199-acre Water Works tract, and included the old clubhouse vacated by the Jockey Club after it closed in the early 1900s. The clubhouse had been occupied by park gardener Louis Schunke and his family for

¹⁰⁵ BCDR 491:422, October 19, 1916.

¹⁰⁶ CCM B:107; BCDR 491:422; Personal communication, Wesley Reed to Maria Watson Pfeiffer, April 17, 2000. The same day that Council approved the purchase, it also appropriated \$17.75 to purchase supplies including targets and disks for the "Municipal Rifle Range." W.J. Reed's son, Wesley, recalls that his family lived in the Kampmann House in the early 1920s when he was a small child. City records indicate that in 1923, the Parks and Plazas Department requested and received \$36 for supplies including 75 yards of target cloth and 300 targets. The supplies were designated "for the Municipal Target Range at Brackenridge Park," and the warrant was to be payable to "Sergeant W.J. Reed who is in charge of the Municipal Target Range" (CCM E:467, June 28, 1923). The Municipal Rifle Range must have been a well-used facility, as a citizens' petition in 1919 asked that streetcar service be extended to the area. The request was declined by San Antonio Public Service, operator of the streetcar system (CCM C:554, June 19, 1919; CCM C: 579, June 26, 1919). Wesley Reed recalls that the range was used to teach shooting to students from Main Avenue and Brackenridge High Schools.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid., CCM H:153, September 12, 1927.

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over ten years, and it was still standing in 1916 when Lambert began the golf course project.¹⁰⁸ **(Figure 6)**

Noted golf course designer A.W. "Tilly" Tillinghast of Philadelphia was selected to design the eighteen-hole course and to supervise its construction. Tillinghast challenged players by configuring the course on both sides of the meandering San Antonio River, a layout that required golfers to cross the river at several points. The course also spanned the old Water Works raceway channel. A swimming hole was proposed for the course "so that after the game the players may enjoy a plunge in the delightful waters of the San Antonio River." Construction began in October 1915, and the course was officially opened on September 17, 1916. It was the first municipal golf course in Texas.¹⁰⁹ **(Figure 20)**

Tillinghast (1874-1942), the son of a wealthy Philadelphia family, developed an early interest in golf while visiting Scotland, where he studied with golf legend "Old Tom" Morris. Tillinghast was invited to lay out a golf course for friends in 1909 and subsequently designed and remodeled some sixty courses throughout the United States. His most notable work includes the upper and lower courses at Baltusrol in New Jersey and Winged Foot and Bethpage Black in New York. In San Antonio, in addition to the Brackenridge course which is one of his few public projects, Tillinghast designed courses at Fort Sam Houston (1917) and Oak Hills Country Club (1922). He worked for the Professional Golf Association inspecting courses during the Depression and established a course architecture firm in California prior to his death in 1942.¹¹⁰

San Antonio golfers used the old Jockey Club headquarters as their first golf clubhouse, and it was not until 1922 that city commissioners advertised for bids for a new structure. The "municipal golf clubhouse," designed by noted local architect Ralph Cameron, was completed in 1923.¹¹¹ **(Figure 21)** Ralph Cameron (1892-1970) received some training in Paris and served as a draftsman in the architectural offices of Henry T. Phelps and Adams and Adams before establishing his own practice in 1915. His early designs in San Antonio's Monte Vista neighborhood (NRHP 1998) included homes for Lee James (1920), Oscar Judkins (1920), William Seng (1921) and Alfred Ridder (1922). Cameron's design for the golf clubhouse was followed by many notable commissions including the Scottish Rite Cathedral (with Herbert M. Green, 1924; NRHP 1997); the Medical Arts Building (1926; NRHP 1976); and the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse (with Paul Cret, 1937; NRHP 1976). Ralph Cameron was a founding member of the Texas Society of Architects and Texas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.¹¹²

¹⁰⁸ San Antonio *Light*, June 5, 1938.

¹⁰⁹ San Antonio *Express*, October 17, 1915. The city already had two nine-hole courses, one on Beacon Hill and another at Hot Wells, as well as an 18-hole course at the San Antonio Country Club. Tillinghast visited the country club course to advise on changes, but made no recommendations. When he designed the Brackenridge course, Tillinghast was overseeing construction of the 18-hole course at Fort Sam Houston. Seven years later he returned to San Antonio to design an 18-hole course at today's Oak Hills Country Club.

¹¹⁰ Stephen Goodwin and Rick Wolffe. "The Creator of Golf Courses." (http://tillinghast.net/Tillinghast/creator_of_golf_courses.html). Accessed May 30, 2011. Published by the Tillinghast Association; e-mail correspondence, Reid Meyers to Maria Pfeiffer, August 26, 2009.

¹¹¹ CCM E:287; E:351. Cameron designed many of San Antonio's landmark buildings. He collaborated with Emmett Jackson and George Willis on the design of the city's Municipal Auditorium (NRHP 1981).

¹¹² Gribou, 294; Monte Vista National Register nomination.

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The picturesque layout was immediately popular with local and visiting golfers. It attracted widespread attention and became the site of the first Texas Open golf tournament in 1922, which was held there each subsequent year until 1959. The first Texas Open was won by Bob "the Silver Scot" McDonald; later winners included golf legends Byron Nelson, Ben Hogan and Sam Snead.¹¹³ Significant changes have been made to the golf course since its completion in 1922. A \$10,000 NYA project in 1939 included a starter house, caddy house, stone bridge, tee boxes and drinking fountains. The most notable changes took place in the late 1960s when US Highway 281 cut through the park's western edge. Though a portion of the Tillinghast layout was left intact, the twelfth hole was isolated west of the highway and the course was redesigned to fit the reconfigured site. The San Antonio Golf Association, through its license with the city, completed a major course renovation in 2008 that restored Tillinghast's design where possible.¹¹⁴

Lions Field (1916-1925)

The San Antonio Water Supply Company retained ownership of the 200-foot deep River Avenue frontage that remained after the city acquired entrances to Brackenridge Park. When owners adjoining the street were assessed paving fees in 1915, the water company decided to sell the southern 1,400 feet of its property from Josephine Street to the first park entrance. The remaining 5,550 feet were held for later sale. The city was given right of first refusal, and in July 1916, the parcels comprising today's Lions Field were acquired.¹¹⁵ Water Supply Company president Robert J. Harding stated, "We prefer to have the city buy the property because if this is done the natural beauty of the park will not be spoiled by reason of a row of houses facing the street."¹¹⁶

Following acquisition of the River Avenue tract, the City Federation of Women's Clubs urged City Commissioners to acquire the remaining River Avenue property. Ray Lambert supported the Federation's efforts, and "agreed with the committee members that the loss of the strip will be a material detriment to the park."¹¹⁷ The city was unwilling to allocate funds for this purchase, and the Water Supply Company sold its remaining River Avenue frontage to private owners. By early 1917, several houses stood along River Avenue adjoining the park.¹¹⁸

The publicly-owned land on River Avenue, renamed Broadway in 1917, remained undeveloped until 1923 when the Lions Club of San Antonio approached the city for property to establish a supervised playground for children. Ray Lambert presented several sites for consideration, including the Broadway land which the club accepted in March 1923.¹¹⁹ The playground was built with a \$2,000 contribution from the Lions Club and \$15,000 pledged by the city. The club also planned a clubhouse with lockers, restrooms and an auditorium. The National Playgrounds Association advised on the facility's design and selection of its first director. The club also purchased and installed playground equipment for the facility that was named Lions Field. Member and noted artist, Louis Rodriguez,

¹¹³ Meyers, 25-38.

¹¹⁴ "Matter of Course," *San Antonio Light*, October 17, 1939,

¹¹⁵ BCDR 489:144, July 17, 1916; 515:392, August 16, 1917; 542:274, August 16, 1918; 574:245, October 4, 1919; 598:296, June 15, 1920. The city purchased the property for \$30,000.

¹¹⁶ *San Antonio Express*, June 15, 1915.

¹¹⁷ *San Antonio Light*, January 28, 1917.

¹¹⁸ *San Antonio Light*, January 21, 1917.

¹¹⁹ Heusinger, 60.

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designed the life-size lion that still stands on a pedestal at the entrance to Lions Field.¹²⁰ **(Figures 22, 23)** Governor Miriam A. Ferguson and Mayor Tobin watched on June 17, 1925, as six hundred school children demonstrated the playground's operation during a thirty-minute play session. This was reportedly the first time that the concept of supervised playground management was established west of the Mississippi River. When Ray Lambert officially accepted the Lions Club's gift to the City on October 31, 1925, he deemed it "...the most pretentious playground in the South and one of the best in the United States."¹²¹

Memorial Drive (1918)

The gifts of George Brackenridge in 1899 and Emma Koehler in 1915 provided public parkland on both sides of the river, however most of the land below Koehler Park and west of the river was not owned by the city. Ray Lambert was concerned that development would detract from the park, and took steps to acquire a 250-foot wide strip between Koehler Park and Josephine Avenue, the park's southern boundary.¹²² Picturesque low water crossings would connect the east and west sides of the river. Lambert reasoned correctly that private property owners would enjoy the advantage of park frontage and therefore cooperate with his plan.

Ray Lambert stated, "[T]his project means more for the beautification of Brackenridge Park than anything I now know of. With full control of the river we will be able to beautify both banks, cover them with sod, flowers and trees, and the river drive can be made to wind back and forth across the stream in such a way as to make this a feature to tourists for all time to come."¹²³ The road was under construction by January 1918, and though it was completed to Koehler Park, never extended below Josephine Street to connect to downtown. The only remaining segment of Memorial Drive runs between Craig Place and Mulberry Avenue and is called River Road.¹²⁴

Donkey Trail (1916, 1920)

Development of the park as a recreational venue continued after the golf course and zoological garden opened in 1916. Another attraction, the donkey trail, was introduced in 1916 when the San Antonio Rotary Club presented

¹²⁰ "Playground plan again to front," *San Antonio Express*, October 1, 1924, 11; "Young people's club construction begun," *San Antonio Express*, February 23, 1925, 16; "San Antonio new park building," *San Antonio Light*, November 1, 1925, 1-A. Lions Field was established with support from both the National Playgrounds and Recreational Association and San Antonio Playground Association. The Lions Club invited John Bradford, field secretary for the National Playgrounds Association to San Antonio for a site visit. Bradford returned to New York and sent Eswald Pettet to survey the site and plan its development. The Lions Club, at the Playground Association's recommendation, selected R.C. Oliver of Illinois as the first director. The lion was sculpted of Carrara marble in Florence, Italy, and shipped to San Antonio for installation.

¹²¹ Simms, Henry, remarks given at the re-dedication of Lions Field, October 8, 1994; *San Antonio Light*, November 1, 1925. Ten thousand adults and children visited Lions Field on opening day when 1,000 young people participated in what was described as the biggest game of tag ever played in the world.

¹²² *San Antonio Light*, May 14, 1916. Property owners were Mary Elmendorf, Sam and Sol Dalkowitz, Lizzie Schooman, Fred Schooman, Will Allen, Henry Kilgen, Eloise Chavez, T.E. Code, Mary Hough, A.B. Stephens, and A.D. Zucht.

¹²³ *San Antonio Light*, May 14, 1916.

¹²⁴ *San Antonio Express*, January 6, 1918. In April 1929, Josephine Street property owners requested that the drive be extended south one additional block to Grayson Street, presumably to improve access to their property. Though Paul Steffler, the City's Street Commissioner, promised to investigate the proposal, it was never acted upon.

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twelve burros to the children of San Antonio. "Ever since they have been jogging around the park with one or two or three children on their backs."¹²⁵ The burros or donkeys were kept in corrals just across the river from the bathing beach, and rides started under the trees "immediately across the second bridge." It is assumed that this was the bridge over the Upper Labor ditch and water works canal. The burros were tended by a one-legged man remembered only as "Peg." "I was working out here doing something else, and they said to me 'You'd better take care of the burros,' and I said 'All Right.' I came over here and first thing you knew, the children were calling me 'Peg' and jest lovin' me. You ask 'em if they don't love me?'"¹²⁶ **(Figure 24)**

Ray Lambert advertised for proposals to construct a barn in Brackenridge Park near donkey corral in 1920. This structure, now modified, is thought to be the one still commonly referred to as the "donkey barn." Later newspaper accounts describe it as a hay barn for the zoo. The building was renovated in 1956 as offices for the Department of Parks and Recreation.¹²⁷ The donkey trail was commemorated by a bronze plaque mounted on a rock marker. It was inscribed, "The Donkey Trail, originated in 1916 by the Rotary Club, supplemented by gifts of other citizens and maintained by the municipality for the children of San Antonio." The marker no longer stands and its location and date of removal are not known.¹²⁸

Second Brackenridge Bequest, 1917

George Brackenridge was nearing the end of his life when he made additional bequests to the city. In late 1916, Brackenridge purchased the only parcels of the tannery property he had never owned—Lots 1 through 5 totaling 27.36 acres. He also reacquired Lots 6 and 7 totaling eight acres that he had sold in 1878 to Frank Gutzeit. The following month, Brackenridge donated the 35-acre tract to the city "in recognition of the work done by the City of San Antonio under the supervision of the Honorable Ray Lambert, its commissioner, in developing the scenic beauty and usefulness to the public of the tract of land formerly conveyed to the city and known as Brackenridge Park."¹²⁹ Brackenridge made his second bequest subject to the same key provisions as the first gift. The city was to use the property as a park and not "convey, alienate or encumber" it, and the sale of intoxicating beverages was prohibited. He also gave the city a long, narrow tract east of Broadway that included the old water works reservoir and stipulated that it should be named "Mahncke Park" to honor his friend, Ludwig Mahncke. Though Mahncke Park lies outside the boundaries of Brackenridge Park, the two parcels are historically related. The Ludwig Mahncke memorial statue, originally erected near the old Jockey Club headquarters, was relocated to Mahncke Park in 1968 and placed adjacent to a fountain donated by Mahncke's granddaughter. The San Antonio Garden Center and Botanical Garden occupy the eastern end of Mahncke Park and the historic water works reservoir serves as the garden's amphitheater.

¹²⁵ San Antonio *Light*, April 8, 1917.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ CCM D:385, December 13, 1920. San Antonio *News*, March 8, 1956. Ray Lambert advertised for proposals for millwork and corrugated iron for a barn in Brackenridge Park. The proposals were referred to the city purchasing agent in December, 1920.

