

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received **APR 2 1980**
date entered **SEP 24 1980**

1. Name

historic Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost *Thematic Resources*

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Central Business District (See individual data sheets.) not for publication

city, town El Paso vicinity of congressional district 16

state Texas code 048 county El Paso code 141

3. Classification

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership - See individual data sheets.

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. El Paso County Courthouse

street & number City/County Building

city, town El Paso, Texas state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date June 1975, 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent

☒ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in close proximity to one another within the central business district of downtown El Paso are seventeen structures dating from the early 20th century which comprise the Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost thematic nomination. Constructed between the years 1909 and 1930, the buildings contribute significantly to the commercial cityscape and represent not only the growth and prosperity of El Paso, but also the architectural skill and diversity of Trost.

Downtown El Paso occupies a portion of a greater area lying at the foothills of the Rockies historically known as "El Paso del Norte" or "the Pass of the North." As early as 1520 the Spanish claimed the pass, which prior to that time was well known to migratory Indians of the mountains, plains, and deserts. Following the Pueblo Indian Revolt of 1680 in New Mexico, Spanish colonists and Tigua Indians fled southward from Santa Fe and sought refuge in the area, though it was not until the early years of the 19th century that Anglos began to inhabit the vicinity.

The city of El Paso evolved from four earlier settlements, the oldest one made by Juan Maria Ponce de Leon in 1827, on which the commercial district exists. The Californio Gold Rush of 1849, soon followed by cattle drives brought overland travel through El Paso en route to the Pacific. Postal service was begun in 1852 and the Butterfield Overland Mail Route maintained a station at present Overland and El Paso Streets. The community was known as Franklin until 1859 when Anson Mills, state surveyor for the district, made an approved map showing each block in the town which he renamed "Town of El Paso."

El Paso grew and flourished during the remainder of the 19th century. With the arrival of four railroads in 1881 and 1882, the population of 700 exploded. Overnight new businesses opened and luxuries like indoor plumbing, electric lights, telegraph and telephones, city water supplies, and a mule driven street railway became available. Banking facilities were numerous as were saloons and gambling halls. El Paso became a western boom town and a haven for speculators, gamblers, and gunmen. This spirited lawlessness which flourished throughout the west during the expansion of the 1860's-80's continued through the 90's in El Paso. This can be attributed in part to the geographic isolation of the city and also to its proximity to Mexico where safety from the law was just across the Rio Grande. By the turn of the century however, El Paso, boasting a population of 15,000, began assuming an air of respectability. Pistols were required by law to be left at home and in 1905 open gambling was outlawed. In 1906 a bottle of champagne was broken to commemorate the paving of one block of Mesa Street in front of the Hotel Orndorff (now Hotel Cortez), the first to be paved in the city. The Mexican Revolution, which erupted in 1910 and lasted through the following decade attracted spirited and adventuresome individuals and checked the social and cultural development of the city. By 1920 however, El Paso, which covered 25 square miles and supported a population of 77,000 was well into what is commonly referred to as its small metropolis phase.

Early in the 20th century real estate developments were flourishing as El Paso expanded. With the presence of the railroads the city developed as a major shipping and marketing center and business boomed. Professional procedures, like the social and cultural practices, became polished and refined. With this flourishing commercial development came a need for commercial office and retail space. During the first three decades of the 20th century, numerous high rise buildings were erected in the central business district, many of which were designed by El Paso architect Henry C. Trost, who was well known throughout the southwest and enjoyed national recognition for many of his individual works.

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Continuation sheet 1

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The conditions existing in the city are similar to those of Chicago in the 1880's which facilitated the development of the Chicago and Sullivanese commercial styles. The advanced degree of economic development, the availability of good technical education, and the absence of restricting traditions present in eastern cities allowed Trost a rare and creative freedom. Designed to reflect the burgeoning prosperity of the growing city, Trost's commercial structures are innovative compositions of local and national architectural forms and stylistic elements skillfully executed with high quality materials. Reflecting such diverse stylistic formats as the Sullivanese corner commercial structure and the Art Deco setback skyscraper, the buildings, richly detailed with a variety of stylistic references, attest the architectural talents of Trost.

Built around 1917 in an ell-shaped plan is the Popular Department Store which exemplifies Trost's knowledge and understanding of the Chicago School Commercial style. Executed in white sandstone, the design features the typical tripartite division of base, shaft, and cornice highlighted with varying degrees of surface enrichment. The street facades feature three-part windows and simple spandrels between four story vertical piers, topped with a prominent dentilled cornice.

Located four blocks away, the Palace Theater represents Trost's capabilities with decorative surface enrichment as well as his knowledge of diverse stylistic idioms. Built in 1914 as a playhouse/theater, the Palace, then known as the Alhambra, is a simple three-story rectangular building with decorative details concentrated on the street facade. This sophisticated composition of Spanish Colonial elements with a strong Moorish influence exhibits a knowledgeable acquaintance with the style and precludes the popularity it acquired during the 1920's and 30's.

Working within the Second Renaissance Revival style, Trost designed the State National Bank which was constructed in 1921-22. The central arched entrance is accented with an exaggerated scroll keystone and stepped parapet with a foliated crest. Flanking the entrance are pedimented windows while the long facades of the rectangular building feature two story arched windows and round and rectangular insets. A prominent dentilled cornice and parapet broken with balustraded sections encircles the building.

Accurately portraying yet another building type and architectural style is the O.T. Bassett Tower which was built in 1930. The structure rises fifteen stories with a strong vertical thrust, tapering in the stepped skyscraper manner at the upper levels. The handsome brick structure features surface enrichment in brick and Art Deco detailing in sandstone and concrete. The entrance to the building which faces Texas Avenue is noteworthy; symmetrically composed, the entrance is a complex arrangement of doors and windows surrounded by stylized floral and animal forms, geometric delineations, and human faces, one of which is reported to be Trost's.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Henry C. Trost

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As examples of El Paso's finest downtown buildings, the seventeen structures included in the Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost thematic nomination are significant as the work of the city's most outstanding architectural firm, Trost and Trost. These buildings provide excellent representations of several major architectural developments in the United States during the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. The firm's designs reveal facility with a broad range of architectural styles including the Chicago School, Sullivanese, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Art Deco modes. This ease with such a variety of styles follows the tradition of architects from the 19th century Ecole des Beaux Arts. In their diversity, these structures portray the schisms in U.S. architecture of their time, from the progressive direction of the Chicago School to the historic Neo-Classicism resulting from the Chicago Fair. Significant elements in El Paso's downtown streetscapes, these buildings provide an important link with El Paso's history and architectural development.

Born in Toledo, Ohio in 1860, Henry Charles Trost was the son of German immigrant parents. After finishing art school at age seventeen, Trost worked for three years as a draftsman for Toledo architects. He was subsequently located in a number of cities, including Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Denver, and New Orleans where he was associated with the World's Industrial and Cotton Exposition, 1884. Later Trost worked in Topeka, Kansas with the firm Haskell and Wood in connection with the design of the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol.

From approximately 1886 to 1896 Trost lived in Chicago, involved with two ornamental metal companies. He was a member of the Chicago Architectural Club, which also included Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright in its membership. For the six years, from 1898 to 1904, Henry Trost conducted a successful architectural practice in Tucson, Arizona.

Settling in El Paso, Texas in 1904, Henry Trost went into partnership with his brother Gustavus Adolphus Trost, and nephew George Ernest Trost to form the architectural firm Trost and Trost. Henry was the principal designer, and for the next twenty-nine years, until his death, the firm produced over two hundred buildings in the southwest, including some of El Paso's finest structures. Henry Trost handled a variety of architectural styles with equal facility and many of his works show delightful originality in their combinations of elements. The influence of his years spent in Chicago is readily apparent in much of Trost's work. His contact with buildings of the Chicago School architects Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the impact of the World Columbian Exposition of 1893 provided inspiration for several of the structures included in this nomination. Trost was an early experimenter with steel-reinforced concrete, and his eclecticism extended to works of the Spanish Colonial Revival, Pueblo, and Art Deco formats.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Engelbrecht, Lloyd C.; Henry Trost: The Prairie School in the Southwest, The Prairie School Review, Volume VI, No. 4, Fourth Quarter, 1969.
Engelbrecht, Lloyd C.; Unpublished Manuscript, Chapter V, "Reinforced Concrete," Chapter VI, "Variety and Contrast," 1979.

10. Geographical Data

See individual data sheets.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acree of nominated property individually, less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name El Paso, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual data sheets.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda C. Flory, Historian; Carol Kennedy, Research Associate

organization Texas Historical Commission

date March 7, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 12276

telephone 512-476-5428

city or town Austin

state Texas, 78711

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3-8-80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Keeper of the National Register

date 9/24/80

Attest: Beth Groves

date 9/23/80

Chief of Registration

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An interest in new structural possibilities is revealed in a series of buildings in reinforced concrete which Trost designed prior to common usage of the material. The first of these, the Richard Caples Building, dates from 1910. Its composition, with a light well separating two office towers which rise from a one story base, was used by Trost several times. While the Caples Building was faced with brick, the Roberts-Banner Building, completed in 1910, is amazingly bold and simple, with the concrete exposed on the exterior. Ornamentation has been simplified to flat, stylized geometric and leaf-like motifs which adorn the spandrels and cornice. Trost here seems to have made a conscious effort to suit the design of the decoration to the character of the material. The Abdou Building (1909-1910) exhibits a similar simplification of form and limits decoration to the street level arcade, top story spandrels, and cornice. Trost's use of the Chicago window along with this simplification relates these structures to the Chicago School.

The Anson Mills Building, Trost's largest reinforced concrete edifice, is not included in this nomination due to alterations, including painting and installation of reflective glass windows and spandrels, which have severely altered its original architectural character.

Three department stores provide examples of the Chicago School Commercial format; Newberry's, the Popular, and the White House. Their Chicago windows, rounded corners, and composition of base, shaft, and prominent cornice reveal a particular influence of the designs of Louis Sullivan (i.e. the Schlesinger Mayer Store, Chicago). Additional inspiration of Sullivan's compositional scheme is illustrated by the El Paso International Building and Hotel Paso del Norte. The hotel is listed individually in the National Register (1/18/79).

Even the Columbia Furniture Company, a modest commercial building of only three stories, reflects the influences of the Chicago Commercial style. Trost has once again differentiated the street-level facade from that of the stories above. The grouping of the windows expresses the steel frame which supports the structure, and visual strength is added to the design by the decorative cornice and detailing of the corner piers.

The time Henry Trost spent in Chicago included 1893, the year of the World Columbian Exposition, where the Classicism favored by the eastern architectural establishment was selected over the progressive Chicago School for the Fair's overall design. Trost did not shy away from designing structures in the classical mode. The Union Bank and Trust Building, with its pilasters, modillioned and dentilled cornices, and balustrade provides an example. Neo-classical touches used within a Chicago School framework are shown in the W. S. Hills commercial building at 215-219 East San Antonio.

