

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

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: All Saints' Chapel
Other name/site number: All Saints Episcopal Church
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 209 W. 27th Street
City or town: Austin State: Texas County: Travis
Not for publication: [ ] Vicinity: [ ]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[n] 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 [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
[ ] national [ ] statewide [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [ ] A [ ] B [x] C [ ] D

Signature of certifying official: Mark Wolfe
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 7/8/15
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
[ ] entered in the National Register
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register
[ ] other, explain:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

All Saints' Chapel, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

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

**Category of Property**

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** RELIGION/religious facility=church

**Current Functions:** RELIGION/religious facility=church

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Stone

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-14)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** A

**Areas of Significance:** Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1899 and 1939

**Significant Dates:** 1899 and 1939

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

**Architect/Builder:** Watson, A. O. (1899 architect) and Eickenroht, Marvin (1939 architect)

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 8-15 through 8-25)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheets 9-26 through 9-28)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: *All Saints' Episcopal Church Archives, Austin, Texas*

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): N/A

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property:** less than 1 acre

### Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 30.291660 Longitude: -97.739787

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The nominated boundary consists of the historic church building situated on a roughly square parcel of land measuring approximately 138 feet east to west and 135 feet north to south. It is more precisely described as follows:

Begin at the inside edge of the concrete walk at the southeast corner of W. 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Whitis Avenue, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Proceed east approximately 138' 7". Turn due south and proceed along the concrete and paver walk approximately 135' 9". Turn due west and follow the paver and concrete walk approximately 138' 6". Proceed due north along the sidewalk approximately 134' 8" to the point of beginning.

These boundaries are visually depicted in the map on page 32 of this nomination.

**Boundary Justification:** Boundary encompasses all resources historically associated with the property's documented significance.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian; Jay L. Farrell, Architect; Patti Woolery-Price, Librarian/Archivist  
Organization: All Saints' Episcopal Church  
Street & number: 3221 Duval Street (Woolery-Price)  
City or Town: Austin State: Texas Zip Code: 78705  
Email: pattiwoo@aol.com  
Telephone: 512-476-7643  
Date: January 2015

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheet Map-29 through Map-32)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets Figure-33 through Figure-49)

**Photographs** (see Photo Log on pages 5-6 and continuation sheets Photo-50 through Photo-55)

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## Photographs

Name of Property: All Saints' Chapel  
City or Vicinity: Austin  
County, State: Travis County, Texas  
Photographer: Dirk van Allen, Patti Woolery-Price  
Date Photographed: October 2014  
Number of Photos: 10

**The following images accompany this nomination document. For reference, these images are also included at the end of this document starting with page 50.**

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0001  
West façade, front entrance camera facing east

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0002  
South façade, camera facing northeast

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0003  
South façade, camera facing northwest

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0004  
Northeast façade, showing entrance to Kinsolving crypt/columbarium, camera facing south.

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0005  
Northeast façade, main entrance detail, camera facing southeast.

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0006  
Interior nave, camera facing southeast.

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0007  
Interior nave, west side detail, camera facing west toward back of nave

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0008  
Interior nave, camera facing west toward back of nave.

TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0009  
Interior chancel, camera facing east showing choir and altar; organ pipes behind windows on left.

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TX\_Travis County\_All Saints Chapel\_0010

Interior crypt of Bishop George Herbert Kinsolving, camera facing southwest.

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

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

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## Narrative Description

All Saints' (Episcopal) Chapel<sup>1</sup> was built in 1899-1900 and is an excellent example of Gothic Revival church architecture. Noted Austin architect A.O. Watson (1864-1935) designed the original part of the building, and San Antonio architect Marvin Eickenroht (1898-1969) designed the 1939 chancel addition in the same style. Both Watson and Eickenroht showed deft handling of the massing and detailing of the building. It is of a traditional cruciform plan with nave, transept, and chancel, and with offset entry and bell tower at the front corner of the building. Walls are of masonry quarried locally and with rusticated face except at surrounds for window and door openings and other, more decorative features which are all of cut limestone. Prominent gables at the ends of the nave and at the transepts and the end of the chancel are parapeted and capped with metal formed and painted to look like cut stone. The bell tower is two stories and exterior walls are capped with a crenelated parapet. Behind that parapet rises a tall steeple with painted ribs; it is capped with a cross. All major masonry openings are lancet-shaped. Windows are wood-framed, and most glazing is stained glass with medieval mosaic design. Below the chancel is a lower level which is a part of the 1939 addition. It includes mechanical and storage spaces and, more notably, the crypt for Bishop Kinsolving whose remains were relocated to this location in 1939. The whole is a fine example of Gothic Revival church architecture and is in very good repair. The Texas Historical Commission designated All Saints' Chapel a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 2014, and the building received City of Austin historic landmark status in 1980.

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## Setting

All Saints' Chapel sits on the southeast corner of West 27th Street and Whitis Avenue in the city of Austin, Travis County, Texas. The location of this historic church is part of a 68-acre tract of land purchased in 1846 from the Republic of Texas by its second president, Mirabeau B. Lamar. The boundaries of the tract are present 24th Street on the south, the creek behind the current Scottish Rite dormitory on the north, present Guadalupe Street on the west, and Waller Creek on the east. Much of the Lamar land is now occupied by the University of Texas, which originated by an act of the Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1839 during Lamar's presidency, the same act that established the seat of government in Austin. In 1849, Lamar sold his Austin property to Gen. William Selby Harney, a veteran of the 1848 U.S. war with Mexico. Harney sold the tract in 1870 to James H. Raymond and Charles W. Whitis, two Austin bankers. Raymond sold his half in 1875 to Whitis, who then laid out streets and began subdividing the tract known as Whitis Pasture into lots. Whitis Avenue, originally Berlin Street, was renamed for him after his death in 1877.<sup>2</sup>

As the University area developed, Whitis Avenue and nearby streets became a very desirable residential neighborhood. Alexander Gregg, first bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, resided at 2600 Whitis Avenue

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<sup>1</sup> Regarding the use of the apostrophe: The original historic name was All Saints Chapel as it appears on the 1899 cornerstone and later on the slab covering Bishop Kinsolving's 1939 crypt. In addition, founding member William James Battle, in his book, *The Story of All Saints Chapel*, published in 1951, did not use an apostrophe in either the title or the text, nor did the 1980 application for the City of Austin Historic Landmark designation. Over the years, it gradually became customary to use an apostrophe, though no record of an official adoption has been found. By the late twentieth century, however, the official name of the church was All Saints' Episcopal Church. In this narrative, the authors have conformed to current usage except when the historic name is used in a direct quote or is a statement of fact.

<sup>2</sup> William James Battle, *The Story of All Saints Chapel*, Austin, Texas, 1900-1950 (Austin: The Associated Women of All Saints Chapel, 1951) 5, 8.

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from 1881 until his death in 1893. The late Bishop's home was soon occupied by University professor George P. Garrison and later acquired by the University. Wealthy cattleman Jesse L. Driskill, who built the Driskill Hotel, (1886) and his two sons, John W. and W.W. Driskill, bought lots and built handsome homes, all in the 2600 block. John W. Driskill sold his house at 2607 Whitis Avenue to his uncle, J. M. Day, who sold it to Bishop Kinsolving in 1893. After the bishop's death, the University acquired the property and built Kinsolving Dormitory. E.M. "Lem" Scarborough eventually bought W.W. Driskill's home at 2612 Whitis. Charles Whitis himself built a large stone residence around the corner on 27th Street in which his daughters Mary and Gertrude continued to live after their father's death, and where Mary established the Whitis School shortly after All Saints' Chapel was built. In the 2400 block of Whitis, Confederate veteran and wealthy businessman George W. Littlefield built a large ornate Victorian mansion, which he bequeathed to the University of Texas.<sup>3</sup>

Today, All Saints' Episcopal Church is surrounded on three sides by the University of Texas. To the south, Kinsolving Hall, a women's dorm, was built on the site of the bishop's home in 1958. The Lem Scarborough house across Whitis from All Saints' Chapel burned in 1998.<sup>4</sup> The University acquired the property and erected Almetris Duren Hall, a 558-bed dormitory that opened in 2007.<sup>5</sup> Whitis Court, a University women students' residence complex, lies between Duren Hall and the Belo Center for New Media. Over the years, four more dorms (Littlefield, Andrews, Blanton and Carothers) have been built in the Whitis blocks south of 26th Street/Dean Keeton.<sup>6</sup> A large University parking garage sits on the corner of 27th and University Avenue, just to the east of All Saints', on the site of the house, built in 1909, in which U. S. district judge Thomas Sheldon Maxey and his wife Frances Campbell Maxey lived. Maxey's son Robert, an All Saints' parishioner, bequeathed the house to the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, and it was used by All Saints' as a clergy residence for many years until the University acquired it.<sup>7</sup> The parking garage was built after the University sold the house in 1997 for a nominal fee to a local construction company which moved it to Duval Street and remodeled it.<sup>8</sup> Another University parking garage and office building at the corner of 27th and Speedway was built about the same time. The University's Belo Center for New Media, completed in 2012, covers the south one-third of the west side of the 2600 block of Whitis Avenue and extends to Guadalupe Street.<sup>9</sup> On the opposite side of 27th Street, from Guadalupe Street (west) to Speedway (east), All Saints' neighbors include the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house, built by financier Louis Nicholas Goldbeck in 1902 and sold to the fraternity in 1908;<sup>10</sup> Scottish Rite Dormitory for Women, built in 1922 on the site of the Charles Whitis mansion;<sup>11</sup> and the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, founded in 1902.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Battle, 5, 8.

<sup>4</sup> "History Up in Smoke," *Austin American-Statesman*, April 21, 1998.

<sup>5</sup> "Higher Education: University of Texas," *Austin American-Statesman*, Aug. 27, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> University of Texas at Austin, Division of Housing and Food Service, "History of the Residence Halls at the University of Texas at Austin," <http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing/index.php?site=8>, accessed August 23, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> All Saints' parish records.

<sup>8</sup> James Steely Historic Preservation Papers, (AR.2012.007). Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Box 1.

<sup>9</sup> University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communications, "College Celebrates New Building with Dedication Ceremony," <http://moody.utexas.edu/support/new-building>, accessed January 17, 2015.

<sup>10</sup> Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, Tau Deuteron Chapter, "History, The University of Texas," <http://Texasfiji.com/about/history>, accessed January 17, 2015.

<sup>11</sup> Chloe Lee Quebedeaux, "Housing of Women Students at the University of Texas." (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1938), 74.

<sup>12</sup> Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, "History and Mission Statement," <http://www.austinseminary.edu/page.cfm?p=1423>, accessed January 17, 2015.



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## Exterior

All Saints' Chapel is a Gothic Revival building begun in 1899 and with its first service held November 8, 1900. It was designed by noted architect A. O. Watson. For All Saints' Chapel, Watson used a traditional Gothic cruciform plan with offset bell tower. The building faces west toward Whitis Avenue with a prominent gabled end of the nave, and the tower on the northwest corner housing an entry narthex (vestibule) with double, painted wood-paneled and beveled glass doors, and bell tower above. A smaller gabled element housing the baptistry niche is on axis with the nave and projects five feet toward Whitis Avenue. The masonry facade is dominated by a large, lancet-shaped opening with a three-part stained glass window providing light to the baptistry. Single lancet windows flank the baptistry projection. Above the baptistry projection in the gable end of the nave are double lancet openings with louvered grilles allowing ventilation to the attic. Above these, higher in the gable, is a masonry recess in the shape of a stylized cross with a trefoil motif at its top. Parapets on all gabled ends are capped with finials of metal formed and painted to simulate cut masonry. The masonry walls of the tower end at a crenelated parapet, behind which rises the steeple with painted vertical ribbing terminating in a painted cross at the top. All exterior walls are of rusticated ashlar Texas limestone, with smooth-faced limestone used at window and door surrounds and for other architectural accents. The limestone, a warm ivory color when quarried, has weathered over the years to a soft grey. Shallow, engaged, masonry buttresses accent all outside corners of the building, and each buttress is capped with decorative cut stone. Exterior walls are 18 inches thick.