¹²⁸ San Antonio *Express*, April 21, 1946. The marker was located in what was described as a "miniature corral."

¹²⁹ BCDR 498:345, December 8, 1916; BCDR 501:163, January 14, 1917. George Brackenridge acquired Lots 1-5 from A.B. and H.E. Stephens. They had purchased the property from J.H. Kampmann's estate in 1910 (BCDR 490:431, May 12, 1910). The lots were continuous to Kampmann's quarry holdings that ran west from Rock Quarry Road to Shook Avenue.

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Davis Park (1917)

The second Brackenridge bequest was bounded on the north by Koehler Park and on the south by a ten-acre tract owned by Bexar County that had been part of the old county poor farm tract. The poor farm closed in the early 1900s. When Ray Lambert approached county commissioners to donate right-of-way for Memorial Drive, they chose instead to contribute the entire ten acres. On December 13, 1916, commissioners voted to donate the land between the Upper Labor Ditch and San Antonio River for "park purposes only." The City Council accepted the County's gift on January 8, 1917, and named the park in honor of County Judge James R. Davis.¹³⁰

The Japanese Tea Garden (1917)

With the public acquisition of Koehler Park, the second Brackenridge bequest, and Davis Park, the city's parkland now extended west to Rock Quarry Road (St. Mary's Street). The north end of the quarry had been transformed into the zoological garden. Ray Lambert then turned his attention to the remaining quarry tracts.

Alamo Cement Company was still operating in the city quarry in 1899 when George Brackenridge made his first gift to the city. By 1908, however, the company needed a larger site with rail access and moved its plant to a 300-acre site north of the city limits. The old plant was used intermittently for several years before closing permanently.¹³¹ **(Figure 4)** After the cement company moved most of its operations in 1908, the city began to evaluate the quarry site. A survey revealed that as many as fifty-two "squatters" were living in houses in the quarry area. Most were likely former quarry employees. It was not until Ray Lambert's administration that the city took legal action to evict these residents. Beginning in 1920, the city attorney filed suits against the "squatters" and in 1926, the city council directed the removal of those who remained.¹³²

Ray Lambert viewed the abandoned quarry as an opportunity to construct an attraction he called the "lily pond." The pond, which later became known as the Japanese Tea Garden or Sunken Gardens, was the masterpiece of Lambert's creativity. Beginning in early 1917, Lambert worked with prison labor to build an irregularly-shaped garden that measured approximately four hundred by three hundred feet. Rock from the quarry was used to build an island, two pools, bridges, and paths. The city nursery provided tropical plants and the Public Service Company donated the lighting system for the driveway and pond. A Japanese-style pagoda, roofed with palm leaves from city parks, was built overlooking the polo field.

The American City magazine reported in 1919 that "the city of San Antonio has recently completed a municipal lily pond and a Japanese garden which we believe are unique... It is planned to have tea served in the pagoda and adjacent to it will be the Mexican village, where it will be possible to obtain chili, tamales, and other Mexican

¹³⁰ Commissioners Court Minutes, V:540, December 23, 1916; BCDR 499:34, January 4, 1917; CCM B:246, January 8, 1917. The County retained reversionary rights to the tract. The eight and one-half acre poor house property west of the Upper Labor was not sold by the county until June 23, 1920, when it was purchased by Sam Bell (BCDR 604:537).

¹³¹ Sanborn's Fire Insurance Map, 1912, 2:186. The new facility, which was known as Cementville, operated in this location until 1985, when the business was relocated to north Bexar County. Today this site has been converted to use as the Quarry Marketplace.

¹³² CCM March 4, 1920; August 25, 1924; July 19, 1926.

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dishes.”¹³³ **(Figures 25, 26, 27)**

Ray Lambert invited Kimi Elizo Jingu, a Japanese-American artist, to oversee the garden. Jingu and his wife, Miyoshi, moved to a stone house built by the city near the pagoda and supervised the gardens while raising their family. In 1926, the Jingu family opened the "Bamboo Room" in their home and sold green tea and green tea ice cream to visitors. The family continued to operate the garden after Mr. Jingu died in 1938. They were evicted in 1942 because of wartime anti-Japanese sentiment and the garden was renamed the "Chinese Sunken Garden." The Jingu family were replaced by a Chinese-American couple who operated a snack bar there until the early 1960s. In 1984, the garden was rededicated as the Japanese Tea Garden at a ceremony attended by the Jingu's children and representatives of the Japanese government.¹³⁴

The 1976 National Register nomination of the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works included a one-acre site and five structures, with a period of significance that ended in 1899; it therefore did not include the subsequent landscape of the Japanese Tea Garden and its structures, such as the pagoda or bridges, nor the related Jingu House. These resources are counted here as contributing to Brackenridge Park.

The Texas Star Garden (c. 1917)

After the Japanese Tea Garden was completed, the adjoining part of the quarry to the south remained undeveloped. In order to beautify this area, Ray Lambert had his workers construct an enormous designed landscape with patterns formed by rocks and flowers. The landscape feature became known as the Texas Star Garden, sometimes referred to as the "sunken garden." The Texas Star Garden was the location of outdoor choral and theatrical performances during the 1920s and in 1930 a theater was constructed on the site. **(Figure 28)**

The Tourist Camp (1919)

The increasing availability and popularity of automobiles in the 1910s created a new phenomenon of automobile tourists. Lacking commercial facilities to accommodate motoring campers, many cities including San Antonio established campgrounds. The San Antonio facility was first located along the river at the northwest edge of Brackenridge Park. The campground was initially free, but later added a ten-cent per night fee, and stays were limited to two weeks. Described in the local press as "one of the finest in the country," the campground was equipped with water, lights, cooking ovens, comfort stations and showers. It was estimated that in 1921-1922 alone, as many as 3,000 cars used the campground.¹³⁵ **(Figure 29)** By 1925, Ray Lambert became concerned that the camp had become an eyesore that detracted from the park. A new site was selected at the southern edge of the park on the east bank of the river at Josephine Street. During the Depression in 1934, concerns were raised that the campground competed with commercial tourist camps, and the city council voted to close the camp.¹³⁶

¹³³ San Antonio *Express*, March 18, 1917; "Prison Labor Used to Construct a Municipal Lily Pond and Japanese Garden" By W.S. Delery, Park Engineer, San Antonio, Texas. Published in *The American City* magazine, Volume XX. No. 5, January-June 1919.

¹³⁴ San Antonio *Express*, October 7, 1984; San Antonio Public Library, Parks and Recreation Department collection.

¹³⁵ San Antonio *Express*, August 15, 1920; San Antonio *Express*, November 19, 1922.

¹³⁶ San Antonio *Express*, March 4, 1925, 9; San Antonio *Express*, September 7, 1934, 16.

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The Mexican Village (1920)

Ray Lambert's vision for Brackenridge Park continued to evolve in 1920 when he constructed the Mexican Village just below the Japanese Tea Garden along St. Mary's Street. "[A]n artistic bit of old Japan that materialized from a man's dream a few years ago is now a many-hued masterpiece of genius in Brackenridge Park.... [J]ust a stone's throw below the palm-covered pergola, clustered close to the base of the old cement kiln, has grown up within the last few weeks a tiny Mexican village as the result of another dream of the artist of the Lily Pool, Ray Lambert, Commissioner of Parks."¹³⁷

Ray Lambert's dream, discussed as early as 1915, was conceived after observing "the tourists' eagerness to visit the Mexican settlement." He was encouraged in his work by Adina de Zavala and Mrs. Rena Maverick Green, both active in the preservation of San Antonio's historic buildings and culture. This was also a time of renewed interest in Spanish and Mexican architecture and culture as evidenced by movements to preserve and restore colonial missions in both California and Texas. **(Figure 30)**

By August 1920, the compound of stone cottages on the north side of the old cement works chimney had "already begun to fulfill its destiny, in that it has begun the cooking and serving of the highly seasoned enchiladas, chile con carne, tamales and other dishes." Tables set under a palm-roofed dining area were constructed using mill stones from the old cement works. A goldfish pond was built near the outer edge of the arbor. Three houses on the other side of the chimney were to be used for the production and sale of Mexican handiwork including blankets, baskets, pottery and drawn work. Artisans would be located to live in these houses and produce their work for sale to visitors.¹³⁸

The artisan village closed after the beginning of the Depression, and though some artists hoped to move their studios to the buildings prior to World War II, this did not occur until after the war. They were welcomed by the city and allowed to make the "casitas" habitable. A group of writers occupied one of the houses that they called the RAC-Shack. The other houses were used by artists of all media including painters, ceramists and those working in silk screen and *papier mâché*. The artists called themselves by various names including the Lime Stone Colony and the Sunken Garden Art Colony. By the early 1950s, the colony had given rise to two important organizations, the River Art Group and the Texas Watercolor Society. Together with their counterparts at the Mill Race Studio (see Second Pump House), these artists represented the core of San Antonio's artistic community in the 1940s and 1950s.¹³⁹ The four buildings of the Mexican Village are counted as contributing resources to Brackenridge Park.

Polo Field (c. 1921)

George Brackenridge's 1917 bequest of thirty-five acres was the largest open space in the park. The San Antonio Polo Club, organized in 1911, played at various venues including San Antonio's fair grounds until the early 1920s,

¹³⁷ San Antonio *Express*, August 29, 1920.

¹³⁸ Ibid. Adina de Zavala was founder of the Texas Landmarks Association, and Mrs. Rena Maverick Green was a founding member of the San Antonio Conservation Society.

¹³⁹ San Antonio *Express*, May 18, 1947; "Lime Kiln Colony," San Antonio *Express* Magazine, January 2, 1949; Cook, Roger Allen, "Sunken Garden Art Colony: The Lime Kiln and 'Rac Shack,'" published in *The Southern Artist*, Volume 2, No. 1, [1954].

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when it approached the city to use the large, relatively flat expanse on the east bank of the river for matches. Ray Lambert originally envisioned a botanical garden on this site and a plan was drawn by park engineer, W.S. Delery in March 1919. Apparently the Polo Club's proposal prevailed. The club improved the field at no cost to the city, and over the next fifty years hosted some of the world's best players.¹⁴⁰

By the early 1950s, the polo field was used only occasionally, and in 1952, a joint use agreement was negotiated that enabled the area to also be used as a golf driving range. This continued until the late 1980s when polo was no longer played and the city assumed management of the driving range. Still known to many San Antonians as the "polo field," the area continues in use as a driving range and teaching facility.¹⁴¹ **(Figure 31)** Today, the Tony "Skipper" Martinez softball field (c. 1980, noncontributing) is located just above the northwest corner of the driving range.

Auxiliary Structures (1921-1922)

The growing popularity of Brackenridge Park made it necessary for the city to enter into a concessions contract for management of park services. In 1921, the City Commission granted A.D. Politis the concession rights to Brackenridge and Koehler Parks. Politis was to operate the Japanese tea garden and Mexican Village, a "Swiss inn," two bathhouses and the campground in Brackenridge Park, as well as to rent golf lockers at the Brackenridge golf course. He was allowed to sell a wide range of items including ice cream, soft drinks, candy, cigars, cigarettes, candy, peanuts, popcorn, and lunches. At the campground, Politis sold tires, gasoline, oil, auto supplies and accessories.¹⁴² In May 1922, the San Antonio Express published an illustration of an "attractive cold drink and band stand" just completed by A.D. Politis in Brackenridge Park. This building, designed by local architect Will N. Noonan, was located near the old Water Works pump house; its overall design was similar to four restroom buildings that remain standing in the park, and it is likely that all were designed by Noonan.¹⁴³ **(Figure 32)**

Lambert Beach (1925-1926)

Ray Lambert was in failing health by the middle-1920s when he initiated three projects that still define the north end of the park—renovation of the bathing beach, addition of two bridges, and the construction of Joske Pavilion. The popular swimming beach built by Lambert at the old pump house in 1915 had been one of his earliest projects and ten years later, it was one of his last. Work was completed in March 1925 to transform the swimming beach into a more formal swimming pool. Concrete stair landings provided swimmers with easy access to the river, and

¹⁴⁰ San Antonio City Engineer Records, A-4-7, March 11, 1919; *Texas Centennial Magazine*, November-December, 1936, 11-12; Memo, San Antonio Polo Club to Robert L. Frazer, August 17, 1966.

¹⁴¹ San Antonio Express, January 8, 1987; San Antonio Light, June 22, 1988; Meyers to Pfeiffer, e-mail correspondence, October 6, 2008. The San Antonio Polo Club was reportedly the seventh polo club formed in the United States.

¹⁴² CCM E:205, July 17, 1922; E:330-332, January 11, 1923. The contract extended from 1923 until 1928. Politis was also given concession rights to San Pedro and Roosevelt parks. The agreement included the right to erect buildings in the park with the stipulation that they be ornamental and not detract from the attractiveness and usefulness of the park.

¹⁴³ In September 1922, Commissioner Lambert advertised for plumbing fixtures, woodwork, roof tiling and electrical supplies to construct two comfort stations in Brackenridge Park. CCM E:257, September 26, 1922.