Classicism of the Renaissance Revival was skillfully applied in the design of the State National Bank Building. A particularly elegant structure, the simple rectangular block has a strong clarity which is accented by deeply revealed double-story arched windows and sculptured medallions above the piers. The San Antonio Street (entry) facade, symmetrically composed of a large arched doorway flanked by pedimented windows, further carries out the austere Renaissance format, as does the crowning dentilled cornice and balustrade.

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An architectural style that held particular appeal for the Southwest was the Spanish Colonial Revival, because of the region's interest in its own 18th century Spanish Missions. Hotel Cortez (1925) is indicative, with its elaborate ornamentation concentrated around the entrance and selected windows. The Singer Building shows further Spanish influence in the arch, balconies, stuccoed walls, and terra cotta tile roof.

The wide range of sources for Trost's designs is reflected by the Palace (Alhambra) Theater of 1914, exhibiting Spanish Moorish elements in the arched windows and intricate ornamentation. Historic photos show the first story composed of the entry framed by an intricate frieze, which related in character to the entrance of Sullivan's 1893 Transportation Building at the Chicago Fair.

Trost's last works reveal an interest in new means of expression for the high-rise building. The Plaza Hotel exhibits a tentative influence of Art Deco in the rectilinear emphasis and projecting tower. Vertical emphasis is achieved by the contrasting light bands running uninterrupted up through fifteen stories. Characteristic Deco ornament is used, with its flat, incised, geometrical and stylized natural forms.

Full employment of the Art Deco, stepped skyscraper form is seen in the O.T. Bassett Tower (1929). Here the tower soars; Trost used a variety of means to achieve this. The mass is composed of a grouping of tall, slender, rectangular blocks. Both windows and spandrels are deeply recessed to emphasize the full height of the structure. This verticality is further emphasized by the symmetrical A-B-A scheme used in the building's overall composition, and in each individual block.

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Site Inventory Forms, City of El Paso, Completed 1971-1978.

Southwest Collection, El Paso Public Library; Newsclipping File, photographic collections, original drawings by Trost and Trost.

Webb, Walter Prescott, Handbook of Texas, Volume I, Texas State Historical Association, 1952, Marvin D. Evans Co., Fort Worth, pp. 561-62.

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 1. Popular Department Store

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Name: Popular Department Store
Address: 102 North Mesa
Owner: Mr. Herbert Schwartz, President
Popular Department Store
P.O. Box 1890
El Paso, Texas, 79950

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost

Date: ca. 1917

Original Use: Commercial/Retail

Style: Chicago School/Sullivan-esque

Present Use: Same

Physical Description

Perhaps Trost's greatest achievement in the Chicago School commercial format is the Popular Department Store located in the heart of the downtown commercial district. Rising seven stories with mechanical penthouse, the white sandstone building occupies more than one half of a city block and fronts on Mesa and San Antonio in an obtuse, ell-shaped plan.

From 1902-7, the store occupied a two story building at S. El Paso and Overland, followed shortly by a move to the old Masonic Building formerly located on the present site. In 1916 the structure was purchased for \$230,000 and razed to make way for the existing structure. When completed, the new structure featured four bays on Mesa and six on San Antonio. The need for expansion was again felt during the post-war business boom and a three bay, five story addition was constructed in 1946 reflecting the design and materials of the original building, which was extended to eight stories.

Most recently, ca. 1950, a four story addition, designed and constructed of modern materials, extended the store to Texas. This incompatible addition is obviously new and is not to be considered a part of the nominated property.* The street facades are broken down into the typical tripartite format of base, which consists of the pedestrian-oriented ground and second floors; shaft, composed of floors three through six; and cornice, defined by the seventh floor with an exaggerated overhang.

Aside from modernization of the street facades, the building retains much of its original appearance. The base is terminated with a continuous course of slightly raised repeating geometric units, broken at regular intervals with square plates containing medallion forms. From these plates spring pilasters which rise unbroken to the cornice, embellished at the top with a cartouche and garland motif. Three part Chicago-type windows infill the bays between the pilasters, increasing in vertical dimension from floor to floor. The rounded corner bay is pierced with three separate windows. A broad, continuous course of repetitious design marks the cornice, which consists of bays defined by rectangular ornamented panels infilled with three separate windows. The building is terminated with a boldly projecting, dentilled cornice, above which rises a simple parapet topped with lamp posts.

* Addition to northeast not visible in photograph.

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Statement of Significance

Since its founding in 1902 by Adolph Schwartz and his nephew Maurice, along with I. Weiss, J.C. Zozoya, and Joe Zelman, the Popular Department Store, then known as the Popular Dry Goods Company, has served El Paso as a major retail establishment. Adolph, who served as president of the company until his death in 1941, immigrated to the border area from Hungary in 1887. After serving as a "news Butcher" on the Mexican Central Railway running between Mexico City and Juarez and clerking at a Juarez store, he entered a partnership in a retail store in the latter city in 1893. By 1897 he sold out his share and established The Fair across the river in El Paso with his cousin I. Weiss. Maurice joined his uncle in 1899 as the business expanded. In the early 20th century this business was sold and a new partnership formed with the opening of the Popular. The elaborate grand opening on the evening of August 22, 1907 featured a live orchestra, refreshments and prizes.

Throughout its history the Popular has maintained a reputation of serving its customers' needs as well as the needs of the community. Maurice Schwartz, a civic-minded individual, served in a variety of city management roles, headed fund-raising drives, and worked actively with the Boy Scouts. Following the stock market crash of 1929, the Popular enacted a policy whereby depositors in the defunct First National Bank could assign all or part of their temporary receipts towards cash and credit at the Popular. Since Adolph's death, the company has been headed by several members of the Schwartz, and is currently served by Herbert. In recent years the Popular has opened outlets in two different shopping centers and in addition to expanding to meet the consumption needs of El Paso, has continued to play an active role in the civic activities of the city.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 12, Lot 67, portion of 63
86 2/3' on Mesa x 190.5' on San Antonio

Acreage:

Less than one

UTM Reference:

13/3514430/359243

revised
8/13/80

TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



P. O. BOX 12276
AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

August 8, 1980

Carol Schull, Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Pension Building, 440 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C., 20243

Dear Ms. Schull:

Texas National Register staff has revised the Verbal Boundary Description for the Popular Department Store, structure # 1. in the Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost thematic nomination. The revised description includes the 1950's addition to the original store which shares a common wall on the northeast and occupies the intersection of Mesa and Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda C. Flory

Linda C. Flory Historian
National Register Program

LCF/lc
Enclosures

Aug 13 1980

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

ACES

AUG 13 1980

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

INITIALS

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 12, Lot 67, portion of
63. Building fronts 190' 4" on San Antonio,
183' 1/2" on Mesa, and 120' on Texas.

Acreage:

Approximately 1

UTM Reference:

13/3514430/359243

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received **APR 2 1980**date entered **SEP 24 1980**INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 2. J. J. Newberry Company

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Name: J. J. Newberry Company
Address: 201-5 North Stanton
Owner: McCrory Corporation
Tax Department
888 7th Avenue
New York, New York, 10019

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: 1911 Style: Chicago School/Sullivan-esque
Original Use: Commercial/Retail Present Use: Same

Physical Description

Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Stanton and Texas, the Newberry Building is one of several structures designed by Trost in the Chicago School/Sullivan-esque format. With a steel frame supporting structure, the building is faced with cast concrete. On both the Stanton and Texas facades, the third through fifth floors feature five bays of Chicago-type windows. Spandrels are recessed between piers which extend upward through the third, fourth, and fifth floors and terminate in flattened arches above each top story window. An unusual feature of the building is a rounded corner. Though originally glazed, the corner windows have been covered over with unpolished red marble. And, though the facades of the first two floors have been similarly altered, it is likely that much of the original fabric exists underneath the later facades.

Statement of Significance

The Newberry Building provides a good example of the Chicago School architectural style and shows a strong influence of Louis Sullivan's designs in the rounded corner and prominent cornice. Trost's years in Chicago during the rise in prominence of architects LeBaron Jenney, Burnham and Root, and Sullivan are reflected in the structure.

The building was constructed to house Calisher's Dry Goods Company. After the lot was purchased for \$125,000 and cleared of existing structures, the new building was begun at an estimated cost of \$250,000. With five stories above the ground, a bargain basement, and a sub-basement to house mechanical systems, the building was to be fitted with the latest furnishings in use in eastern department stores. In order to finance the construction of the new, modern facility, the J. Calisher Company doubled its stock and organized the J. Calisher Realty Company. Throughout its history the building has housed other businesses and been known as the Raynold's Building and also American Furniture. In addition to those businesses, it housed the Border National Bank for a time, and the YWCA used the top two floors from the building's completion date in 1911.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Mills Survey, Block 4, Lots 19 and 20
86.667' on Stanton x 90' on Texas
Acreage: Less than one
UTM Reference: 13/3514537/359228

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 3. White House Department Store
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Name: White House Department Store/Hotel McCoy
Address: 109 Pioneer Plaza
Owner: A.R.M. Investments, Inc.
804 Cherry Hills
El Paso, Texas, 79912

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost Style: Chicago School/Sullivan-esque
Date: 1912 Present Use: Same
Original Use: Commercial/Retail; Hotel

Physical Description:

The White House Department Store and Hotel McCoy, located at 109 Pioneer Plaza, is a seven story building of concrete skeleton with brick facing. Following the shape of the original road plan, the structure's two street facades are joined in a rounded obtuse angle. A three-part Sullivan-esque scheme of base, shaft, and cornice is seen in the building's composition. Although the facades of the first two stories have been substantially altered, the third through seventh floor facades are intact. One over one light windows with deep reveals, in groups of three, are found on the third through sixth floors, while each group at the seventh story level is segmentally arched. A frieze of rectangular shapes separates the sixth and seventh floor windows, and an elaborate modillioned cornice crowns the building.

Statement of Significance:

The White House Department Store/Hotel McCoy, prominently sited as the terminal point of South El Paso Street, a major north-south axis between El Paso and Juarez, is an outstanding example of the Chicago School format. Since its opening in 1912, the first floor and basement housed the store while the remaining six floors were occupied by the Hotel McCoy, still in operation.

In September, 1900, Felix Brunschwig along with three nephews, Gaston, Myrtil, and Arthur Coblenz came to El Paso from the "City of London" store in Juarez and opened the White House at San Antonio and Oregon Streets. Incorporated in 1903, the business grew rapidly and expanded into adjoining space. By 1912 this prosperous growth necessitated a move and two story brick building known as the "Little Plaza" was razed to make way for the present structure. Formal evening ceremonies in September of 1912 marked the opening of the new White House which was essentially a ladies ready-to-wear and specialty store. The store earned a reputation of offering current styles and attentive service to its customers. Newspaper accounts claim that the White House brought the first window dresser to El Paso as well as the first fashion show.