The north elevation of the building faces West 27th Street. The entry/bell tower is on the northwest corner, with spire and a second set of double wood-paneled doors. Set back from the tower is the masonry wall of the nave. It is one-story with one wood-sash lancet window in each of three exposed bays which are articulated by engaged buttresses. These windows, like all others in the sanctuary, are stained glass. To the left (east) of the three window bays is the gabled end of the north transept which projects toward West 27th Street. It has three stained-glass lancet windows and a parapet terminating in a finial. The bell tower and nave roofing is of slate; that at the bell tower was replaced in 2000 and matches the original material and pattern. The nave measures some 65 feet from east to west, including its parapeted ends.

To the left (east) of the north transept is the chancel addition, completed in 1939. Eickenroht's addition continues Watson's original design vocabulary and choice of materials. Because the site slopes gently to the east, the addition was able to accommodate two stories, with storage and mechanical space, crypt, and columbarium on the lower level. The West 27th Street elevation has a continuation of the belt course around a flat-roofed, parapeted masonry mass housing the organ chamber inside. Behind that is the higher, main portion of the chancel addition stretching some 37 feet to the east from the transept. Walls are ashlar masonry and the roof is of a dark grey slate laid in a decorative pattern. This roofing was installed under the direction of John Volz prior to the 1999/2000 renovation and matches the original material and pattern. A single lancet stained glass window on the main level provides light to the altar area. Directly below that is a door leading into the lower level crypt and columbarium.

The east-facing elevation is dominated by the gable end of the chancel. The masonry facade includes three large lancet stained glass windows providing light to the altar inside. Above the altar windows in the upper part of the masonry gable is a recess in the shape of a stylized cross with trefoil design motif. To the right (north) of the large gable end and set back is the end of the organ chamber; to the left (south) and in the same plane as the gable end is the sacristy, with a recess between the two leading to a door at the main level. That door (to the

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sacristy hall) is accessed by steps leading up from grade. A second door, below the stained glass windows, provides access to the mechanical and storage rooms on the lower level.

All Saints' south elevation includes the flat-roofed, parapeted sacristy at right (east). It has three lancet windows, each made up of the original, small diamond-shaped leaded panes of amber and green glass used by Watson throughout the building (but since changed to stained glass in most other windows.) The steep slate roof at the main portion of the 1939 chancel addition is visible beyond. To the left (west) of the sacristy is the original part of the church, a mirror image of the north elevation, minus the tower.

The original part of the building looks very much the way Watson designed it, save for window glazing which was mostly changed from colored glass to stained glass beginning in 1930. All but one of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary are the work of Philadelphia's Willet Studios. The 1939 addition is a sensitive and natural extension of the original building and, as intended, looks very much like it is part of the original.

### **Interior**

The interior of All Saints' Chapel consists of entry narthex (vestibule), nave, north and south transepts, chancel, organ chamber, and sacristy. The chancel, organ chamber, and sacristy are part of the 1939 addition, and are constructed in the same style as the 1900 original building. The entry narthex, which was enclosed in 1951,<sup>13</sup> is at the base of the bell tower. It is reached from the outside via two pairs of double wood-paneled and beveled-glass doors, one on the north side and one on the west side. On the east side of the narthex is a large stained glass lancet window created by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia. Walls are of rusticated limestone; the ceiling is of painted, beaded board with access panel to the bell tower above. The original floor, of limestone in Watson's design, was replaced after 1954 with English tile of muted browns, blues, dark reds, and white laid in a geometric design. These tiles were originally in the home of Bishop George Herbert Kinsolving (1849-1928), second bishop of the Diocese of Texas and founder All Saints' Chapel. Above the entry narthex is the belfry. The cast iron bell was one of the very early purchases of the congregation after the building was complete. Wood louvers on the north, west, and east sides provide light and ventilate the belfry. They also permit the sound of the bell to be easily heard in the surrounding neighborhood.

The nave is entered from the north and one travels southward half-way across it before turning left to face eastward down the length of the nave and chancel. Floors are of dark stained strip oak (a 1920s change from the earlier wood floors) with red carpet at aisles. Seventeen stained wood pews on each side of the center aisle stop short of the side walls where narrower aisles provide additional circulation paths. The entire nave is dominated by the large ribbed barrel vault of the ceiling. The vault is of six segments and is clad in dark brown painted beaded board which contrasts strongly with the light buff-colored paint of the plaster walls below. Ribs at the ceiling delineate six bays in the nave area, each with single lancet stained glass window, until the fifth and sixth bays where lancet openings in the side walls give access to the north and south transepts. From the ceiling are suspended Gothic style light fixtures, five of them on each side of the center aisle. Side aisles along the north and south walls are lined with vertical painted beaded board wainscot capped with continuous chair rail running in line with the window stools. The wainscot continues around the nave and transepts. Both transepts are dominated by triple lancet stained glass windows. The south-facing windows in the transept were created by the D'Ascenzo Studios of Philadelphia; the north-facing windows and all other stained glass in the sanctuary are

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<sup>13</sup> All Saints' Episcopal Church vestry minutes, 1950-1951.

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the work of the Willet Studios of that same city. A very large lancet-shaped opening leads from the nave to the chancel. It is flanked by smaller openings, one on each side. The left (north) opening is a rectangular window grille into the organ chamber. The right (south) lancet-shaped opening contains a door leading to a hall in the sacristy. Between the center opening and the door is a raised pulpit of stained, carved wood. It is reached from the chancel by a narrow flight of three steps.

The chancel is raised one step from the nave. It has a ceiling narrower than but matching the design of that of the nave. Plaster walls also match those of the nave. Prior to Eickenroht's 1939 addition, the space was large enough only for the altar; choir seating was in the south transept, and a portion of the north transept was partitioned for the sacristy. The 1939 addition widened and lengthened the chancel, creating dedicated spaces for choir seating and the altar, along with separate, flanking spaces for organ pipes and sacristy. Today the center aisle of the nave continues into the chancel where it is flanked by opposing pews for use by the choir. On the right (south) side is the organ console. Behind the pews on the left (north) are rectangular openings through which one can view the pipes of the organ. The impressive organ, made by Casavant Freres of Quebec, was installed in 1939. A single step separates the first portion of the chancel from the altar portion. The altar rail on the upper level is of polished brass and is from the Church of the Epiphany, the Philadelphia church where Bishop Kinsolving had been rector before coming to Texas. Two more steps lead to the actual altar area. Bishop Kinsolving's Bishop's Chair, also a gift from Church of the Epiphany in Philadelphia, still sits on this uppermost level. The wood altar is forward from the wall. Behind it is a wood console, of the same height as the altar, upon which sits a brass cross. Just above the cross are three large lancet windows of stained glass facing east. Single lancet stained glass windows are on the north and south walls of this portion of the chancel and they provide additional light to the altar area.

A door to the right (south) of the altar rail leads to the hall in the sacristy. From this hall one can return to the nave, exit the building to the east, or enter into the three rooms of the sacristy to the south. The hallway has a wood wainscot matching that in the nave; the flat wood ceiling is of painted beaded board.

At the west end of the nave, on axis with and opposite the altar, is the baptistry niche in which stands an elaborately-carved, walnut baptismal font. The font is also from the Church of the Epiphany. In the west wall of the niche is a large lancet-shaped opening with stained glass window in three sections.

The stained glass windows in the sanctuary are of very high quality. The 1975 Texas Historical Commission marker in front of the church notes that they are "recognized as fine examples of American art." As mentioned above, the window in the south transept is the work of the D'Ascenzo Studios, and all others are the work of the Willet Studios, both studios of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (The Willet Studios also created exceptional stained glass windows for chapels at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and at Princeton University.) The All Saints' windows were commissioned over several decades beginning in 1930 and were executed in medieval mosaic style. The first one was over the altar and made possible by a gift in memory of Robert L. Brown, who directed the music at the first service in the chapel. Scenes depicted in this and other windows are of Biblical themes; in some cases symbols associated with the lives of the persons memorialized are also included. Parishioners so memorialized include a number of University of Texas faculty members, including Judge William Stewart Simkins and Judge Charles Tilford McCormick, both of the UT Law School where McCormick also served as Dean; L. Theo Bellmont, first Director of UT Athletics; and Everett Grant Smith of the School of Business Administration. A comprehensive description of each window is included in *The*

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*Windows of All Saints' Chapel*, edited by Jeannette J. Varner and with photographs by Charles Guerrero. The book was privately published in 1982.

There is a lower level at All Saints', below and a part of the 1939 chancel addition. It is accessed from the outside via doors on the north and east facades. The east-facing door gives access to storage and mechanical rooms for the church. The north-facing door gives access to the columbarium, which also houses a chamber for the crypt of Bishop Kinsolving, who had asked that he be buried beneath the All Saints' altar. Although this was not possible upon his death in 1928, and he was originally buried in Austin's Oakwood Cemetery, his wishes were carried out when the 1939 chancel addition was complete. His remains were interred in a crypt below the floor level on November 16, 1939, and covered with a limestone slab engraved with his name along with his accomplishments, including "Founder of Grace Hall and All Saints Chapel." During the renovation of the church building in 1999-2000, the crypt room was refurbished and expanded into a former storage area to create the columbarium. The floor of the columbarium is of porcelain tile and the non-load-bearing walls are finished with gypsum board textured and painted to simulate stucco. Lancet openings are used between the three spaces of the columbarium. Access to this area, formerly from the east door, was changed to a more formal one by excavating several feet at the northwest corner of the chancel addition and creating a small, sunken plaza. A new door replaced a window into the original crypt chamber. That door is of wood, but includes the original diamond-shaped glass that was in the window and the same iron grille with the letters GHK for Bishop Kinsolving. Architect John Volz oversaw the columbarium work which was part of the 2000 renovation.

### Summary

All Saints' (Episcopal) Chapel was built in 1899-1900 and is an excellent example of Gothic Revival church architecture. Noted Austin architect A.O. Watson (1864-1935) designed the original part of the building, and San Antonio architect Marvin Eickenroht (1898-1969) designed the 1939 chancel addition in the same style. Both Watson and Eickenroht showed deft handling of the massing and detailing of the building. It is of a traditional cruciform plan with nave, transept, and chancel, and with offset entry and bell tower at the front corner of the building. Walls are of masonry quarried locally and with rusticated face except at surrounds for window and door openings and other, more decorative features which are all of cut limestone. The stone has weathered to a soft grey over the years. Prominent gables at the ends of the nave and at the transepts and the end of the chancel are parapeted and capped with metal formed and painted to look like cut stone. The steep roof is of dark grey slate tile. The slate tiles at the chancel and bell tower were replaced and match the original tile and pattern for those areas. The bell tower is two stories and exterior walls are capped with a crenelated parapet. Behind that parapet rises a tall steeple with painted ribs; it is capped with a cross. All major masonry openings are lancet-shaped. Windows are wood-framed, and most glazing is stained glass with medieval mosaic design.

The stained glass of the south transept window was made by the D'Ascenzo Studios of Philadelphia. All other stained glass was made by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia, creator of notable stained glass windows at West Point, Princeton and elsewhere. The 1975 Texas Historical Commission marker for the church notes that the windows "are recognized as fine examples of American art." The stained glass windows were installed beginning in 1930 as memorials and replaced the original leaded diamond-shaped colored glass of Watson's design. That original glass is still in evidence at the windows of the sacristy and at transoms over wood-louvered vents in the bell tower.

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The interior of the church clearly expresses the traditional Gothic elements of entry, nave, transept, and chancel with sacristy. A center aisle running the length of the nave and continuing to the altar is flanked in the nave by 17 pews on each side, and in the chancel by pews for the choir facing the aisle. A single step separates the chancel from the nave; another single step separates the altar area from the choir area and two steps separate the altar proper from the rest of the altar area. Interior finishes include painted plaster walls with dark, beaded board wainscot at the nave; barrel vaulted ceilings of dark beaded board with six segments and also ribbing which divides the nave into six bays and the chancel into three bays. Floors are of strip oak stained dark and red carpet at all aisles. Windows are lancet shaped as are openings to transepts and to the chancel. A carved wood pulpit is at the right side of the chancel arch and is reached by three steps from the chancel.