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rustic dressing rooms were replaced by a multi-roomed stone bathhouse designed by Emmett Jackson.¹⁴⁴

Emmett Jackson (1886-1971) established his architectural practice in San Antonio in 1912. He was enumerated as an architect on the 1910 Federal census and was practicing alone in 1920 when he was listed as a house architect. Jackson received significant commissions in the 1920s, often associating with other local firms. His major San Antonio projects included the Builders Exchange (with George Willis, 1925; NRHP 1994); Municipal Auditorium (with Ayres and Ayres and George Willis, 1926; NRHP 1981); Bexar County Courthouse expansion (with George Willis and Phelps and Dewees, 1926; NRHP 1977). Other projects by Jackson include St. Sophia Greek Orthodox church (1926), the cadet barracks at Randolph Field, and the Central Fire Station. He later became a construction advisor for the United States Housing Authority (1934-1943) and established a general contracting firm with his son to build commercial, residential and industrial projects.¹⁴⁵

To provide better pedestrian and vehicular access within the park, Lambert arranged to relocate two iron truss bridges from their original locations in the downtown area. These structures were being replaced during the massive rebuilding of the city's downtown infrastructure that followed the devastating 1921 flood. The first to be moved was the massive iron truss bridge that had spanned the river at St. Mary's Street since 1890. The bridge was erected in the park at the bathing beach in 1925. The second was a less ornate bridge that spanned the river at Fourth Street on the northern edge of downtown. Lambert requested funds for materials to rebuild this structure as a footbridge in the park in June 1926. It was placed at the lower end of the bathing beach to connect Koehler Park west of the river with Brackenridge Park to the east.¹⁴⁶

At the same time Ray Lambert was erecting the two truss bridges in the park, the city also hired *faux bois* artist, Dionicio Rodriguez to construct one of his finest works (NRHP 2004). The covered "wooden" footbridge, located north of the large iron truss bridge, consists of thirty-three pairs of vertical tree trunks spanned by horizontal branches. *Popular Mechanics* magazine wrote of the bridge shortly after its completion, "...this bridge even fools woodpeckers."¹⁴⁷ Ray Lambert's final project at the bathing beach was construction of Joske Memorial Pavilion, built with a \$10,000 bequest to the city from deceased retailer, Alexander Joske. The site Lambert selected for the pavilion adjoined the Eleanor Brackenridge playground where the truss bridge crossed the river. Emmett Jackson, whose bathhouses stood just across the river, was hired by the city to design the massive stone pavilion which was erected in 1926. This area of the park is still known as "Lambert Beach."¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁴ CCM F:497-98, March 23, 1925; F:510, April 6, 1925. The project contractor for the pool was Walsh and Burney. Emmett Jackson was paid \$553 to design the bathhouse which were built by Clemens and Gombert at a cost of \$11,000. The Lambert Beach swimming pool pre-dates Austin's Barton Springs pool which was completed in 1928-29 (NRHP 1997).

¹⁴⁵ United States Federal Census 1910, 1920; San Antonio *Express*, December 12, 1971; Simpson, 246..

¹⁴⁶ Fisher (1997), 10-11, 42; CCM G:333, June 28, 1926. The old St. Mary's Street bridge first gained notoriety when Mayor Bryan Callaghan placed his name in gold letters on plaques mounted on the structure. Callaghan, who won his first term in 1885, narrowly won a second term in what became known as the "Letters of Gold Campaign." The bridge was scheduled to be demolished in the aftermath of the devastating 1921 flood, but was instead moved to the park (San Antonio *Express*, December 16, 1925; February 5, 1928, 1-A).

¹⁴⁷ "Beauty in Concrete and Wood," *Popular Mechanics*, October 1927, 585-587; Light, 41-42.

¹⁴⁸ CCM G:261, April 5, 1926. The city advertised for bids in April 1926, and it is assumed that construction followed shortly.

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Witte Museum (1926)

San Antonio did not have a public museum by the middle 1920s when museum advocates convinced city commissioners to build such a facility in San Pedro Park. Architects Ayres and Ayres designed the new museum and ground was broken on September 22, 1925, just two days before local businessman Alfred G. Witte died and left an unusual bequest. Witte gave the city \$75,000 to construct a museum of art, science and natural history to be built in Brackenridge Park and named for his parents. Construction halted at the San Pedro Park site, and museum proponents, the mayor, architects and Ray Lambert set out to find a new location in Brackenridge Park. **(Figure 33)**

The new museum site was located between the river and Broadway at the "third entrance" to the park—today's Tuleta Drive. The vacant property, located just below where the Alamo acequia left the river, had been part of the 200-acre tract sold by Mary Maverick to George Brackenridge in 1876. It was acquired by the city from the Water Works Company in 1908 as part of the settlement for access to Brackenridge Park. Ayres and Ayres moved building materials to the Brackenridge Park site, enlarged the building plan, and began construction.

Atlee B. Ayres (1874-1969) and his son Robert M. Ayres (1898-1977) were already well-established architects when they were hired to design San Antonio's new museum. Atlee Ayres completed his architectural training at the Metropolitan School of Art in New York City and practiced in Mexico before establishing the firm of Coughlin and Ayres in San Antonio in 1900. Coughlin died in 1905, and it was not until 1921 that Ayres's son joined the practice, after completing studies at the University of Pennsylvania under Paul Cret. The firm adapted readily to new developments in construction technology and stylistic fashions and became known for its residential, commercial and institutional design. While fluent in period revival idioms such as Tudor, Italian Renaissance and Colonial, the Ayreses were best known for their Spanish Colonial Revival designs. The firm's iconic works in San Antonio include the Atkinson Residence (1928; now the Marion Koogler McNay Museum), the Smith Young Tower (1929; NR 1991) and the Administration Building at Randolph Air Field (1931; NR 1987).¹⁴⁹

Originally designed in the Spanish Colonial style, the Witte Museum opened to the public on October 8, 1926, and immediately became a popular local destination where local residents and visitors were able to view historic, artistic and scientific exhibits. The original building was remodeled and expanded several times, including a major remodeling in 1962. The museum remains a popular park attraction.

Death of Ray Lambert (1927)

Ray Lambert lived for one year after the completion of his projects at the bathing beach and the opening of the Witte Museum; he died from pneumonia on December 23, 1927.¹⁵⁰ Lambert was memorialized effusively by his fellow commissioners: "San Antonio owes much of its beauty to this splendid man. He seemed to have an intuitive knowledge of what to do [illegible] to the betterment of conditions and the beautification of everything coming under his purview. Our magnificent park system, our high standard of public centres are all due to his wise

¹⁴⁹ Monte Vista National Register nomination.

¹⁵⁰ San Antonio *Express*, December 20, 1927.

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administration.”¹⁵¹

Joseph “Jake” Rubiola succeeded Ray Lambert as park commissioner in 1927, followed by Henry Hein in 1941. As the last of San Antonio’s park commissioners—the city adopted a council/manager form of government in 1953—Rubiola and Hein supervised Brackenridge through the difficult Depression and war years.

Brackenridge Park in the 1930s: The Depression Era and the Texas Centennial Celebration

Brackenridge Park, like many public facilities throughout the country, benefited from Depression era programs carried out by the National Youth Administration (NYA) and Works Projects Administration (WPA). San Antonio’s representative from the twentieth congressional district, Maury Maverick, assured substantial local funding for projects during his tenure from 1935 to 1938. Approximately \$90,000 was earmarked for projects to improve the infrastructure of Brackenridge and Koehler Parks and the zoo.¹⁵²

Rock retaining walls were constructed along the river to control erosion that threatened trees along the river bank. Park Commissioner Henry Hein and city forester Stewart King both sought to preserve the park’s natural beauty. King, who became a noted local landscape architect, designed screening for the rock walls that included rose bushes and flowering shrubs. Rock-curbed parking areas were constructed to protect tree roots and unsightly ball moss was removed. King also supervised a \$10,000 NYA project to build a drive from Broadway to the recreation area and beautify the Witte Museum grounds. This is the street known today as Tuleta Drive.¹⁵³

Sunken Garden Theater (1930, 1937)

Prior to completion of the Japanese Tea Garden in 1917, the city’s cultural leaders and park officials had discussed transforming the old city quarry into an outdoor theater. The quarry’s deep excavations shaped in a huge semicircle provided a unique, natural setting for an open-air Greek amphitheater. Observing the site, the manager of the Boston National Grand Opera Company urged the city to consider such a facility, saying that it could be “developed into one of the show places in the country.”¹⁵⁴ **(Figures 34, 35)**

Lambert chose instead to use part of the quarry for the Tea Garden, and built the Texas Star Garden on the remainder of the site. The curving quarry wall at the western edge of the Star Garden offered natural acoustic features, and choral and opera productions held there in 1926 and 1928 were well-received. Cultural leader, Mrs.

¹⁵¹ CCM H:294, January 5, 1928.

¹⁵² National Archives, WPA project numbers 65667103-6, 65661073, and 65661958. In addition to projects completed in Brackenridge Park, Alamo Stadium was also constructed. In the old rock quarry adjacent to the park, WPA provided \$370,000 in funding and the school district \$107,000. Completion was scheduled for June 30, 1940 (*San Antonio Light*, September 21, 1939). Maury Maverick returned from Washington and was elected to serve one term as mayor from 1939 to 1941.

¹⁵³ *San Antonio Light*, September 10, 1939 and November 27, 1940. A total of 160 young men worked in shifts on the project. As part of this work, King covered exposed roots with fertilizer and soil, planted carpet grass in eroded areas, and removed ball moss that he considered a parasite. Hanging Spanish moss was left undisturbed. King also planned to remove trees from crowded areas.

¹⁵⁴ “Greek theater in making is asset of city,” *San Antonio Light*, February 9, 1914.

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Eli Hertzberg, urged that the area be considered for outdoor musical and other events too large for the Municipal Auditorium (NRHP 1981).¹⁵⁵

Sculptor Gutzon Borglum drew the first plans for a theater that "would present a Grecian style of architecture."¹⁵⁶ The final design, however, was completed by local architect Harvey P. Smith. The Sunken Garden Theater opened on July 15, 1930, with a performance of "The Bohemian Girl" by the San Antonio Civic Opera Company. As stated in its dedication program, the theater would "provide outdoor summer entertainment for citizens...and cultural fame and distinction for our city... This is the beautiful theatre that we have longed for—which we have talked about for so long, and that we are dedicating tonight."¹⁵⁷

The Sunken Garden Theater was expanded and improved in 1937 as part of the Texas Centennial celebration and dedicated as a memorial to the heroes of the Texas Revolution. Architects for the Centennial project, completed by WPA, were Harvey P. Smith, George Willis and Charles T. Boelhauwe. Dressing rooms and stage support buildings, restrooms, and seating were constructed and a concrete floor was added to the theater seating area. A concession area was built by the NYA in 1937-38. The Sunken Garden Theater was a popular venue for symphonic, jazz, dance, drama, and pop music performances for many years, and is still used for open air concerts and festivals. It is designated a State Archaeological Landmark.¹⁵⁸

Harvey P. Smith (1889-1964) had completed the original design for the theater in 1930, and in 1937, he joined George Willis (1879-1960) and Charles Boelhauwe (c. 1886-1976) to design the improvements built by WPA. The three men were all well-recognized and had completed many notable local projects local architects. Smith had opened his practice in San Antonio in 1918. He was associated with Robert B. Kelly until 1922, and then began to practice alone. Smith's projects included the Randolph Field officers' club and Boy Scout Headquarters in San Antonio, and buildings at Sul Ross State Teachers College in Alpine and Southwest Texas State Teachers College at San Marcos. Harvey Smith became known for his restoration of San Antonio's Spanish Colonial missions and the Spanish Governor's Palace. He served as president of the West Texas Chapter of the AIA and was named a fellow in the AIA. George Willis had associated with Smith as well as another Brackenridge Park architect, Emmett Jackson on various projects. Willis was born in Chicago where he studied at the Armour Institute and worked in Frank Lloyd Wright's studio from 1898 to 1902. He came to San Antonio in 1910 after practicing in California and Dallas. Willis' early local commissions included the L.T. Wright house (1917; NRHP 1983); San Antonio Country Club

¹⁵⁵ Parks and Recreation Department Collection, San Antonio Public Library, Texana-Genealogy Department. Mrs. Hertzberg estimated that an amphitheater at this location could seat 50,000 to 60,000 people. She suggested in late 1927 that the theater be named the Tobin Memorial Amphitheater to honor Mayor John W. Tobin who had recently died in office.

¹⁵⁶ San Antonio *Light*, January 19, 1930.

¹⁵⁷ Dedication program, Sunken Garden Theater.

¹⁵⁸ A bronze plaque installed on the east wing wall read, "1836-1936. Sunken Garden Theatre, a memorial to the Heroes of the Texas Revolution." Another plaque recognized the San Antonio Civic Opera Company founded by Mrs. Lewis Krams-Beck, who advocated for construction of the theater. Centennial renovations also included addition of a new curtain that rose from the floor rather than descending. The curtain system was conceptualized by E.J. Altgelt and the design was executed by project architects Harvey P. Smith, George Willis and Charles T. Boelhauwe (San Antonio *Light*, July 2, 1937). Alltel was an assistant to Cullen Thomas, United States commissioner general for the Texas Centennial. Due to locked gates, it was not possible to access the theater to evaluate the theater's auxiliary buildings to determine if they were built by WPA or NYA.

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(1917); the Murphy house (c. 1920); the Palace Theater (1923); and the Randolph Field hospital (1930). He associated with Ayres and Ayres on the Municipal Auditorium (1926; NRHP 1981) and on the Builders Exchange building with Emmett Jackson (1924; NRHP 1994). Charles Boelhauwe practiced architecture in San Antonio beginning as early as 1910 and he formed a brief partnership with Ernest Behles from 1911 to 1912. In 1914, Boelhauwe associated with Leo M.J. Dielmann on an addition to the Bexar County Courthouse, an addition that was later demolished. He worked with Sanguinet and Staats in to design the Central Trust Company building (1919; NRHP 1982). Boelhauwe's other projects included school additions and residences.¹⁵⁹

Pioneer Hall (1937)

San Antonio city leaders lobbied heavily to have the city designated as the center of the state's Centennial celebration. San Jacinto Park, located in the western portion of the old city quarry and today the site of Trinity University, was proposed as the site of the Centennial exposition. When that exposition was awarded to Dallas, San Antonians continued to advocate for funding to construct commemorative projects. These efforts were ultimately successful, and in August 1936, a \$400,000 allotment of Federal centennial funds was awarded for work in San Antonio. The city's largest projects were constructed in Brackenridge Park. The Sunken Garden Theater project received \$62,000, and \$100,000, was set aside to construct a memorial hall to honor Texas pioneers, trail drivers and rangers immediately north of the Witte Museum.

The local firms of Phelps and Dewees and Ayres and Ayres were hired to design the memorial building. Ground was broken in February 1937, and the building was dedicated on January 1, 1938. Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres had designed the adjacent Witte Museum in 1926. Raymond Phelps (1890-1958) and Dahl Dewees (1888-1965) were both San Antonians who served together in France during World War I and opened their practice in 1919 after returning from the war. Their projects included the American Legion Sanitorium in Kerrville, Mark Twain and Washington Irving Junior Schools (San Antonio) as well as schools in San Angelo and Brownsville, and the Travis Building, Medical and Surgical Clinic Hospital and Alamo Stadium in San Antonio. Both Phelps and Dewees served as president of the West Texas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Phelps also was president of the Texas Society of Architects and the San Antonio chapter of the AIA, and was a Fellow of the AIA.¹⁶⁰

Upon completion, the building was released by the Federal government to the State Board of Control, which in turn presented it to the City of San Antonio. Still owned by the city, the building is now leased to the Witte Museum and will be used as the South Texas Heritage Center. It is designated a State Archaeological Landmark.