An annex was constructed in approximately 1917 directly behind and connected to the existing building to allow expansion to a complete department store. Through the years this utilitarian structure, of concrete piers infilled with clay blocks, grew to seven stories with a penthouse. Though believed to be designed by Trost, this building is not visible from the street and is not considered a part of the nominated property. A move in 1922 expanded the White House into the first and second floors of the Mills Building (next door) and a connection was constructed between the two. Through the years the ground floor was modernized and today exists with vast areas of display space. However, the upper floors retain the historic lines which indicate the Chicago school style as well as the work of Trost.

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 3. White House Department Store

Continuation sheet 6

Item number 7

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Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 17, Parts of Lots 176, 177
76.31' on San Francisco x 71.1' on Pioneer
Plaza x 73' North

Acreage:

Less than one

UTM Reference:

13/3514478/359018

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 5. Hotel Paso del Norte

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Name: Hotel Paso del Norte
Address: 115 S. El Paso
Owner: Z. W. Limited
Hotel Paso del Norte
115 S. El Paso
El Paso, Texas, 79901

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: 1912 Style: Chicago School/Beaux Arts Influence
Original Use: Hotel Present Use: Vacant

Physical Description

Rich in detail applied in the classical Beaux Arts manner, the Hotel Paso del Norte is an outstanding example of early 20th century classical design executed in a tripartite Chicago school format. The structure features twin towers of seven stories rising from a two story base. The elegant structure, long recognized as being architecturally significant, was listed individually on January 18, 1979.

Statement of Significance

Architecturally significant as one of Trost's more elaborate designs in the Chicago School format, the opulent Hotel Paso del Norte is an outstanding landmark in the city. Throughout its years of operation as a luxury hotel it afforded lodging for celebrated personalities and political figures, and has served the city as a center for social activities.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Mills Survey, Block 16, Lot 87
116.25' on South El Paso x 135' on West San Antonio
Acreage: Less than one
UTM Reference: 13/3514332/359000

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 6. Hotel Cortez

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Name: Hotel Cortez
Address: 300 North Mesa Street
Owner: Jorge Murra
Hidalgo 1270, Pts. 2
GDO Piso, Torreon
Coahuila, Mexico

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: 1926
Original Use: Hotel

Style: Spanish Colonial Revival
Present Use: Vacant

Physical Description:

Designed as the luxurious Hotel Orndorff in the early 20th century, the Hotel Cortez is an elaborate representation of the Spanish Colonial Revival style with strong Renaissance overtones. The assortment of decorative elements skillfully applied to the tripartite format of the brick structure attests the artistic genius of Trost. Although the ground floor is masked behind a cover of modern materials and signage, the second floor bespeaks the original opulence of the base. Elegant arched reveals span the second level, separated by pilasters and medallions and infilled with French doors. In keeping with the Spanish influence are three dimensional busts of helmeted conquistadores and Spanish court coats of arms. The main entrance to the hotel is accentuated with an elaborate three story arched composition which terminates in a broken pediment. Flanking this pediment on the fifth story are bracket-supported balconies backed with a two story decorative composition. Distinct in design and linked with continuous horizontal decorative bands, the eleventh story windows are set apart from the others. A broadly projecting convex cornice displaying a bold egg and dart pattern terminates the building.

Statement of Significance:

Occupying a site which has served the city continuously as a source of hostelry, the Hotel Cortez, which faces San Jacinto Plaza, contributes significantly to the architectural make-up of the inner-city. Originally the site afforded the Hotel Vendome, an early El Paso lodging facility. This establishment was replaced with the Hotel Orndorff, which appears in historic photographs as a four story pressed brick structure with balustraded balconies running the width of the structure on two sides.

The new Hotel Orndorff, commissioned by Mrs. Charles DeGroff for \$1,400,000, officially opened on September 10, 1926. Mrs. DeGroff died unexpectedly one month prior to the opening and approximately one year later, the Hussman Hotel Company purchased the business and changed its name to Hotel Hussman. In a contest held to rename it, Hotel Cortez, submitted by prominent local attorney Thornton Hadie, was chosen. On June 5, 1963, President Kennedy stayed overnight at the hotel. The building continued to serve the lodging needs of El Paso until the late 1960's. In 1970 it was leased to the Department of Labor as the El Paso Job Corps Center. Currently the structure is vacant.

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 6. Hotel Cortez

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Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 3, South 1/2 of Lot 17, all
of Lot 18

130' on Mesa x 120' on Mills

Acreage:

Less than one

UTM Reference:

13/3514580/359139

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 7. Palace Theatre

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Name: Palace Theatre
Address: 209 South El Paso
Owner: Juan F. M. Terrazas et al
c/o Kemp and Solis
347 Myrtle Avenue
El Paso, Texas, 79901

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: 1914 Style: Spanish Colonial Revival/Moorish
Original Use: Theater/Playhouse Present Use: Movie Theater

Physical Description

Fronting on El Paso Street in the center of the block, the Palace Theatre represents the Spanish Colonial Revival style popularized during the early 20th century. Though simple in plan, the main facade of the three story, rectangular structure is a bold statement of the style. Dominating this simple brick facade is a projecting bay, vertically divided into four units by columns and pilasters. The ground floor has been altered although a majority of the original fabric appears to be concealed beneath the modern materials. A broad string course visible above the contemporary awning separates the first and second floors. On this string course rest columns, which in turn support pilasters and cross members in a post and lintel configuration. Resting on the lintels is a deep cornice composed of a series of Moorish arches springing from pilasters. Atop the cornice is a decorative flagpole mount. Multi-paned, arched windows span the columns and pilasters. The wall surfaces of the projecting bay are decorated with a delicate tracery of interlocking geometric and foliate motifs executed in plaster, which create an Eastern aura.

Statement of Significance

Trost's familiarity and skill with the various architectural developments of his day is displayed in downtown El Paso where a concentration of his works exist. Perhaps one of his most extraordinary examples of stylistic expression is seen in the Palace Theatre, formerly the Alhambra, the facade of which displays a delicate overall tracery of arabesques and Islamic script. This is thought to be Trost's only design in the Spanish Colonial style with Moorish influences.

The theatre was designed for use as either a playhouse for live theater or a movie house and was opened August 1, 1914 at a cost of \$150,000. A large organ was included in the interior furnishings to accompany the screening of "silent" movies. The Moorish theme was carried to the interior where the lobby displays the column-supported arches of the facade. The auditorium of the theatre features a balcony and opera boxes and seats believed to be original are still in use. Throughout most of its history, the theatre has served the film industry and is currently in operation as a movie house. Trost's choice of a Spanish Colonial format with Moorish influence preceeded the 1920's vogue for that style.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Mills Survey, Block 15, Lot 82, Beginning 51' from NE
Acreage: Less than one corner of block, 64' on South El Paso x 134'
UTM Reference: 13/3514280/359010

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET

8. Singer Sewing Company

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Name: Singer Sewing Company
Address: 211 Texas Avenue
Owner: Singer Sewing Company
211 Texas Avenue
El Paso, Texas, 79901

Physical Description

Singer Company occupies a two story, rectangular structure designed as a simplified statement of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The building, which is constructed of poured concrete with a plastered finish, shares a common wall with the J. J. Newberry Department Store on the east and opens onto an alley on the west. Stylistic decoration is concentrated on the Texas Avenue facade and the portion of the alley facade clearly visible from the street. The storefront is divided into two bays of differing sizes, one of which takes on a tower-like appearance topped with a red-tiled, pyramidal roof. A broad segmental arched opening, balconies, grillwork, and irregular quoins of scored concrete are employed to carry the Spanish Colonial theme. The Singer crest is firmly implanted in the upper level of the structure.

Statement of Significance

Contributing to the architectural wealth of downtown El Paso, the Singer Sewing Company building is a handsome composition exemplifying the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The company, which has served El Paso since 1888, has occupied this building continuously since its completion in January, 1928. Prior to that year, Singer was located nearby on South El Paso Street.

The lot was purchased for \$65,000 while the structure cost \$35,000. An additional \$5,000 was spent on the interior furnishings, which were selected to harmonize with the Spanish Colonial theme. The ground floor was designed for display and sales while the second floor originally facilitated both a sewing school and a manufacturing trade department which supplied multi-needle machines and equipment for the high-priced sewing trade.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Mills Survey, Block 4, Lot 19
Beginning 90' west of SW Corner of Block, 30' on Texas
Avenue x 86.667' on alley
Acreage: Less than one
UTM Reference: 13/3514518/359237

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 9. Richard Caples Building

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Name: Richard Caples Building
Address: 300 E. San Antonio Avenue
Owner: E. A. Caples, Sr. Estate
2525 Gateway
El Paso, Texas, 79902

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Architect/Builder: | Trost and Trost | Style: | Early 20th century commercial |
| Date: | 1910, 1915-16 | | with Romanesque addition |
| Original Use: | Commercial/Offices | Present Use: | Same |

Physical Description

Experimenting with the new structural possibilities of reinforced concrete, Trost designed the Richard Caples Building. When completed in 1910 the structure consisted of two office towers separated by a light well, rising four stories from a single story base. Decorative application was minimal with delineations incorporated in the brick veneer. The five story building was originally terminated with a simple, broadly projecting cornice, now removed. However, in 1915-16 two additional floors were added to the towers. While alignment and fenestration is congruous with the original structure, the addition introduces a Romanesque influence in decorative details. Arched window openings spring from pilasters that rise two floors and heavily foliated panels accentuate the upper facades. The ground floor has been sheathed in contemporary materials although the original structure appears to remain beneath.

Statement of Significance

When completed in 1910, the Richard Caples Building held the distinction of being the first reinforced concrete structure in downtown El Paso. Prior to widespread use of the new material, Trost exhibited an interest in its structural capabilities with a series of buildings in the early 20th century. This new construction mode, of great interest to the public, was described in detail in local newspapers. A framework of posts and lintels formed of poured concrete reinforced with steel rods was infilled with tile blocks and faced with brick. The decorative trim was executed in what appears to be cast concrete. When completed, the building was claimed to be fireproof. It is speculated that Caples' extensive experience as a masonry contractor may have been a factor in the selection of concrete as a structural material as well as the decision to face the building with brick.

Prominently sited on a corner lot, the original structure rose five stories and provided prime retail and commercial space. An historic photograph shows the ground floor to be occupied by F. W. Woolworth Company. Today the ground floor serves a retail establishment while much of the upper space appears to be unused.

In 1910 Caples announced plans to construct a second building designed by Trost, known as the Posenor Building. The entire multi-storied building was leased to Max Posenor who operated a millinery business from it. The only remains of this structure, which was located diagonally across from the existing Caples Building, are historic photographs; the structure was razed in 1941.