Notable furnishings include a carved wood baptismal font at the front (west) end of the nave, a brass altar rail, and the Bishop's Chair belonging to Bishop Kinsolving, all from the Church of the Epiphany in Philadelphia where Bishop Kinsolving served as rector immediately before being elected bishop in the Diocese of Texas. An impressive Casavant Freres pipe organ built by that Quebec company and dating to 1939 is in the chancel.

Below the chancel is a lower level which is a part of the 1939 addition. It includes mechanical and storage spaces and, more notably, the crypt for Bishop Kinsolving whose remains were relocated to this location in 1939. The 1939 basement addition was accessed by a door at the east end. That door still exists and is used to enter storage, mechanical equipment, and crawlspace areas. A major renovation of the church building and its furnishings in 1999-2000 included the remodeling of the lower level to expand the crypt into the basement storage space and create in that area a columbarium along with a new exterior opening to serve the crypt/columbarium space.

### **Alterations and Integrity**

A major renovation of the entire building, under the direction of award-winning Austin restoration architect John Volz, was completed in 2000 as part of the centennial celebration of the church. Careful attention was paid to preserving original fabric where feasible, both inside and outside the structure. Volz's approach philosophy was to preserve the worship space and rehabilitate the sacristy and Bishop's crypt. The last previous major work on the church was during the 1939 addition and there had been little change since then so that was the accepted period of significance. The sacristy had become outdated over the years and was not functioning well, so it was reorganized to better serve liturgical needs. The Bishop's crypt was dark and damp, and was inaccessible except through a basement service area. It was cleaned, preserved and rehabilitated as the entrance to a columbarium that was created from existing basement space. A new exterior entrance to the crypt area was created at the location of a window in the north wall. Overall work included replacement of all systems, lighting restoration, installation of exterior lighting, structural repairs, hazardous materials abatement, subgrade waterproofing and drainage, restoration of stained glass and pews, organ repairs, restoration of the original tower crenellations, masonry cleaning and selective repointing, and some new interior finishes in the sacristy, Bishop's crypt and columbarium areas.

Thanks to the continued stewardship of parishioners and a standing Building Committee, All Saints' Chapel appears almost exactly the way it did when it was built, with the exception of the stained glass windows, the enclosure of the narthex, and the chancel addition, which itself is also preserved much as it looked when it was constructed. The whole is a fine example of Gothic Revival church architecture and is in very good repair. The

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Texas Historical Commission designated All Saints' Chapel a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 2014, and the building received City of Austin historic landmark status in 1980. Historic Texas Cemetery designation for the crypt of Bishop George Herbert Kinsolving is pending and expected to be finalized by the Texas Historical Commission in 2015.

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### Statement of Significance

All Saints' Episcopal Church, located at the northern edge of the University of Texas campus in Austin, was founded in 1899 as a chapel for the Young Ladies Church Institute, housed next door in Grace Hall, under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. The founder was the second bishop of the diocese, George Herbert Kinsolving, whose official residence was located in the same block of Whitis Avenue. Because of his vision of a church residence hall and chapel, All Saints' has had a significant influence on the development of the University of Texas and on the lives of many of its students and faculty, as well as on the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and the wider Episcopal Church. Designed by Austin architect A.O. Watson in Gothic Revival style and built of white Austin limestone, the chapel, a parish church of the diocese since 1909, has been altered little over the years. It bears mentioning that on June 24, 1908, the church officers adopted resolutions requiring the appointment of a consulting architect, and that all plans for changes in the building and "all permanent decorations and fittings, of whatever sort" be submitted to the consulting architect. Following this policy has stood the church in good stead, as only an extension of the chancel to the east in 1939, enclosure of the narthex in 1951, and additions of stained glass windows beginning in 1930 have changed its appearance. Major preservation work was completed in conjunction with its centennial in 1999-2000 and was performed with great sensitivity to original fabric and design.

All Saints' is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an intact and well preserved example of Gothic Revival church design and construction. Though small, All Saints' design—with traditional cruciform plan, offset entry, bell tower with steeple, central nave from baptistry at the west to chancel and altar at the east end, north and south transepts, lancet stained glass windows, vaulted ceiling, prominent exterior gabled ends, steep roof, and shallow buttresses—exemplifies Gothic Revival church architecture. Because the building is significant primarily for its architectural qualities, it satisfies Criterion Consideration A for religious properties.

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### Denominational Context and The University of Texas Connection

George Herbert Kinsolving, second bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, founded All Saints' Chapel. Because of his vision of a church residence hall and chapel, All Saints' has had a significant influence on the development of the University of Texas and on the lives of many of its students and faculty, as well as on the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and the wider Episcopal Church. One gets a glimpse of this influence through the first-hand account by William James Battle (1870-1955) who wrote *The Story of All Saints Chapel, Austin, Texas, 1900-1950*. Battle was a founder and life-long member of All Saints', a long-standing Classics professor at the University of Texas, and interim president of the University from 1914 to 1916. Many other parishioners were also prominent University faculty members, including several who are memorialized in All Saints' stained glass windows, such as Charles Tilford McCormick, professor and Dean of UT Law School; L.Theo Bellmont , first Director of UT Athletics; and Everett Grant Smith of the School of Business Administration. In addition, by 1950 more than twenty former parishioners had been ordained to the priesthood, including the bishop's own son Walter Ovid Kinsolving, and three of those—Everett Holland Jones, Charles Gresham Marmion, Jr., and Scott Field Bailey—went on to become bishops of the Episcopal Church.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Battle, 114.

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All Saints' was the second Episcopal Church established in Austin. (St. David's Episcopal Church on 7th Street in downtown Austin, dating to 1854, was the first.)<sup>15</sup> All Saints' Chapel is the oldest permanent church building still in use in the University of Texas neighborhood. University (United) Methodist was founded in 1887, but it had three different names on three different sites until its current building was completed in 1909, the same year it adopted the name University Methodist Church.<sup>16</sup> By 1906, four denominations had meeting places near the University of Texas campus: Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Christian. In 1908, the Baptist Church organized a separate church in the area but worshiped in space rented from the nearby Presbyterian church.<sup>17</sup>

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, originally a missionary district of the national church, officially organized in 1849, comprising the entire state, and elected Alexander Gregg its first bishop.<sup>18</sup> Initially Gregg lived in Austin, but in 1865 he moved to San Antonio because the Church was expected to expand westward from that city. In 1874, after the division of the diocese placed San Antonio in the new Diocese of West Texas, Gregg moved to Galveston. However, he had been a member of the founding committee of the University of Texas, and in 1881, after an act to establish the University of Texas was signed, he bought a house in Austin on Whitis Avenue using a diocesan fund established for that purpose.<sup>19</sup> In 1892, because of his declining health, Gregg called for the election of an Assistant Bishop, and George Herbert Kinsolving, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was elected.<sup>20</sup>

Upon his arrival in Austin, Bishop Kinsolving saw the possibilities of the church's influence in the lives and spiritual development of the students of the university.<sup>21</sup> For the first 25 years of its existence, the University of Texas did not provide student housing. Indeed, initially, the State Board of Education felt it was an unnecessary expense. When the University was in the planning stages, the Board's 1881 *Report* stated: "None of the funds of the University should be wasted in building large structures to serve as dormitories for the students."<sup>22</sup> However, Kinsolving's vision was to provide a residence for girls that would also function as a school for female University students with instruction in religion and the arts to supplement their secular college education. Because the University did not provide housing, living with family or in faculty-approved boarding houses were the only options available. Early University catalogs stated: "No restrictions other than those prevailing in polite society are placed upon the sexes with reference to their association with each other. . . . The University of Texas is not a Young Ladies Seminary. Parents who wish their girls kept under surveillance. . . . should not send their daughters to the University of Texas."<sup>23</sup> While Kinsolving was not in favor

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<sup>15</sup> St. David's Episcopal Church, "The Church and Rectors in the 1800s," [www.stdave.org/about/history](http://www.stdave.org/about/history), accessed August 23, 2014.

<sup>16</sup> University United Methodist Church, "Our History & Heritage," [www.uumc.org/who-we-are](http://www.uumc.org/who-we-are), accessed August 23, 2014.

<sup>17</sup> University Baptist Church, "History: the Early Years," [www.ubc.org/history](http://www.ubc.org/history), accessed August 23, 2014.

<sup>18</sup> Episcopal Diocese of Texas, "History of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas," [www.epicenter.org/diocese/about-the-diocese](http://www.epicenter.org/diocese/about-the-diocese), accessed August 23, 2014.

<sup>19</sup> Lawrence L. Brown, *The Episcopal Church in Texas, vol. 2, The Diocese of Texas, 1875-1965* (Austin: Eakin Press, 1985), 9; Beth Fowler, *The Spirit of Missions: St. David's Episcopal Church, a Texas Heritage of History, Music Art and Service Since 1847* (Austin: St. David's Episcopal Church, 2000), 18, 89.

<sup>20</sup> Brown, 39-40.

<sup>21</sup> Battle, 7.

<sup>22</sup> Texas State Board of Education, *Report for 1880-1881*, quoted in Chloe Lee Quebedeaux, *Housing of Women Students at the University of Texas*, (M.A. Thesis, The University of Texas, 1938), 23

<sup>23</sup> Margaret Catherine Berry, *Student Life and Customs, 1883-1933, at the University of Texas*, (Ed.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1965), 31.



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of co-education, he felt that since it existed the church had a responsibility to provide a Christian environment that would protect and guide vulnerable young women attending the University.

When he was elevated to Diocesan Bishop after Gregg's death in 1893, Kinsolving proposed to the annual Diocesan Council his vision of establishing a girls' school with its own chapel—a Young Ladies Church Institute near the university where they could live and receive a Christian education to augment the secular subjects taught at the university. The diocese was having financial difficulties and the delegates were reluctant to approve the proposal. However, Kinsolving decided to proceed using an 1890 bequest to Bishop Gregg in the amount of \$10,000 that, according to the will, was to be used for a church school for girls.

Kinsolving purchased the J. M. Day property, comprising the south two-thirds of the east side of Whitis Avenue between 26th and 27th Streets for \$20,000, using the bequest and funds contributed by friends. The deed, signed on December 23, 1893, stated that the property was “for the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in said Diocese in conducting an institution for the education of young ladies.” At the urging of the Diocese, Bishop Kinsolving and his wife Grace moved into the Day house which was originally built by J. W. Driskill in 1883, the year the University opened. Due to continued financial difficulties, it was not immediately possible to construct a proper building, but the Kinsolvings determined that the Institute could be started in their home, and subsequently it opened in the fall of 1895, with five girls the first year and eight the second, who resided in the home under the supervision of Mrs. J. M. Leisewitz. In 1896, Grace Kinsolving bought the remaining ten lots of the block from former Austinite W.W. Bissell of New York, using \$5,000 of her own funds, to hold in trust until the Diocese could purchase them from her. Now owning the whole block but still not having the financing to build the school, Bishop Kinsolving devised a way to do it by proposing to the Diocesan trustees that they sell the Day residence and ten lots to his wife for \$15,000, to be paid for with \$10,000 and the 10 Bissell lots that she had purchased. The trustees agreed to this and then authorized the construction of the building on the property. The Church Institute for Young Ladies opened in 1897 and became known as Grace Hall in honor of Grace Jaggar Kinsolving. Because all the residents were university students, it became unnecessary and economically impractical to provide any sort of education, and Grace Hall became simply a residence for female university students.<sup>24</sup> It preceded by six years the first University of Texas-owned women's dormitory, called the Women's Building.<sup>25</sup> A men's residence, University Hall, called B Hall, built in 1890, had been funded through the generosity of benefactor George W. Brackenridge.<sup>26</sup>

By 1900, with an increase in the enrollment of female students, a push for women's housing began to develop, though not without objections, especially from the Legislature. But in 1901 an appropriations bill was introduced in the 27th Legislature that included funding for a Women's Building on the campus. The Federated Women's Clubs of Texas, led by its president Mrs. Percy V. (Anna) Pennybacker, actively campaigned for its passage. With its passage, the Women's Building was finally built and opened in 1903, the first University-owned dormitory for female students and only the second residence hall for women, private or public, after Grace Hall.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 9-11. (see Texas Historical Commission, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark file for deed references.)