Reptile Garden (1933, 1937)

During the Depression, Ellen Quillin, the director of the Witte Museum, hired an unemployed herpetologist to do "odd jobs." At his suggestion, a reptile garden was built near the museum in 1933 to boost revenues. This popular display attracted visitors who each paid ten cents to see snakes and alligators. "Snake fry" events were also added

¹⁵⁹ Simpson (1952), 154; Davis and Grobe, 733, 2584; San Antonio Express, January 20, 1964; Gribou, 82, 152, 294.

¹⁶⁰ Simpson (1952), 162; San Antonio Express, October 10, 1958, 2-A; San Antonio Express, March 5, 1965, 13-C; San Antonio Express, June 21, 1927, 11-C. The firm of Phelps and Dewees became known as Phelps, Dewees and Simmons after C.C. Simmons became a partner in 1935.

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to generate additional income and deal with the large inventory of snakes that were donated to or purchased by the museum.¹⁶¹

The reptile garden was located at two different sites near the Witte Museum before construction of Pioneer Hall necessitated a third move in 1937. Finally, a permanent stone enclosure was built by NYA workers in 1939 with some assistance from museum employees. The new facility featured steam-heated "snake apartments" to assure the reptiles' comfort and safety. The Witte Museum continued to operate the reptile garden through the Depression and war years. After the San Antonio Zoo constructed a reptile house in 1942, the museum transferred its snakes to that facility. The alligators remained and the garden was operated by private concessionaires from the middle 1940s until it closed in 1975.¹⁶² **(Figure 36)**

Brackenridge Park, 1940-1960

Brackenridge Park remained the city's largest park in the early 1940s. It was heavily used by residents from surrounding residential neighborhoods as well as from throughout the city. The Brackenridge Parkway Addition and Belmont Place neighborhoods lay to the south and the developments encompassed today by the Monte Vista National Register District lay to the west. Residential and commercial structures lined the old Water Works Company property that fronted on Broadway and backed to the park, and the Mahncke Park and Country Club Place neighborhoods were located east of Broadway.

The city continued to consider placement of recreational venues in or near the park. Part of the old quarry tract west of the Zoological Garden and Japanese Tea Garden was deeded to the San Antonio Independent School District for construction of the long-discussed public stadium. Built by WPA, Alamo Stadium was completed in September 1940. The city also considered, but did not build, a new swimming pool north of the polo field where Memorial Drive intersected St. Mary's Street. Instead, swimming continued at Lambert Beach until it was closed due to the polio epidemic.¹⁶³

Sheriff's Mounted Posse (1949-c. 1960)

The park had been a popular destination for horseback riding for many years, due in part to the operation of a privately operated stable just outside the western boundary of Davis Park. Riders crossed Mulberry Avenue and the San Antonio River to trails running through the park's wooded areas. The San Antonio Horse Show Association maintained stables and a show ring just west of the polo field at least as early as 1936. The association transferred its facility to the Bexar County Sheriff's Mounted Posse in 1949. The stables burned in 1951, but were rebuilt, and the organization continued to rent stables and hold riding exhibitions there until about 1960. A rectangular clay tile structure is all that remains of this facility.

¹⁶¹ Woolford and Quillin, 60-63.

¹⁶² San Antonio *Light*, October 19, 1939; San Antonio *Light*, November 11, 1939, 2-A; San Antonio *Express*, August 4, 2002.

¹⁶³ "Site of new Brackenridge pool," San Antonio *Light*, September 16, 1939; "Proposed Koehler Park Olympic pool," San Antonio *Light*, February 25, 1940.

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Tuesday Musical Club (1950)

West of the polo field/driving range across North St. Mary's Street, the city leased a portion of the quarry property to the Tuesday Musical Club. The organization, established in 1901 by Anna Goodman Hertzberg, was reportedly the first music club for women in Texas. A small performance hall designed by Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres was erected on the property, and the club has held events there since its completion. Ayres and Ayres had previously designed the Witte Museum (1926) and Pioneer Hall (1937).

Golf Driving Range (1952)

A golf driving range was opened by Frank Machock in 1952 on park's polo field. Machock cleared and sodded the field and built a snack shop, putting green and miniature golf course. The driving range closed on Sundays when polo was played. The City of San Antonio took over management of the driving range in 1988. The old snack shop was replaced with a new building in 2009 (noncontributing), and the driving range is also used as a golf teaching facility for inner city youth.¹⁶⁴

Brackenridge Eagle (1957-present)

A miniature train began operating in the park in the mid-to-late 1930s. A new, longer train route was constructed in 1957. The route extended 3.2 miles, taking passengers from the Witte Museum on the east side of the park to the zoo on the west side. The tracks crossed the river in two locations on newly constructed trestle and truss bridges and depots were built at locations along the route. The extended route still conveys visitors around the park today.¹⁶⁵ The miniature train tracks, tunnel, and truss bridge, constructed between 1957 and 1961, are counted as one contributing structure. Another popular attraction added in the 1950s was a speed boat that thrilled passengers with a short, fast ride on the river below Lambert Beach. These boat rides were discontinued in the 1960s. **(Figures 37, 38)**

Brackenridge Park, 1960-present

Since the 1950s, changes to Brackenridge Park have been primarily related to renovation and remodeling of facilities. The notable exception is the highway construction that severed the western portion of the park in the late 1960s. San Antonio struggled to manage traffic in the post-World War II era as motorists clogged streets and highways leading to new suburbs. Much of San Antonio's major growth took place north of downtown, and discussion of a new highway began in the mid-1950s. The route finally proposed by the Texas Highway Department in 1960 severed the lower portion of the park, leaving fragments of dedicated park land on the west side of the expressway. The highway passed between Alamo Stadium and the Sunken Garden Theater and severed the western portion of the zoo. The ensuing fight against the expressway, led by the San Antonio Conservation Society, lasted over a decade.

¹⁶⁴ Newell to Pfeiffer, June 18, 1997.

¹⁶⁵ San Antonio *Light*, September 16, 1939; San Antonio *Light*, November 18, 1956; San Antonio *Light*, June 10, 1959; Brackenridge Park vertical files, San Antonio Public Library, Texana-Genealogy Department. The extended route was built over the protests of the San Antonio Conservation Society which saw the train as an intrusion on the park.

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The controversy over the North Expressway (also known as US 281 or the McAllister Expressway) attracted national attention to the issue of using federal highway funds to take dedicated park land. During the course of the debate, Texas Senator Ralph Yarborough amended the 1966 Congressional act creating the US Department of Transportation. The Yarborough amendment prevented approval of any federally-funded highway project using public park land unless there was no reasonable alternative. After the amendment's adoption, litigation continued for another eight years. Construction of the north and south legs of the expressway progressed while the 2.5 mile center section was litigated. The center section was ultimately constructed without Federal funding and opened in 1978.¹⁶⁶ Several design enhancements were incorporated to protect the park. Alpine Drive was preserved by cantilevering it over the expressway and walls were constructed to provide sound protection for the park.

Park Renovation (2003-2006)

The infrastructure of the park east of the river was totally renovated between 2003 and 2006 using city bond funds totaling \$6.5 million. The first phase included renovation of picnic units, the Joske Pavilion and adjacent playground, river walls and the Dionicio Rodriguez footbridge as well as trail construction, landscaping and recycled water irrigation. The second phase included conversion of interior roadways to pedestrian trails, installation of public art pieces, renovation of the Lions Field playground and reconfiguration of the park entrance at Funston Place.

The bond-funded rehabilitation of the Japanese Tea Gardens was completed in 2007 and further renovation is planned. The city nursery, located in the wooded area south of the Witte Museum, was relocated in 2007, and a three-story parking garage for park users was completed in 2009. The animal care facility south of the zoo was closed and demolished in 2008, and the park maintenance facility and Donkey Barn north of the zoo were vacated in 2010.

Summary

Brackenridge Park and its many component features maintain a high degree of integrity and is one of the preeminent public parks in the state of Texas. Brackenridge Park is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation and Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the development and design of San Antonio's parks system, and in the area of Industry for its association with the production of limestone and cement from about 1850 until 1908. The park is also nominated at the state level of significance under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture, Art, and Landscape Architecture for its rich collection of objects, structures, and buildings that span from the pre-park through Depression eras, and in the area of Engineering for its association with water delivery from 1719 through 1899. Noteworthy buildings and structures of statewide significance within the park include Pioneer Hall and the Sunken Garden Theater, two of the largest products of the Texas Centennial program, a federal and state-funded commemoration of Texas Independence from Mexico that sponsored the construction of monuments, museums, and markers statewide in the 1930s. The Japanese Sunken Garden, a major component of the park, is also significant at the state level, as a one-of-a-kind redevelopment of a former industrial site for public use as

¹⁶⁶ Fisher, 304, 283-94, 321-333. Fisher provides an exhaustive discussion of the North Expressway issue.

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recreation facility, exhibiting a high degree of craftsmanship and design. Finally, Brackenridge Park is nominated under Criterion D at the state level in the area of Archeology–Prehistoric–Aboriginal because of its documented archaeological deposits and potential sites related to the Paleoindian (12,500–8,800 BC), Archaic (including Early Archaic [8,800 to 6,000 BP]; Middle Archaic [6,000 to 4,000 BP]; and Late Archaic [4,000 to 1,200 BP]), and Late Prehistoric (1,200 to 350 BP) periods; and in the area of Archeology–Historic–Non-Aboriginal, for its documented and potential archeological deposits from the Spanish colonial period through the turn of the twentieth century. The historic period begins with the arrival of Europeans in Texas, and its earliest evidence in the park is the Alamo acequia and dam system, which dates to 1719. The historic period continues through the park era to 1961, the current fifty-year mark.

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Brackenridge Park
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Department of Parks and Recreation archival files

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Page 4

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 344 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	14	551685	3259700
2.	14	551806	3259394
3.	14	550717	3257430
4.	14	550024	3257929
5.	14	550459	3259188
6.	14	551317	3259678

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: (see continuation sheet 10-77)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The nomination includes all property historically associated with Brackenridge Park since 1917, when Bexar County and George Brackenridge gave the final parcels that comprise the park. A portion of Brackenridge Park was conveyed to the State of Texas in 1968 for construction of US Highway 281; the park site was altered to its present configuration at that time. The nominated boundaries do not include city-owned land currently encompassed by the San Antonio Zoo.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Rachel Leibowitz, Ph.D., Historian, Texas Historical Commission)**NAME / TITLE:** Maria Watson Pfeiffer and Steve A. Tomka, Ph.D.**ORGANIZATION:** San Antonio Conservation Society**DATE:** June 1, 2011**STREET & NUMBER:** 107 King William Street**TELEPHONE:** (210) 224-6163**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio**STATE:** Texas**ZIP CODE:** 78204**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION****CONTINUATION SHEETS****MAPS** (see continuation sheet Map-78 through Map-83)**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-111 through Photo-113)**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets Figure-84 through Figure-110)**PROPERTY OWNER**

NAME:	City of San Antonio (The Honorable Julián Castro, Mayor)		
STREET & NUMBER:	P.O. Box 839966	TELEPHONE:	(210) 207-7060
CITY OR TOWN:	San Antonio	STATE: Texas	ZIP CODE: 78283

NAME:	City of San Antonio, Department of Parks and Recreation (Xavier D. Urrutia, Director)		
STREET & NUMBER:	5800 Old Highway 90 West	TELEPHONE:	(210) 207-8480
CITY OR TOWN:	San Antonio	STATE: Texas	ZIP CODE: 78227

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Section 10 Page 77

Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description

Brackenridge Park is an irregularly shaped tract bounded generally by Hildebrand Avenue on the north; Broadway and Avenue B on the east; Josephine Street and US Highway 281 on the south; and US Highway 281, River Road, Alpine Drive, North St. Mary's Street and the San Antonio Zoo on the west.

Additionally, the irregular northern boundary also includes a portion of Tuleta Drive, the east portion of NCB A52 (Alamo Stadium Subdivision), and Craig Place. The irregular eastern boundary also includes NCB A-49, Block 36 and NCB 439 (portions of A32, 32, 33, 34, and 35).

Boundary Justification

The nomination includes all property historically associated with Brackenridge Park since 1917, when Bexar County and George Brackenridge gave the final parcels that comprise the park. A portion of Brackenridge Park was conveyed to the State of Texas in 1968 for construction of US Highway 281; the park site was altered to its present configuration at that time. The nominated boundaries do not include city-owned land currently encompassed by the San Antonio Zoo.