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 9. Richard Caples Building

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Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 24, Lot 109
109.80' on San Antonio x 119.17' on Mesa

Acreage:

Less than one

UTM Reference:

13/3514379/359243

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 10. Abdou Building

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Name: Abdou Building
Address: 115 North Mesa Street
Owner: Sam N. Abdou, Jr.
111 North Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79901

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Architect/Builder: | Trost and Trost | Style: | Early 20th century skyscraper |
| Date: | 1909, ca. 1910 | | with modernistic detailing |
| Original Use: | Bank; Commercial/Retail | Present Use: | Commercial/Retail |

Physical Description:

Constructed in 1909 as the Rio Grande Valley Bank Building, the Abdou Building, as it is known today, rises seven stories above the southwest corner of Texas Avenue and Mesa Street. With no two sides parallel on its quadrilateral site, the structure is a direct expression of reinforced concrete with aesthetic substance derived from the structural composition. The structure originally consisted of a two story arcaded base with a simple string course separating the first and second floors. The base is terminated with an unadorned cornice above which rises a five story tower. Three part windows reflecting the Chicago influence pierce the tower walls on the third through sixth levels with pairs of one-over-one windows within each bay on the seventh level. A broadly projecting concave cornice terminates the building. Simple geometric ornament accentuates the second and separates the sixth and seventh levels. Approximately one year after completion, two additional two story arched bays were added to the Texas Avenue facade. With proportions and materials accurately reproduced, this addition insured air and light access to the west facade of the tower. Although some changes have occurred to the base of the structure, most notably the arches have been infilled with dark reflective glass, the changes appear to be readily reversible with the overall character and structural integrity of the building intact.

Statement of Significance:

The Abdou building, with its stark appearance, exhibits the structural and decorative capabilities of reinforced concrete, a medium explored by Trost in the early 20th century. Established in 1905, the Rio Grande Valley Bank operated from a building known as the Buckler Building. Within four years however, the need for additional space to house the bank's increasing activities became apparent. Trost and Trost received the commission to design the structure. Originally to consist of six stories with a completion date of January, 1910, the construction was extended to March of that year to allow for a seven story building. The ground floor of the exterior and the interior of the bank lobby were adorned extensively with marble and the bank was furnished with high quality fixtures. This bank, along with many others, defaulted in the early part of the century.

In 1925, the building was purchased by Sam Abdou, a prominent El Paso businessman who was actively involved in many philanthropic and civic affairs. Under his ownership, the building was leased to the American Trust and Savings Bank, of which he was director. Although this bank defaulted during the depression, Abdou remained at his post and personally saw that depositors were reimbursed for the funds that they had deposited. After the bank closed, a number of retail establishments operated from the ground floor of the building while a variety of businesses leased space above. In 1955 the Zales company leased the basement and first two floors of the building and has remained there since.

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 10. Abdou Building

Continuation sheet 17

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Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 5 1/2, Lot 204
47 1/2' on Texas Avenue x 862.3' on Mesa
Less than one
13/3514435/359190

Acreage:

UTM References:

**United States Department of the Interior
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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 11. Roberts-Banner Building

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Name: Roberts-Banner Building
Address: 215 North Mesa Street
Owner: Mr. Macario Perez, Jr.
Roberts-Banner Building
215 North Mesa Street
El Paso, Texas, 79901

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Architect/Builder: | Trost and Trost | Style: | Early 20th century comm - |
| Date: | 1910 | | ercial; stylized decoration |
| Original Use: | Commercial/Office | Present Use: | Same |

Physical Description:

One of Trost's early experiments with the use of reinforced concrete is the Roberts-Banner Building on North Mesa. This five story commercial/office structure has a four story, U-shaped office tower rising above the rectangular first story retail base. The concrete is exposed and the ornamentation is limited to string courses, simplified plant motifs in the recessed spandrels, stylized geometric forms above the fifth floor, a crowning cornice, and escutcheons at the bases of the two flagpoles on the Mills Street facade. Windows are one-over-one light, with those of the seventh floor triangularly headed. The first floor, street level facades have been substantially altered visually, but these alterations appear to be largely cosmetic.

Statement of Significance:

The Roberts-Banner Building is significant as one of the first reinforced concrete structures in the United States. Referred to as a "skyscraper" in the El Paso Herald of 1910, the building's exposed concrete facades are surprisingly bold and direct for such a date. Claimed to be the largest office building in El Paso at the time of completion, it is also thought to be the first constructed entirely of reinforced concrete. Revealing an acceptance of the nature of the material in the simple character, the Roberts-Banner Building is in ways reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's early works in reinforced concrete. D. M. Roberts and W. M. Banner, "prominent New Mexico stock raisers" according to newspaper reports, commissioned the structure.

Geographical Data:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Verbal Boundary Description: | Mills Survey, Block 5, Lot 27 80' on North Mesa x 95' on Mills |
| Acreage: | Less than one |
| UTM Reference: | 13/3514517/359133 |

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 14. W. S. Hills Commercial Structure

Continuation sheet 21

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Name: W. S. Hills Commercial Structure
Address: 215-19 San Antonio Avenue
Owner: Coles Brothers Agents
P. O. Box 126
El Paso, Texas, 79901

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost Style: Second Renaissance Revival
Date: 1927
Original Use: Commercial Present Use: Same

Physical Description:

The commercial structure located in the 200 block of San Antonio Avenue is a fine example of the Second Renaissance Revival influence applied to early 20th century commercial architecture. The two story building fronts on both Texas Avenue and San Antonio. Each facade is divided into five bays by pilasters that rise two floors to support a prominent entablature and parapet. This classical framework is executed in blocks of marble, sharply scored to give a three dimensional richness, with other details executed with painted, galvanized iron. The second floor bays are infilled with the original three part windows while the ground floor has been modernized with contemporary display windows, signage, and awnings. Despite the severe disruption created by the cosmetic alterations, the original classical framework appears to be intact.

Statement of Significance:

Known locally as the W. S. Hills Building, the classical revival commercial structure was commissioned in 1926 by Mrs. Hills in memory of her husband. Longtime residents of the city, the Hills are noted as making significant contributions to both the financial and commercial development as well as the cultural expansion of El Paso.

Mr. Hill, educated in law at Harvard, arrived from St. Louis in 1879 to investigate the real estate holdings of a St. Louis firm which had indirectly come into possession of land in the area. Immediately recognizing the potential for growth and development, he established himself as a realtor and constructed the first two story building in the settlement of adobe structures. This new building served as both a residence and office and existed on the site of the current Hills building. Mrs. Hills arrived three years later with their son. Well-educated and travelled, Mrs. Hills made a cultural impact on the community with her developed artistic and aesthetic capabilities. Mr. Hills died at the turn of the century and Mrs. Hills later moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. She did, however engage the firm of Trost and Trost to design the two story structure to be built on the site of the original one in memory of her husband. The structure, still occupied for commercial use, is owned by the Coles family, relatives of Mrs. Hills.

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 14. W. S. Hills Commercial Structure

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Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 5 1/2, Lot 29
101.82' on San Antonio extending to Texas
beginning 108.29' east of SWC

Acreage:

Less than one

UTM References:

13/3514401/359175

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 15. State National Bank

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Name: State National Bank
Address: 114 East San Antonio Avenue
Owner: Home Mortgage Company of El Paso
William G. Sullivan, President
114 East San Antonio Avenue
El Paso, Texas, 79901

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: 1922
Original Use: Bank

Style: Second Renaissance Revival
Present Use : Mortgage Company, Main
Office

Physical Description:

With structural and decorative elements cut sharply into taut ashlar walls of granite and terra cotta, the State National Bank is an outstanding example of the Second Renaissance Revival formal classicism. When completed in 1922, the elegantly proportioned two story structure with basement read as one story with handsome Renaissance details skillfully incorporated into the rigidly symmetrical design. The north facade was composed of a series of two story arched openings infilled with multipaned windows and decorative grillwork while the east facade featured a prominent two story, arched entrance accentuated with scroll keystone and stepped parapet featuring an elaborate cartouche. This entrance was flanked by pedimented windows and classical molding details. Applied decoration included subtle string coursing, cartouches, and floralform motifs. A prominent cornice defined with broadly projecting dentils supported a parapet inset with sections of turned balusters. In 1942 and again in 1948 the bank was enlarged. Although the former symmetry was altered, the additions on both facades were executed with a sensitivity for the existing building and design elements and materials were duplicated.

Statement of Significance:

Exemplifying the Second Renaissance Revival style with detailed precision, the State National Bank building bespeaks the skills of Trost eloquently. The structure represents not only the prominence of Trost as a major influence on the physical appearance of the city, but also the presence of the State National Bank as an important financial base throughout the growth and development of El Paso.

Founded in March, 1881 the bank's directors and officers consisted of a group of determined and capable men, which included O. T. Bassett, Joseph Magoffin, and C. R. Morehead. Operating from a brick building located on the site of the present one, the directors had a great influence on the affairs of the town through the bank. At the same time, Magoffin served as mayor for two consecutive terms at the turn of the century. While the bank earned a reputation of being financially sound, the original directors were content with small scale operations. It was not until the so-called "old guard" was replaced with such men as Charles N. Bassett, George Flory, and other more progressive capitalists that the bank began to expand.

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Statement of Significance, continued:

In October, 1920, Trost produced plans for a larger structure to replace the existing one. Construction began in March, 1921, at which time the bank was forced to relocate temporarily at San Francisco and South El Paso Streets. The impressive structure was exhibited in opening ceremonies on June 28, 1922. Steel girders used to support the roof eliminated the need for interior columns and the interior was one lofty room. The space was finished with rich materials and details and sumptuously furnished. Completed at a cost of \$250,000, it featured the latest in technological developments. However, ten years later, the facility was outgrown and the bank rented the adjoining western property. In 1942 this space which by that time had been purchased, was incorporated permanently into the structure as an annex. The design, materials, and craftsmanship established a continuity between the two. Six years later, in 1948, the bank expanded again, this time to the south, to provide senior officers' quarters, a board room, a coffee room, and a larger mail room.