<sup>25</sup> University of Texas at Austin, Division of Housing and Food Service, “History of the Residence Halls at the University of Texas at Austin,” [www.utexas.edu/student/housing/index.php?site=8](http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing/index.php?site=8), accessed August 23, 2014.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Quebedeaux, 32-33

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For 13 years, Grace Hall was the only church-owned dormitory. The second women's dormitory established by a religious organization was Newman Hall, built in 1918 by the Roman Catholic church. In 1924, the Methodist Church built Kirby Hall, the 5th women's dormitory at the University. It was named for Helen Marr Kirby, the University's first dean of women. Professor Battle, in his history of All Saints', noted: "Evidence is abundant, however, of the high value set upon Grace Hall's training in manners and character both by the girls themselves and by their parents all over Texas. So successful has this training been that the Scottish Rite Masons, the Methodists, and the Roman Catholics have established similar institutions and the increase in the attendance at the University has kept them all filled. The need for such homes is still manifest."<sup>28</sup>

Grace Hall continued in operation through the early 1960s, but the church razed it in 1968 after it ceased to be used as a dormitory and had fallen into disrepair. A much-needed parking lot for parishioners was constructed on the site.<sup>29</sup>

The diocese eventually bought back the former Day house, and it became the official *see* of the Diocese of Texas and became known as the Kinsolving house. Bishop Kinsolving lived there until his death in 1928.<sup>30</sup> The house, along with the lots south of the ten Bissell lots, was bought by the University of Texas in 1931 which razed it in 1955 to build a women's dormitory that opened in 1958. The new dorm was named for George Herbert Kinsolving to honor his interest in housing for female University students and because its location was the site of his home.<sup>31</sup>

### All Saints' Chapel

Soon after the completion of Grace Hall, the bishop began pressing the diocese to build a chapel to provide a church home for the residents, part of his original vision. Despite the lingering effects of the Panic of 1893, enough funds were raised to build a small chapel, so called because it was to be used by students. Austin architect A.O. Watson was engaged to design it as a memorial to Kinsolving's predecessor, Bishop Alexander Gregg. The cornerstone, laid June 17, 1899, is inscribed:

ALL SAINTS CHAPEL  
ERECTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ALEXANDER GREGG, D.D.,  
CONSECRATED FIRST BISHOP  
OF TEXAS, 1859.  
ERECTED A. D. 1899

The chapel was built of native white limestone quarried in nearby Liberty Hill, in Gothic Revival style, with its entrance on Whitis Avenue, a long nave leading from the west end to the chancel and altar on the east end, with north and south transepts two-thirds of the way down. Its first service was held on November 8, 1900. The following May, the Diocesan Council held its annual meeting at All Saints', culminating in its consecration on

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<sup>28</sup> Quebedeaux, 5, 76-77; Battle, 13.

<sup>29</sup> Jack Keever, *All Saints' Episcopal Church: the Second Half-Century, 1950-2000* (Austin: All Saints' Episcopal Church, 2001) 68.

<sup>30</sup> Battle, 12.

<sup>31</sup> Keever, 28.

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May 8, 1901. The small chapel soon became a place of worship for others living in the university neighborhood, many of them University professors. It also became the chapel of the Whitis School, a private college preparatory school established in the Whitis mansion across 27th Street from All Saints' at the turn of the century by Mary Whitis, assisted by her younger sister Gertrude, daughters of Charles W. Whitis and All Saints' parishioners. Though the Whitis School was a boarding school for girls, both girls and boys, including the bishop's son Walter Ovid Kinsolving, attended it as day students. In 1920, the Whitis property was purchased by the Scottish Rite Masons who built a dormitory on the site for girls attending the University of Texas who were daughters of Masons.<sup>32</sup>

The Rev. John William Jones, who was ordained a deacon at the chapel's opening service, served as the first All Saints' chaplain; he was ordained to the priesthood at All Saints' on November 10, 1901. After Jones accepted a call in 1902 to be assistant rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, he was succeeded at All Saints' by the Rev. J. R. Carter, previously rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Galveston. Under Carter's able leadership, the congregation applied for admission to the Diocese as a mission, after first obtaining the consent of St. David's Episcopal Church since canon law prohibited the establishment of a new mission or parish in the territory of an existing parish. All Saints' was admitted as a mission of the Diocese of Texas at the Council's next meeting on May 15, 1903, which was held at All Saints'. Bishop Kinsolving appointed the Rev. Harris Masterson, Jr. of Houston chaplain in 1908. Under Masterson's leadership All Saints' was approved for parish status on May 13, 1909.<sup>33</sup> The following year the congregation built a parish house, called Gregg House in memory of Bishop Gregg. By 1950 the congregation, needing more space for its student programs, leased a house on nearby University Avenue to accommodate the growing ministry. Then, in 1954, the original Gregg House was demolished to make way for a new and larger parish house and student center with a separate worship space, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Also called Gregg House, it was completed in June 1955.<sup>34</sup> (Gregg House is not included in this nomination because it is outside the period and scope of significance.)

Before his death in 1928, Bishop Kinsolving had expressed a wish to be buried beneath the altar of All Saints' Chapel. However, this was not feasible at the time due to space limitations, and he was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Austin. In 1939, to provide additional seating for the growing congregation and for the choir, as well as an organ chamber, sacristy and vesting rooms, the chancel was enlarged and extended to the east under the direction of San Antonio architect Marvin Eickenroht. This work was funded primarily by wealthy parishioner and West 27th Street neighbor Robert Maxey. Because of the sloping grade of the ground under the chancel, it became possible to construct a crypt beneath the altar to honor Bishop Kinsolving's request. He was reinterred at All Saints' in November of that year.<sup>35</sup>

All Saints' was founded to serve students of the University, and that continued to be its primary mission after it gained parish status with a growing local congregation. When a parish house was built in 1910, the appeal for funds was based on the urgent need of space for student work which developed along with the college Bible Chair movement that began in 1893 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.<sup>36</sup> The first Bible Chair connected to the

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<sup>32</sup> Battle, 22-26.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., 21-23, 29.

<sup>34</sup> Keever, 27-28.

<sup>35</sup> Battle, 21.

<sup>36</sup> Texas Ex-Students Association. "UT History Central, A-Z, a Comprehensive Look at UT History," <http://www.texasexes.org/uthistory/atoz.aspx?letter=B>, accessed January 2015.

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University of Texas was the Texas Bible Chair founded in 1904-1905 through the efforts of the Christian Women's Board of Missionaries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Denominational Bible Chairs offered students religion classes and Christian fellowship and became quite popular during the early 1900s.<sup>37</sup>

The Episcopal Church has greatly benefited from this effort in that many of these students connected to All Saints' eventually went into the ordained ministry, including three who became bishops of the church. Most prominent among these former University students and members of All Saints' were Charles Gresham Marmion, Everett Holland Jones, and Scott Field Bailey, who became bishops; James Thomas Bagby and Thomas Woodward Sumners, who established the largest Episcopal churches in Houston, St. Martin's and St. John the Divine, respectively; Charles Abram Sumners, long-time rector of St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin; Malcolm Preston Riker, planter of eleven Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Texas, including eight in the Austin area; and Lawrence Lord Brown, priest, religious teacher, seminary dean, and author. In addition, three of All Saints' own rectors became bishops: John Joseph Meakin Harte, James Parker Clements, and Scott Field Bailey.<sup>38</sup>

### **George Herbert Kinsolving (1849-1928)**

Born April 28, 1849, in Bedford County, Virginia, George Herbert Kinsolving came from a proud Southern family that included numerous members of the clergy. His father, The Rev. Ovid A. Kinsolving, was an Episcopal priest, and his mother, Julia Heiskell Krauth Kinsolving, was the daughter and sister Lutheran ministers. George Herbert and three of his four brothers, Arthur Barksdale, Lucien Lee, and Wythe Leigh, also became Episcopal priests. Of those, two—George Herbert and Lucien Lee—also served as bishops in the church. The family clergy legacy continued into the next generation, as well, with sons of all five Kinsolving brothers entering the priesthood.<sup>39</sup>

George Herbert Kinsolving spent his youth in the shadow of the Civil War. Following the war, he entered the University of Virginia in 1868. A young man who rose to the height of 6'5", he excelled at the university, and a year after graduation he enrolled in the Episcopal Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Virginia. He was ordained deacon in the summer of 1874, and priest the following year while serving as assistant at Christ Church, Baltimore, where his ministry included oversight of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, an African American mission church. He later served three years at St. Mark's Church in Baltimore, and in 1879 became rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. While in Cincinnati, he met and married Grace Jaggar, sister of the Rt. Rev. Thomas Augustus Jaggar, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio.<sup>40</sup>

In 1881, the vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Philadelphia called Kinsolving to be rector, a position he held for the next eleven years, during which time he led the congregation in expanding numerous church programs and services. He quickly became prominent among Episcopal Church clergy in the diocese

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<sup>37</sup> Noel L. Keith and Kenneth L. Teegarden, "CHRISTIAN CHURCH EDUCATION," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/idc05>, accessed January 16, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>38</sup> Battle, 30, 99-102, 116.

<sup>39</sup> Arthur B. Kinsolving, *Texas George: The Life of George Herbert Kinsolving, Bishop of Texas, 1892-1928* (Milwaukee: Morehouse Publishing, 1932), pp.1-10, 24.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 16-18, 21-22, 25-27; "George Herbert Kinsolving Biography," in Johnson, Rossiter, ed., *Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans* (Boston: The Biographical Society, 1904), accessed online 8/20/14.

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and the national church. George H. and Grace Kinsolving's only child, a son they named Walter Ovid after both his grandfathers, was born in Philadelphia in 1887.<sup>41</sup>

In the spring of 1892, delegates to the Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas elected the Rev. George H. Kinsolving assistant bishop to serve alongside diocesan bishop Alexander Gregg, who was in ill health and had called for the election of an assistant bishop after serving for more than thirty years. After a visit to Texas that summer, Kinsolving accepted the election and, following his consecration service at Church of the Epiphany in Philadelphia on October 12, moved his family to Austin. In less than a year, following the death of Bishop Gregg in July 1893, Kinsolving became the second Bishop of the Diocese of Texas.<sup>42</sup>

By all accounts, the new bishop was received in his new home with enthusiasm, respect, and affection, and was soon surrounded by new friends. As one writer observed, "Bishop Kinsolving was an excellent preacher . . . his style reflected his scholarly taste and training. He was fond of jokes and an excellent story-teller, but in the pulpit he did not make his hearers laugh. His sermons were impressive by their earnestness, their sanity, their breadth of sympathy, their fullness of understanding." Commenting further on the bishop's personal traits, he continued, "the Bishop was a delightful companion, welcome always as a guest, even if his size was dangerous to chairs. Better than that, his compassionate heart, his loyalty, won the affection and confidence alike of clergy and laity."<sup>43</sup> At the time of Kinsolving's arrival in Texas, a great number of parishes and missions in the diocese had gone without a bishop's visitation due to the prolonged illness of Bishop Gregg. By the time of the next meeting of the Diocesan Council in May 1893, he reported that he had traveled 10,598 miles to visit 39 churches, had delivered more than a hundred sermons, and had confirmed 457 new church members. He also conveyed to the Council delegates his intention to recruit more clergy to serve the mission congregations of the diocese, and called on them to raise the necessary funds to support that goal.<sup>44</sup>

Another topic Kinsolving broached in his address to the Council in 1893 concerned his ambition to "see something done for the cause of Church education." During Bishop Gregg's episcopate, the diocese had received a bequest of \$10,000 from a Miss Sarah Burr of New York for the establishment of a church school for girls. Through the accumulation of interest, by 1893 the fund contained almost \$13,000, and Bishop Kinsolving determined to bring the idea of a church institute for young women to fruition in Austin. His shepherding of this project would result not only in the establishment of the young women's church institute, Grace Hall, but would also ultimately lead to the building of All Saints Chapel.<sup>45</sup>

Although the 1893 Council delegates did not immediately get on board with the bishop's plan (they referred the matter to a committee for further deliberations), Kinsolving forged ahead with his idea, and that meant securing property on which to build the new facility. He recognized that the church did not have sufficient funds to operate a full-fledged school, but by locating the new institution near the University of Texas, it could offer religious training supplemental to the secular education afforded by the state university. Bishop Kinsolving was

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<sup>41</sup> *Stowe's Clerical Directory of the American Church, 1920-21*, p. 156, accessed online 8/20/14.

<sup>42</sup> Lawrence L. Brown, *The Episcopal Church in Texas, vol. 2, The Diocese of Texas, 1875-1965* (Austin: Eakin Press, 1985), pp. 39-40.

<sup>43</sup> William James Battle, *The Story of All Saints Chapel, Austin, Texas, 1900-1950* (Austin: The Associated Women of All Saints Chapel, 1951), p. 3.

<sup>44</sup> Kinsolving, p. 45; Brown, pp. 42-43.

<sup>45</sup> Battle, pp. 5-10; Brown, pp. 45-46.

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able to secure property in the 2600 block of Whitis Avenue that had previously belonged to J.M. Day, including the large and impressive Day home which had been built by cattleman J.W. Driskill in 1883, and which became the official bishop's residence. As efforts to complete financing for the property continued, the bishop's family moved into the Day house and opened it to students until the new institute could be built. Ultimately, in what would in effect be a temporary loan to the diocese, Grace Kinsolving provided the necessary funds to complete the purchase of the property, and finally in 1897 the Young Ladies Church Institute opened. It quickly became known as Grace Hall in honor of Mrs. Kinsolving.<sup>46</sup>

Within two years, with the institute already a successful endeavor, Bishop Kinsolving reported his plan to erect an adjacent chapel to serve both the residents of Grace Hall and the surrounding area. As he stated, "A chapel is needed and must be built. The Institute cannot do without it, to say nothing of the spiritual needs of the neighborhood where it is to be placed."<sup>47</sup> Construction began in the summer of 1899 and the chapel, built to the plans of Austin architect A.O. Watson, was completed and dedicated to the memory of Bishop Alexander Gregg in 1900. The *Austin Statesman* reported on the dedication service, calling the new building "a distinct addition to the beauty of the upper part of the town, its pure white tower being already a landmark."<sup>48</sup>

Although Bishop Kinsolving lived and maintained his diocesan office in Austin in close proximity to All Saints' Chapel and Grace Hall, he also traveled extensively throughout the Diocese of Texas. He devoted much energy and resources to what he called the missionary field—establishing and supporting churches throughout the diocese, as well as working to recruit more clergy and promoting the cause of paying them a living wage. The church showed steady growth within the first few years of his episcopate, and then was dealt a devastating blow in the aftermath of the great Galveston hurricane of Sept. 8, 1900. Vacationing in Nova Scotia when the storm hit, Kinsolving immediately made his way to Galveston, traveling nonstop by train and boat to reach the stricken island, where he personally oversaw relief efforts to aid churches there. All Episcopal churches in Galveston lost members in the storm and resulting floods, and all suffered extensive damage or were completely destroyed. Among those killed were the Rev. T.W. Cain, rector of the African American St. Augustine's Church, along with his wife and many members of the parish. In addition to the churches on the island, those in other coastal communities also incurred damage, and Bishop Kinsolving lost no time in launching a national fundraising effort to provide relief to the churches and families affected by the disaster. Sending an appeal through the national church's Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, as well as personal letters to family, friends, and former parishioners in the northeastern U.S., he was heartened by the overwhelming responses, both large and small. Churches and individuals sent money, prayer books, clothing, and all manner of relief supplies to Texas. Eventually, thanks in large part to the bishop's leadership, more than \$56,000 was raised for the cause.<sup>49</sup>

A charismatic and pragmatic leader, Kinsolving took direct action to address issues that he felt needed attention. His 35-year episcopate was marked by steady growth among churches, despite a shortage of clergy. He traveled widely to minister to his flock, and encouraged strong leadership among the laity that in turn strengthened the

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<sup>46</sup> Battle, pp. 10-11; Brown, p. 46; Kinsolving, pp. 54-55.

<sup>47</sup> George H. Kinsolving, letter to Diocese of Texas churches, February 1899, George H. Kinsolving biographical file, Austin History Center.

<sup>48</sup> *Austin Statesman*, Nov. 9, 1900, n.p.; quoted in Battle, p.22.

<sup>49</sup> George Herbert Kinsolving Papers, 1899-1929, Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin; Kinsolving, pp. 65-68; Brown, pp. 54-56.

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numerous congregations in the diocese. In 1917, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his election as bishop, he reported to the Council statistics illustrating the growth not only in church membership, but also in outreach and missionary giving. During those twenty-five years, annual diocesan missionary offerings rose from \$382 to \$3,492; the diocesan offerings to the national church's mission program rose from \$429 to \$7,511; and overall giving to church causes rose from \$54,078 to \$185,355. Also during that quarter century, the bishop confirmed 9,030 new church members, making the Diocese of Texas a leader in the U.S. Episcopal Church.<sup>50</sup>

By 1914, after serving as sole bishop in the diocese for more than two decades, Kinsolving called for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor, an assistant bishop who would eventually succeed him, but the First World War and other events resulted in a years-long delay in accomplishing this goal. With his health beginning to fail, he often found himself exhausted by the breadth of the work and travel required in administering the diocese and serving the churches and clergy under his charge. Finally, in 1918, the Diocesan Council elected the Rev. Clinton S. Quin, rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Houston, as Bishop Coadjutor, and he served alongside Bishop Kinsolving, increasingly shouldering more of the burdens of the diocesan leadership for the next ten years.

Following the death of his wife in 1925, Kinsolving's health declined, and he often was confined to his home on Whitis Avenue near All Saints' Chapel. Bishop Quin assumed most of the episcopal duties in the diocese, and three years later Bishop Kinsolving suffered a massive heart attack and died at his home on October 22, 1928. Although his wish was to be buried beneath the altar of All Saints' Church, that proved unfeasible until the chancel of the chapel was enlarged in 1939, at which time the bishop was reinterred there in a newly-designed crypt. Among the many tributes offered after his death was a lengthy resolution in his honor passed by the delegates at the next Diocesan Council. It read, in part:

The record of his active years in the episcopate, as it is found written in the journals of the diocese, covering more than a quarter of a century, is the story of a wholehearted and consecrated devotion to every interest of the Church's life and work. Bishop Kinsolving loved the Church; and he loved the diocese of Texas. And he gave to the Church in the diocese of Texas all that he was and all that he had—the high and lofty service of a splendidly equipped and trained intellect, a Christ-loving heart, and a Christ-serving spirit, in the devoted effort to advance and upbuild the Kingdom of God among men.<sup>51</sup>

Although Bishop Kinsolving's plans for the Young Ladies Church Institute did not develop according to his vision, All Saints' has always valued education and the Church's ministry to students. It has been a leader in the founding and development of Episcopal schools, as well. The University of Texas Episcopal Student Center has remained active at All Saints' from the beginning and today is the largest Episcopal student organization in the diocese. In addition, All Saints' was involved in the establishment of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in 1952. The Rev. Gray M. Blandy, then chaplain of student work at All Saints' and Bible Chair instructor, was enlisted by Assistant Bishop John E. Hines as an instructor in the newly established seminary, and subsequently was appointed its first dean.<sup>52</sup> Seminary chapel services were held at All Saints' until the

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<sup>50</sup> Brown, p. 81.

<sup>51</sup> "G.H. Kinsolving to be buried Saturday," *Austin Statesman*, Oct. 24, 1928; Kinsolving, pp. 127-131.

<sup>52</sup> Keever, 8.

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seminary acquired its own campus and chapel. All Saints' Episcopal Day School, founded in 1946 by a group of young mothers in St. Margaret's Guild, was the first Episcopal day school in Austin.<sup>53</sup> Six years later, All Saints' rector Scott Field Bailey spearheaded the founding of St. Andrew's Episcopal School where the former day school students could continue their education.<sup>54</sup> A former rector of All Saints', Bishop J.J.M. Harte, once commented that All Saints' Day School, the oldest Episcopal day school in Austin, led to the founding of both St. Andrew's School and St. Stephen's School (founded in 1950 by Bishop John E. Hines)—essentially to “all the private education under the Episcopal church in Austin.”<sup>55</sup> The vision of George H. Kinsolving continues to produce fruit in the lives of the parishioners of All Saints', in the students of the University of Texas, in the wider community, and in the Episcopal Church. This, his legacy, is symbolized by the beautiful Gothic Revival stone chapel on the corner of Whitis and West 27th Street.

### Architectural Significance

#### *Gothic Revival Style*

As noted architectural historian Jay C. Henry points out, the Gothic Revival style has “always retained a special appropriateness for church building. After all, the great Gothic monuments of the Middle Ages are Christian churches; the style is Christian by historical definition.”<sup>56</sup> Utilized by all denominations, but always more popular with liturgical churches, the popularity of the Gothic style for church buildings dates from the early 1800s. By the end of the nineteenth century, the style “remained the principal vehicle for the representation of Christian values in church architecture,” and remained so through the early- to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>57</sup>

Henry notes that the Episcopal Church in America in particular chose the Gothic Revival style for its churches for reasons that were born out of its affiliation with the Church of England and its pre-Civil War participation in the Ecclesiology movement, “which sought to prescribe the appropriate architectural forms and liturgical dispensations for Anglican worship.”<sup>58</sup> This reform-minded Ecclesiological movement led to a shift in architectural paradigms in antebellum America in which architects sought to resurrect the English parish church of the fourteenth century as the model for their Episcopal churches. Architect Richard Upjohn helped solidify this approach beginning with the construction of Trinity Church in Manhattan (1839-46).<sup>59</sup>

By the turn of the century, the direct influence of this reform movement has disappeared. However, its spirit endured and the Gothic Revival style remained a popular choice for congregations constructing new churches. For Episcopal churches in particular, that often meant they took the form of the medieval English parish church. Writing about turn-of-the-century designs, Henry notes, “Episcopal churches tended to be small, cozy, and

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<sup>53</sup> Battle, 65.

<sup>54</sup> Keever, 23.

<sup>55</sup> Keever, 7.

<sup>56</sup> Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993), p. 35.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 38.

<sup>59</sup> This reform movement, its impact on ecclesiastical architectural design, and the evolution of the Gothic Revival style in America is thoroughly covered by Phoebe B. Stanton in her seminal work *The Gothic Revival & American Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968).



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intimate; they were Gothic in a parochial sense rather than a cathedral sense.”<sup>60</sup> They were often rendered in a picturesque composition and frequently were constructed of stone or other native material. Other characteristic features common to this class of resource include the articulation between the nave and chancel, steeply pitched gabled roofs, an offset bell-tower with principal entrance, lancet windows, staged buttresses, and an exposed scissor truss roof frame.

Architect A. O. Watson designed a number of these parish churches for Episcopal congregations in Texas, including All Saints' Chapel and Christ Episcopal Church in Temple. Similar in design and scale, both of these buildings incorporate an indirectly-reached entrance through an offset tower, stone construction, pointed arch windows, roof dormers arranged in a picturesque composition, and a pronounced, spatially-distinct chancel (which, in the case of All Saints' is a design feature enhanced by the 1939 addition). According to Henry, the buildings have a “homely character of a country parish church, which is the ambiance Watson doubtless sought to convey.”<sup>61</sup>

### *Architects*

All Saints' Chapel was designed by noted architect A.O. Watson (1864-1935), a native of Washington County, Texas, who studied at Texas A&M University and began work in Austin in 1887 with partner Jacob Larmour. Watson established his own practice in 1892 and is credited with the designs of numerous churches, courthouses, and residences.<sup>62</sup> Among his buildings are courthouses for DeWitt County (1894–96) and Llano County (1892), Christ Episcopal Church in Temple, Texas (1905) and the First Congregational Church of Austin (1898).

San Antonio architect Marvin Eickenroht (1898-1969) designed a 1939 chancel addition to All Saints'. A native of Seguin, Texas, Eickenroht studied architecture at the University of Texas at Austin and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is responsible for many public buildings and churches, including the Austin Presbyterian Seminary Chapel (1940-41) located two blocks east of All Saints' Chapel on 27th Street. He was also known for his work in historic preservation, serving as district officer and then regional director for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) during the Great Depression.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Henry, p. 38.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Roxanne Williamson, "WATSON, ARTHUR OSBORN," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fwa96>, accessed August 29, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>63</sup> Mary Carolyn Hollers George, "EICKENROHT, MARVIN," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fei03>, accessed August 29, 2014. Uploaded on November 27, 2013. Modified on January 15, 2014. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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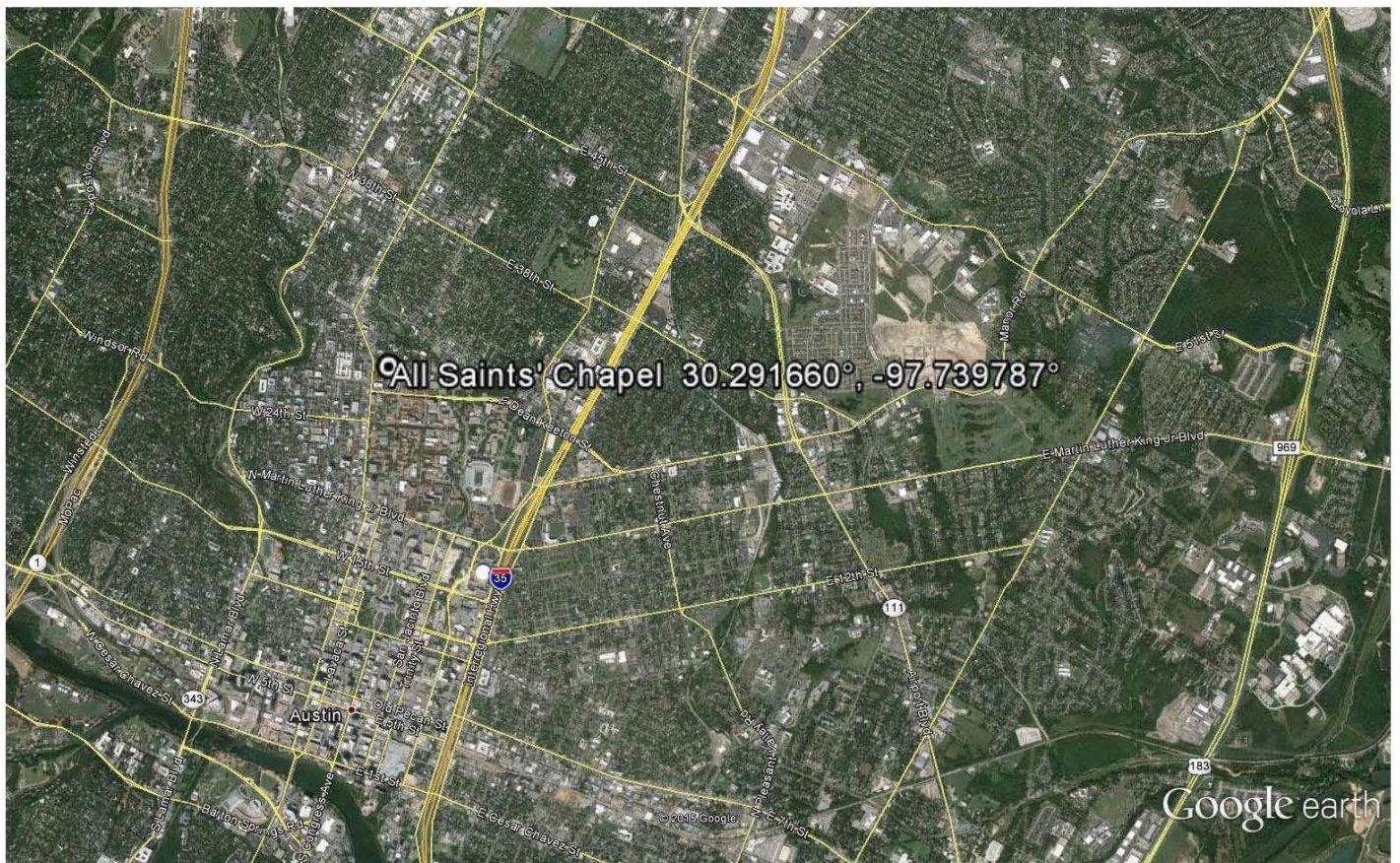
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Map 1: Travis County (shaded) is located in Central Texas.



Map 2: The nominated property is located near the University of Texas campus, just north of Austin's downtown business center.



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Map 3: The nominated property is located just north of the historic core of the University of Texas.



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Map 4: The nominated property is located at the corner of 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Whitis Avenue.

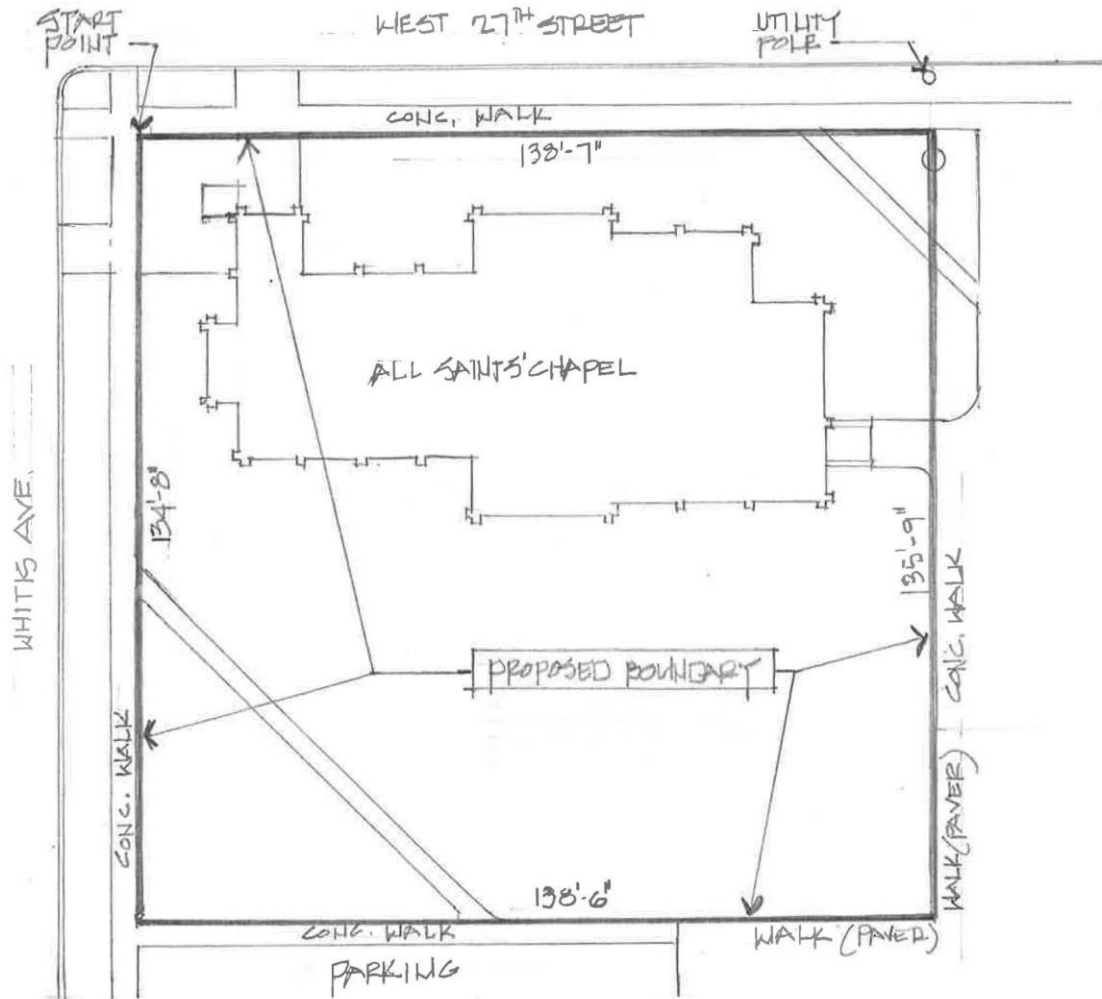


Google earth



All Saints' Chapel, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Map 5: Map depicts the boundary of the nominated property.



PROPOSED BOUNDARY - NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION  
ALL SAINTS' CHAPEL (EPISCOPAL), AUSTIN, TEXAS

NO SCALE

JAN 15 2015

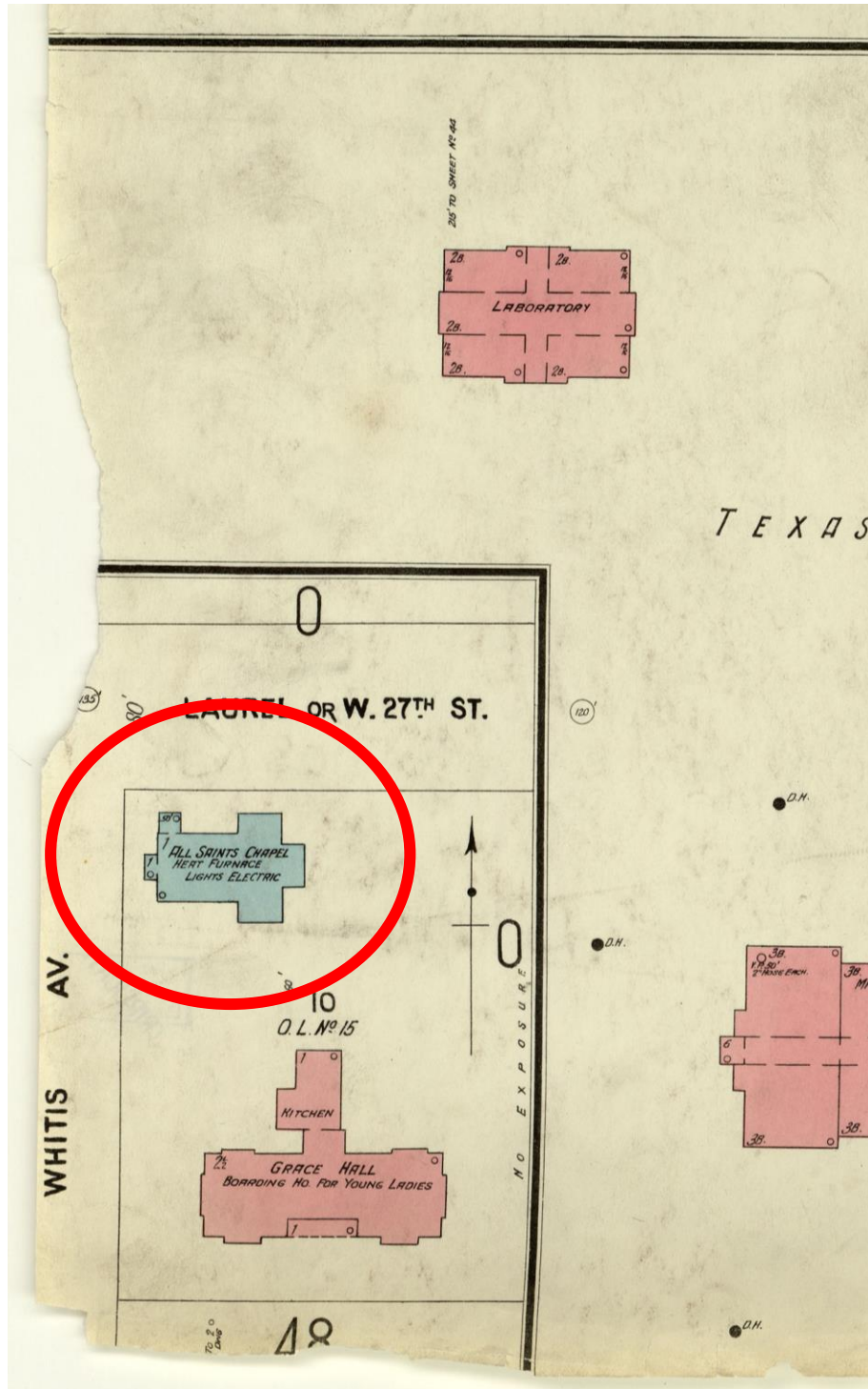


NOMINATION BOUNDARY RUNS EAST 133'-7" ALONG  
INSIDE EDGE OF CONCRETE SIDEWALK AT WEST 27TH ST;  
SOUTH 135'-9" FROM WEST 27TH STREET SIDEWALK  
AND ALONG INSIDE EDGE OF CONCRETE AND  
PAVER WALKS;  
WEST 138'-6" ALONG INSIDE EDGE OF PAVER AND  
CONCRETE WALKS;  
NORTH 134'-8" ALONG INSIDE EDGE OF CONCRETE WALK  
AT WHIT'S AVENUE TO START POINT.



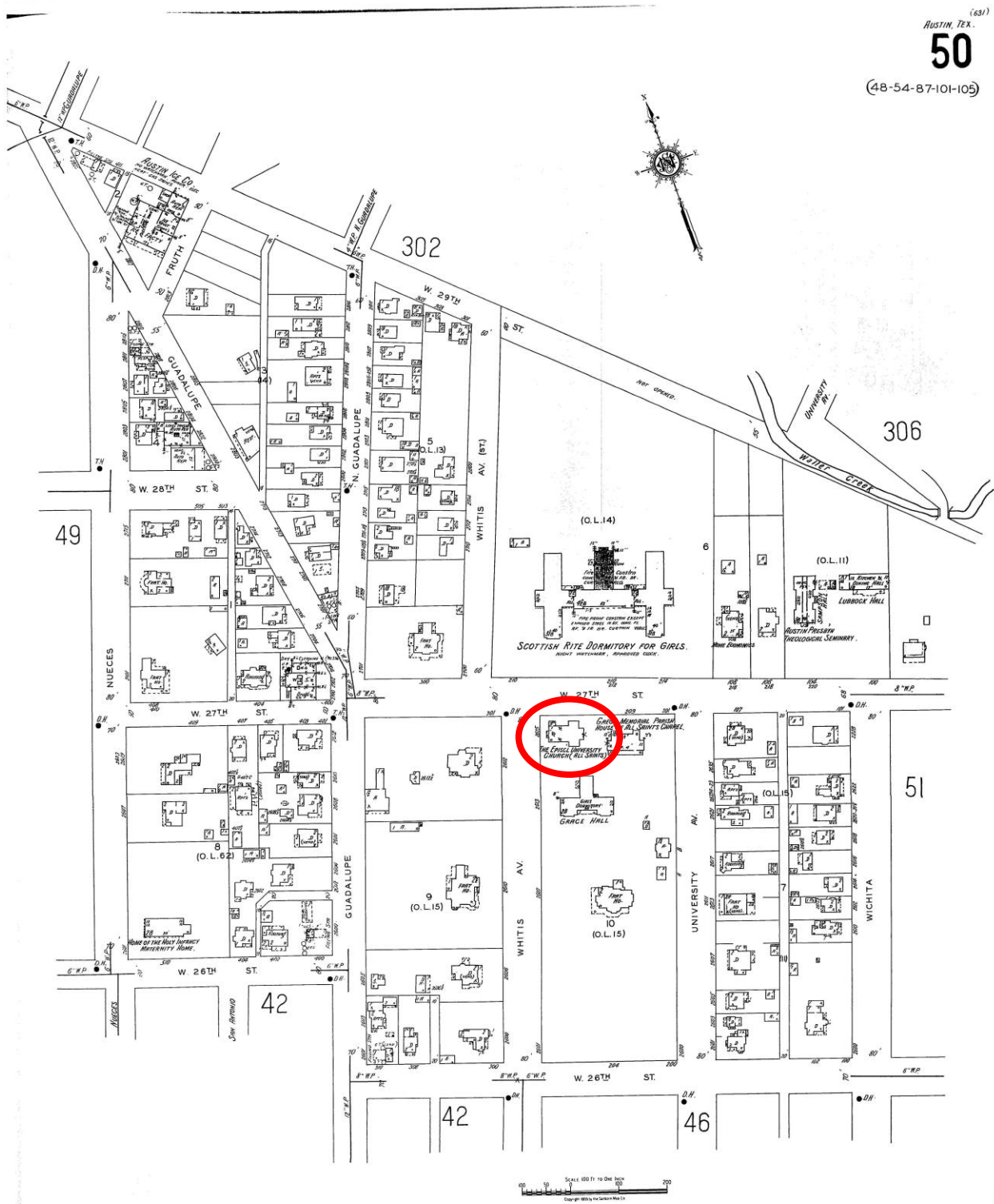
All Saints' Chapel, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 1: Sanborn Fire Insurance map (1900, sheet 53, detail) depicting the nominated property (circled).



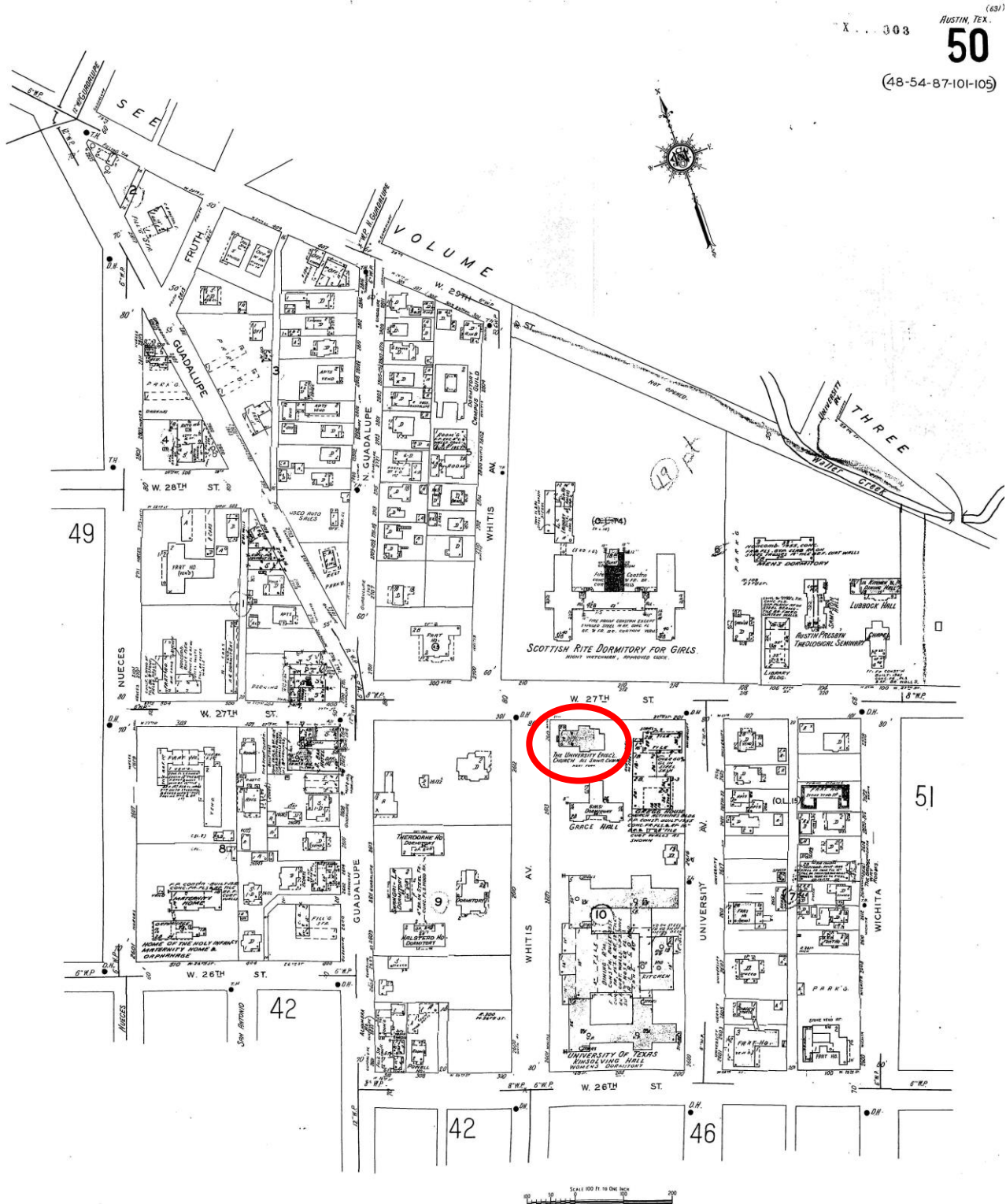
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Figure 2: Sanborn Fire Insurance map (1935, sheet 50). Nominated property is circled.



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Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance map (1935 with 1961 updates, sheet 50). Nominated property is circled.



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Figure 4: Primary entrance, northwest corner, camera facing southeast c. 1912. Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas.



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Figure 5: West façade, camera facing east, c. 1912. Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas.



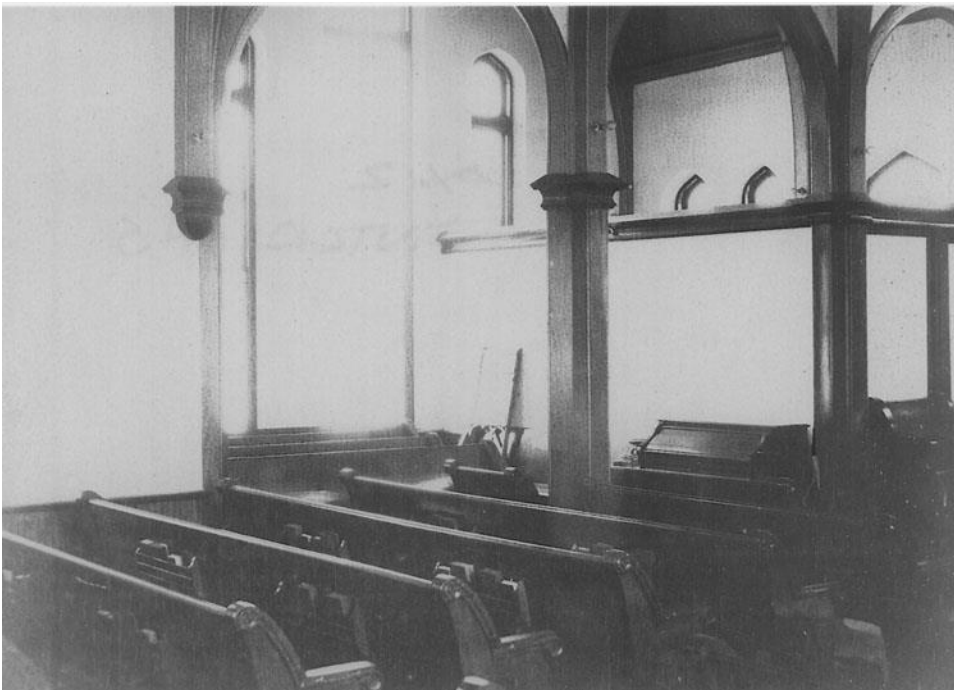
All Saints' Chapel, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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Figure 6: Interior nave, camera facing east, pre-1930. Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas.



Figure 7: Interior, north transept, camera facing northeast, c. 1930s. Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas.



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Figure 8: South and west facades, camera facing northeast, c. 1940. Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas.



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Figure 9: Northwest corner, camera facing southeast, c. early 1950s. Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas.





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Figure 10: Front (west) window, Grace Hall to the south, camera facing southeast, c. 1940s. Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas.



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Figure 11: Photograph, Bishop George Herbert Kinsolving, signed by the bishop. Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas.



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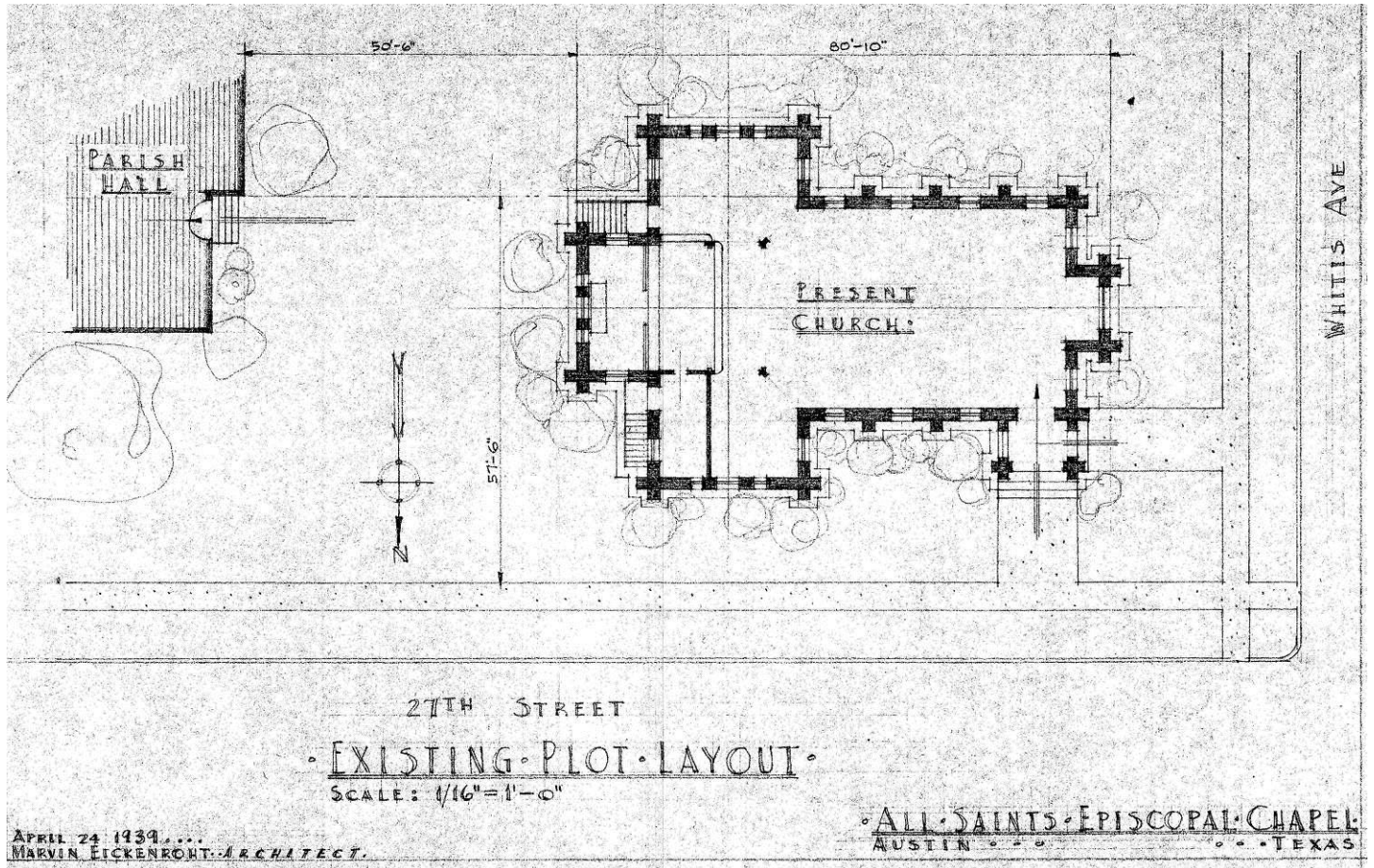
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Figure 12: Bishop George Herbert Kinsolving and Grace Jaggard Kinsolving standing in front of Kinsolving Home [razed 1955], n.d. (est. c. 1920). Original in All Saints' Episcopal Church archives, 209 W. 27th Street, Austin, Texas. TX\_TravisCounty\_AllSaints'Chapel\_0045.jpg



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Figure 13: Existing plot and layout as recorded by architect Marvin Eickenroht, 1939.

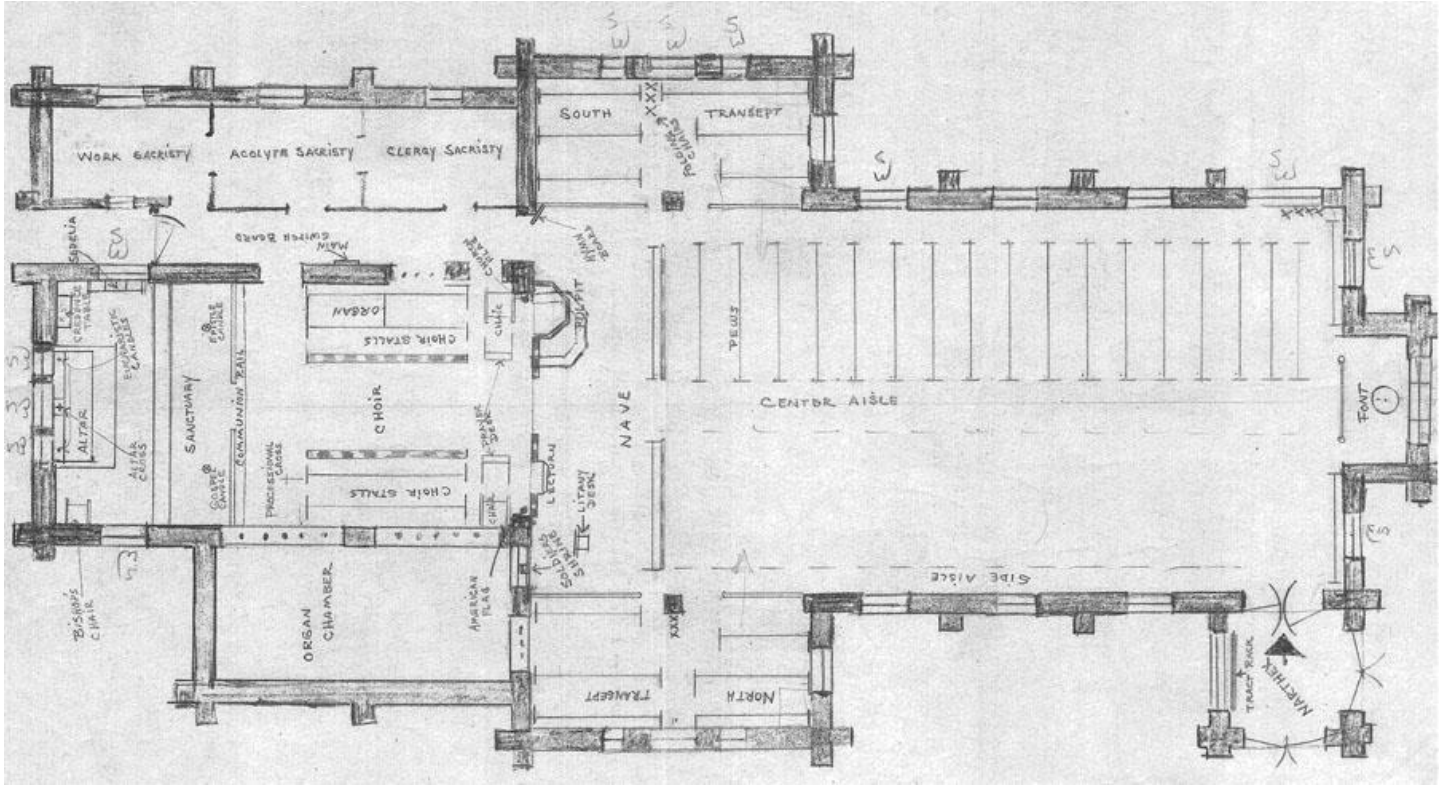






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Figure 16: Drawing, undated, unsigned. Attributed to Marvin Eickenroht, AIA, 1939.









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## **CURRENT PHOTOS OF THE NOMNATED PROPERTY**

*The following photos were also submitted to the National Park Service as high quality digital files.*

Photo #1: West façade, front entrance camera facing east



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Photo#2: South façade, camera facing northeast



Photo #3: South façade, camera facing northwest



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Photo #4: Northeast façade, showing entrance to Kinsolving crypt/columbarium, camera facing south.



Photo #5: Northeast façade, main entrance detail, camera facing southeast.



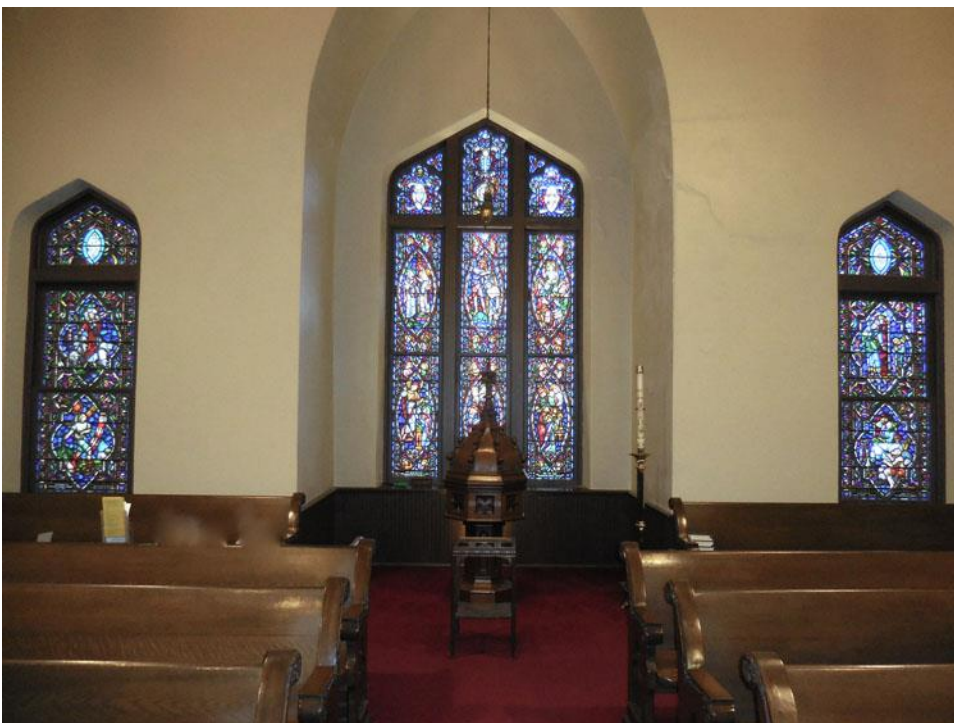
All Saints' Chapel, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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Photo #6: Interior nave, camera facing southeast.



Photo #7: Interior nave, west side detail, camera facing west toward back of nave



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Photo #8: Interior nave, camera facing west toward back of nave.



Photo #9: Interior chancel, camera facing east showing choir and altar; organ pipes behind windows on left.



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Photo #10: Interior crypt of Bishop George Herbert Kinsolving, camera facing southwest.