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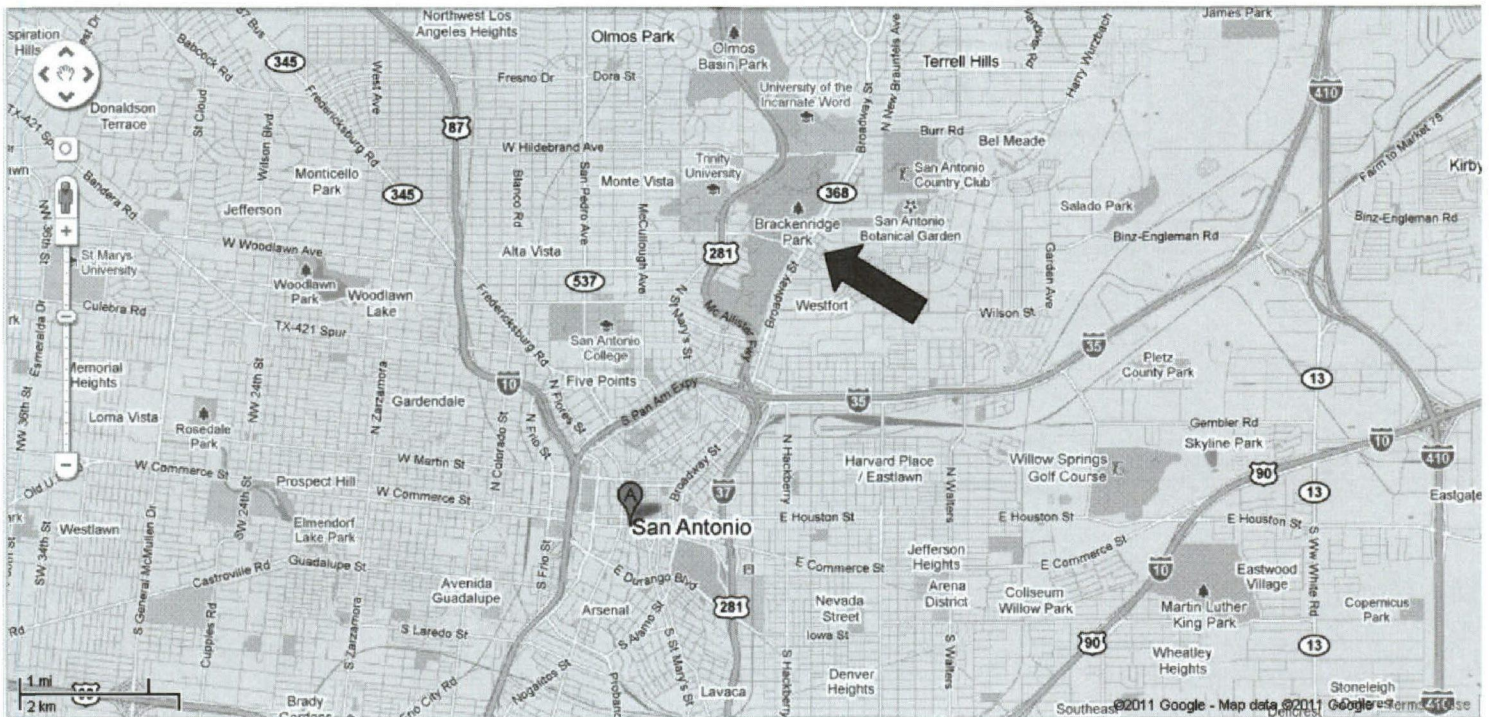
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Map 1. Bexar County, Texas



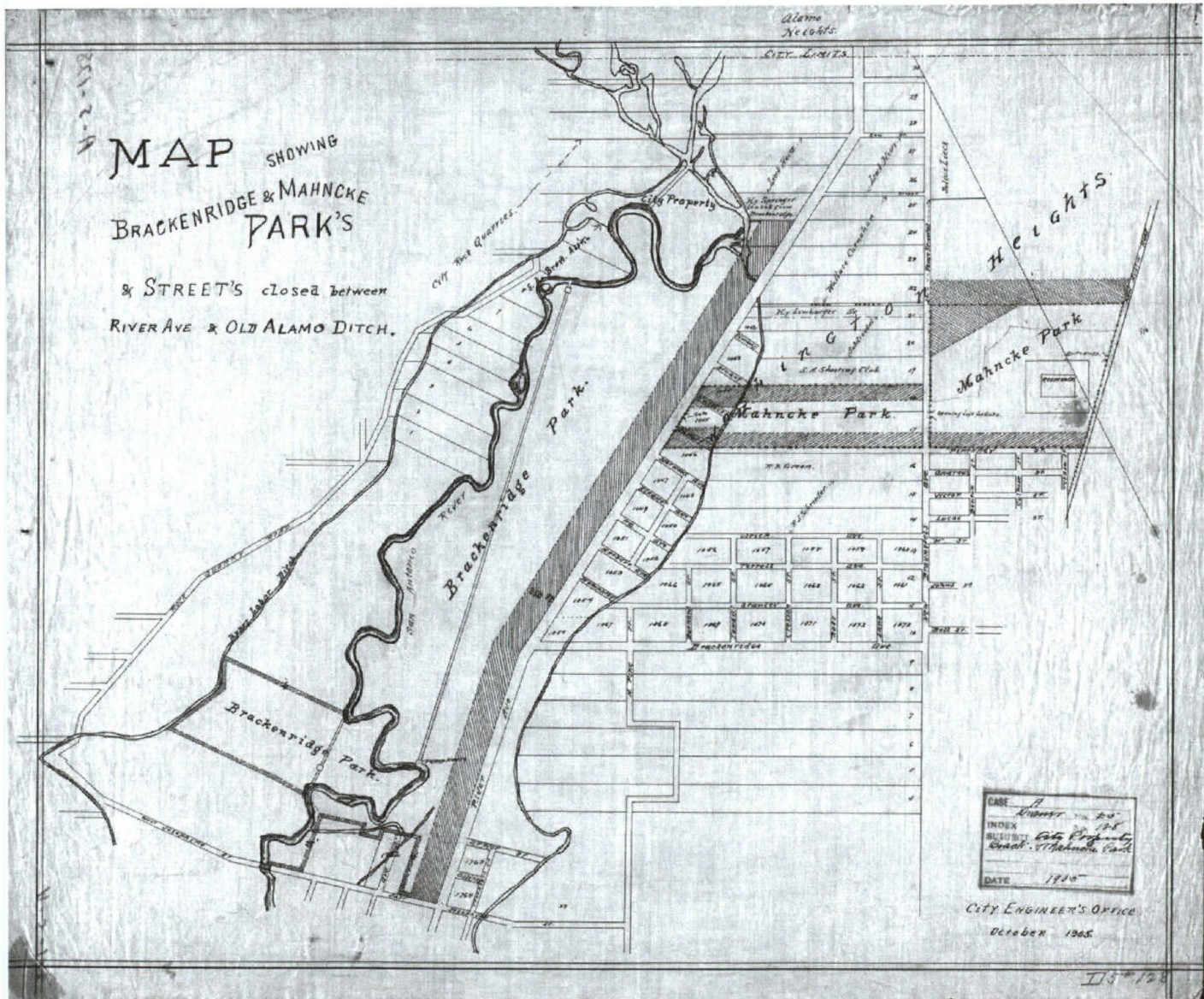
Map 2. City of San Antonio; downtown marked with an "A." Location of Brackenridge Park marked with arrow.

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Map 3. "Map Showing Brackenridge and Mahncke Parks and Streets Closed between River Avenue and Old Alamo Ditch."

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Map 4. Keyed map of historic tracts that now comprise Brackenridge Park.

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



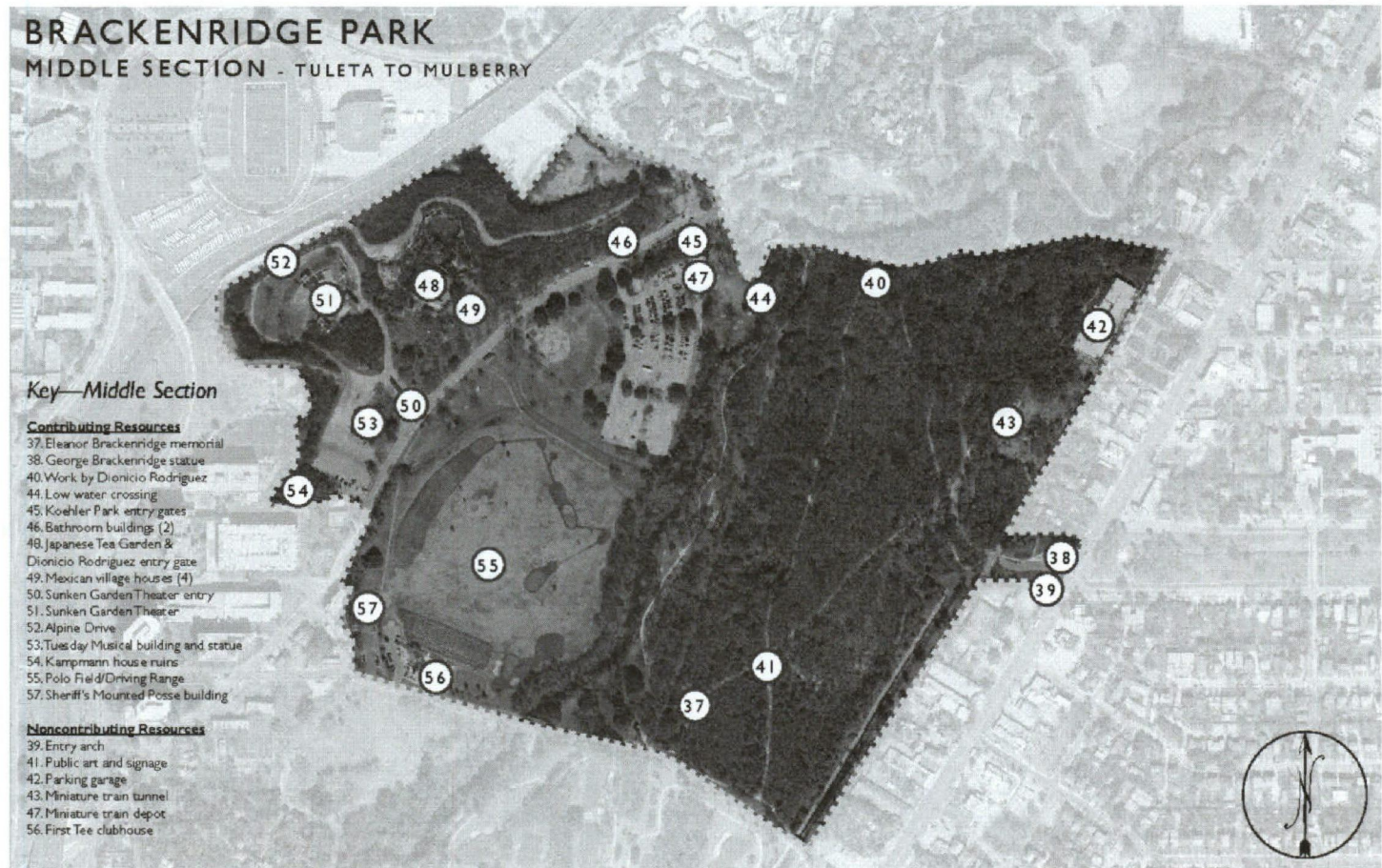
Map 5. Keyed map of contributing and noncontributing resources in the north section, Hildebrand to Tuleta.

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Map 6. Keyed map of contributing and noncontributing resources in the middle section, Tuleta to Mulberry.

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Map 7. Keyed map of contributing and noncontributing resources in the south section, Mulberry to Josephine.

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 1. Three sections of Brackenridge Park as described in this nomination: north, middle, and south.