After standing vacant for seven years, the building was purchased by the Home Mortgage Company and restored. The company was able to convert the building to serve its needs with no major structural alterations. Sensitive to the intrinsic beauty of the structure as well as its architectural significance, the classical interior detailing was restored, and contemporary, low-key furnishings were used to compliment it. The original Trost drawings of ink on linen are framed and displayed throughout the offices.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 14, Lot 77

72' on San Antonio x 130' on Oregon, plus 50'

on San Antonio x 120', plus 17' on Oregon x 70'

Less than one

13/3514342/359107

Acreage:

UTM Reference:

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 16. Plaza Hotel

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date entered SEP 24 1980

Name: Plaza Hotel
Address: Oregon and Mills Street
Owner: Mr. Mike Dipp, Jr.
P. O. Box 55
El Paso, Texas, 79940

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: 1930
Original Use: Hotel/Commercial
Style: Art Deco
Present Use: Same

Physical Description:

The Plaza Hotel, located at Mills and Oregon Streets, is composed of a two story trapezoidal plan block attached to a rectangular fifteen story hotel tower topped by a smaller three story central block. Construction is of brick and concrete. Decoration on the first two floor facades, extending around the entire building, consists of simplified pilasters, stylized geometric Art Deco spandrels, and polychromatic roundels. A simple cornice crowns the two story portion. Contrast is achieved with the use of red brick for the tower, and light cast concrete embellishment of fluted vertical and horizontal bands. An increased use of ornament is found on the uppermost three story portion, with concrete stylized geometric spandrels and banding. The tower is roofed with green terra cotta tile. Alterations to the exterior are minimal, and primarily on the street level.

Statement of Significance:

Built for Conrad Hilton as the El Paso Hilton Hotel, the present Plaza Hotel is significant as one of El Paso's early high-rise structures from the office of Trost and Trost. The style is Art Deco, and the exterior remains largely unaltered from its original form. Hilton, born in San Antonio, New Mexico in 1887, rose to international recognition as founder of one of the world's most successful hotel chains. Emerging from the service as a WW I Army officer, young Hilton purchased the town hotel in Cisco, a west Texas oil boom town. From that modest start, he built a chain of hotels around the world that fifty years later boasted 188 Hiltons in 38 U. S. cities and 54 cities abroad.

The El Paso Hilton was the eighth hotel opened by Hilton. City directories indicate that Hilton resided in the hotel during the 1930's. Though he did not reside permanently in the city, he had many lifelong friends there and was a generous contributor to various civic and charitable projects over the years. His mother lived in the hotel until 1947 and he visited the city frequently until 1963 when the hotel was sold and the name changed.

Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description: Mills, Survey, Block 5, Lot 28
Acreage: Less than one
UTM Reference: 13/3514441/359059

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received **APR 2 1980**date entered **SEP 24 1980**INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 17. O.T. Bassett Tower

Continuation sheet 26

Item number 7

Page 26

Name: O.T. Bassett Tower
Address: 301 Texas Avenue
Owner: Bassett Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 179
El Paso, TX 79942

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Architect/Builder: | Trost and Trost | Style: | Stepped skyscraper; Modern- |
| Date: | 1930 | | istic, Art Deco detailing |
| Original Use: | Commercial/Office | Present Use: | Same |

Physical Description:

At one time the tallest building in El Paso, the O.T. Bassett Tower rises fifteen stories with a strong vertical thrust in the setback skyscraper form which prevailed during the Modernistic development of the early 20th century. Ornamentation is selectively applied to the ground and upper levels with structural delineations establishing the prominent verticality. Unadorned brick piers rise the full height of the structure with fenestration piercing the recessed vertical planes between the piers. The spandrel bricks are manipulated to create a fluted effect in shallow relief. Terra cotta, art stone, marble, and granite ornamentation applied to the first and uppermost floors offset the unadorned austerity of the structure. An elaborate entrance detailed with Art Deco design elements is the focal point of the southeast facade of the ground floor. Included in this composition are facial representations, one of which is believed to be a likeness of Trost himself. The upper floors are detailed with predominantly rectilinear geometric elements. The piers of the uppermost floor are terminated with eagle busts and the tower is topped with a steep pitch pyramidal roof.

Statement of Significance:

O.T. Bassett Tower, a monumental example of early 20th century skyscraper construction and one of Trost's most noteworthy structures, was built by Charles N. Bassett in memory of his father, O.T. The pair represent a primary force in the early development of El Paso and also a lengthy term of professional prominence and community service. O.T. first came to El Paso in February, 1880 via Overland Stage with his friend Charles Morehead to purchase land for the Texas and Pacific Railroad. After purchasing 600 acres, Bassett returned home to his wife in Indiana who died later that same year following the birth of their son, Charles.

In February, 1881 Bassett and Morehead returned to El Paso and immediately organized the State National Bank with Morehead as president and Bassett a major stockholder. Bassett set up shop for a lumber business at the corner of Mills and Stanton Streets and when the first train arrived in May of that year bringing California redwood, he was in business. As the burgeoning city grew, Bassett supplied the materials necessary for building. Interested in establishing order to the lawless frontier town, Bassett was diligently active in civic affairs. He was involved in establishing the first school district in 1882 and afterwards named president of the school board. He also served the city as councilman.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 17. O. T. Bassett Tower

Continuation sheet 27

Item number 7

Page 27

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received APR 2 1980

date entered SEP 24 1980

Statement of Significance, continued:

During this time, Charles remained with relatives in Indiana where he was educated, although he visited El Paso regularly. Charles moved to El Paso in 1898 following his father's death to continue the lumberyard operations. In 1908 he was appointed vice president of State National Bank and in 1921, president, a position he held until 1944 when he became chairman of the board. Throughout his long and distinguished career with the bank, he maintained other interests in real estate, ranching, and lumber, and continued to serve the needs of the community in the manner established by his father. Though Charles died in 1944, the Bassett name is still prominent to El Pasoans who have recently opened a modern shopping center known as Bassett center.

Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 11, Lot 60
130' on Stanton x 160.73' on Texas

Acreage:

Less than one

UTM Reference:

13/3514532/359280

Property

Commercial Structures of El Paso
by Henry C. Frost Thematic Resources

80004111

80004108

80004115

State

TX - El Paso

Working Number

4-2-80 1070

TECHNICAL

(Cover) CONTROL

Photos 36Maps 5

HISTORIAN

Basically a well-done nomination. For the most part the buildings are nicely executed examples of various architectural styles, designed by the city's leading architect during the early decades of the 20th C. & have questions or reservations about Bldgs 1, 3, 4, 12, 13, and 17, however - an attached sheet

Grosvonts
6/2/80

for specifics. Call about these 6 buildings - the rest can be accepted.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

See comments attached

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept: #1-3, 5-11, 14-17

Reject: #4, 12, 13

Grosvonts
9/23/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back _____

Entered SEP 24 1980

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Re-submit _____

80004104
80004105
80004100
80004101
80004109
80004110
80004102
80004112
80004113
80004109

Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost Thematic Resources
El Paso Co. TX

1. Popular Department Store - while there is no explicit statement of significance on the continuation sheet, ~~it~~^{it} appears in #7 of the cover nomination. The problem here is that a portion of the building has been ~~ex~~ excluded.
3. White House Department Store - a portion of the building has been excluded.
- ✓ 4. El Paso International Building - although the influences of the Chicago School and Sullivanesque styles are still in evidence, the visual impact of the building is strikingly different from the original. I'd like to see an architectural historians comments about its integrity. Since there are several other examples of Trost's Chicago School buildings, all ~~of which are~~^{but one} more intact, I have my doubts.
- ✓ 12. Columbia Furniture - no statement of significance. #8, p. 1 states that "Even ... [this] modest commercial building ... reflects the influences of the Chicago Commercial style." - very weak. Considering the much better Chicago buildings included, this would not seem to qualify with the present information.
- ✓ 13. Union Bank and Trust - another integrity problem. This is the only Neo-Classical Revival building in the lot, but most of the features illustrating that style are gone. Architectural historian?
17. O.T. Bassett Tower - I can't tell if only the tower is nominated, or also all or part of the remainder of the block (see historic photo). I will call for more specific info.

Groover
6/2/80

- # 4. Truly a travesty! Comparison a historic photo shows that by streamlining the windows and stripping all details from brick arcade, then ~~reconstructing~~^{reconstructing} the building's original effect. Modern line materials are highly incompatible with retained ornamental gables and cornices. Refect.
- # 12. Certainly a second-rate building by Trost + Trost, lacking in distinctive qualities or sophisticated design characteristic of other work - Not individually eligible.
- # 13. This one is difficult ~ because the building is unique and does retain its identity above street level. I guess one should find out more exactly what exists, original entrance, and how reversible changes are and likelihood of restoration.
- Jeffert
6/14/80

Grosvenor
11/4/80
NOV 21 1980

Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Latimer:

After careful consideration, we are returning your nominations for the El Paso International Building, Columbia Furniture, and Union Bank and Trust, all of which were included in the Thematic Resources nomination for the Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost, El Paso County, Texas. Although the influences of the Chicago School and Sullivanesque styles can still be seen in the El Paso International Building, the substantial remodelling replaced a high percentage of the building's exterior materials, thereby dramatically altering its historical appearance. Columbia Furniture is an extremely modest building lacking the distinctive design qualities characteristic of other Trost buildings in El Paso. Neither building appears to meet National Register criteria within the context of much better examples of this style by Trost. The integrity of the Union Bank and Trust has been severely compromised by the removal of the original entrance and other alterations, and it does not appear to merit individual listing in the National Register.

We will be happy to discuss these decisions with you if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sgd.).

for Jerry L. Rogers
Acting Keeper of the National
Register

Enclosure

bcc:NR

FHR:B Grosvenor:lw:343-6401:11-4-80

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR



United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20243

IN REPLY REFER TO: 436

Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NOV 21 1980

RECEIVED
NOV 25 1980

Dear Mr. Latimer:

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

After careful consideration, we are returning your nominations for the El Paso International Building, Columbia Furniture, and Union Bank and Trust, all of which were included in the Thematic Resources nomination for the Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost, El Paso County, Texas. Although the influences of the Chicago School and Sullivanese styles can still be seen in the El Paso International Building, the substantial remodeling replaced a high percentage of the building's exterior materials, thereby dramatically altering its historical appearance. Columbia Furniture is an extremely modest building lacking the distinctive design qualities characteristic of other Trost buildings in El Paso. Neither building appears to meet National Register criteria within the context of much better examples of this style by Trost. The integrity of the Union Bank and Trust has been severely compromised by the removal of the original entrance and other alterations, and it does not appear to merit individual listing in the National Register.

We will be happy to discuss these decisions with you if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Rogers
Acting Keeper of the National
Register

Enclosure

THE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE DEC 16 1980

DATE RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

DATE NOTE

DATE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received APR 2 1980
date entered

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 4. El Paso International Building

Continuation sheet 7

Item number 7

Page 7

Name: El Paso International Building
Address: 125 North Stanton
Owner: El Paso Natural Gas Company
El Paso Natural Gas Company Building
304 Texas Avenue
El Paso, Texas, 79901

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Architect/Builder: | Trost and Trost | Style: | Early 20th Century Commercial |
| Date: | 1922 | | with Chicago School/Sullivan- |
| Original Use: | Commercial/Office | | esque influences |
| Present Use: | Same | | |

Physical Description

Occupying the southwest corner of the intersection of Texas and Stanton, the El Paso International Building rises eight stories. Although the facades have undergone substantial modernization, sufficient historic lines and embellishment remain to allow the structure to be identified as the work of Trost. Pilasters divide the building into vertical bays, six facing Stanton, and nine facing Texas. Now sheathed in brick and coarse aggregate, the pilasters rise from ground to cornice. The first floor exhibits modern storefronts while the second level is infilled with fixed glass revealed within arched openings and partially obscured behind a balustrade of modern components. This base is separated from the shaft (floor three through eight) by broad insets of three-dimensional foliated ornamentation which span the full width of the bays. The upper floors feature fixed panels of smoked glass in an A-B-A pattern, reminiscent of the Chicago window, with spandrels defined by darker glass. The unaltered cornice is a splendid example of the broadly projecting Sullivan-esque prototype. Ornamented with alternating medallions and swags and stepping out with three-dimensional dentils, egg and dart motifs, and brackets, the cornice authoritatively terminates the verticality of the structure.

Statement of Significance:

Completed in 1922, the El Paso International Building has served as a strengthening factor in the downtown area, both commercially and visually. The handsomely detailed structure was commissioned to house the Two Republics Life Insurance Company of El Paso.

At the time of construction, development along Texas Avenue was slow and local businessmen felt that the erection of this large, imposing structure would encourage growth in that direction. At this same time, other local businesses were announcing plans to construct large buildings in the area. The El Paso International Building was designed in the trip-artite Chicago School format and displays elegant classical decorative details which appear to be cast in panels and applied to the exterior surface.

The Mississippi Valley Life Insurance Company purchased the business in the late 1920's and moved its headquarters to St. Louis. However, in 1931 a wealthy Dallas businessman with numerous El Paso interests purchased the structure for \$490,000 and invested \$25,000 in repairs with the intention of keeping operations within the building local. A variety of businesses have occupied the structure including the El Paso National Bank, numerous professional firms, and retail establishments. In 1962 the El Paso National Bank moved to its present twenty-three story tower and the International Building was modernized with contemporary building materials. Though quite obvious, the alterations appear to be non-structural and retain sufficient historical lines and materials to allow identification as a Trost building.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 4. El Paso International Building
Continuation sheet 8 Item number 7

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date entered

Page 8

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Mills Survey, Block 12, Lot 65
86.667' on Stanton x 120' on Texas
Acreage: Less than one
UTM Reference: 13/3514498/359270



El Paso International Bldg, El Paso, Texas - Henry Trost, arch.



El Paso International Bldg - Henry Trost, El Paso

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 12. Columbia Furniture

Continuation sheet 19

Item number 7

Page 19

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received APR 2 1980
date entered

Name: Columbia Furniture
Address: 216 E. Overland
Owner: Columbia Realty Company
216 East Overland
El Paso, Texas, 79901

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: 1917
Original Use: Commercial/Retail; Hotel
Style: Early 20th century commercial
Present Use: Commercial/Retail

Physical Description:

Columbia Furniture building, located at the corner of Overland and Mesa, is a three story rectangular structure with basement designed in a simple commercial style popular during the early decades of the 20th century. The ground floor is composed of large square columns which define bays infilled with storefront and transome-type windows. Above a broad band of string coursing rise two floors constructed of brown brick and pierced with one-over-one light windows grouped in pairs, triplets, and quads. Minimal surface enrichment in the form of simplified pilasters, geometric elements, and dentils accentuates this area. A prominent cornice of galvanized iron, painted white, supports a simple parapet. The street facades have undergone some degree of modernization although it appears to be non-structural and reversible. Originally the interior afforded retail space in the basement and first floor, which also featured a mezzanine level. The second and third floors, illuminated with a central light well, were subdivided into rooms for overnight accommodations, many with individual baths. The present condition of the interior is unknown.

Statement of Significance:

Henry Trost presented I. and L. Laskin with a set of plans in January, 1917 for the construction of a building to house their retail establishment, the Globe Emporium. Although little information is available about this early establishment, the floorplans indicate that it was housed in the basement and first floor of the building, which appear as large, open spaces.

On the contrary, the second and third floors are subdivided into small rooms suited for overnight lodging. The facility was operated for many years as the Hotel Lenox. Currently the ground floor is operated as Columbia Furniture while the upper floors appear to be unused for anything other than storage.

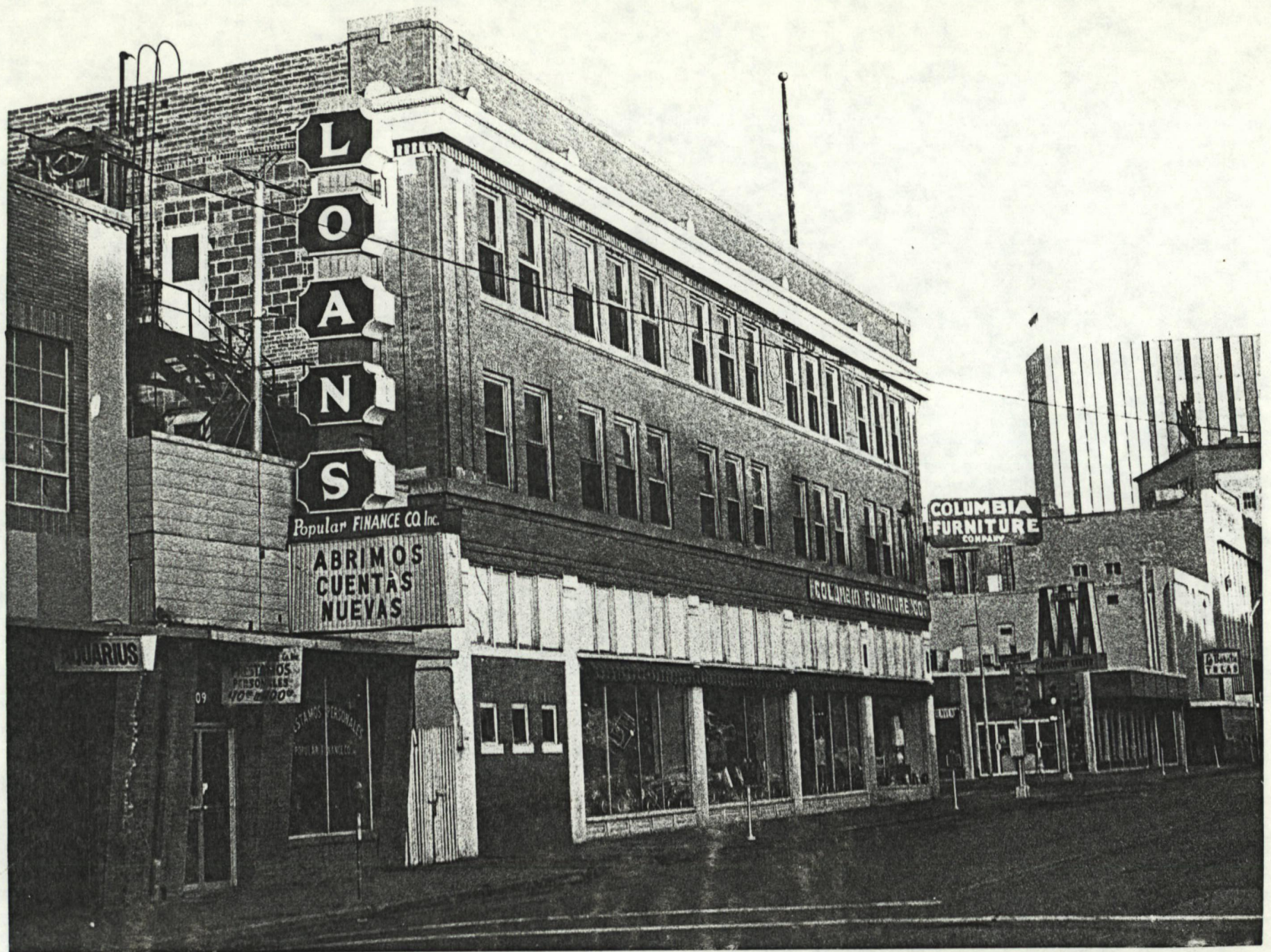
Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mills Survey, Block 35, Lot 167
76' on Overland x 108.5' on Mesa, excluding 16'
x 21.8333 in rear
Less than one
13/3514279/359231

Acreage:

UTM Reference:



Columbia Furniture Company, El Paso, Texas - Henry Trost, arch.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received APR 2 1980

date entered

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 13. Union Bank and Trust

Continuation sheet 20

Item number 7

Page 20

Name: Union Bank and Trust
Address: 104-06 San Antonio
Owner: Omega Realty Company
P.O. Box 1826
El Paso, Texas, 79949

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: ca. 1912
Original Use: Bank

Style: Classical Revival
Present Use: Commercial/Retail

Physical Description:

Union Bank and Trust Building is a four story attached structure with a street facade facing San Antonio Street and an alley facade on the northeast. Bands of windows punctuate the alley facade of the simple brick form with the Classical Revival decorative treatment executed in sandstone and concentrated on the main facade. At the time of completion, this facade featured a single bay which stepped forward slightly as the focal point. A pair of massive brick piers reinforced with a pair of fluted Ionic columns rose three stories to support an elaborate entablature which included the name of the structure and a prominent dentilled cornice. The bank entrance was centered in the recess between the columns and accentuated with a vigorous application of classical details. From the cornice rose a band of four windows accentuated with brickwork and terminated with a lesser cornice and balustraded parapet. Today the columns are removed and the street facade has been altered. The original entrance has been removed and the recess brought out to the plane of the piers. While the alterations to the street facade are extensive and some even structural, the upper portion of the building is intact and retains the Classical Revival detailing of the original Trost design.

Statement of Significance:

Incorporated under the State Banking Laws in April, 1911 with \$150,000 of paid in capital, the Union Bank and Trust Company first began operations from the American National Bank Building. Though designed by Trost, this building, located across San Antonio Avenue from the nominated one, has been severely and irreversibly altered. The bank was staffed and directed by pioneer merchants of El Paso which included Adolph Schwartz, partner in the Popular Dry Goods Store. These men were active in numerous business and civic affairs throughout the city. E. Moye, president, served as president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1906 and second vice president in 1911. Around 1912 the bank moved across the street to its new headquarters where it operated for only a few years before defaulting. Since that time the building has been adapted for commercial and retail use.

Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:
Acreage:
UTM Reference:

Mills Survey, Block 14, Eastern portion Lot 78
Less than one
13/3514345/359060



Union Bank, El Paso, Texas - Henry Trost, arch.





Union Bank - Henry Trost, El Paso

Post Initial Nomination Entries

See individual property file within Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost TR for any entries completed after the original nomination.

Property Name
Mills Building

County, State
El Paso, Texas

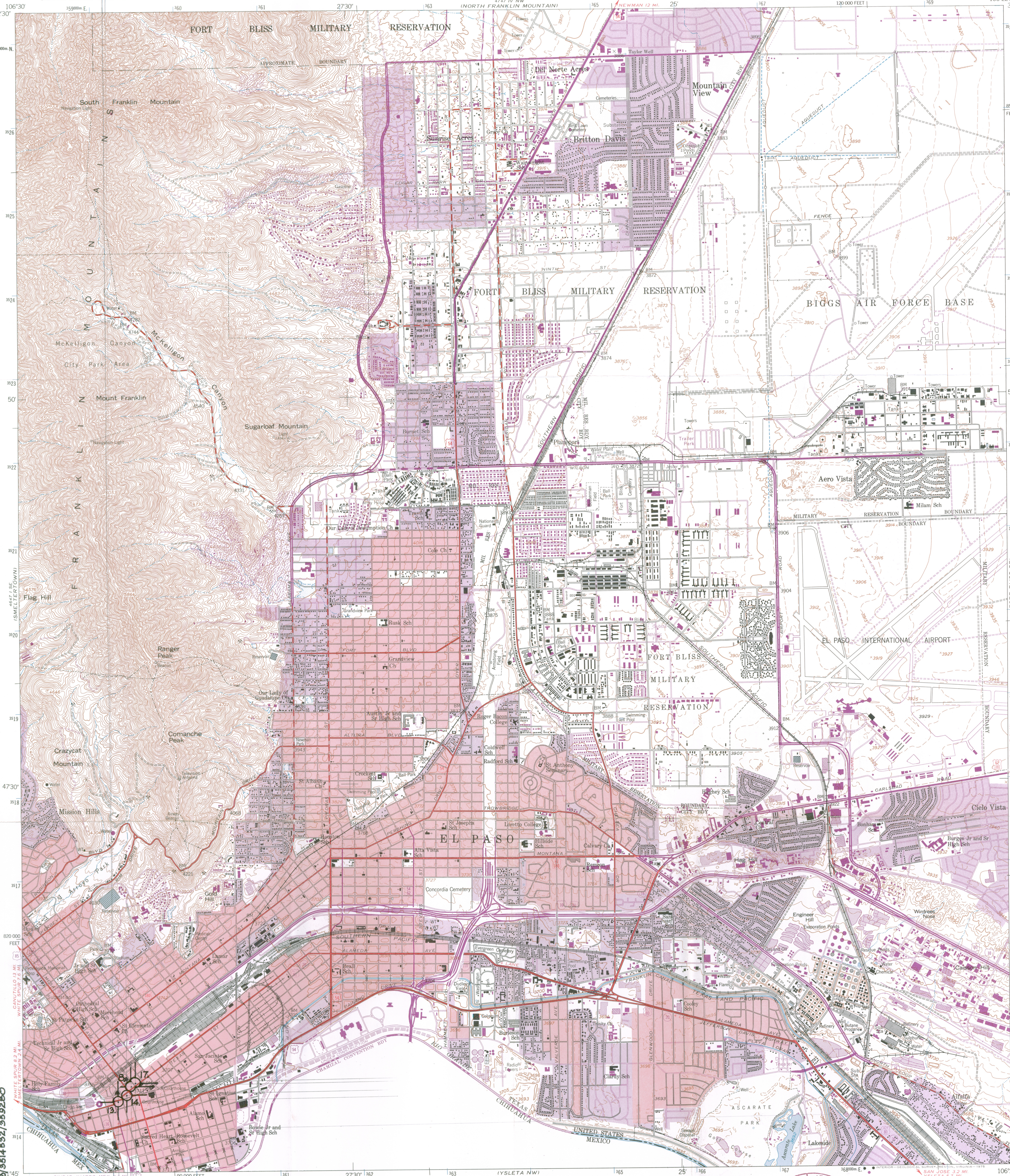
Reference Number
11000130

HENRY C. TROST COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES THEMATIC NOMINATION
EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE POINTS: 8) 13/3514518/359297
13) 13/3514545/359060
17) 13/3514532/359280

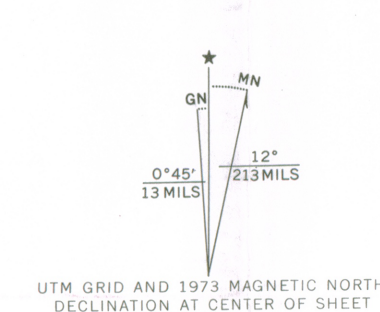
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

EL PASO QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-EL PASO CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 PORT BLISS 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Photography field annotated 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial
photographs taken 1967 and 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5 AND 10-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route
EL PASO, TEX.
N3145-W10622.5/7.5
1955
PHOTOREVISED 1967 AND 1973
AMS 4747 IV SW-SERIES V82

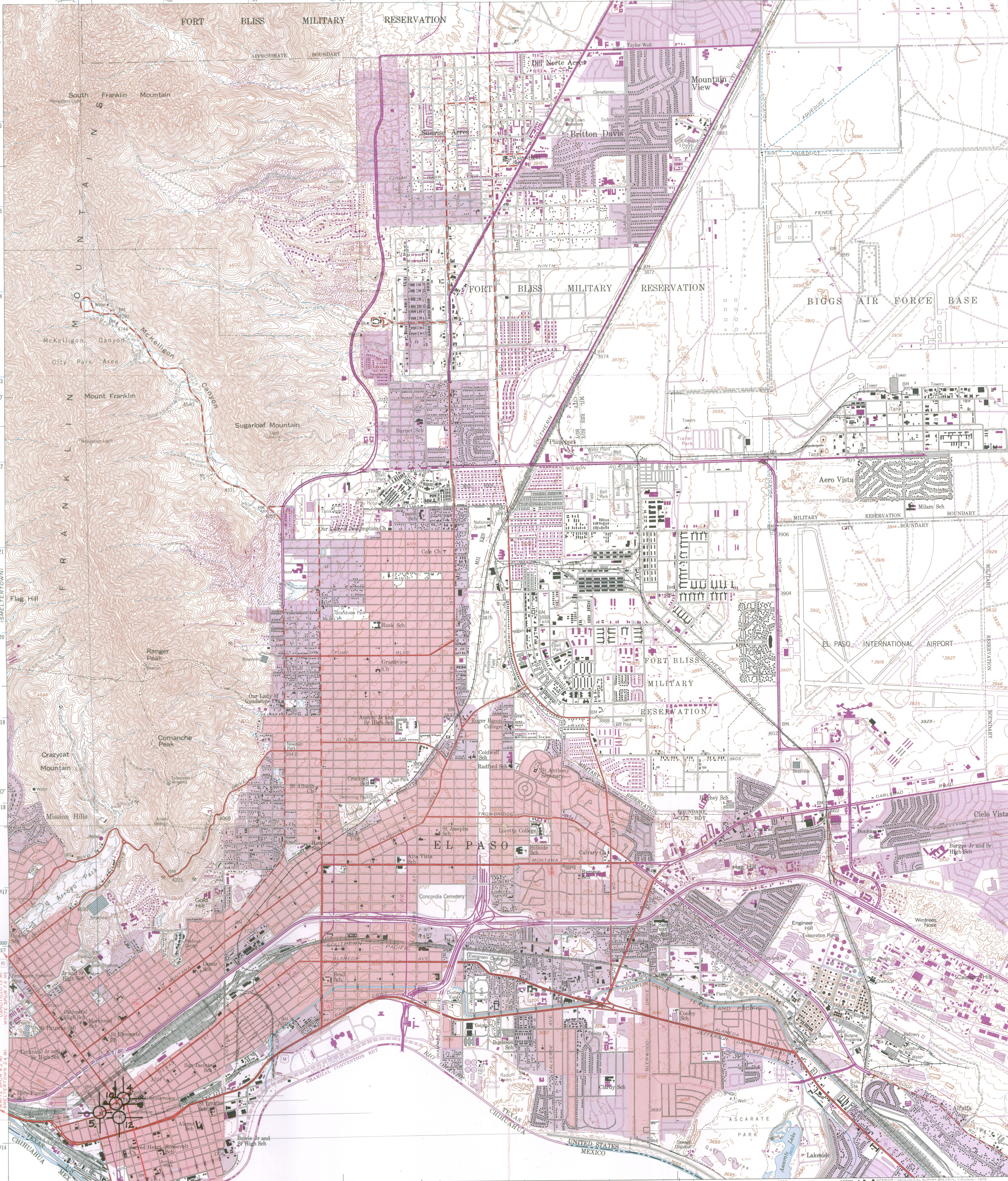
3106-432

HENRY C. TROST COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES THEMATIC NOMINATION
EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE POINTS:
4.) 13/3514438/369270
12.) 13/3514435/359190
5.) 13/3514332/359000
12.) 13/3514279/359231

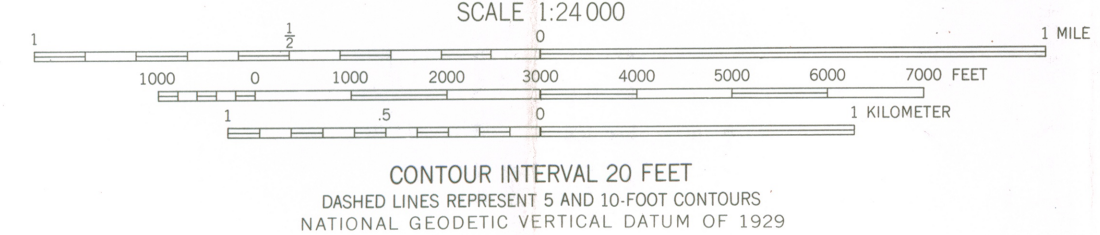
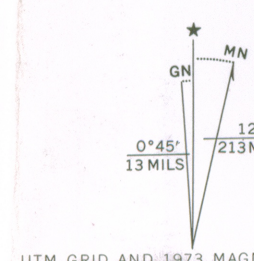
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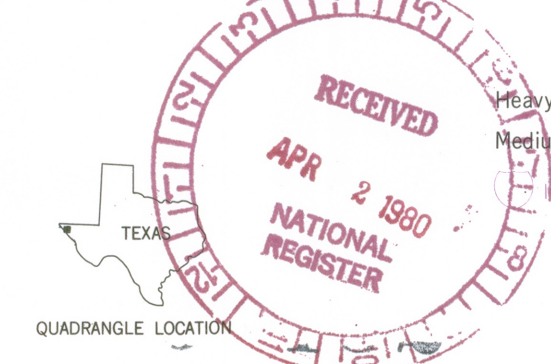
EL PASO QUADRANGLE
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7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 FORT BLISS 15' QUADRANGLE



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Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Photography field annotated 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue
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Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt —————
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

EL PASO, TEX.
N3145-W10622.5/7.5
1955
PHOTOREVISED 1967 AND 1973
AMS 4747 IV SW-SERIES V882

3106-432

CONTINUED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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EL PASO QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-EL PASO CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 FORT BLISS 15' QUADRANGLE

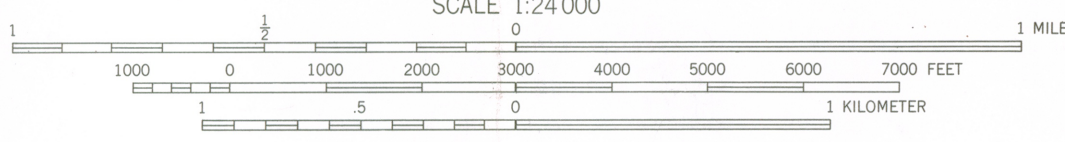
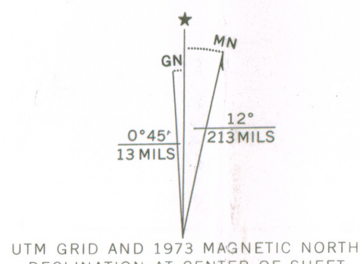
474 IV NE
FORT BLISS NE

HENRY C. TRIST COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES THEMATIC NOMINATION
EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES POINTS
7.) 13/354280/359010 6.) 13/3514580/359139
16.) 15/3514441/359069 2.) 13/3514557/359228

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Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Photography field annotated 1955

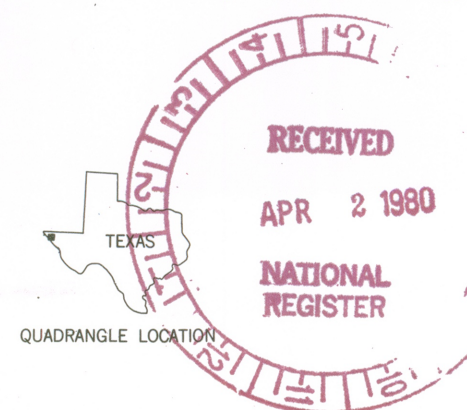
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
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CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5 AND 10-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1929

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Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

EL PASO, TEX.

N3145-W10622.5/7.5

1955
PHOTOREVISED 1967 AND 1973
AMS 4747 IV SW-SERIES V882

3106-432

474 IV NE
FORT BLISS NE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

EL PASO QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-EL PASO CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 PORT BLISS 15' QUADRANGLE

4747 IV NE
PORT BLISS NE

HENRY C. TROST COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES THEMATIC NOMINATION
EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE POINTS: 15, 13/3514342/359107
9, 13/3514379/359243 11, 13/3514517/359133
1, 13/3514430/359243 3, 13/3514476/359016

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Photography field annotated 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial
photographs taken 1967 and 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

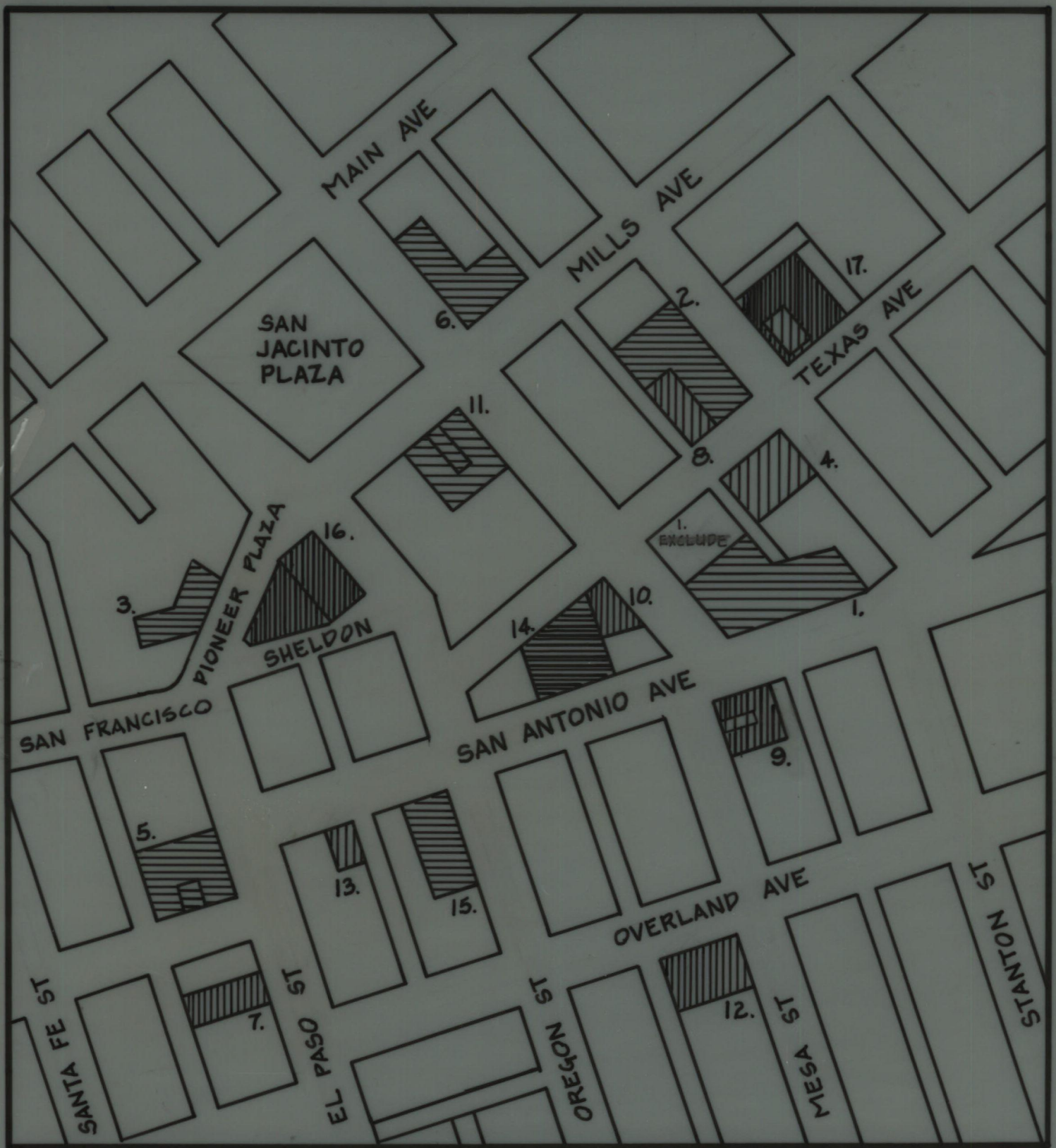
UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5 AND 10-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route
EL PASO, TEX.
N3145-W10622.5/7.5
1955
PHOTOREVISED 1967 AND 1973
AMS 4747 IV SW-SERIES V862

3106-432

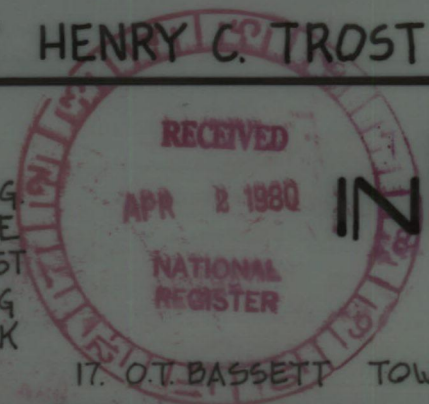


COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES OF EL PASO BY HENRY C. TROST

1. POPULAR DEPARTMENT STORE
2. J.J. NEWBERRY COMPANY
3. WHITE HOUSE DEPARTMENT STORE
4. EL PASO INTERNATIONAL BLDG.
5. HOTEL PASO DEL NORTE
6. HOTEL CORTEZ
7. PALACE THEATER
8. SINGER SEWING COMPANY

9. CAPLES BUILDING
10. ABDOL BUILDING
11. ROBERTS-BANNER BLDG.
12. COLUMBIA FURNITURE
13. UNION BANK AND TRUST
14. COMMERCIAL BUILDING
15. STATE NATIONAL BANK
16. PLAZA HOTEL

17. O.T. BASSETT TOWER



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE 8/5/80

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Lissa Anderson
Linda Hays

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

TX 562-475-3094

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trust Historic Resource

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

They didn't have much to contribute in defense of buildings #4, 12, and 13. The staff was unsure of these as well, but since the Review Board passed it, they decided to pass it on to us to review. They have no problems with us omitting these from the nomination (re-jecting them).

#1, Popular Dept. Store - they will send a revised VBD to include the addition

#3, White Ave Dept. Store - The annex is across an alley and only connected by a ground floor walkway; therefore, they feel they are justified in excluding it.

#17, O.T. Bassett Tower - the whole block is included (i.e. the whole bldg).

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

B. Grosvenor

TITLE

Historian

OFFICE

NAME OF PROPERTY Comm. Structures of El Paso by Henry STATE TX
C. Trust Thematic

Date Information Requested/Date Put in "Hold" Drawer: 8/6/80

Date to Be Pulled from "Hold" Drawer: 9/15/80
(30 Days from Date Requested)

Information Requested From: Linda Hays / Lorraine Anderson

Information Requested/Reason Nomination Is Being Held:

revised VBD of Populus Dept. Str.

rec'd: 8/13/80

Groover

Reviewer

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered SEP 24 1980

Name

Location

Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C.
Trost Thematic Resources

El Paso
El Paso County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Richard C. White

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR

Byers/bjr/12/22/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES OF EL PASO BY HENRY C. TROST THEMATIC RESOURCES

El Paso County

Abdou Building, 115 N. Mesa St.
Bassett, O. T., Tower, 301 Texas Ave.
Caples, Richard, Building, 300 E. San Antonio Ave.
Hills, W. S., Commercial Structure, 215-219 San Antonio Ave.
Hotel Cortez, 300 N. Mesa St.
Hotel Paso del Norte, 115 S. El Paso St.

Newberry, J. J., Company, 201-205 N. Stanton St.
Palace Theatre, 209 S. El Paso St.
— Plaza Hotel, Oregon and Mills Sts.
Popular Department Store, 102 N. Mesa St.
Roberts-Banner Building, 215 N. Mesa St.
Singer Sewing Company, 211 Texas Ave.
State National Bank, 114 E. San Antonio Ave.
White House Department Store and Hotel McCoy, 109 Pioneer Plaza

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE

12/9/80

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Linda Flory

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

TX staff 512-475-3894

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry Trust; Thematic

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

She will send a copy of the written documentation for
the 3 properties we rejected.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Grosvener

TITLE

Historian

OFFICE

Nomination form ^{+ photos} ✓ discovered

missing

3/20/85

NO CLUES!

P. Grover