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National Park Service

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

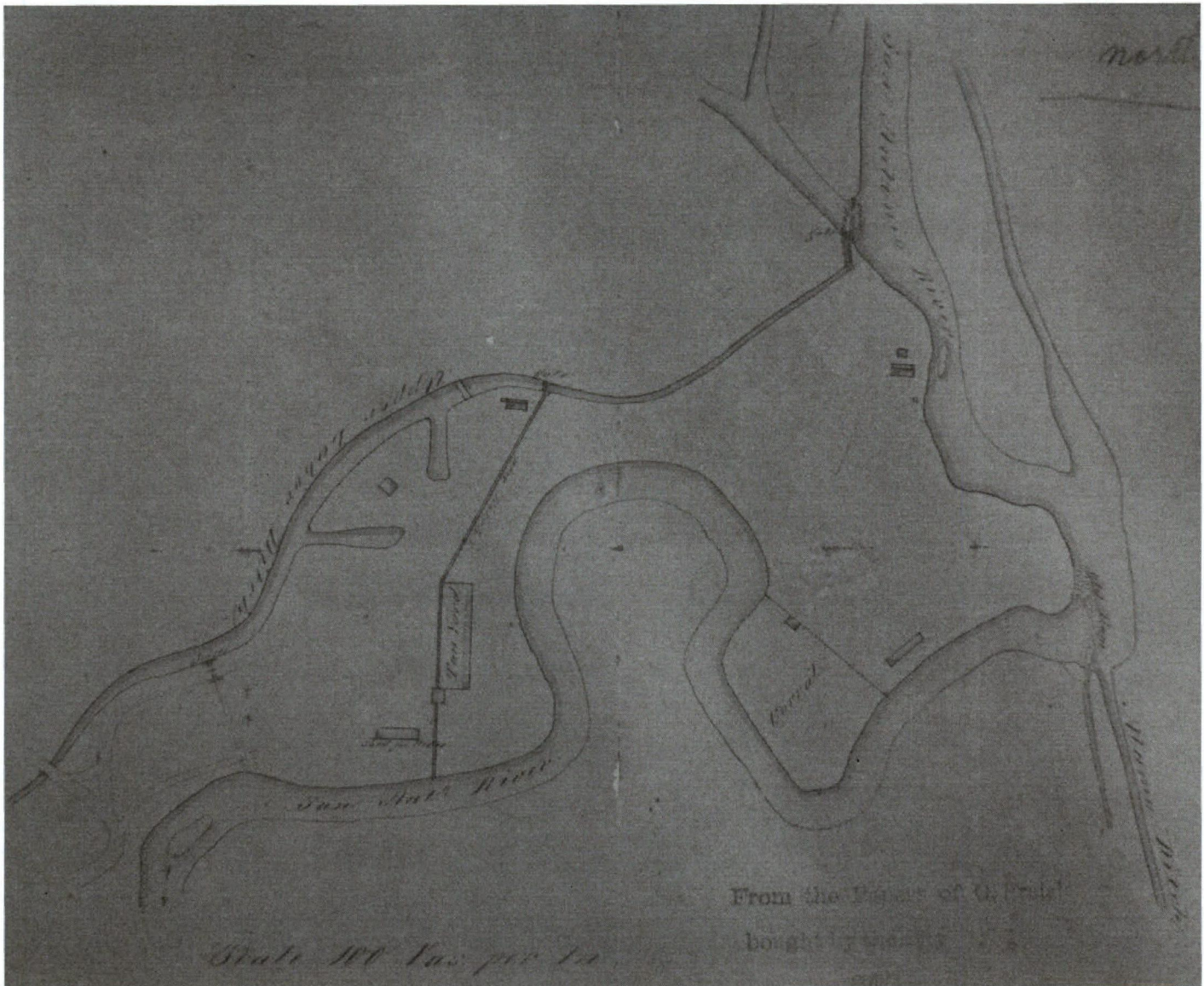


Figure 2. Tannery tract map

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 3. Lower pump house

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

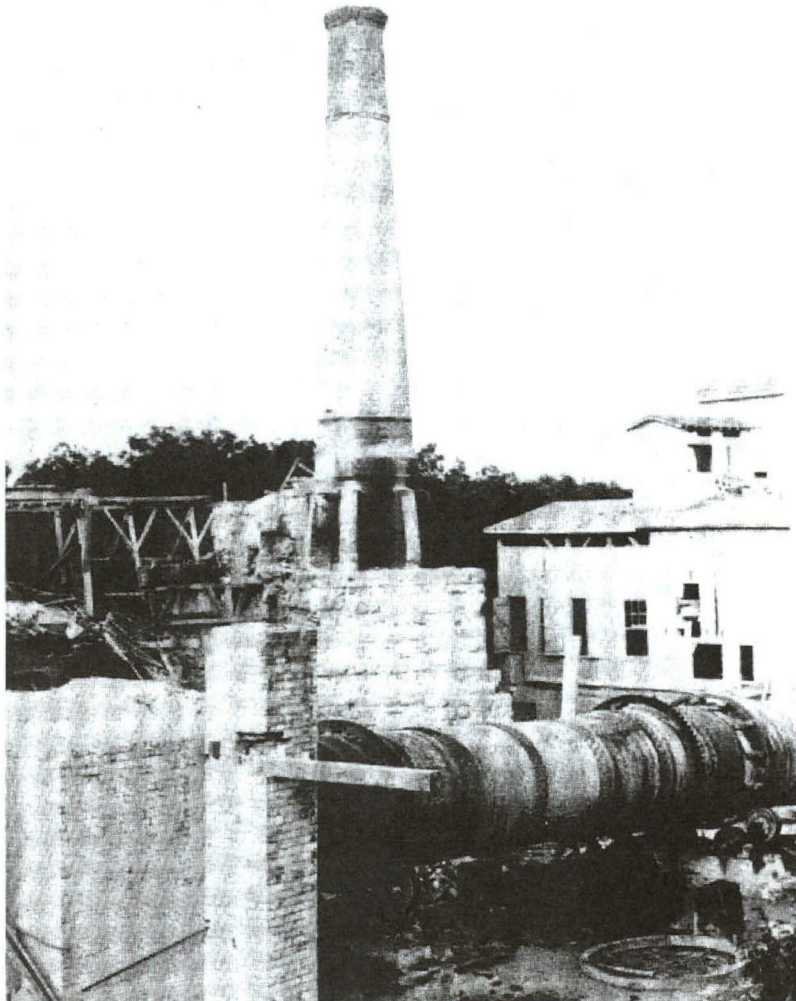


Figure 4. Alamo Roman and Portland Cement factory

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 5. Ilka Nursery advertisement



Figure 6. Jockey Club

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National Park Service

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

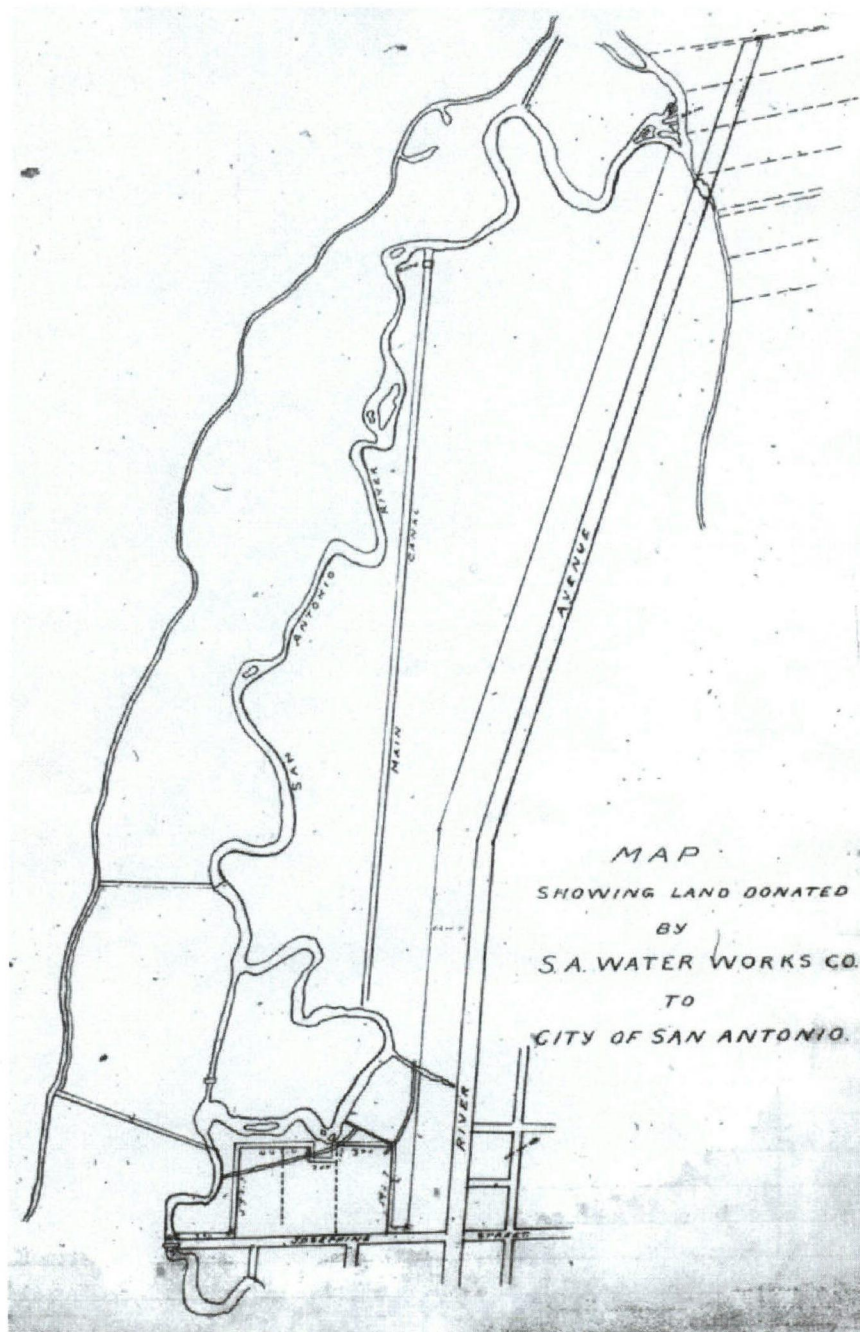


Figure 7. Water Works bequest map

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

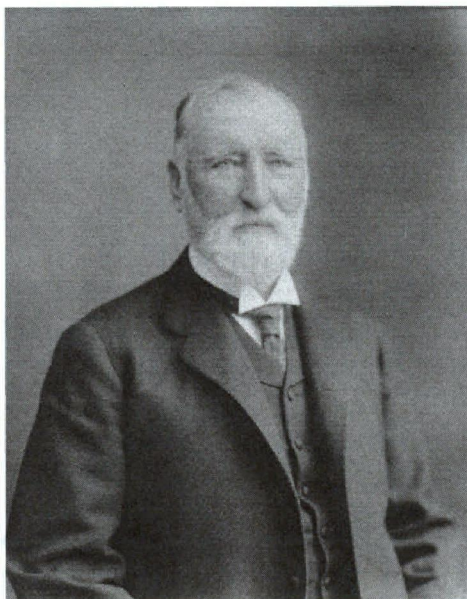


Figure 8. George Brackenridge



Figure 9. Ludwig Mahncke

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 10. Postcard of a carriage riding through the park



Figure 11. Postcard of "uncanny" bridge in Brackenridge Park

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 12. Postcard, buffalo grazing in the park



Figure 13. Postcard of the Ludwig Mahncke monument

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 14. Madarasz Park bridge

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

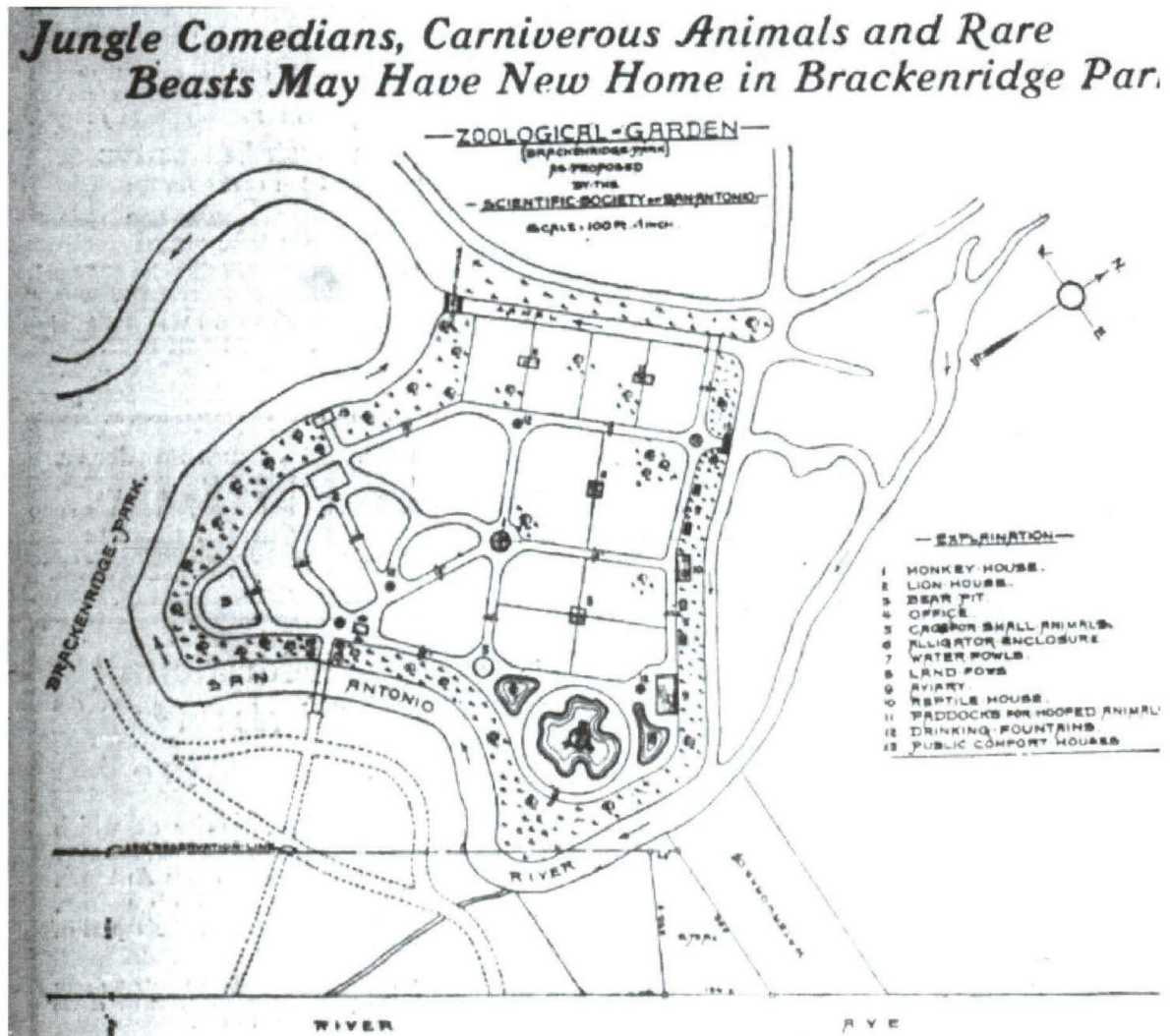


Figure 15. Zoo plan

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San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 16. Postcard, new park road



Figure 17. Lambert Beach

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Figure 18. Picnic in 1920s



Figure 19. Low water crossing

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San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

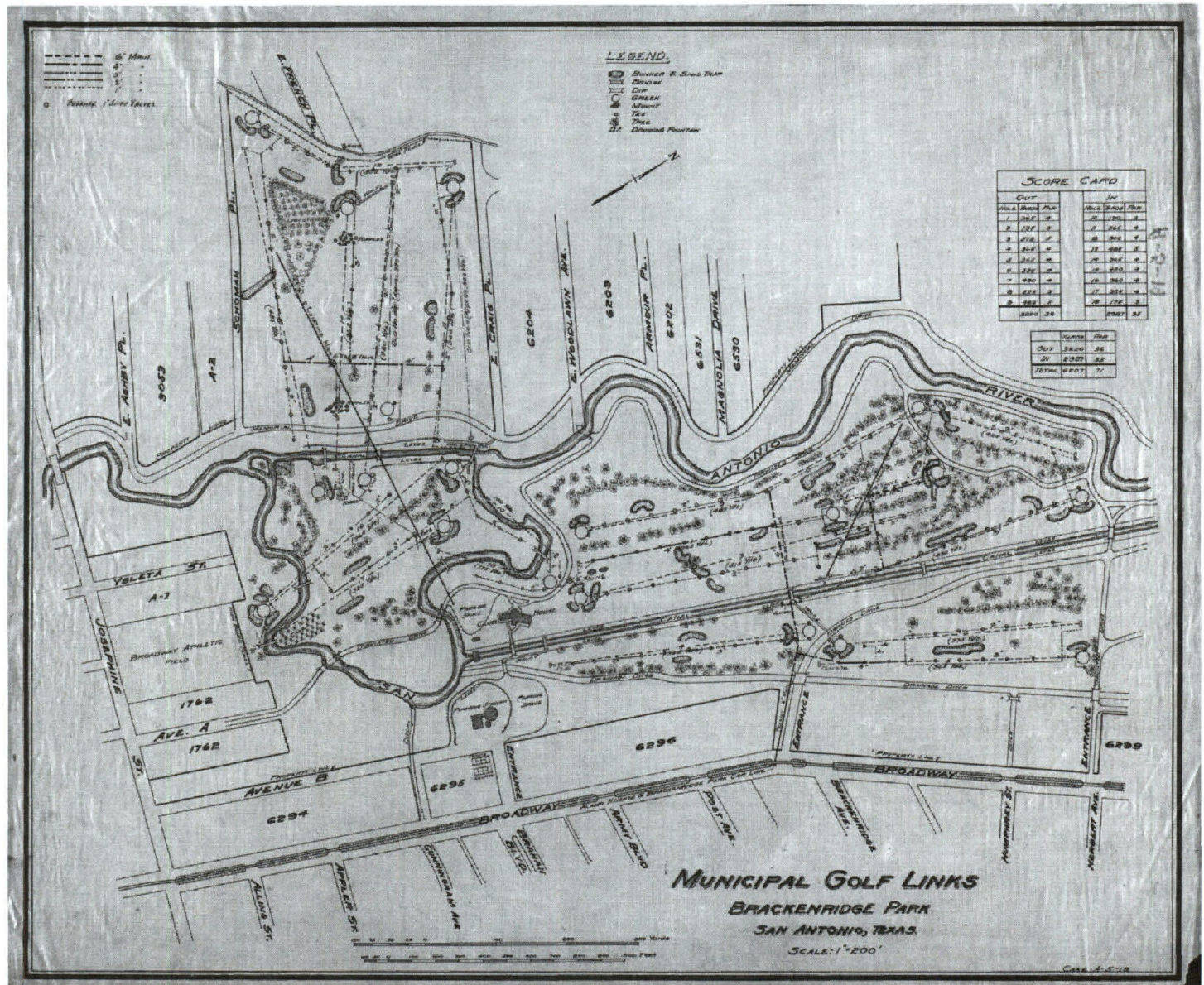


Figure 20. Municipal golf course

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

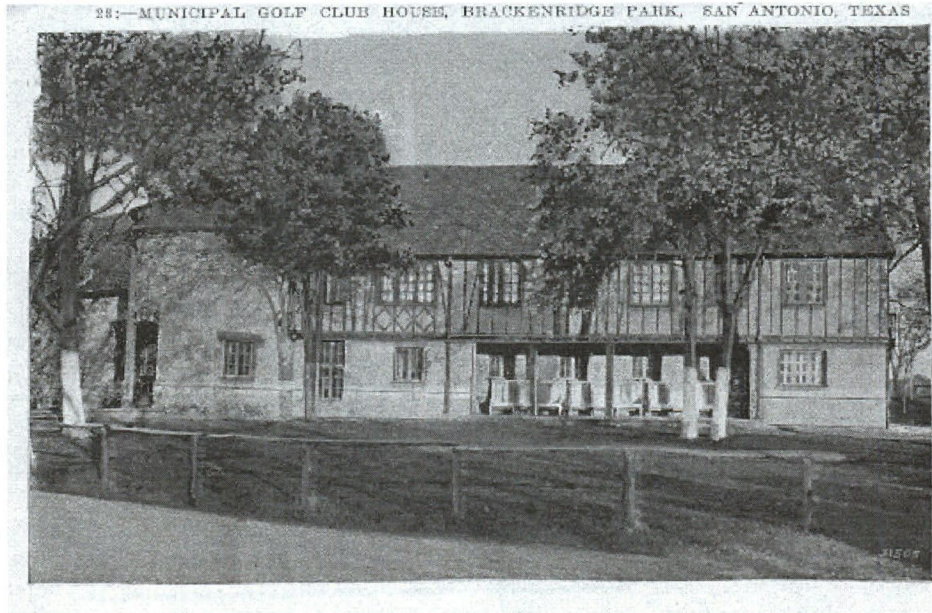


Figure 21. Golf course clubhouse



Figure 22. Lions Field clubhouse

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 23. Lions Field playground

WOODEN-LEGGED MAN IS HERO IN WORLD OF BOYS AND BURROS IN BRACKENRIDGE PARK, SAN ANTONIO'S MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND

It's "Peg" This and "Peg" That When Youngsters Go Donkey Riding.

"Peg's" business picks up in the afternoon. While an occasional patron darts about in the morning and early afternoon, from 2 o'clock until dusk is the busy time. But Friday and Sunday are the busiest days; then the children are from near and about the need of their freedom.

To the uninitiated, it must be explained that "Peg" is the "donkey man" at Brackenridge Park. If he ever had any other name, it is totally useless now, for "Peg" is as useful and indispensable a word for a wooden-legged hero as any child could think of, and so he is "Peg" to all of the children.

It is Peg this and Peg that and "Peg, hold my street-car ticket," and "Please, keep my hat, Peg," and "Please let me ride like Peg," and "Here's some grandpa, Peg," and "I want to ride in front, Peg," and so forth and so on while the horses stand by patiently and the children pull and push and cheer for their ride.

A Hokey Club idea. Of course, everybody knows that these burros are the Hokey Club burros, or rather the Hokey Club presented the burros to the children of San Antonio last year, and ever since then they have been jumping around the park with one or two or three children on their backs. Everybody knows also where they are kept, in the corral just across the river from the historic house.



"Peg," the keeper of the burros, regarded as a godfather, and he is, in fact, playing the role of a godfather, sharing some of his youthful pranks with a side, though their work has been helped by both boys and girls with him in various, settling their differences.

Figure 24. Newspaper article on donkey rides in Brackenridge Park

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Brackenridge Park
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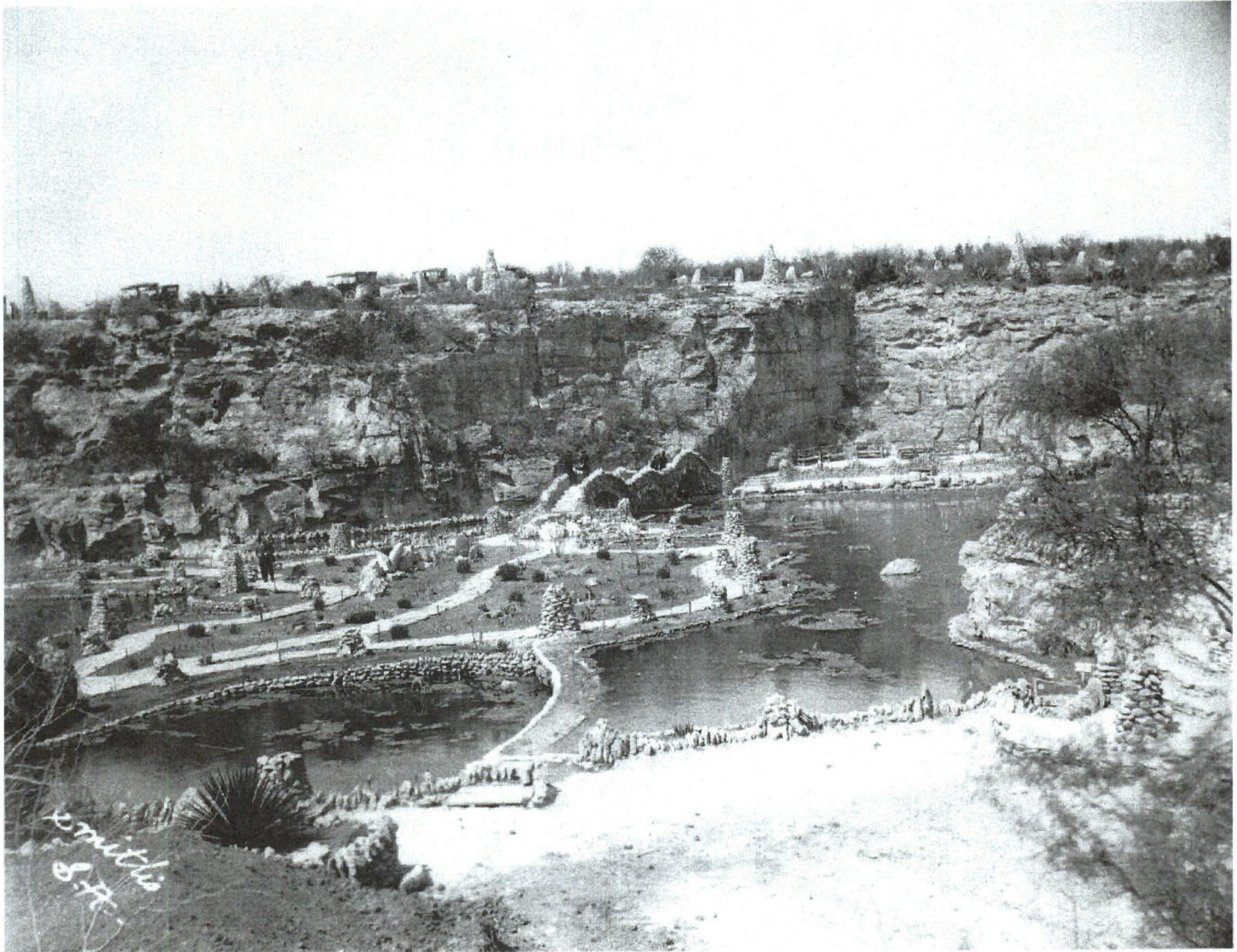


Figure 25. Japanese Tea Garden, located in former quarry site

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Figure 26. Pagoda, Japanese Tea Garden

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Figure 27. Jingu House, Japanese Tea Garden

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Figure 28. Lone Star of Texas Garden

Brackenridge Park Auto Tourist Rich in Scenery



Figure 29. Tourist camp

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Brackenridge Park
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Figure 30. Mexican Village

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

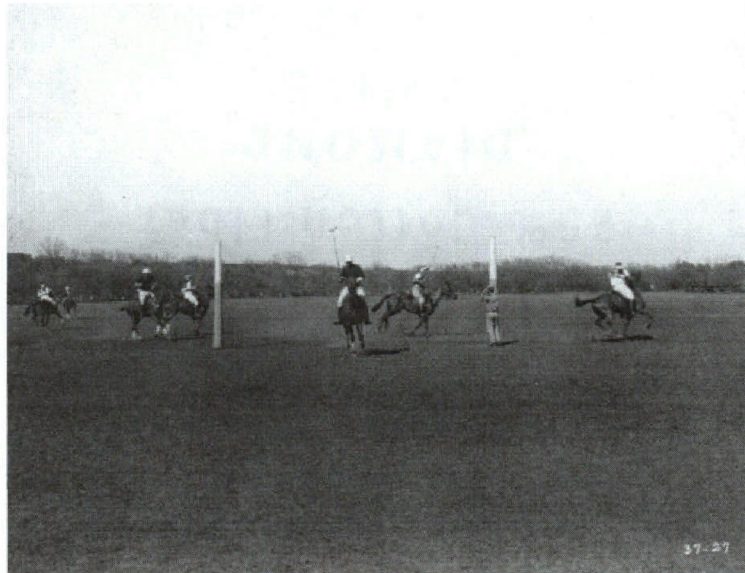
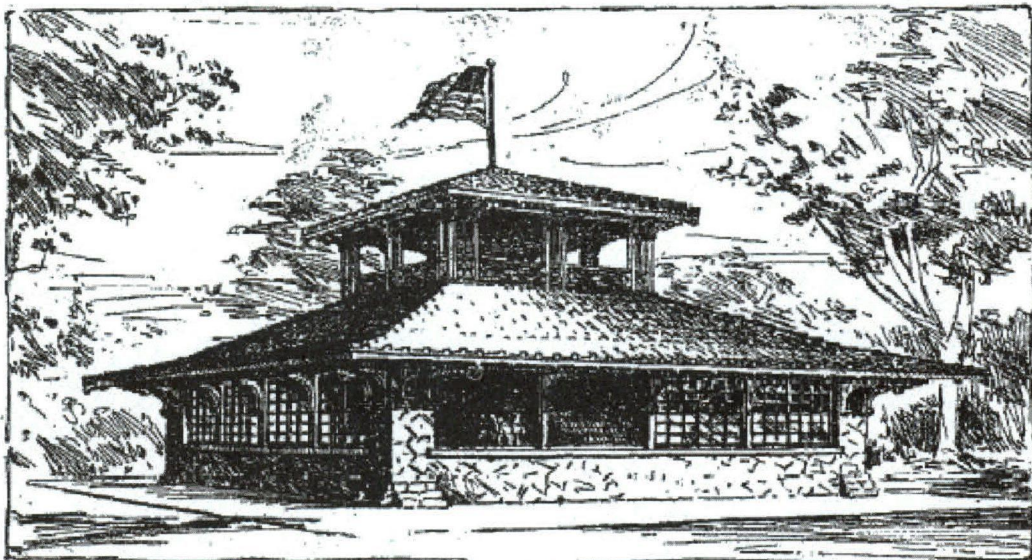


Figure 31. Playing polo

Concessionaire Builds Attractive Stand in Park



This attractive eat drink and band stand has just been completed in Brackenridge Park by A. D. Politz who obtained the park concessions for a period of two years.
The building was erected as a permanent structure and has a refreshment stand forty feet square, with a smaller covered deck above for the band. The band and columns are of limestone with black mortar joints and the roof of tile in dull shades of green. Plans were made by Will N. Neenan, architect.

Figure 32. Concession stand

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 33. Witte Museum

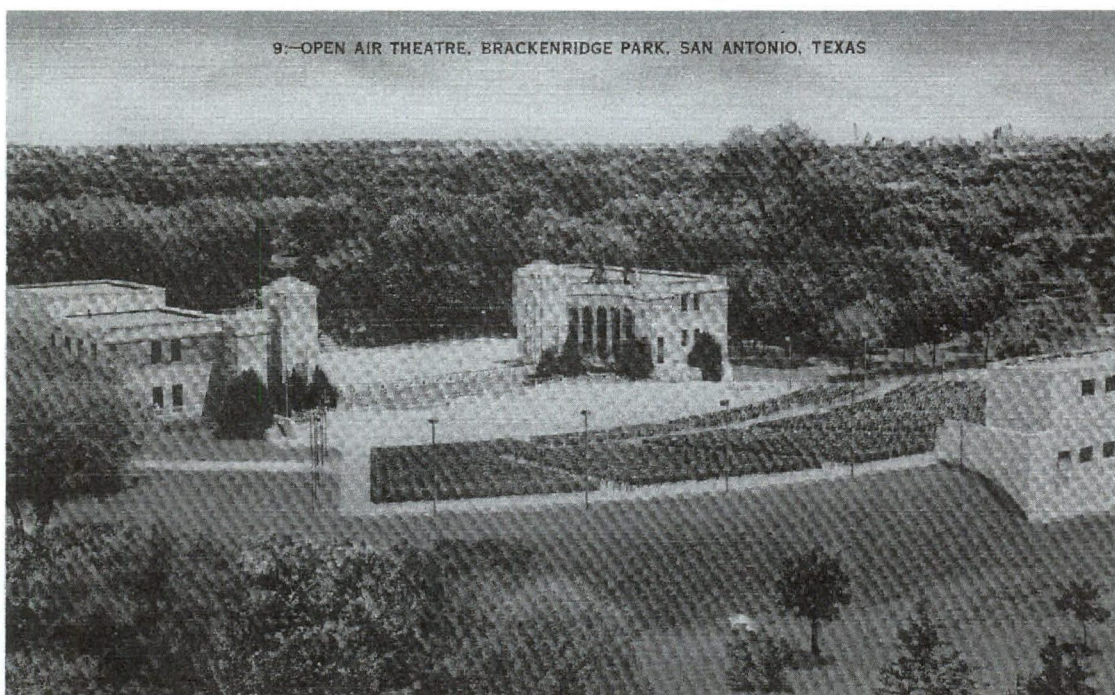


Figure 34. Sunken Garden Theater

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San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



Figure 35. Official program for the 1930 dedication of the Sunken Garden Theater

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



SNAKE GARDEN NEARLY READY

With one eye on the weather forecast, attendants at the Witte museum reptile garden Saturday aided NYA boys in putting the finishing touches on the new garden.

Except for the roof, the garden was finished. Regular shows are held daily in the new pit, with snake fries at 4 p. m. Sunday.

A sign, "New Reptile Garden" guides visitors to the structure, a 50 by 30 foot concrete and rock enclosure which was constructed amphitheater style to allow visitors to view the snakes.

The garden was part of a \$19,336 project which will include a new entrance to the museum, new curbs and sidewalks and a rock wall along the Broadway frontage of the museum.

Figure 36. Article from the San Antonio Light on the construction of the Reptile Garden

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Brackenridge Park
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Figure 37. Train

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

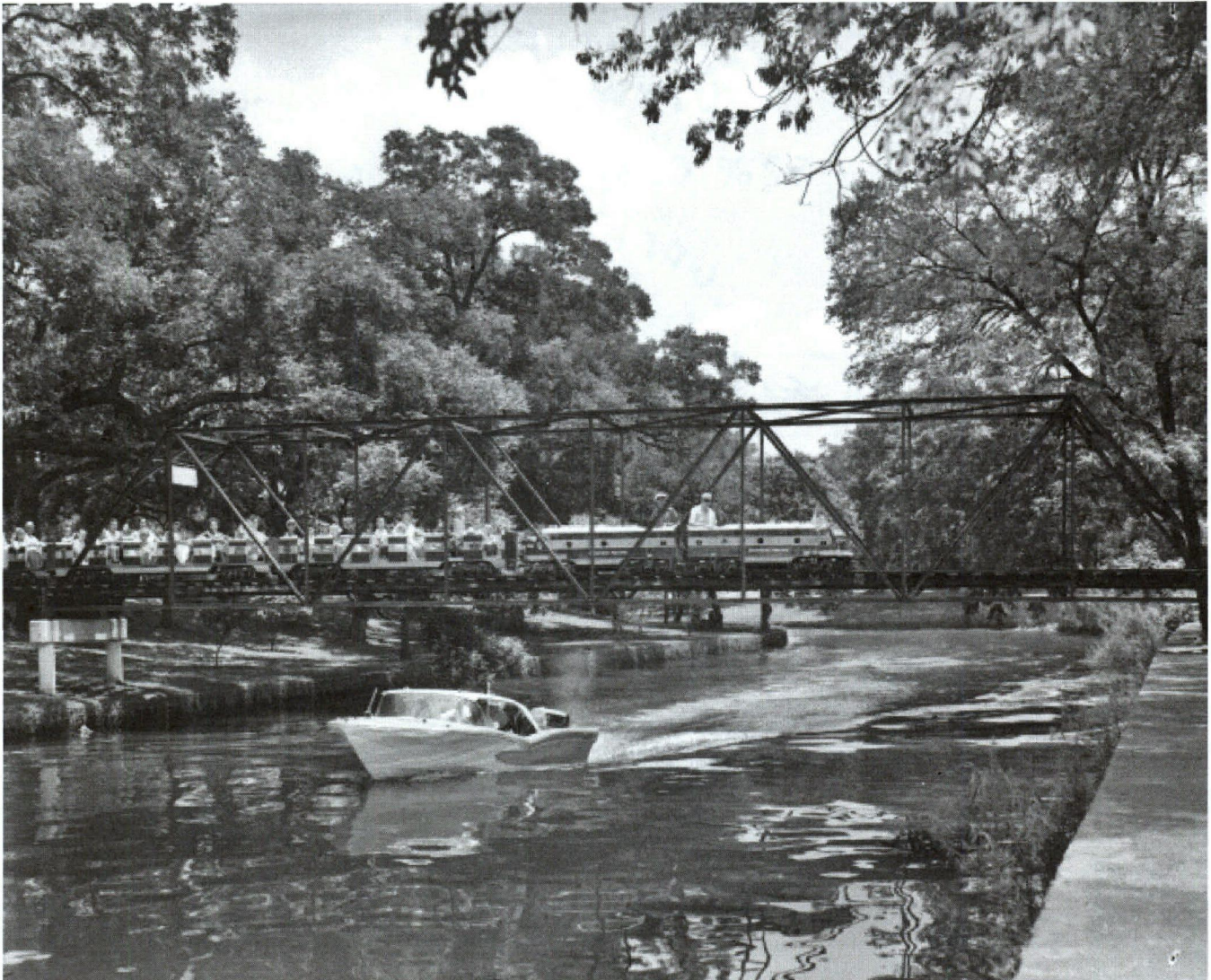


Figure 38. Boat and train

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
Photographed by Fred Pfeiffer and Maria Watson Pfeiffer
May 2011
Location of digital files: Texas Historical Commission
Printed on HP Premium Plus Paper with HP Viverra ink

Photo 1

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0001
Mulberry Avenue from San Antonio River crossing
Camera facing east

Photo 2

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0002
Japanese Tea Garden
Camera facing northwest

Photo 3

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0003
Pedestrian path from Tuleta Drive; Dionicio
Rodriguez sculpture on right
Camera facing south

Photo 4

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0004
Alamo acequia and dam setting
Camera facing northwest

Photo 5

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0005
Pioneer Hall east elevation (with renovation in
progress)
Camera facing west

Photo 6

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0006
Witte Museum, northeast oblique
Camera facing southwest

Photo 7

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0007
Witte Museum, Francisco Ruiz House, northwest
oblique
Camera facing southeast

Photo 8

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0008
Witte Museum, perimeter wall with bench
Camera facing south

Photo 9

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0009
Upper Labor acequia toward Upper Labor dam site
Camera facing north

Photo 10

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0010
Donkey Barn, southeast oblique
Camera facing northwest

Photo 11

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0011
Electric Pump Station #3, southwest oblique
Camera facing northeast

Photo 12

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0012
Mens' restroom building, southeast oblique
Camera facing northwest

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Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 13

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0013
Iron footbridge showing stone lined river channel
Camera facing northwest

Photo 14

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0014
Iron truss bridge
Camera facing northeast

Photo 15

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0015
First Water Works pump house with Lambert Beach
steps on right, south elevation
Camera facing north

Photo 16

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0016
Lambert Beach bathhouse, east oblique
Camera facing west

Photo 17

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0017
Joske Pavilion, southwest oblique
Camera facing northeast

Photo 18

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0018
Picnic area
Camera facing southwest

Photo 19

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0019
Koehler Pavilion, southeast elevation
Camera facing northwest

Photo 20

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0020
George Brackenridge statue
Camera facing west

Photo 21

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0021
Low water crossing at Tuleta Drive
Camera facing southwest

Photo 22

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0022
Koehler Park_entrance detail
Camera facing northwest

Photo 23

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0023
St. Mary's Street Restroom structures, southeast
oblique
Camera facing northwest

Photo 24

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0024
Japanese Tea Garden, Jingu House, west oblique
Camera facing east

Photo 25

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0025
Japanese Tea Garden pagoda, north elevation
Camera facing south

Photo 26

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0026
Mexican Village, northeast oblique
Camera facing southwest

Photo 27

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0027
Sunken Garden Theater from Alpine Drive
Camera facing east

Photo 28

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0028
Tuesday Musical Club and statue
Camera facing west

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Section PHOTO Page 113

Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 29

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0029

Lions Field monument with clubhouse in
background, east elevation
Camera facing west

Photo 30

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0030

Brackenridge golf course with starters' shack
(foreground, northeast oblique), eighteenth green
(left background) and stone bridge (right
background)
Camera facing southwest

Photo 31

TX_BexarCounty_Brackenridge Park_0031

Brackenridge golf course clubhouse
Northwest oblique
Camera facing southeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Brackenridge Park
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 6/24/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/20/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/04/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/09/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000513

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8-4-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 1



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 2



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio Bexar Co. TX
photo 3



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 4



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, BEXAR Co. TX
photo 5



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 6



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, BEXAR Co. TX
photo 7



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, BEXAR Co. TX
photo 8



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, BEXAR Co. TX
photo 9



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
Photo 10



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 11



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 12



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 13



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 14



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 15



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 16



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 17



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 18



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 19



GEORGE W. BRACKENRIDGE

JANUARY 14, 1832 - DECEMBER 28, 1920

"THE WORLD KNEW HIM AS A GREAT FINANCIER - A GREAT
PHILANTHROPIST - A GREAT FRIEND OF LOWER AND HIGHER
AND ETHERAL EDUCATION." ".....THE STUDENTS - PAST,
PRESENT, AND FUTURE, FOR WHOSE EDUCATION HE PROVIDED
ARE HIS MEMORIAL."

Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 20



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 21



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co TX

photo 22



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 23



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 24



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 25



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 24



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, BEXAR Co. TX
photo 27

TUESDAY MUSICAL CLUB

3755

TMC TMC

STATUE OF MUSIC
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
ANNA HEITZLING
FOUNDER OF TUESDAY MUSICAL CLUB
BY THE
HARRY HEITZLING
FAMILY 1978

Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, BEXAR Co. TX
photo 28



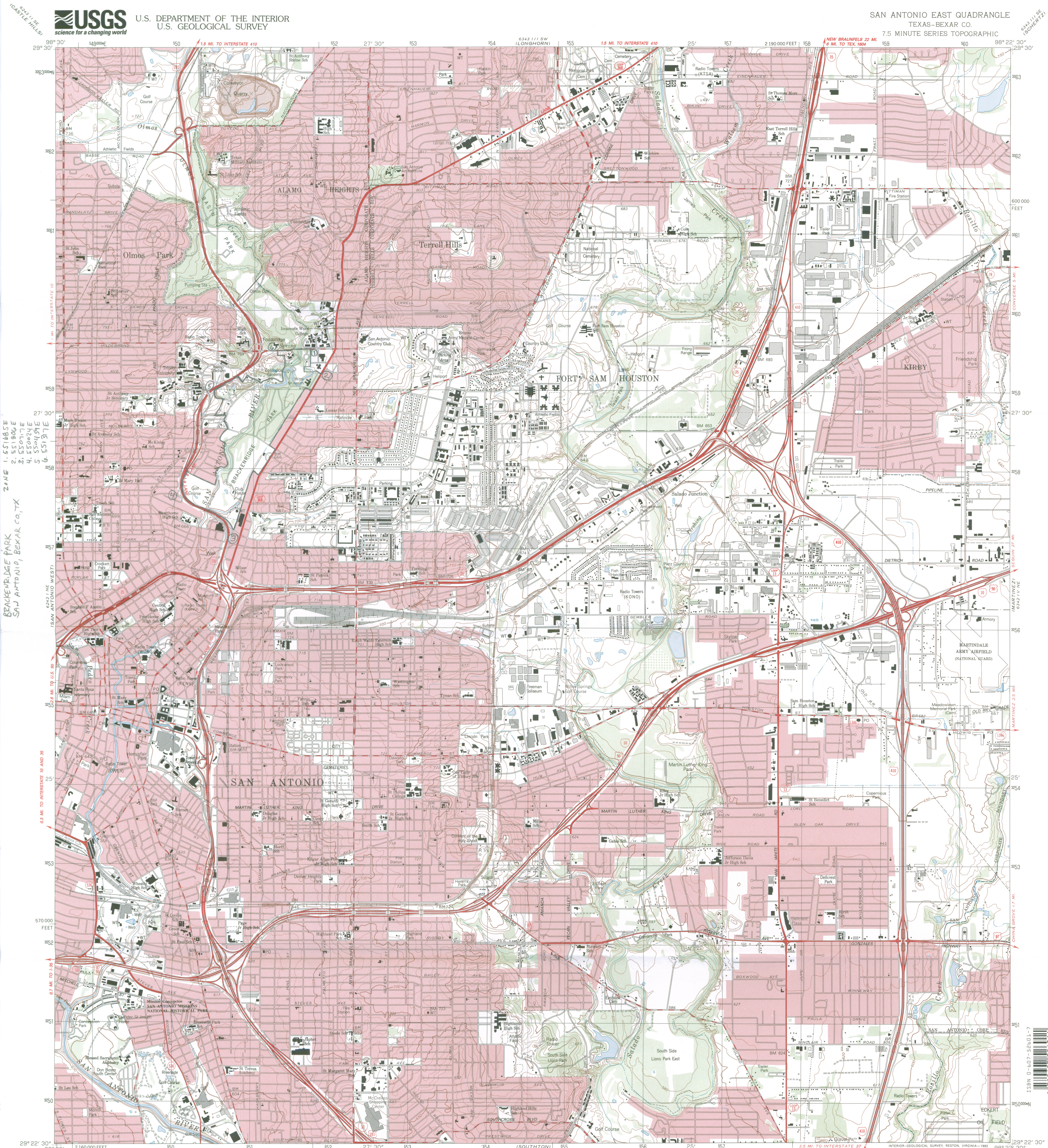
Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, BEXAR Co. TX
photo 29



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 30



Brackenridge Park
San Antonio, Bexar Co. TX
photo 31



BRACKENRIDGE PARK
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TX

TERRELL WELLS
6242 11 SE

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and USCE
Compiled by Defense Mapping Agency from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1988
and other source data. Field checked 1987. Map edited 1992
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas Coordinate System,
south central zone (Lambert Conformal Conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
The difference between NAD 27 and North American Datum of
1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5 minute intersections is given in USGS
Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MAPSCO, INC.
6353 CAMP BOWIE #101B
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116 617/731-1066

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route
SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX.
29098-D4-TF-024
1992
DMA 6342 IV NW-SERIES V882

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Linda McClelland
National Register of Historic Places

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

RE: Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

DATE: June 15, 2011

- The following materials regarding Brackenridge Park are submitted:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	_ Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property Documentation form
<input type="checkbox"/>	_ Resubmitted form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs printed from digital files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gold CD with TIFF photograph files
	Photographs printed from negatives
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
	Correspondence
	Other:

COMMENTS:

- ___ SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- ___ The enclosed owner objections (do___) (do not___) constitute a majority of property owners
- ___ Other:

