

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM Be US
SA 929

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	TEXAS	
COUNTY:	Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
69-12-42-0015		12/30/69

1. NAME

COMMON:

The United States San Antonio Arsenal

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west,
E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,
CITY OR TOWN: and private property on the north.
San Antonio

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Bexar	029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

United States Government

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

CODE

District of Columbia 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Bexar County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

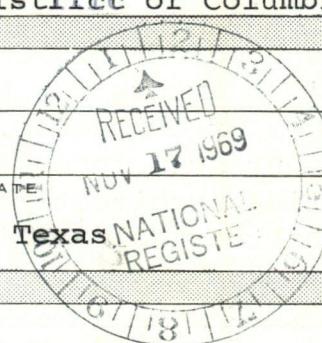
San Antonio

STATE:

CODE

Texas NATIONAL REGISTER

42



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

HABS San Antonio Architectural Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

CODE

District of Columbia 08

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER
FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Arsenal in San Antonio, established in 1859, includes six main buildings: an office building, commanding officers quarters, servants quarters, a stable, a magazine building and a storehouse. These buildings are located on grounds bounded by South Flores Street on the west, East Arsenal Street on the south, the San Antonio River on the east, and private property on the north. South Main Street cuts the arsenal site almost in half with the commanding officer's quarters, servants quarters, office building and storehouse located west of Main Street; whereas, the remaining buildings are located on the eastern half of the arsenal grounds. Before 1859 the Arsenal was located at the southeast corner of West Houston (Rivas) and Soledad Streets where Captain Robert H. K. Whitely had it moved in 1846.

1) The Office Building, begun in 1858 and finished in 1860, was the first building in the Arsenal. It was one of the first permanent United States government buildings in Texas. This simple rectangular structure of local limestone masonry features a corbelled, gable roof and is located next to the commanding officer's quarters facing west toward Flores Street.

2) The Magazine was the second building constructed on the grounds. Its walls were erected as far as the springline of the vault by the beginning of the Civil War. Then Major J. H. Kampman, a local builder and contractor, directed the completion of the building for the Confederate Army. Notable features of the limestone masonry building are the barrel vault construction

which was characteristic of the early arsenal buildings. It was built on the eastern side of the compound between Main Street and the San Antonio River and faces west.

3) The home of Dr. James M. Devine served as the Commanding Officer's Quarters for the Arsenal during its first twenty-four years of existence. The home was replaced (ca. 1883) by the present structure. The house is characteristic of the residential architecture in San Antonio during the 1880's with its Italianate details and floor plans. It faces west toward Flores Street.

4) The Servants' Quarters, just behind the Commanding Officer's Quarters, also was part of the Devine homestead. This building housed Devine's house servants and possibly served as a detached kitchen: it continued to be used as servants quarters after its occupation by the army. It is a simple rectangular shape of limestone masonry with a low-pitched metal covered hip roof and in-swinging casement windows.

5) Although the first Arsenal buildings were erected in 1858-1860, the Stable was not built until ca. 1873. It is a rectan-

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	TEXAS
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-12-42-0015	12/30/69

(Number all entries)

7, (cont'd)

gularly shaped masonry structure with a gable roof. The interior was altered so that wood partitions remain where animal stalls once were. It is situated on the northeast corner of the Arsenal site.

6) The storehouse, built in 1883, was the first permanent storehouse added to the Depot complex. It is a two-story, masonry rectangular structure with a metal-clad hipped roof located next to Arsenal Street. Its longitudinal axis runs east to west.

Numerous out buildings tend to crowd the original buildings. The stable and the magazine are almost completely concealed by the later twentieth century structures.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- losophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Arsenal in San Antonio was an important military post from 1859 until 1949. Congress debated the feasibility of establishing a permanent military installation in San Antonio for many months before Senator Jefferson Davis and others who favored the Texas site secured the San Antonio location. Later Davis got the appropriations for the arsenal increased from \$15,000 to \$21,000. By September of 1859 the State of Texas gave to the military almost sixteen acres which had been purchased from P. H. Bell and G.P. Devine of San Antonio. Additional acreage was acquired in 1881. General David Emanuel Twiggs, veteran of the Mexican War and the War of 1812 and first commander of the Arsenal, assumed command of the Department of Texas for the Army in 1857 and moved his headquarters to the arsenal site at the old homestead of Dr. James M. Devine, former treasurer and mayor of San Antonio, when construction on the Arsenal began in 1858. General Twiggs did not keep his headquarters long but the Devine estate remained the Commanding Officer's headquarters until ca. 1883. For almost three years the Arsenal served principally as a storage depot for ordnance supplies.

At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 Ben McCulloch's state troops forced General Twiggs to surrender all forces and stores under his control: consequently, Twiggs was summarily dismissed from the Union Army although later that same year he was commissioned a major-general in the Confederate Army. The Confederacy used this base to outfit and supply troops in the lower Rio Grande Valley, in the frontier forts, and for the Sibley Brigade which invaded New Mexico in 1862. At this same time two powder mills nearby furnished as much as 80,000 pounds of powder for the arsenal. Leather goods as well as bullets also were manufactured there by civilians under the direction of the Ordnance Detachment of the military. Following the Civil War the Arsenal compound became the chief source of supplies for troops on the Western frontier.

The twenty acre military reservation was continued as a

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HABS, San Antonio Architectural Survey, 1968, John C. Garner, Director

Ramsdell, Charles, San Antonio: A Historical and Pictorial Guide, 1959, p. 116.

Warner, Ezra J., Generals in Gray, 1959, pp. 276, 277.

Webb, Walter P. & H. Bailey Carroll, Handbook of Texas, II, 1952, pp. 541 & 812.

SW 14/548720
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NW 14/548720
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SE 14/549140
3252890

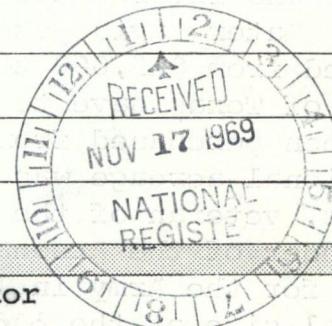
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	O	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 98 ° 29 ' 50 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 29 ° 25 ' 7 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "
NE	98 ° 29 ' 36 "	29 ° 25 ' 7 "			
SE	98 ° 29 ' 36 "	29 ° 24 ' 54 "			
SW	98 ° 29 ' 50 "	29 ° 24 ' 54 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: M. Wayne Bell, Project Director
Larry J. Kennedy, Historian

ORGANIZATION Texas State Historical Survey Committee DATE 11/13/69

STREET AND NUMBER:

108 W. 15th Street,

CITY OR TOWN:

Austin

STATE

Texas

CODE

42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name

Title State Liaison Officer

Date November 13, 1969

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

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 30 1969

Date

William J. Hurlburt
Keeper of The National Register

Date

12/18/69

EE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-12-42-1015	12/30/69

(Number all entries)

8. (cont'd)

supply depot during both world wars with 428,117,295 pounds of ammunition being received and 337,414,700 pounds shipped from July 1, 1941 to December 31, 1945 during World War II. Back in 1919, immediately after the First World War, as many as thirty-eight buildings composed the Arsenal area while only six buildings remain today. Although the government closed the Arsenal in 1949 it still uses the buildings for government offices. Throughout almost one hundred years the United States Arsenal contributed to making San Antonio one of the largest military cities in the country.

The Arsenal site, which was designated a historic Texas Landmark by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee in 1965, borders the historic King William area on the East with the San Antonio River being the divider between the two places. Both of these important historical and architectural sites are now jeopardized by a proposed expressway and a federal building project which would infringe upon the Arsenal site itself.



12/31/69

CONTROL SHEET
National Register
Inventory-Nomination Forms

RY#69000200

Beyar

Tex
NPS Number
69-12-42-0015

RECEIPT

The U.S. SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL

SIGN OFF

	Date of Receipt	11/17/69	Yes	No	Number
Data Page			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Photo(s)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11
Photo Description(s)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Map(s)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Map Description(s)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Logged			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acknowledged	11/17/69		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Re-11/18/69

REVIEW

Historian	Comments	
Architect	Comments	Chandler 11/18/69
OK		
1/ Chief Architect	1/ Chief Archeologist	1/ Chief Historian
Keeper	Comments	11/18/69
OK		

ENTRY

Chief, OAHP	Comments	OK 12-23-69
OK		
Date of Entry		
Registry Clerk	Yes	No
Assign NPS No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acknowledgement Sent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EDITORIAL PROCESSING

Editor	Date	ok 12-23-69
Federal Register Entry	11/6/70	
Annual Edition Entry		ok 12-23-69

FILE	FILE	FILE	WORKING NO.
			11/17/69/1



NPS Number 69-12-42-0015

Title: Commanding Officer's Qtrs.

U.S. San Antonio Arsenal #1

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

#1

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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1. NAME

COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west,
E. Arsenal St. on the south, San Antonio River on the east, &

CITY OR TOWN: private property on the north.

San Antonio

STATE:

Texas

CODE

42

COUNTY:

Bexar

CODE

029

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

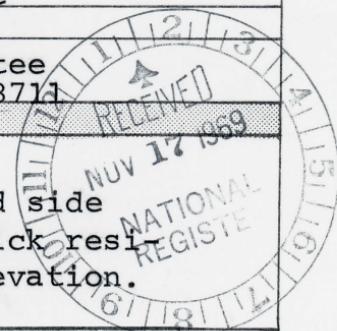
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Commanding Officer's Quarters: front and side
facades of a two story wood and limestone brick resi-
dence with porches on both stories--south elevation.

STATE	TEXAS
COUNTY	Bexar
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69.12.42.0015	





NPS Number 69-12-42-0015
Title: Office Bldg., U.S. San
Antonio Arsenal #2a
Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

12-2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM # 2

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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1. NAME

COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west,
E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,
CITY OR TOWN: & by private property on the north.

San Antonio

STATE:

Texas

CODE

42

COUNTY:

Bexar

CODE

029

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969

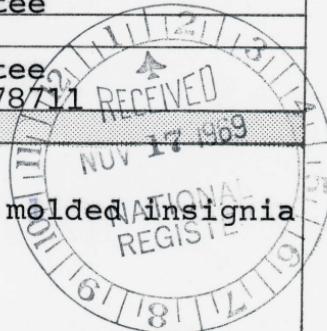
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas, 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Office Building: side facade showing molded insignia
with date 1860--north elevation.

STATE	TEXAS	
COUNTY	Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
69-12-42-0715	12/18/69	





NPS Number 69-1249-0015

Title: Servants Qtrs., U.S.

San Antonio Arsenal #3

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

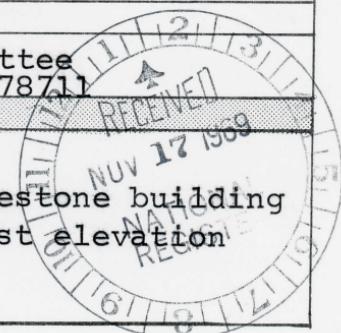
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM #3

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME			
COMMON:	The United States San Antonio Arsenal		
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west, E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>and private property on the north.</u> San Antonio			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Bexar	029
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee			
DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Servants Quarters: rectangular limestone building with wooden addition adjoining north facade--west elevation			

STATE	TEXAS
COUNTY	Bexar
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-12-49-0015	





NPS Number 69-12-49-0015

Title: Servants Quarters, U. S.

San Antonio Arsenal

#4

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM # 4

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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	TEXAS	
COUNTY	Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
69-1249-0015		

1. NAME

COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west,
E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east.
CITY OR TOWN: & private property on the north.

San Antonio

STATE:

Texas

CODE

42

COUNTY:

Bexar

CODE

029

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

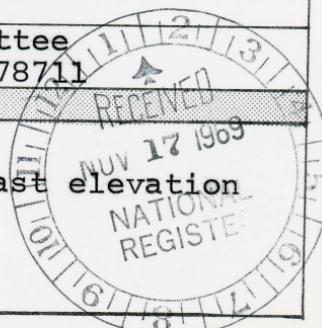
DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Servants Quarters: rear facade--east elevation





NPS Number 69.12.49.0015

Title: Commanding Officer's, U.S. #5
San Antonio Arsenal

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

5

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

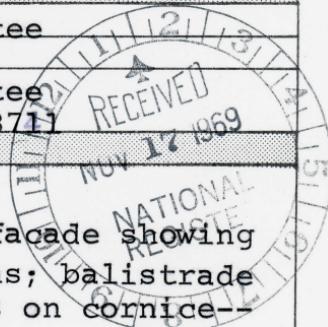
I N S T R U C T I O N S

STATE	TEXAS	
COUNTY	Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
69.12.49.0015		

1. NAME		
COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal		
AND/OR HISTORIC:		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west, E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,		
CITY OR TOWN: & private property on the north. San Antonio		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
Texas	42	Bexar

3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
DATE OF PHOTO:	October 8, 1969	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711	

4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
<p>Commanding Officer's Quarters: side facade showing brick bay and porch with narrow wood columns; balustrade on second story with closely spaced dentils on cornice-- north elevation.</p>		





NPS Number 69.12.49. 0015

Title: Storehouse, U. S. San
Antonio Arsenal #6

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM #6

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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1. NAME

COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west,
E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,

CITY OR TOWN: & private property on the north.
San Antonio

STATE:

Texas

CODE

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COUNTY:

Bexar

CODE

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969

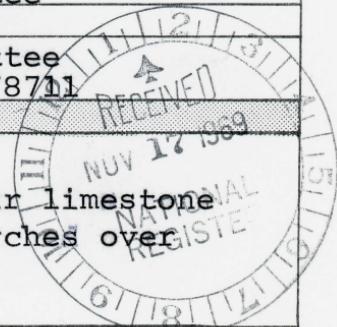
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Storehouse: Front facade of rectangular limestone
masonry building showing stepped voussoirs arches over
windows--north elevation.

STATE	TEXAS
COUNTY	Bexar
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69.12.49.0015	





NPS Number 69-12-49-0015

Title: Stable, U. S. San Antonio
Arsenal #7
Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

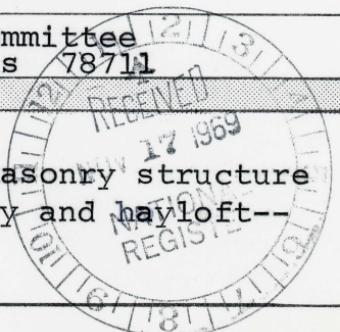
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM #7

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STATE		TEXAS
COUNTY		Bexar
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
69-1249-0015		

1. NAME			
COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west, E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,			
CITY OR TOWN: & private property on the north. San Antonio			
STATE: Texas	CODE 42	COUNTY: Bexar	CODE 029
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee			
DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Stable: rectangular limestone masonry structure showing cast iron doors for bottom story and hayloft-- south elevation.			





NPS Number

69.12.49.0015

Title: Stable, U. S. San Antonio
Arsenal # 8

Loc.

San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

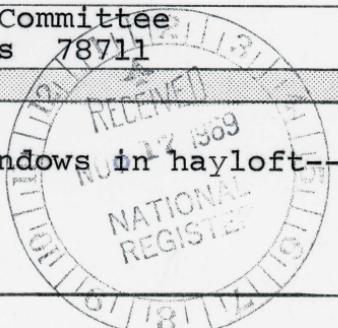
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM #8

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STATE	TEXAS
COUNTY	Bexar
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-12-49-0015	

1. NAME			
COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west, E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,			
CITY OR TOWN: & private property on the north.			
San Antonio			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Bexar	029
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee			
DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Stable: rear facade showing windows in hayloft— north elevation.			





NPS Number

69-12-49-0015

Title:

Office Bldg., U.S. San

antonio Arsenal #9

Loc.

San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM #9

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

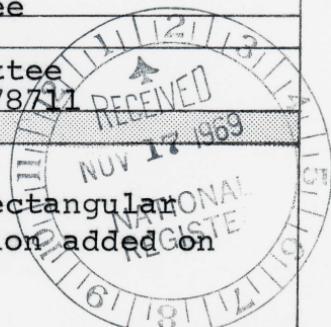
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STATE	TEXAS	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

1. NAME		
COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal		
AND/OR HISTORIC:		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west, E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,		
CITY OR TOWN: and private property on the north. San Antonio		
STATE: Texas	CODE 42	COUNTY: Bexar

3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee		
DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711		

4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Office Building: front facade of rectangular limestone masonry building with wooden addition added on front--west elevation.		





NPS Number 69.12.49.0015

Title: Magazine, U. S. San
Antonio Arsenal #10

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

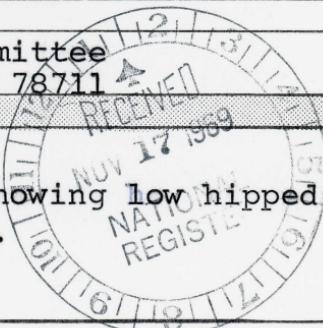
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER ₃

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORMS
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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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COUNTY	Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
69-12-49-0013		

1. NAME			
COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west, E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,			
CITY OR TOWN: & private property on the north. San Antonio			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Bexar	029
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee			
DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Magazine: rear and side facades showing low hipped roof with cast iron window--south elevation.			





Be US
SA 929

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NPS Number

69.12.49.0015

Title: Magazine, U. S. San
Antonio Arsenal #11
Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM #11

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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	TEXAS
COUNTY	Bexar
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69.1249.0015	

1. NAME

COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west,
E. Arsenal St. on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,

CITY OR TOWN: & private property on the north.

San Antonio

STATE:

Texas

CODE

42

COUNTY:

Bexar

CODE

029

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

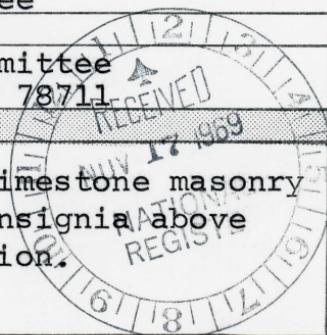
DATE OF PHOTO: October 8, 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Magazine: Front facade rectangular limestone masonry
structure showing cast iron door and molded insignia above
door with inscribed date of 1860--west elevation.





NPS Number 69-12-49-0015

Title: Commanding Officer's Quarters

U.S. San Antonio Arsenal # 5a

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number 69-12-49-0015

Title: Commanding Officer's Qtrs.,
U.S. San Antonio Arsenal # 56

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number 69-12-42-0015

Title: Commanding Officer's Qtrs.

U.S. San Antonio Arsenal #1a

Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number 69-12-42-0015

Title: Office Bldg., U.S. San
Antonio Arsenal # 2
Loc. San Antonio, Tex.

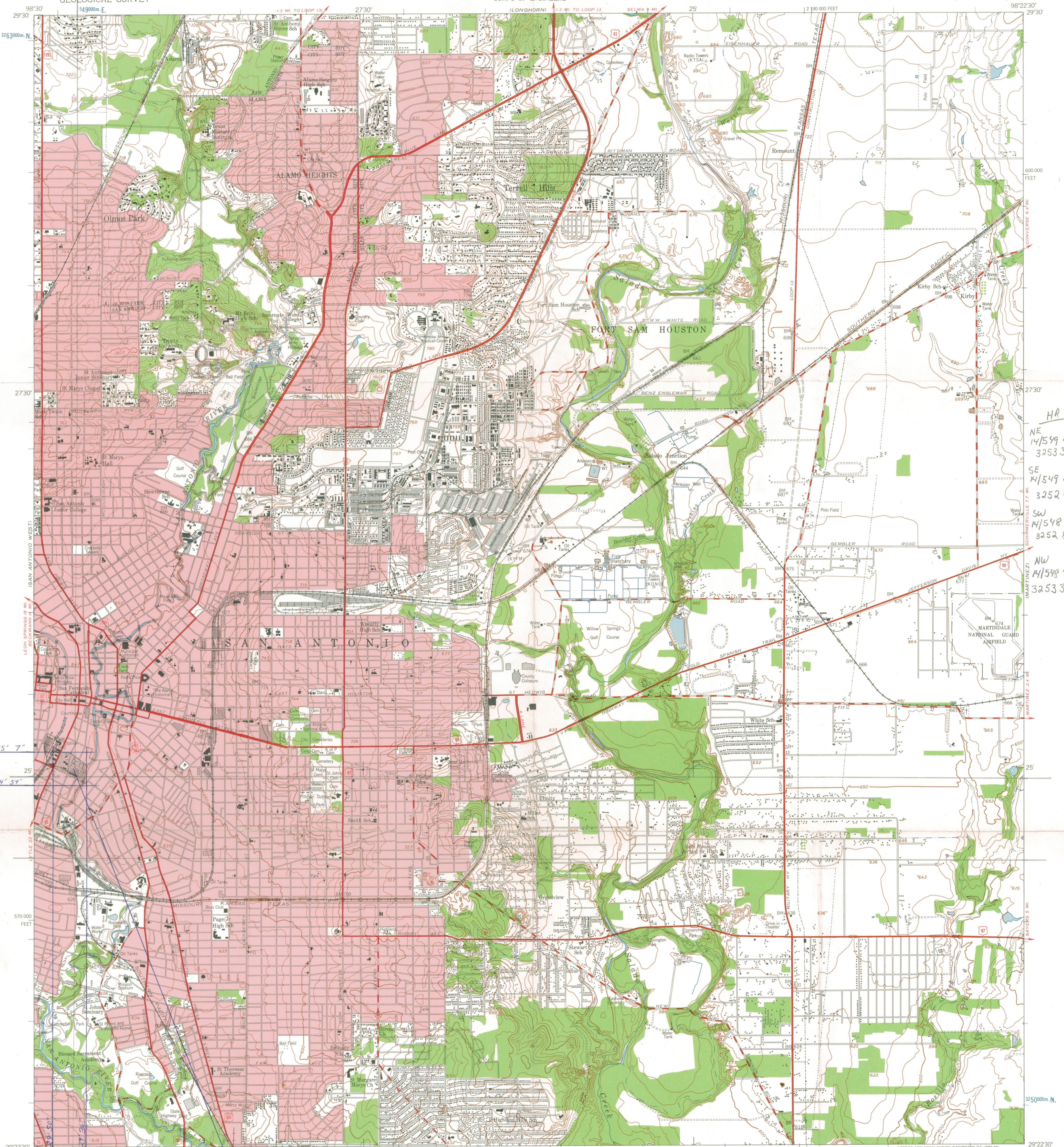
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

SAN ANTONIO EAST QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-BEXAR CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(SCHERTZ)



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 1952. Photography field annotated 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
south central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
and/or bulk contours are shown

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

UNITED STATES ARSENAL
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
42-029

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1953

SCALE 1:24,000
0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

TEXAS
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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

SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX.
2998-133
1953

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	TEXAS	
COUNTY	Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
69-12-92-0015		

1. NAME

COMMON: The United States San Antonio Arsenal
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Twenty acres bounded by S. Flores St. on the west,
E. Arsenal St on the south, the San Antonio River on the east,
CITY OR TOWN: & private property on the north.
San Antonio

STATE:

Texas

CODE

42

COUNTY:

Bexar

CODE

029

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey

SCALE: 1:24000

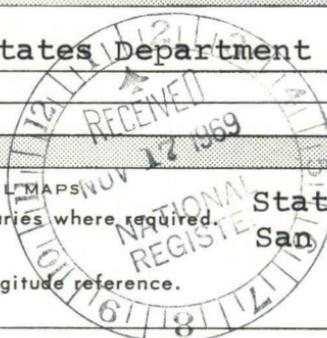
DATE: 1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

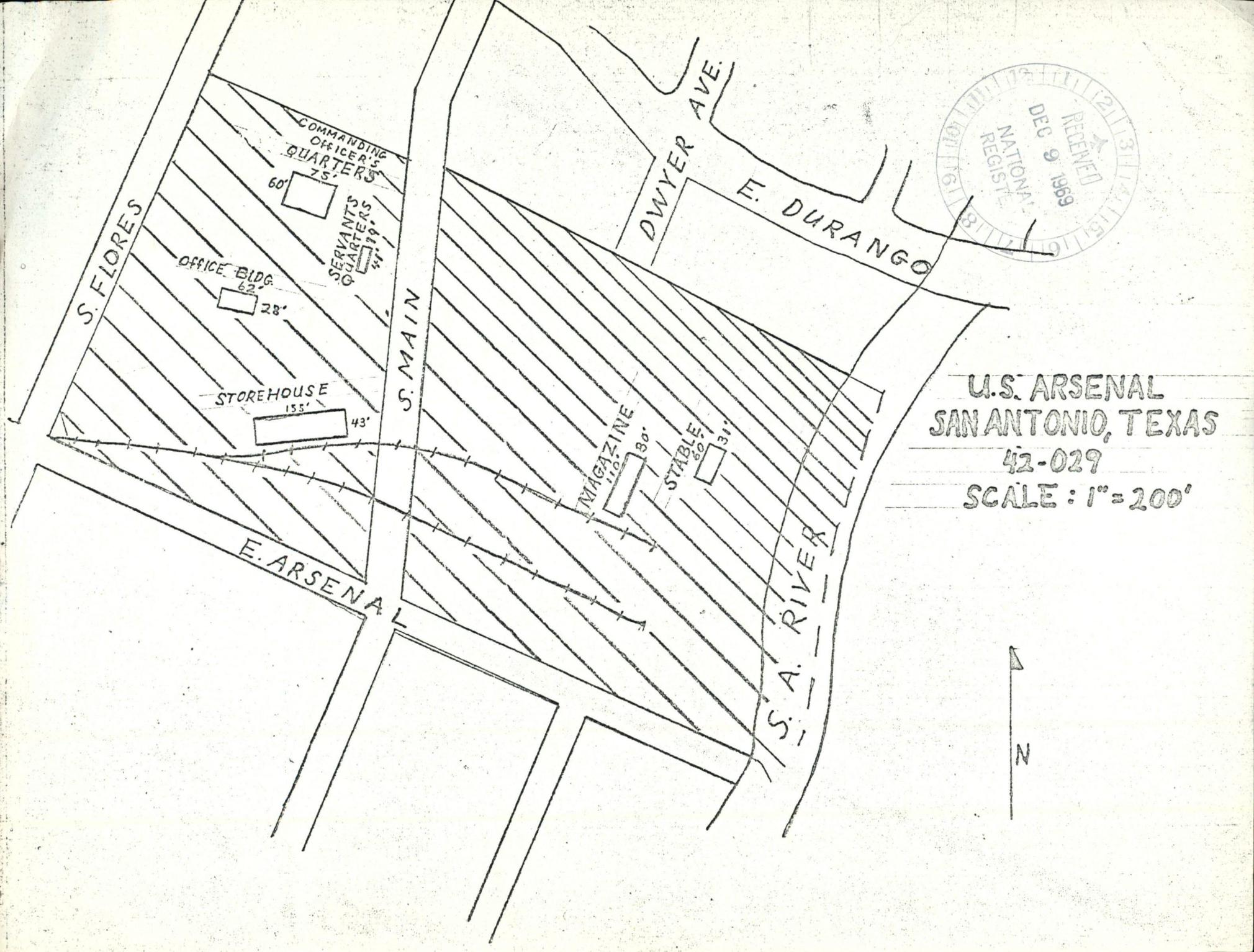
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

State of Texas Map Reference #2998-133
San Antonio East Quadrangle



Federal Center portion →
of old San Antonio Arsenal



HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY

Fort Sam Houston, Texas

In reply refer to: INFORMATION SECTION

14 January 1957

Major General J. W. Heard, USA, Retired
219 Burr Road
San Antonio, Texas

Dear General:

In accordance with your request for historical facts on the San Antonio Arsenal, this office has made several checks on this matter. The Office of the Chief of Ordnance, Department of Army, Washington 25, D. C. has provided the enclosed correspondence which has been copied from originals on file in that office.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you and the San Antonio Conservation Society in your worthy project.

Sincerely,

W. A. Pierce
Lt. Col. Inf.
Army Information Officer

1 Incl
a/s

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE

Washington

29604-D/65

June 3, 1908

The Commanding Officer
San Antonio Arsenal

Sir:

1. I am instructed by the Chief of Ordnance to request you to furnish the following information pertaining to your Arsenal, namely:

1. When established and by what authority.
2. Date of acquirement of each parcel of land the extent of each and the price paid, if purchased.
3. The purpose and cost of the first building erected.
4. The dates of the erection of the principal buildings or groups of buildings, after the first, and their cost.
5. The dates of the removal of the most important buildings that have been taken down.
6. A succinct account of the development of the arsenal, showing the object for which established, the kind of work generally performed and the changes in it made at different dates, so as to show the general manufactures at different times.
7. Names of permanent commanding officers, with dates of assuming and relinquishing command.

Respectfully,

Jno. T. Thompson,
Major, Ord. Dept., U.S.A.

SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL

Volume 1

Basic History thru 31 December 1942

C. B. Reg. No.
04-75-GX-OCSan Antonio Arsenal Historical Report,
1919-1942
(SAA File No. 314.7)

INTRODUCTION

The present San Antonio Arsenal was founded in 1858 just 13 years after Texas entered the Union, and it has been in use continuously since the first buildings were completed. (Footnote No. 1) Texas was still a sparsely populated frontier state when the Arsenal was established, to furnish arms and ammunition to the troops protecting outlying settlements.

At that time, the Arsenal was on the outskirts of the town of San Antonio, where Spanish then was heard more frequently than English. Three of the first structures erected on the Arsenal's 21-acre reservation are still in use. Building 19, now a warehouse, was completed in the year 1860 for the storage of ammunition. (Footnote No. 2) Its thick stone walls would have withstood almost any attack likely to have been made against it, with the field weapons of that era. This building was constructed with only two windows, both placed high for the protection of its occupants against gunfire from the outside, and to prevent its contents from being set afire by some blazing substance being thrown through a window.

Also erected in 1860 was the Arsenal's first office building (Footnote 2) which now constitutes the western portion of Building 3. The veranda of this venerable structure was walled in to create more indoor working space, late in 1942.

The stout stone building now occupied by the Property, Plant & Equipment Unit was constructed in 1873 (Footnote 2), and like its contemporaries has been in continuous use since completion.

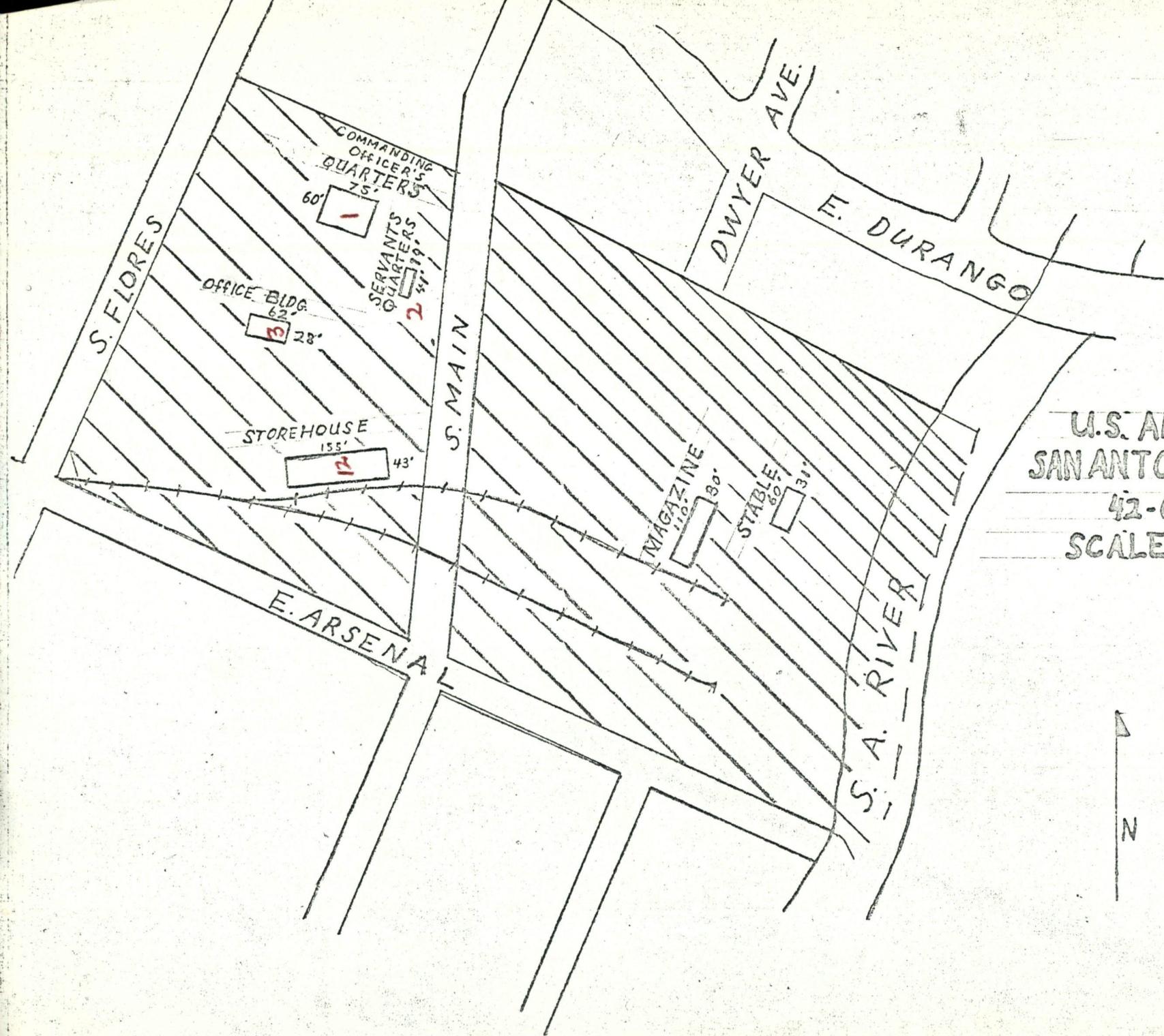
The Arsenal was held and used for about two and a half years by Confederate forces during the War Between the States. (Footnote 1) No known records of this Arsenal during the War Between the States are in existence, the supposition being that they were destroyed before the Confederate States Army relinquished it. When the United States Army resumed control, November 16, 1865, the payroll, one of the lowest on record, comprised 11 employees. Few activities apparently were undertaken during the period of depression subsequent to that war.

Except for the two and a half years of Confederate control, the Arsenal has served the U.S. Army in war and peace for 85 years. It is one of the most important supply points of our armed forces. It attained its greatest growth during and immediately after World War I (Footnote 1), but the principal office structure, Building 3-A, was erected in the first half of 1942.

Cartridges and shells were stocked here for many years, but today all of the ammunition handled by the Arsenal is stored and issued for a subpost, the Ammunition Supply Section, Camp Stanley. Some of the reserve bulk supplies of other material handled by the Arsenal also is stored at the sub-post, located some 20 miles northwest of downtown San Antonio.

FOOTNOTES (1) Article prepared 18 March 1927, at San Antonio Arsenal for publication in a local newspaper, File No. SAA 682/73; approved by indorsement O. O. 000.76/2227, dated 22 March 1927.

(2) Record of Facilities prepared and submitted in compliance with a communication from Utilities Division, FS, OCO, WD, dated 14 March 1942 (SAA File 682/134)



U.S. ARSENAL
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
42-029
SCALE : 1" = 200'

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WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
Washington

29604./86

April 10, 1913

From: The Chief of Ordnance
To: The Commanding Officer, San Antonio Arsenal
Subject: History of Arsenal

I am directed by the Chief of Ordnance to invite your attention to the accompanying copy of letter sent you under date of June 3, 1908 (O.). 29604-D/65), requesting certain information required in the preparation of the history of the San Antonio Arsenal, and to inquire when the desired data may be expected at this office.

S/ Jno. T. Thompson

1 inclosure

Lt. Col., Ord Dept.

29604-D/86

1st Ind.

C.O. San Antonio Arsenal, Apl. 22, 1913 - To the C. of Ordnance,
Washington, D. C.

Returned

1. Established 1850, apparently on leased land.
2. 8.17 acres, acquired March 8, 1859
7.75 acres, acquired May 2, 1859
3.79 acres, acquired July 11, 1881
Original cost of land not known, estimated at \$48,000.
3. Not known
4. Magazine erected in 1860 (shown on buildings), estimated cost \$20,000.
Armory shop erected in 1860, estimated cost \$12,000.
Office erected in 1860, estimated cost \$12,000.
Saddler shop (now occupied as quarters) erected in 1860, estimated cost \$9,000.
Stable erected in 1860, estimated cost \$3,000
Officers quarters erected in 1883, cost \$11,000
Storehouse "A" erected in 1883, cost \$21,150
5. The officers quarters (old) were torn down in 1883 and replaced by the present structure.
6. The Arsenal in early days was used principally as storage arsenal, stores issued to troops in the Department of Texas. During the Spanish-American war a number of saddles and other horse equipments were manufactured for a period of six months. Since then it has been used for storage and as issuing arsenal.
7. Capt. J. W. Todd, assumed command Nov. 16, 1865, relinquished command Dec. 31, 1866

1. Lieut & Capt. Isaac Arnold, Jr. assumed command Jan. 1, 1867, relinquished command June 8, 1869.

Capt. J. C. Bradford assumed command Oct. 24, 1869,
relinquished command Nov. 22, 1870.

Capt. & Major Clifton Comly assumed command May 5, 1871,
relinquished command Nov. 18, 1879.

Capt. Frank H. Phipps, assumed command Nov. 18, 1879,
relinquished command June 17, 1882.

Capt. John A. Kress, assumed command June 17, 1882,
relinquished command Nov. 3, 1883.

Major Isaac Arnold, Jr. assumed command Nov. 3, 1883,
relinquished command Nov. 23, 1887.

Major Lawrence S. Babbitt, assumed command Nov. 23, 1887,
relinquished command Oct. 6, 1890.

Major & Lt. Col. William A. Marye, assumed command Oct. 6, 1890,
relinquished command June 3, 1891.

Major Clarence E. Dutton, assumed command June 17, 1891,
relinquished command May 15, 1899.

Major & Lt. Col. Almon L. Varney, assumed command May 15, 1899,
relinquished command April 5, 1903.

Major Daniel M. Taylor, assumed command April 5, 1903,
relinquished command July 3, 1903.

Lt. Col. & Col. John Pitman, assumed command Aug. 23, 1903,
relinquished command Nov. 12, 1906.

Lt. Col. Frank Baker, assumed command Nov. 12, 1906,
relinquished command Oct. 27, 1907.

Lt. Col. & Col. Charles H. Clark, assumed command Nov. 26, 1907,
relinquished command Dec. 20, 1912.

Major J. H. Rice, assumed command Dec. 20, 1912.

S/ John H. Rice

Major Ord. Dept., Comdg.

OLD SAN ANTONIO AND THE ARMY
(An address delivered on 4 February 1953 to the
Fenwick Club of San Antonio, Tex., by Major
General J. R. Sheetz, USA (Ret))

LET US go back today to the old San Antonio of long ago, when TRAVIS PARK was the center of the city's social life. Around Travis Park were the homes of San Antonio's prominent citizens of 100 years ago--on the east stood Temple Beth-el and the homes of the Oppenheims and the Waelders; on the south, where the St. Anthony Hotel now stands, were the Terrells, the Vances and the Reagan Houstons; on the west, the Tobins, Johnsons, Napiers and Murphys; and on the north, from 1859 onward, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, begun in that year but not finished until sixteen years later.

San Antonio was a military post long before it became a town. The Spanish, French, Mexicans, Texans and the United States Government all recognized that San Antonio was a strategic spot.

As early as 1718, 30 soldiers accompanied the Spanish padres who came here to found a mission. Barracks were built on the north side of Military Plaza in 1773. Since these early beginnings, San Antonio has continued its tradition as a military town, intimately and constantly associated with the military and growing with it.

First Offer of Land by the City

In 1845, as soon as Texas was admitted into the Union and just prior to the Mexican War, the Army looked to San Antonio as a strategic site for the establishment of a military post. This new post was to be a depot primarily, which would furnish supplies and administrative services to any troops who might be stationed later in the area below the Red River; and, in the event of war with Mexico, which seemed probable at that time, the new post would be invaluable in supplying the troops involved in a campaign to the south. Colonel William S. Harney arrived late in 1845 with three companies (troops) of Cavalry. The Mayor and Councilmen of San Antonio immediately offered a gift of 100 acres of land to the Federal Government for use by the Army. This land surrounded San Pedro Springs, in the present San Pedro Park area. After inspecting the site, Colonel Harney declined to accept it on the ground that it was too low and swampy while the surrounding hills made it unsuitable for close defense.

Other Offers of Land

San Antonio was not discouraged by the refusal of its offer. During the ensuing years, many other offers of land were made. But not one of the offers was accepted during the next 30 years. However, the Army continued to remain in San Antonio during all that time, usurping the Alamo, renting buildings throughout the small town and, in general, living a continuous hand-to-mouth existence with no adequate facilities from which to carry out its assigned mission of supplying other troops.

The First Supply Depot

In 1846, at the beginning of the Mexican War, the small military installation in San Antonio was greatly expanded. A Quartermaster Depot was established at the San Pedro Springs. This grew tremendously during the War, under General John Ellis Wool who came here to organize an expedition for the invasion of Mexico. At one time 1400 men, 1100 wagons with all necessary animals and large quantities of food, forage and other supplies were encamped in the same San Pedro Springs area which Colonel Harney had turned down as unsuitable just a few months before.

General Robert E. Lee (then a Captain and the Senior Engineer on the staff of General Wool) first came to San Antonio in August 1846. In his capacity as senior staff engineer he spent much time in the reconnaissance of routes to the border, in amassing bridging materials for use in crossing streams on his selected routes, and in commandeering many wagons required to carry the Army's equipment to Mexico. He collected so many wagons that large numbers of immigrants bound for New Braunfels and Fredericksburg were stranded on the Texas coast, where they suffered much hardship for almost a year.

Occupation of the Alamo

Following the Mexican War, in 1848, the Army continued to remain in San Antonio and San Antonio once more began to offer sites to the Army for a permanent establishment.

In 1849, the city offered a site on Military Plaza, but the Army decided the site was too small.

In 1849, the Army took over the Alamo as a Quartermaster Depot, filling the inside of the building with supplies and bivouacking the men and animals in the surrounding grounds--over the area now occupied by the Federal Building, the Medical Arts Building and the adjacent areas to the east.

In 1849, a degree of permanence was given to the small military installation when the War Department designated San Antonio as Headquarters of the Eighth Army District. But the local commander could not find a suitable place for his newly acquired Headquarters and was forced to maintain it, for the time being, in one of the rooms of the Alamo. It is interesting to note that in attempting to billet the troops and animals in the grounds north of the Alamo, the Army was handicapped by a considerable number of squatters already in the area. In attempting to evict them through the local court, the Army was sued for eviction, in turn, by the Roman Catholic Church which not only claimed title but claimed that the Army had usurped the Alamo area. However, despite the litigation against it (which was never resolved), the Army remained in the Alamo, evicted the squatters and even spent \$5,000.00 in restoring the Alamo, generally to its present form.

Army Headquarters at Houston and St. Mary's Streets

In 1850, the year following the designation as Headquarters Eighth Army District, the local Army Commander induced Messrs. John and William Vance to build a two story stone building on a site which is now occupied by the Gunter Hotel. The Army then leased the building from the Vances and occupied it as a Headquarters until 1861 when it was taken over by the Confederates. During this 11-year period, the Army continued to use the Alamo as a QM depot. The old Vance Building was torn down in 1906.

The Arsenal on South Flores Street

Inasmuch as the Alamo was too small for the Army's needs, and in view of the constant litigation against the Army by the Roman Catholic Church, the Army decided to buy land for a depot on the outskirts of the city. After investigation of suitable sites the Army purchased land in 1855 on South Flores Street on which to erect an adequate depot or arsenal. This was the beginning of the present San Antonio Arsenal, completed in 1866 in much its present form, after long delay due to the Civil War, at a total cost of \$100,000.00, which was considered to be a large sum at that time.

San Antonio - Depot for the Frontier

During all the time between the Mexican and Civil Wars, San Antonio became of increasing importance as a depot for the supply of the ever-increasing number of frontier posts to the west. Transportation difficulties were tremendous. Long trains of wagons traversed the roadless plains. Water and forage for the animals of the supply caravans had to be transported with the columns. Always a great burden, in summer the transportation of forage and water for the animals of the wagon trains precluded the transportation of other vital supplies.

Mr. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War between 1853-1857, conceived the idea that camels would solve these transportation difficulties. Water, at least, would not have to be carried for their use and they could live on the sparse vegetation of the western plains. Accordingly, the animals were purchased in Egypt and on 14 May 1856, a ship landed 34 camels on the Texas coast. These animals were brought overland to San Antonio at once. Texas thus has the distinction of being the only State in the Union in which camels have been used in caravans for the supply of troops. And San Antonio has the distinction of being the only American city which has ever maintained camels for that purpose.

After a brief time the experiment was abandoned as a failure. The rough and ready Texas mule drivers did not and could not understand the management of camels; while the camels did not and could not accustom themselves to Texans. For some years thereafter it was not unusual to see wild camels in the distance on the west Texas plains and even less unusual to find camel steaks in the diet of the Indians.

General Robert E. Lee in San Antonio

General Robert E. Lee first came to San Antonio in 1846 as a Captain and left for the Mexican War late that year.

He returned again in February 1860 as a Lt. Col. and Commander of the Department of Texas. He spent the Spring, Summer, and Fall here. He was a popular member of San Antonio society during that time. He became one of the founders of St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Travis Park. As Commander of the Department of Texas, he maintained his office in the Vance Building. He roomed in a small house on the river near St. Mary's Street. He took his meals at Mrs. Phillips boarding house on Main Plaza. He was often entertained at the Old Vance home at 210 W. Nueva Street.

In February 1861, while at Fort Mason, one of the outposts of his command, Col. Lee received orders to report to Gen. Scott, the Chief of Staff of the Army, in Washington (where he declined an offer to head the United States Army). Enroute to Washington he passed through San Antonio. Just prior to his arrival here, Texans had seized all Federal installations in San Antonio and were seizing all remaining installations throughout Texas. It is interesting to note that these rebellious acts took place one month prior to the fall of Fort Sumter, S.C., which is generally considered to be the beginning of the Civil War.

When Col. Lee arrived in San Antonio he found the secessionists in control of his headquarters in the Vance Building. They tried to get him to join with them but he refused. He is reputed to have said: "I owe allegiance to Virginia and not to any revolutionary government of Texas". He was permitted to leave but all his baggage was detained. Despite repeated requests that his baggage be forwarded to him, he never received it, even after the end of the War.

Reestablishment after the Civil War

At the end of the Civil War, Federal troops returned to San Antonio and the army again took over the Alamo as a supply depot. Once more the supplies went inside while the troops and animals bivouacked on the grounds outside. The Alamo was in bad repair due to a fire which occurred in 1861. It was essential that additional facilities be obtained without delay. Temporary arrangements were made to store supplies in the adjacent area. Supplies were placed in a building which stood at the southwestern corner of Alamo Plaza and Houston Streets, where the Maverick Hotel stood later. Other supplies were stored in a group of buildings owned by the Maverick family on the north side of Houston Street from Alamo Plaza west to Navarro Street. The troops were placed in billets in a group of stone buildings in the vicinity of the Vance Building (Houston and St. Mary's Streets). However, the troop area proved to be very unsatisfactory; the ground was low and subject to floods from the nearby river. Once in 1866 and again 1869 the troops were forced out of their billets by sudden floods. Cholera came to San Antonio with the 1869 flood. The Army, alarmed, abandoned the area overnight and moved out in the country 13 miles to the Jones Ranch on the Medina River. The troops never again returned for station in the city of San Antonio.

Events between 1870 and 1875

In 1870 and again early in 1871, San Antonio once more offered land to the army. This time 40 acres were offered in the area now known as Government Hill. Specifically this plot today is the small area in the southwestern part of Fort Sam Houston, at the north end of Pine Street, where the Veterinary

Hospital now stands. After detailed inspection the army refused the plot for the reason that it was too small and was bisected by a ravine which precluded building upon it.

The War Department then ordered all the military installations to move to Austin, Texas. This move was completed early in 1873.

About this time New Braunfels made a definite bid for the army, offering 150 acres of land in the Comal Springs area. San Antonio at once countered this offer by offering to add more land to its 40-acre offer. After much discussion San Antonio definitely offered 53 more acres in 1875. This land was adjacent to the original 40 acre offer and today is the western part of the Staff Post area.

This time, after careful examination and much discussion by the War Department, the offer was accepted; the 30-year period of trying to get the army established in the outskirts of the city had finally ended successfully.

The Army then bought adjoining land to the east (the present Quadrangle area). It is interesting to note that in this same year, 1875, St. Mark's Episcopal Church was finally finished. After the laying of the cornerstone in December 1859 by the church's first rector, the Rev. Lucius Jones, the congregation had held services all over town during the intervening 16 years; once in a rented hall on Main Plaza; then on the second floor of the old Callaghan Building on Soledad Street; thence in the cellar of the Presbyterian Church on North Flores Street; and finally in Wolfe Hall of St. Mary's Hall School at Martin and Navarro Streets. At one of these temporary locations services were held on the second floor of a building in which a common saloon was established directly below. The following stanza, popular at the time, describes the situation:

"The spirit above is a spirit of love,
"While the spirits below are the spirits of woe."

During the five years between 1870 and 1875 prominent San Antonians and some army officers were trying constantly to win War Department approval of the land offers made by the city. Mr. G. W. Brackenridge, Mr. C. Upton and Col. Thomas G. Williams devoted much time and effort to the problem. At one time the War Department stated in a refusal that inasmuch as no railroad had been built in Texas, San Antonio was a poor location for a depot, as supplies to stock it would have to be moved overland by wagon. Later, when railroad construction began, the reason for disapproval included the statement that supplies could shortly be shipped direct to troop units and thus no depot would be needed. Finally in 1875 money was appropriated for the new depot in San Antonio.

Construction (Quadrangle)

In June 1876, the United States entered into a contract with Edward Braden and Company for the construction of a depot on the newly acquired land on Government Hill. This building is the present Quadrangle which now houses the Headquarters of the Fourth Army. It was finished in 1880. Built in the form of a hollow square, 500 feet in length and 33 feet in height, the building

was primarily a storehouse. It contained 36 large store rooms, 20 offices and many workshops. There were no doors or windows in the outside walls originally; small loopholes existed near the top of the walls. The tower in the central grounds contained a 30,000 gallon water tank, but this was replaced in 1882 by the clock which is still located in the tower.

Construction (Staff Post)

As the Quadrangle neared completion, construction began in 1880 on 15 sets of officer's quarters and a central hospital building in the present Staff Post of Fort Sam Houston. All of these quarters are large and roomy. Quarters No. 6, now occupied by the Commanding General Fourth Army, when finished in 1881, had 6 bedrooms and 3 parlors. The contractor was a Mr. Coulter, grandfather of Lt. Gen. John B. Coulter, who was the Deputy Commander of the Fourth Army a few years ago and who is well known to San Antonio people.

Construction (Infantry Post)

Finally, in 1884, inasmuch as there were no quarters for troops and junior officers, the government purchased additional land to the east of the Quadrangle, and began the construction of the area now known as the Infantry Post. This area was completed in 1891.

St. Paul's Memorial Church

During the period 1880-1884 the small new army post was extremely isolated. Surrounded by prairie covered with mesquite and cactus, there were no people nearer than far downtown, no church nearer than St. Mark's Episcopal, no transportation other than the old fashioned Daugherty Wagon drawn by four mules. A trip to town over the Austin Road (Austin Street today) required hours for the trip. A church was needed by the small, isolated army community.

Hearing of these difficulties, Miss May Cowles of Philadelphia, Pa., a devout church woman, decided to come to the aid of this military outpost. She gave the necessary funds and employed an architect and builder to erect the small Episcopal Church (St. Paul's Memorial Church on Grayson Street), which she dedicated to the women of the army as a memorial to her mother. The church was built in 1884 at a cost of \$8,000.00. The first vestry was composed of four army men and three civilians - Gen. Auger, Gen. Small, Gen. Clem, Col. J. R. Smith, Mr. J. S. Chabot, Mr. John Darragh, and Mr. Edward Cunningham.

Since then, the city has surrounded the little church and moved many miles beyond it. But it is still considered by members of the army to be their church; at the moment the congregation is approximately half civilian and half army. The present rector, the Rev. H. Paul Osborne, is the 33rd rector of a church which now has 550 parishioners.

General Douglas MacArthur served as the Crucifer of St. Pauls during his youth and was confirmed in St. Pauls on 1 April 1894. He was a student at West Texas Military Academy at the time, attending school on the grounds of the academy which adjoined the church on the south. When he visited Texas Military Institute (the successor of West Texas Military Academy) during a visit to San Antonio in 1951, he said: "I entered here as a little boy in fear and trembling. With God's help, I left here in 1897, with confidence, to face the world".

Modern Developments

By 1900, everthing pertaining to the army reservation had become too small. More land and more facilities were essential under the ever expanding mission of the army post. The army began to acquire more land to the north of the Quadrangle. During the period 1905-1912, the present Artillery Post was constructed. In 1907, the present Chapel was built and dedicated by the President of the United States in person (William H. Taft). After 32 years the army at last had a church on the reservation. In 1911, a large tract of 1,400 acres was acquired to the east and north-east of the Artillery Post. This was the Camp Travis area during World War I. Camp Travis and Camp Wilson (beyond Camp Travis) trained 208,000 men during World War I. An additional tract of 800 acres was acquired also in the area north of the Infantry Post and the San Antonio General Depot was constructed thereon during 1918-1919. The struggling little army outpost of 1875 was becoming one of the most important military centers of the nation. A great construction program during the 1930's built Fort Sam Houston into a modern army center, with extensive barracks, a tremendous military hospital, supply buildings, numerous quarters for married personnel and all the other buildings and facilities required for the internal functioning of a small city.

World War II again caused feverish activity in the military installations in the San Antonio vicinity. The various airfields which had been growing in this area expanded to tremendous size and ever increasing importance. Again San Antonio became one of the great military training centers of our country. In addition to the many thousands trained by the army itself, the Air Force completed the training of hundreds of thousands of men and women for the air arm of our defenses.

At present, Fort Sam Houston contains three installations of major importance to national defense--the Fourth Army Headquarters, which controls all army activities (Regular Army, Organized Reserve, National Guard and ROTC) in the states of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico; the Brooke Army Medical Center, one of the great medical centers of the nation; and the San Antonio General Depot, which furnishes supplies and equipment to troops over the entire world. The Air Force installations (Randolph, Lackland, Kelly and Brook) are the most important air training, air supply and air repair centers in the United States.

Conclusion

The original little plat of 40 acres, accepted with reluctance by the army, has grown to immense size and importance.

The little storehouse of the Alamo as expanded into one of the great military supply centers of the world.

The little town of San Antonio, intimately associated with the army since the arrival of the old Catholic padres more than two centuries ago, has exercised an influence of immeasurable value and extent over the development of some of the most important military installations of our Nation; this beautiful city has developed simultaneously with the Army and the Air Force from the little settlement adjoining the Alamo into America's most charming and fastest growing major city. Truly San Antonio and the military services have been inseparable--a perfect union for 108 active years--both advancing together with pride in their achievements toward a common goal--to keep America strong and keep America FREE.

February 10, 1956

General John Ellis Wool, sent to San Antonio to organize an expedition for the invasion of Mexico during the Mexican War, selected San Pedro Springs as the site for his supply depot where he collected wagons, forage, animals, and ammunition. Ordnance property evidently was not separately maintained until the establishment of the arsenal in 1855. It is not clear whether the army remunerated the owners of the land or not, but probably not. At any rate, the San Pedro Park site was used until 1849 when it is clear that the Alamo was commandeered by the army for use as its supply depot and headquarters. However, since sheltered space was so limited, only the supplies were stored in the building while the men and animals were billeted on the grounds surrounding the Alamo. At that time there were a number of squatters on these grounds which interfered with the animals and troops. The United States Army sued to evict the squatters. The Roman Catholic Church in turn sued the army for eviction, claiming title to the Alamo and the surrounding grounds. The case was never resolved in the local courts, but possession in those days seemed to be nine points in the law, for the army not only evicted the squatters but retained possession and use of the Alamo for 11 years, even spending approximately \$5,000 to restore it generally in its present form. Even after the Civil War it was again occupied by the U. S. Government as a quartermaster depot until the cholera epidemic scared them out in 1869.

However, since the Alamo was too small for the army's needs, and in view of the constant litigation with the Catholic Church over title to the land, the U. S. Government decided to purchase land on which to build its own depot or arsenal. Accordingly, the San Antonio Arsenal, known as the Arsenal of Construction, was established under the Chief of Ordnance, in 1855, with Lt. John McNutt in command, followed by Capt. R. H. K. Whitely. Ordnance property was for the first time in San Antonio separated from Quartermaster property. It was housed in the building later occupied by the Milbourne Wagon Agency on Soledad Street near the historic Vermendi House, pending construction of an arsenal which was authorized in 1887.

The army at that time stated that the duties of the Chief of Ordnance consisted in providing, preserving, distributing and accounting for every description of artillery, small arms and all munitions of war which may be required for the fortresses of the country, the armies of the field and for the whole body of the militia of the union. In these duties is comprised that of determining the general principles of construction and of prescribing in detail the models and forms of all military weapons employed in war.

About 16 acres of land were purchased in 1859, with four more acres added in 1871. In 1859 Ex-Governor of Texas P. H. Bell and Dr. G.P. Devine of San Antonio, sold the 16 acres to the U.S. Government for about \$16,000, while the heirs of Tourtant Beauregard were the later sellers of the additional four acres. William Corner's "San Antonio de Bexar" contains the notation on November 1, 1859 "The United States Arsenal is begun to be built on its present site". About the same time news items related that the Menger Hotel was "hospitably" opened, while the first brewery and the first grist mill (later Pioneer Flour Mills) began operation. The arsenal, known successively as the San Antonio Ordnance Depot, then as the Texas Arsenal, and finally as the San Antonio Arsenal, which was "begun to be built" in November 1859, served as an arsenal for this area until 1947 when it was transferred to the San Antonio General Depot, and to the Red River Arsenal in Texarkana, in 1949.

Construction work on the buildings was interrupted by the Civil War, but with the State's return to the Union in 1865 the first buildings were completed shortly thereafter. Other buildings were added later.

It is of interest to note that Colonel Robert E. Lee, was in command of the Department of Texas (although not the arsenal which was commanded by Col. Phil Stockton during the Civil War) at the time the Texans seized all federal property, one month prior to the fall of Ft. Sumter, S. C., which is ordinarily counted as the beginning of the Civil War. Lee refused to have any part of the rebellious action in Texas, saying he owed his allegiance to his native Virginia.

Stephen Gould, in 1882, wrote an excellent description of the early arsenal in a paper entitled "Being a Historical Sketch of the Ancient City of the Alamo". Let's let him tell you about in 1882:

"The institution (that is the arsenal) is well worthy of a visit by a stranger and is one of the numerous attractions of this city. It is situated on South Flores and Arsenal Streets and extends east to the San Antonio River. It includes a tract of nearly 20 acres, the ample grounds being tastefully laid out with beautiful drives and walks and well-shaded with various varieties of trees, while semi-tropical plants are planted in convenient localities about the inclosure. The grounds are lined by gas lamps and are supplied with water. The mains of the water works company pass the arsenal on two sides, besides having five large cisterns on the grounds, fed from the roofs of the various buildings and capable of holding water enough to supply all present and prospective needs.

"Part of the present (1882) commanding officers' quarters, a beautiful building, was formerly the residence of Dr. DeVine, from whom purchased, but additions and alterations were made. The office building was erected in 1860. The Magazine was built up to the arch by the U.S. Government and finished during the Civil War by the Confederates under Major J. H. Jampman, CSA. The Armorer's Shop was partly built by the U.S. Government, as far as the top doorstep, when the war broke out. The Confederates finished it with soft rock. In 1871 Capt. Comly assumed command, and the soft rock was torn down and the shop was finished with hard rock as originally intended. The Carpenter Shop and Store Houses Nos. 1, 2, and 3, frame buildings, were erected in 1873. The stone stable was built in 1874. Two frame store houses, now torn down, were also erected by the Confederates and were used for blacksmith and carpenter shops.

"The troops in the Department of Texas were all supplied with ordnance stores from this arsenal and minor repairs to small arms, equipments and accoutrements were made there while some few articles were made there." (Notably bowie knives and buckshot during the Civil War).

The regular employees of the Arsenal about that time were Matthew F. Kippox, Chief Clerk, B. Barth, property clerk, J. Johnson Minter, foreman, C. M. Wolcken, master armorer, M. J. Keating, master saddler, and Joseph Linnartz, master carpenter, and an additional 20 to 22 laborers.

The Arsenal has the distinction of being the first permanent military establishment erected by the United States Government in the City of San Antonio. With the completion of the construction of the stable in 1874, its buildings as well as its functions remained about the same until 1916 when it was greatly expanded. At that time three additional storehouses, an oil house, a small arms shop, two more magazines, a machine and equipment shop, barracks and quarters, increased the building value from \$100,000 to \$900,000. There were then 44 buildings with 235,640 square feet of storage space, housing an estimated \$25,000,000 worth of stores--more than the entire value of U.S. Ordnance in 1860. Camp Stanley was also used for additional storage space, and when the arsenal property was transferred to the Red River Arsenal there were 50,000 tons of ammunition and 15,000 tons of general supplies to be moved. Incidentally, the Red River Arsenal covers 50 square miles of ground, with 3,000 buildings for storage space.

Thus closed the history of the old arsenal which had been part of the life of the Alamo City for 90 years, which supplied the troops from Indian Territory to the Mexican Border, which equipped the troops with Bowie knives and buckshot to fight the Indians, which equipped Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders for the Spanish-American War, which furnished General "Black Jack" Pershing with weapons to fight Pancho Villa, and which furnished the fire-power for the flying machines for many years.

--Paper given by Capt. Lucas G. Gomolak of Randolph Air Force Base at a 1956 meeting, held at the Arsenal, of the San Antonio Conservation Society.

BUILDINGS 1 AND 3, FEDERAL CENTER
(WESTERN PORTION OF OLD SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL)

610 So. Flores Street, San Antonio, Texas

Report by: Dr. Erik K. Reed, Regional Chief,
Division of History and Archeology

Southwest Regional Office, National Park Service,
September 23, 1962

FOREWORD

This report is submitted in accordance with procedures established June 25, 1956, between the National Park Service and the General Services Administration under the Federal Property and Administrative Service Act of June 30, 1949, (63 Stat. 377, as amended) and the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935, (49 Stat. 666).

HISTORY OF THE SITE

A. Brief Description of Structures:

Building No. 1 is a handsome old, large, stone house, two-story, with screened porches, standing by itself in an attractive setting of well kept grounds. It is stated to have been the Post Commander's Residence, and to have been built in 1883.

Building No. 3, originally built in 1860 as the Post Headquarters for the San Antonio Arsenal, is a stone central structure to which modern accretions have been added for office use. These additions have not actually damaged the original building, so far as can be observed, and could presumably be removed without harming it seriously.

B. Synopsis of History of Site:

The old San Antonio Arsenal was begun in 1859, the oldest of the several major U.S. Army installations in the San Antonio vicinity. Among the first permanent structures completed was the office building or Post Headquarters, which still survives, essentially undamaged outwardly, though in use as government offices and with modern accretions on both sides added in the past twenty years. This is the central portion of Building No. 3, a substantial white stone structure on which the date 1860 is carved. Buildings 1 and 2, the Commanding Officer's Residence and associated Servants' Quarters, both also of native stone, reportedly were built in 1883.

As a unit, the old San Antonio Arsenal was extremely important, as an ordnance supply base, in the history of U.S. military activities in the Southwest and along the border, clear up to 1916. It is, however, not possible to assert that specific events of national importance

and outstanding historical significance occurred within these particular buildings or that they meet the criteria for selection of National Historic Sites or for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks.

Nevertheless, the combination of surviving old structures representing an important (and heretofore comparatively neglected) phase of San Antonio's historic past with a most attractive park setting, located close to the downtown heart of a large city which is inadequately provided with open spaces, green areas, and recreational facilities, has potential importance which should not be lightly disregarded for the sake of progress or for reasons of economy.

C. Documented Historical Narrative:

It is not possible to prepare this portion of the standard outline for these reports from the scanty materials readily available in the Southwest (at Santa Fe and San Antonio).

Appended are copies of the more or less pertinent major portions of three documentary items, which the San Antonio Conservation Society graciously permitted me to borrow from their file on the Arsenal and reproduce for use herewith:

- (1) A general background paper on the history of "Old San Antonio and the Army" by Maj. J. R. Sheetz (Ret.); an address delivered by Gen. Sheetz to the Fenwick Club in February 1953; (2) A paper which was read at the January 1956 meeting at the Arsenal of the Society, by Capt. Lucas G. Gomolak of Randolph AFB, entitled "History of the San Antonio Arsenal"; (3) A selection of copies of documents from 1913

and 1942 furnished by Lt. Col. W. A. Pierce, Fourth Army Hqs., to
Maj. Gen. J. W. Heard (Ret.) and transmitted by Gen. Heard to the
President of the San Antonio Conservation Society, in January 1947,
from the files of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, Washington,
D. C.

D. Evaluation and Recommendations:

As has already been indicated, these buildings do not appear to meet the criteria for selection as of national significance, but nevertheless merit preservation as parts of a unit or complex which should be a park of some kind. It may be impossible to defend successfully a definite refusal of clearance in the case of a firm proposal by the GSA involving demolition. However, local preservation is obviously desirable and should be recommended.

The present city government (in contrast to some past administrations) and the San Antonio Conservation Society are very much interested; the San Antonio Conservation Society (Mrs. Winfield Scott Hamlin, President, 511 Villita St.) has long been concerned, especially with Building No. 1. The Society has been carrying on a general campaign of local publicity, and of communications recently with Congressman Gonzalez, in the hope of acquiring the building as a surplus property. The Society is eager to protect it, and its surroundings, against demolition or damage and to take it over for preservation and public use.

E. Illustrations:

Attached, following the location map, are two fairly recent photographs of Building No. 1, from the SACS files, and the north side and the east side, then a photograph taken in September 1962 by Mr. Beaumont Mood of the north end of the central (old) section of Building No. 3, and a photograph taken on September 20, 1962, by Mr. Mood of Building No. 1 from the west to show some of its pleasing setting.



Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer
Executive Director

November 25, 1969

Mr. Allen Chambers, Jr.
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
801 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Al:

I am enclosing clippings referring to construction of the Federal project on the Arsenal Site in San Antonio. I would assume that construction documents have been authorized and will soon be ready for bidding procedures.

I also point out that plans by the Texas Highway Department are underway which may endanger the Austin, Travis County, Old Bakery Site.

Let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely yours,

Truett Latimer
Executive Director

By: *Wayne*
Wayne Bell, AIA
Statewide Survey
Project Director

WB/sb
Enclosures

Bill sent to Nixon has funds for S.A. buildings

S.A. news WED. 11/19/69

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

WASHINGTON — A bill containing funds for constructing the Veterans Administration Hospital and U.S. Courthouse-Federal Building in San Antonio has gone to President Nixon for his signature.

The bill which included the two items was passed by the House and Senate Tuesday, a spokesman in Sen. Ralph Yarborough's office announced. Included are:

• \$25.4 million for the 760-bed

VA hospital and outpatient clinic.

• \$1,975,500 for the \$7 million-plus courthouse-federal building. Already appropriated for the complex was \$6 million.

Overall, the bill approved by the two houses totals \$15.5 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and several independent agencies.

The two projects for San Antonio are not expected to have funds made available until after

July 1, 1970, in the 1970-71 budget.

A spokesman for the Houston architects designing the hospital said final preparations before construction probably would take until mid-1970.

IT IS ANTICIPATED almost three years will be required to build the hospital. It is to be located on a 33.3-acre site in the South Texas Medical Center.

The hospital is to serve 40 South and Central Texas counties. It will have 400 beds for

general patients and 360 for psychiatric patients.

Site of the new courthouse-federal building is at the old arsenal on S. Flores St. Architect for the structure is Frank M. Valdez of San Antonio. It will consist of two buildings. One a three-story courthouse and the other a seven-story federal office building. The structures will be connected by a two-story main lobby.

Valdez said it should not take "too long" to have preparations ready for contract letting.

more
newly about

Hospital,
Courthouse
Funds OK'd

S.A. exp. 11/19/69
Funds to build the Veterans
Administration Hospital and ad-
ditional funds to construct the
U.S. Courthouse and Federal
Building in San Antonio were
among those approved in a bill
passed by both the U.S. Senate
and House Tuesday providing
\$15.5 billion for the Department
of Housing and Urban Develop-
ment and several independent
agencies.

Do Rose
you talked
to Bill Murray
(if that's who I
remember he
said had some-
thing to do with it
also) If he is the
Bill M. I knew
(from National Trust)
he's a great guy & very
able.

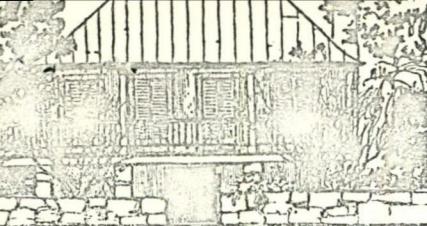
THIS

Dear Truett: All of us who
had the great pleasure of ~~the~~
attending the Winedale Work-
shop are still grateful for
the beautiful job ^{to those} ~~of~~ you who planned
~~it~~!!! Poor me, I
did intend to write
a "letter to the editor"
lauding you all
& IT ~~is~~ but at
least I pestered
Neil until he
wrote to the
Regents etc.

how we
need you
on this road

The hospital, to include 400
beds for general patients and
360 for psychiatric patients, will
serve 40 South and Central Tex-

as countries.
The U.S. Courthouse and Fed-
eral Office Building will be con-
structed at the old arsenal site
on South Flores Street. The ar-
chitectural architect, Frank M.
Valdez, consists of two build-
ings — a three-story federal build-
ing and a seven-story main lobby.
Valdez said it should not take
"too long" to have preparations
ready for contract letting.



VILLITA STREET CA 3-1612
ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205 CA 3-4911

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December 8, 1969

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Mr. Robert S. Garvey
National Parks Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Garvey:

We have noted in a newspaper release of November 21 that a study will be made of the feasibility of moving the newly funded federal office building from the proposed Arsenal site into the United States Pavilion area. This brings up again the future fate of the Arsenal, which has been the concern of the San Antonio Conservation Society since 1953.

In 1858, a government representative was sent to San Antonio to select a suitable site for the Arsenal, since the Alamo was no longer available. After numerous delays, building was begun and a newspaper item of March 22, 1860, says, "All the material is of the best quality. The rocks are beautifully dressed and well laid. We will venture to say that no better mechanism can be found in any part of Texas than is bestowed on these buildings."

The Arsenal was part of the life of the Alamo city for 90 years. It supplied troops from Indian territory to the Mexican border and equipped them with Bowie knives and buckshot to fight the Indians. It equipped Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders for the Spanish-American War. It furnished General "Black Jack" Pershing with weapons to fight Pancho Villa, and provided fire power for the flying machines for many years.

A detailed report and research of these buildings was completed in 1968 for the Historic American Buildings Survey and is on file in the Library of Congress.

There have been various suggestions for use of the grounds and historic buildings, such as a military museum or an historical park. Whatever - in view of military importance of San Antonio - this property needs to be preserved for the benefit of citizens and visitors as a vital link in the colorful history of this city.

Sincerely yours,

C. S. MacMillan

Mrs. C. S. MacMillan
Vice President for Old
Buildings and Historical Research

EM:ah

Arsenal, San Antonio

HR SAE

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Washington, D. C. 20240

December 18, 1969

Mrs. C. S. MacMillan, Vice President
San Antonio Conservation Society
511 Villita Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Mrs. MacMillan:

On behalf of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation I am acknowledging your letter of December 8 with reference to the San Antonio Arsenal.

In order for the Advisory Council to comment on an undertaking affecting an historic property, that property should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the present time the Arsenal is not on the Register, but it is my understanding there is a nomination pending.

An official of the General Services Administration advises me the Arsenal has not been declared excess to the government's needs and they are not contemplating such a designation at this time. In fact, it appears highly unlikely that General Services Administration will take any action in the near future which would adversely affect the Arsenal.

We appreciate your deep interest and the interest of the San Antonio Conservation Society in the Arsenal. Should future events bring this matter before the Council, I feel confident the Council members will be as helpful as possible.

Sincerely yours,

signed

Ira Whitlock
Deputy Executive Secretary

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Regional Director, Southwest (2)

D, w/c of inc.
DEA " "
DO " "
DOG

H, w/c of inc.
SOL, Mr. Meyer "
Chairman, Advisory Council "

IWhitlock:jl

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN DOG

cc:
Regional Director, Southwest Region
T-Butterfield
DAL-Mr. Melvin
Mr. Steen

RGAMBLE:mb

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

DEC 30 1969
ENTERED INTO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

H34-HR

DEC 30 1969

Hon. Ralph W. Yarbrough
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Yarbrough:

We are pleased to inform you that the United States San Antonio Arsenal, San Antonio, Texas, has been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and has been entered into the "National Register of Historic Places." Senator John G. Tower and Representative Henry B. Gonzalez have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed)

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

Duplicate letters sent to:
Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

cc:

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

cc: Regional Director, Southwest Region
T-Butterfield
DAL-Mr. Melvin
Mr. Steen

Duplicate letters sent to:
Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
cc:
Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical
Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

DEC 30 1969
ENTERED INTO THE NATIONAL REGISTER.
1034-HR

12/1/69

RGAMBLE:mb

Enclosure

Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the United States San Antonio
Arsenal, San Antonio, Texas, has been nominated by the officer
appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National
Historic Preservation Program in Texas and has been entered
into the "National Register of Historic Places." Senator John
G. Tower and Representative Henry B. Gonzalez have also been
provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the
National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archaeology
and Historic Preservation

Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Bexar

RG
12/4/69

DEC 30 1969



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
SOUTHERN DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
2144 MELBOURNE ST., P. O. BOX 10068
CHARLESTON, S. C. 29411

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO THE
COMMANDING OFFICER, NOT TO
THE SIGNER OF THIS LETTER.
REFER TO:

Code 20A

2 JUL 1981

CONCUR

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1522 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

JUL 3 1981

COPY

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 please find attached a project description for the alteration/rehabilitation of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, San Antonio, Texas, which is located within the area of the U. S. San Antonio Arsenal, an historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

This project has been authorized for design but prior to its authorization it was coordinated with the Texas Historical Commission and a finding of no adverse effect was obtained.

Copies of applicable correspondence are attached for your information and review.

Sincerely,

JOHN E. MURRAY
Intergovernmental
Program Coordinator

L. M.
Mr. Pratt - G.S.A.

GSA, Bill Wolf - ~~Surplus~~
Kunzigs Rep. on Council Property
Sm. Meyers assist.
Aug. 5, 1969 Tom P. Wolf - Dept Comm
Bill Schmidt - Real Prop Disposal

1. 1962 - Hist. made study of Arsenal - not held Sep.
2. 1968 - HABs - Study made.

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Roughly bounded by S. Flores, E. Arsenal, the San Antonio River, and E. Durango

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

VICINITY: N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

STATE: Texas

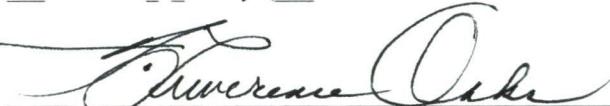
CODE: TX

COUNTY: Bexar

CODE: 029 **ZIP CODE:** 78283

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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


Signature of certifying official

11-15-00
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

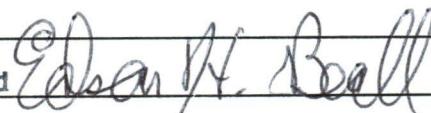
determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): Additional Documentation Accepted


Edgar W. Beall

1-24-01

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private; Public-Federal; Public-Local**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	4	9 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	3	3 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	7	12 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 6**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DEFENSE/military facility**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** COMMERCE/TRADE / business = office building

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:**MATERIALS: FOUNDATION** stone; concrete**WALLS** stone; brick; concrete**ROOF** metal; concrete; composite**OTHER****NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-14).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

7. DESCRIPTION

Summary

The San Antonio United States Arsenal includes a complex of buildings bounded on the north by NCB 927 and the north portion of NCB 929, on the south by Arsenal Street, on the east by the San Antonio River, and on the west by South Flores Street. The district was listed on the National Register in 1969 and contains 26 buildings, structures, and objects, six of them included in current listing. Those buildings, all constructed of limestone in the 19th century, are the Stable, Magazine, Storehouse, Headquarters Building, Servants' Quarters, and Commanding Officers' Quarters. The Arsenal was established in 1859, and these listed buildings represent the site's mid-to-late 19th century development by the United States Army. The site remained an active military facility until 1947 when it was closed in the aftermath of World War II. Construction in the early-to-mid 20th century consisted of warehouses (both temporary and permanent) and support facilities for the Army that included both metal sheds and sturdy concrete structures. Construction in the early-to-mid 20th century consisted of warehouses (both temporary and permanent) and support facilities for the Army during the Spanish American War, and World Wars I and II. These buildings included both metal sheds and sturdy concrete structures. Much of the property was declared surplus in the 1970s, and warehouses on the northeast corner of the site were demolished. H-E-B Grocery Company purchased and/or leased a large part of the site for its corporate headquarters in the early 1980s, and renovated the site according to a development plan approved by the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation Office, Texas Historical Commission and Secretary of the Interior. At that time, an amended National Register nomination was not required. In 1999, H-E-B completed the certified rehabilitation of a major warehouse building constructed in 1918/1941/1947. As one of the Arsenal's major 20th century buildings, though deemed eligible for the National Register, the structure must be listed and therefore, the existing 1969 National Register nomination is being expanded to include the full range of the site's architecture and history.

The San Antonio United States Arsenal: Prior Listing

The original Arsenal National Register nomination describes the property as "an important military post from 1859 until 1947." The site was purchased from P.H. Bell and G.P. Devine in the 1850s, and was expanded in 1881. General David E. Twiggs, took command of the Department of Texas for the Army in 1857, and made his headquarters at the Arsenal in the old homestead of Dr. James M. Devine. The house was standing on the property at the time of purchase, and remains today, though heavily remodeled. Prior to the Civil War, the Arsenal served principally as a storage depot for ordnance supplies. After Twiggs surrendered his troops at the beginning of the Civil War, the Arsenal remained under the command of the Confederacy for the war's duration. It was used as a supply base for troops in the lower Rio Grande Valley as well as the Sibley Brigade in its 1861-62 New Mexico campaign. Following the war, the Arsenal became the chief source of supplies for troops on the Western frontier. The nomination noted that during World Wars I and II, the Arsenal continued as a supply depot. In 1919, approximately 38 buildings were at the Arsenal. "Throughout almost 100 years the United States Arsenal contributed to making San Antonio one of the largest military cities in the country." The site was nominated by the staff of the agency then called the Texas State Historical Survey Committee. At the time of its nomination, the Arsenal was considered threatened by plans for a proposed expressway and a new federal building project.

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)

Section 7 Page 6

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

The US San Antonio Arsenal site as defined in the National Register listing of 1969 includes the property historically associated with this facility since its establishment in 1859. The 1969 listing described only six buildings within these boundaries. The National Register was created in 1966, and in its early days, dealt with a community's oldest and most historic structures, considered at that time to be those of the 19th century. (In San Antonio, only the Alamo, Espada Aqueduct, San Jose Mission and the Ursuline Academy National Register listings predate listing of the Arsenal.) Turn-of-the-century and early 20th century buildings on the Arsenal site were therefore not acknowledged. Though only six buildings are formally listed on the National Register, the site today contains a total of 19 buildings, 6 structures, and 1 object. In addition, walls, fences, and walkways contribute to the character of the property, and the San Pedro acequia, an important archaeological feature, traverses the site (see Map 1).

The San Antonio United States Arsenal Site: 1969 to 2000

When listed in 1969, the Arsenal site was still Federal property. Since that time, the majority of the Arsenal has been declared surplus and transferred to local governmental or private ownership. The southwest quarter of the site remains Federally-owned, though a portion of that land is leased to H-E-B Grocery Company. The northwest quarter of the site is owned by the City of San Antonio and used as a senior citizens' recreational facility. The eastern half of the site is owned by H-E-B Grocery Company and houses the company's corporate headquarters (see Map 2).

When H-E-B acquired its first property at the Arsenal in the early 1980s, a number of World War I and World War II warehouse buildings had already been removed from the northeast portion of the site. (This site work was done in anticipation of an unsuccessful project to construct an international trade center). Following acquisition, but prior to commencing work in 1983, H-E-B, in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission and Department of the Interior, developed a plan for site development. This included demolition, restoration, and remodeling of buildings remaining on H-E-B's property. Work was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines and Standards as administered in 1983. Since that time, H-E-B has leased and/or acquired additional land within the Register boundaries, and also purchased land adjoining the northern Register boundary both east and west of Main Avenue.

H-E-B's most recent renovation—that of the Building #6, commonly called the "Navy Building" (1918/1941/1947), has necessitated expansion of the 1969 National Register listing to include 20th century structures. As a certified rehabilitation tax credit project, the building has been deemed eligible for the Register. Still, the listing must be expanded to comply with today's Register guidelines, noting all contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures within the Register boundaries. The Arsenal boundaries as recognized in 1969, are retained for the purpose of this expanded nomination, as they represent property historically associated with this facility.

The Arsenal Site: Buildings and Structures

As noted, the Arsenal in 2000 includes 26 buildings, objects and structures that are depicted on both the attached Map #1 and aerial photograph (Figure #1). The buildings are numbered according to an arbitrary, in-house system developed by H-E-B. The numbering sequence has been extended (again arbitrarily) to include properties not owned by H-E-B, as well

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)

Section 7 Page 7

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

as pertinent site features. (Note: numbers 11, 12, and 13 are assigned by H-E-B to features not pertinent to this listing, and are purposely not included.)

The buildings, structures, and archaeological features on the Arsenal site are listed and described below. Included (and noted) are the six buildings in the 1969 National Register listing. The remaining buildings, structures, and archaeological features are being added to the listing.

West Building (1917;1919;1939;1941;1983)

Non-contributing, Photo #1

Prior to remodeling by H-E-B in 1983, this building was actually comprised of four structures constructed at different times and joined into one large maintenance facility. Today, the building, heavily remodeled, serves as the both the entrance to the complex and office space. The entryway is comprised of a 2-story portico and open breezeway. The remainder of the building is 1-story topped with a crenellated parapet reflecting the motif used on the South Building and Navy Building. Fixed metal frame, multi-pane windows also complement detailing found in other parts of the complex. The building is plastered. Army maps and inventories list this as Building #9.

Stable (1873-74)

Listed 1969, Photo #2

Army maps and inventories list this as Building #21.

Magazine (1860)

Listed 1969, Photos #3-4

Army maps and inventories list this as Building # 19.

North Building (1983)

Non-contributing Photo #4

Constructed by H-E-B in 1983, this 3-story building serves as offices and encloses the north side of a courtyard created by the Building #2 to the east (Stables), Building #3 to the south (Magazine), and Building #1 to the west (West Building). The scale, massing and materials of the building complement the site's earlier 20th century buildings. The building is plastered, has open galleries on the first and second floors facing the courtyard, and metal-clad, multi-pane windows. A series of World War I and II supply sheds stood on this site until their demolition in the 1970s.

Storehouse (1917)

Contributing, Photo #5-6

Army maps identify this as Building #29, and it is called by H-E-B, the "South Building." This building was constructed on year before the first portion of Building #6, and the two share all salient design features. Building #5 is a 5-story rectangular warehouse with a reinforced concrete foundation, concrete slab floors and roof, tile walls, and stucco finish. Like the Building #6, this structure is approximately 400 feet in length and 40 feet in width. It was built as a storage warehouse (originally called Storehouse G) and contains approximately 82,000 square feet. The cost of construction in 1917 was \$73,000.

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
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Designed in the utilitarian warehouse style, the building's exterior detailing is simple. Pilasters decorated with applied Art Deco motifs at both the east and west ends of the building define single bay pavilions. The pavilions are adorned at the top with a stylized, scalloped frieze running below a simple projecting cornice. The second through fifth floors contain 31 regularly spaced metal clad windows with pivoting center panels and plain concrete sills. The first and second floors are separated by a simple molding that encompasses the entire building. A projecting cornice runs the length of the building, and the east and west ends are topped by a crenellated parapet.

It is assumed that, like Building #6, rollup metal doors served the loading dock on the building's south side. Today, much like Building #6, the first floor has fixed, multi-pane metal clad windows in place of industrial style doors. A railroad siding connected both Buildings #5 and #6 to the Missouri, Kansas and Texas tracks two blocks to the west.

The 1917 building was constructed as a strictly utilitarian warehouse space supported by a concrete columns. The open plan was meant to be flexible and was reconfigured to suit changing uses. In 1983, the building was remodeled as an office building in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. It is connected by a covered walkway to Building #1 to the north.

Storehouse (1918;1941; 1947)

Contributing, Photo #5, 7-12

Army maps identify this as Building #51, and it is commonly called the "Navy Building" for its long-time association with the Naval Reserve. The 1918 portion of the building was originally referred to as Warehouse J.) The structure is a four and five story rectangular reinforced concrete building with a full basement and flat built-up roof. It measures approximately 404 feet in length and 43 feet in width. Its overall design, as noted, is quite similar to Building #5. Building #6 was constructed in two phases in 1918 (west, 4-stories) and 1941 (east, 5-stories), it was built by the United States Army as an ordnance storage depot. The 4-story portion (west end) is 53' tall and its 5-story portion (east end) is 65' tall. The original 1918 portion of Building #6 was constructed at an approximate cost of \$11,489 (San Antonio Arsenal Historical Report, 1919-1941, National Archives, Record Group 156, Central Subject Files, 1940-47). The building's cost was erroneously reported as \$122,307 in the 1946 *Analysis of Existing Facilities, San Antonio Arsenal* (Fort Sam Houston historical files).

The 1918 building has a reinforced concrete foundation, concrete framing, tile walls, stucco finish, and concrete slab roof with built-up tar and gravel surface. Designed in the utilitarian warehouse style, the building is simple in its exterior detailing. The second through fourth floors on the north and south elevations contain 21 regularly spaced metal clad windows with pivoting center panels and plain concrete sills. The first and second floors of the building are separated by a simple molding running along the north, west and south elevations of the building. The east and west ends of the building culminate in a single bay pavilion decorated with a stylized, scalloped frieze and defined by pilasters with applied Art Deco motifs. A projecting cornice runs the length of the building, and the east and west ends are topped by a crenellated parapet. The first floor as originally constructed had metal roll-up doors in bays 3, 8, 14, and 21 (as counted from the building's west end) on the south elevation. Today, bay 3 on the south side contains double fire doors. On the north side, bays 3, 5, and 11 contain metal doors that provided access to a continuous loading dock that ran the length of both the north and south elevations.

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

In 1941, a 144' long addition was made to the east end of Building #6 at a cost of \$70,000. The 1946 facilities' report estimates the total size of the expanded building to be 92,235 square feet. Construction of the 1941 addition was identical in material, and complementary in style. The building has 12 bays. The simple, rounded molding separating floors one and two differs in profile from the 1918 building. On the south side of the first floor, bays 3 and 10 contain roll up metal doors (counting from the building's west end), and on the north side, doors are in bays 2,3, and 10. On floors 2, 3 and 4, windows lack sills or lintels, but are defined by a raised, running molding. The window arrangement and 12 light pattern is identical to the 1918 building on floors one through four. The fifth floor windows are horizontal rather than vertical in arrangement and are flanked on the east and west ends by a single smaller window. The 1941 addition has a simple stepped parapet with no decorative cornice.

With completion of the eastern portion of Building #6, the north side loading dock was expanded the length of the structure. The 1946 Facilities Report erroneously describes a "continuous 7'0" loading dock on the south side for truck delivery." That dock is illustrated on a plan dated October 1942 as being intermittent, not continuous, and today it remains as it was in the 1940s after the entrance stairway was added. At the southeast corner of the building, a ramp leads into the basement. Three light metal clad awning windows provide light to the basement.

Until the Naval Reserve occupied the building in 1947, there was no need for a formal, "public" entrance. In May 1947, the Naval Reserve hired the Austin firm of Page, Southerland and Page to perform engineering and architectural work at this facility. No drawings have been located to document the extent of this work, but the style of the entrance indicates that it was likely completed at this time. Modern aluminum and glass doors and side panels (c. 1970) were replaced in 1999 by painted metal doors in a pattern to complement existing metal-clad windows. There is no decorative surround, though recessed panels between the entry bays apparently once held light fixtures. The entry is accessed by a plain concrete stairway that has both center and side approaches. A hand railing and handicapped access ramp were added in 1999 to meet building code requirements. Above the entry is a projecting masonry canopy with simple metal brackets topped by a simple metal balustrade. Though appearing to be a balcony accessible from the second floor, the canopy was constructed to protect visitors entering the building. The stairway is connected on either side to the old loading dock.

The 1918/1941 building was constructed as a strictly utilitarian warehouse space supported by a single row of plain concrete columns spaced 12' on center. The open plan was meant to be flexible and was reconfigured with plywood and metal mesh partitioning to suit changing uses. Floor levels are uniform between the two portions of the building. In 1999, the building was remodeled as an office building in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards. Modifications were made to the loading dock on the south side of the building to accommodate handicapped access and fire codes. Rollup metal doors were replaced with multi-pane metal sash panels. An open breezeway was constructed between this building and the adjacent Building #5. Previously, there was no formal connection.

River Building (1918; 1941; 1983)

Non-contributing, Photo #13,14

Originally constructed as a storage warehouse and shop, the building was heavily remodeled in 1983. Two, 3-story pavilions with central gables were added to the east (River) elevation of the building. Covered open-air walkways with square columns and simple metal railings connect the elongated building. Army maps and inventories list this as Building #30.

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Storehouse (1919)

Contributing, Photo #15

This small, 1-story warehouse has a reinforced concrete foundation, concrete framing, tile walls, a concrete roof slab, and stucco finish. Windows are fixed, multi-light metal frame with cast stone sills. A pair of 16-light windows is found on the east elevation, and on the south elevation, a single, fixed six-light window is flanked by pairs of 16-light windows. The west elevation has a single window with recessed infill.

The building's only decoration is a simple raised molding. The building was constructed as a storehouse, and originally had a loading dock on its east side. It is visible on historic photographs of the complex, and the only discernable change in appearance appears to be replacement of two loading dock doors with windows. The building was originally constructed by the Army as an oil storage house at a cost of \$14,219. The building is used today by H-E-B as its PEC facility. Army maps and inventories list this as Building #52.

Guard House (1983)

Non-contributing, Photo #16

This one-room structure serves as the control-point for entry to the H-E-B Corporate Headquarters. It is plastered with a metal roof.

Storage (1983)

Non-contributing

This one-room structure is used for storage and the irrigation system controls for the site. It is plastered with a metal roof.

Storehouse (1883)

NR 1969, Photo #17

Army maps and inventories list this as Building #53.

Headquarters Building (1859-60)

NR 1969, Photo #18

Also called the Office Building. Army maps and inventories list this as Building #12.

Commanding Officers' Garage (1914/1918/1936)

Contributing, Photo #19

This rectangular, painted one-story brick building was originally constructed as a toilet facility and remodeled in 1918 at a cost of \$1,000 as the Commanding Officers garage. The building was enlarged in 1936 into a 3-car garage that measured 18' X 35'. It has a center gable roof oriented on an east/west axis, and stands immediately northeast of the Office Building. The wood sash, double hung windows are set in arched openings with stone sills. Tie rods ends are visible on the outside of the building and were perhaps installed at the time of its remodeling in 1936. The building has a composition roof. A modern garage door is installed in one bay on the south side of the building. A second bay is closed, and the building is entered through a modern door at the southwest corner. Army maps and inventories list this as Building #6.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 11

U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Storage Building (c. 1950)

Non-contributing, Photo #20

This small, square building is constructed of brick with a center gable roof. The original window and door openings have been closed and/or altered, and the building stuccoed and painted. It stands on the site of the old hot house.

Servants' Quarters (c. 1855)

NR 1969, Photo #21

Army maps and inventories list this as Building #2. The east wall of the servants' quarters is built using the stone wall lining the San Pedro acequia as its foundation. The acequia was apparently stone-lined in the early 1850s shortly before the servants' quarters was built.

Commanders' Quarters (1883-86)

NR 1969, Photo #22

Army maps and inventories list this as Building #1. Not noted in the 1969 nomination was the construction immediately north of the Commanders' house of a concrete swimming pool measuring approximately 25' X 60'. The pool was built in 1921 at an approximate cost of \$1,000. It was filled in later years and is no longer visible.

Motor Pool Office (c. 1945)

Non-contributing, Photo #23

This one-room structure is wood frame with asbestos shingle walls, wood sash windows, and a composition roof. This building is similar in description to the structure listed on Army maps and inventories as Building #62. However, the existing structure stands in a different location on the site. It has either been relocated, or is not the same as Building #62.

Wash Rack (c. 1946)

Non-contributing, Photo #23

This concrete slab and pipe structure with a galvanized iron roof. Army inventories describe the wash rack as a "miscellaneous temporary building" with tile walls 3' from the floor. The present structure meets this description, but has no architectural value.

Shop (c. 1990)

Non-contributing, Photo #23

This tall, 1-story building is of metal construction. It has two garage bays on the south elevation.

Office (c. 1990)

Non-contributing, Photo #23

This temporary 1-story trailer is of metal construction.

Rock Wall and Entry Posts (c. 1883)

Contributing, Photo #24

A low, rusticated limestone wall extends the length of the Arsenal's western boundary from its northern to southern corner. Stone posts are located at the north corner, at either side of the walkway leading to the Commanders' House, and

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Section 7 Page 12

U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

at the intersection of Whiteley Boulevard with South Flores Street. A corner post with dressed cap is located at the intersection of Arsenal and South Flores Streets. Along South Flores Street, a tall chain link fence is set just inside the limestone wall.

Sidewalk and Street Pattern (c. 1900)

Contributing structure

Using historic Army maps, it is possible to discern paving patterns that remain from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These include concrete sidewalks that connect various buildings and are documented on Map 2. An octagonal pattern along one of these walkways, designated Building #38, represents the footprint of a "summer house" relocated in 1952 to King William park some three blocks away in the King William National Register District. A walkway leads from South Flores Street to the Commanders' House, encircling a flower bed and fountain with a cherub figure.

Certain historic street patterns also remain. These include Taylor Circle, a circular drive that served as the primary entrance to the Commanders' House. Located west of the house, Taylor Circle is accessed from Whiteley Boulevard that exited to South Flores Street. Whiteley Boulevard intersects with Arnold Street and Maclin Road, portions of which also are intact within the district. The route of the M-K-T railroad siding that served the site is discernable, though tracks are not visible.

San Pedro Acequia (18th century)

The San Pedro acequia was constructed by the Spanish in the early 1730s to irrigate farmlands below San Pedro Springs. The springs formed a creek that flowed from a site approximately two miles north of the city center known today as San Pedro Springs Park (NR 1979). The acequia branched from the creek and flowed south, generally following the course of North Flores Street and Main Avenue (formerly called Acequia Street). It continued south of town, watering garden plots of houses along its route. This course took it through the property purchased in the 1850s for the United States Arsenal. The acequia re-entered San Pedro Creek about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Arsenal below South Alamo Street (previously called Mill Street) near the southern boundary of the South Alamo Street-South St. Mary's Street National Register Historic District (NR 1984). Remnants of the stone-lined acequia are visible on the Arsenal site, and other portions are intact under paved areas west and south of Building #14 as well as south of Arsenal Street.

The San Pedro acequia has been studied in various archaeological investigations beginning in 1977 (Fox 1978). The 1977 study involved the acequia as it ran through the grounds of the Commanders' House where it was found to be stone-lined with evidence of sluice gates to divert water into side ditches. There was speculation that the acequia in later years might have been used as a fish pond and/or reservoir for rainwater. City Council records indicate that the ditch was lined with stone in this area in the early 1850s. Sometime about 1881, the ditch was straightened in the Arsenal area and a bridge was built over the acequia. In 1911, an article in the San Antonio Light noted, "The ancient San Pedro ditch, dug by the Spaniards for irrigation purposes, runs through the grounds and is still used. By this means the officer in charge is enabled to take care of the lawns throughout the year and keep the trees in the best possible condition. The irrigation system is an elaborate one and almost every corner of the reservation can be reached by the water from the ditch by gravity. In spite of this convenience, the ditch was viewed by the city as a liability and a source of flooding, and it was permanently closed by ordinance in 1912 (*San Antonio Light*, August 13, 1911; Cox and Houk, 1998).

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

A second investigation of the San Pedro acequia in 1981 by Augustine J. Frukuska, Jr. also found the ditch to be stone-lined in the area south of the Arsenal. In 1997, Patience Patterson, in a study conducted for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, projected the path of the acequia south of the Commanders' House through a parking lot owned by the General Service Administration. Subsequent work on the parking lot was monitored and the acequia was found to be slightly west of the route projected by Patterson in her study. As in the areas both north and south of the parking lot, the acequia was stone-lined. Following documentation, the site was covered and re-paved (Cox, 1998). The acequia has also been documented in San Pedro Park and the area south of the springs (Cox, 1986) as well as downtown adjacent to San Fernando Cathedral and at the site of the Bexar County Justice Center.

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
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The Arsenal Site: Buildings, Structures, and Archaeological Features

	Property	Date	Type	Contributing status	Photo ref.
1	West Building	1917; 1919; 1939; 1941; 1983	Building	Non-contributing	Photo #1
2	Stable	1873-74	Building	NR 1969	Photo #2
3	Magazine	1860	Building	NR 1969	Photos #3-4
4	North Building	1983	Building	Non-contributing	Photo #4
5	Storehouse	1917	Building	Contributing	Photo #5-6
6	Storehouse	1918; 1941; 1947	Building	Contributing	Photo #5, 7-12
7	River Building	1918; 1941; 1983	Building	Non-contributing	Photo #13, 14
8	Storehouse	1919	Building	Contributing	Photo #15
9	Guard House	1983	Building	Non-contributing	Photo #16
10	Storage	1983	Building	Non-contributing	
11	Storehouse	1883	Building	NR 1969	Photo #17
12	Headquarters Building	1859-60	Building	NR 1969	Photo #18
13	Commanding Officers' Garage	1914; 1918; 1936	Building	Contributing	Photo #19
14	Storage Building	c. 1950	Building	Non-contributing	Photo #20
15	Servants' Quarters	c. 1855	Building	NR 1969	Photo #21
16	Commanders' Quarters	1883-86	Building	NR 1969	Photo #22
17	Motor Pool Office	c. 1945	Building	Non-contributing	Photo #23
18	Wash Rack	c. 1946	Structure	Non-contributing	Photo #23
19	Shop	c. 1990	Building	Non-contributing	Photo #23
20	Office	c. 1990	Building	Non-contributing	Photo #23
21	Rock Wall and Entry Posts	c. 1883	Structure	Contributing	Photo #24
22	Sidewalk and Street Pattern	c. 1900	Structure	Contributing	
23	Parking lots	c. 1990	Structure	Non-contributing	
24	Contemporary walls	c. 1993	Structure	Non-contributing	Photo #25
25	San Pedro Acequia	1730s	Structure	Contributing	

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

A PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.

B PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.

C PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.

D PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** MILITARY**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1859-1947**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1859, 1883, 1917**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** US Army; Henry T. Phelps; Page, Southerland and Page**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-15 through 8-24).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-25 through 9-26).**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)

Other state agency

Federal agency (*National Archives*)

Local government

University

Other -- Specify Repository:

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
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Summary

The San Antonio United States Arsenal was established in 1859 on the southern outskirts of the city as a storage facility for ordnance for the Army's Department of Texas. The site included the homestead of former San Antonio Mayor, James M. Devine, and his house was used as the original Commanding Officers' Quarters. (The present Commanders' House was constructed in 1883-86. (The present Commanders' House dates to 1883-86 and includes a portion of the old Devine House). A servants' quarters (c. 1855) that stands in 2000 is the only remaining building from this earlier phase of the site's history. The San Pedro Acequia, a Spanish irrigation ditch, flowed behind Devine's house on its southward course. Following acquisition of the land by the United States Army, construction was begun immediately in order to store and distribute ammunition and supplies throughout the Department of Texas. The Headquarters Building (1859) and Magazine (1860) date to this ante-bellum period. The Arsenal was occupied by the Confederate Army during Civil War, and then re-occupied by the United States Army after the War. The Army continued to build on the site and the Stable (1873) and a new Commanders' Quarters (1883) are standing examples of the period of late 19th century development. The most intense construction at the Arsenal took place shortly before World War I and culminating at the end of World War II. By the time the Arsenal was deactivated in 1947, it was densely developed with structures built to supply goods to the War Department. In an effort to redevelop the site and improve vehicular circulation, Main Avenue, a major north/south thoroughfare, was cut through the site in the late 1940s. Portions of the site continued in use by the Naval Reserve and other Federal governmental offices. In the 1970s, much of the land was declared surplus, and the Commanders' House and surrounding property was deeded to the City of San Antonio. Land south of the Commanders' House was retained by the Federal Government and the land east of Main Avenue was acquired by H-E-B Grocery Company for redevelopment as its corporate headquarters. When the Naval Reserve station was relocated from the Arsenal in 1986, the military era of the San Antonio United States Arsenal ended after 127 years. The contributing buildings and structures of the United States Arsenal in the year 2000 represent the major military construction periods at the site—those of the ante-bellum, World War I and World War II eras. Together, these buildings and structures, still known locally as "The Arsenal," retain a high degree of integrity and meet Criterion A in the area of Military at the local level of significance.

The San Antonio United States Arsenal: A History

The San Antonio United States Arsenal, a storage facility for ordnance materiel for the Army's Department of Texas, was established in 1859 south of town on the west bank of the San Antonio River. Here, ammunition, small arms, artillery, saddles, harness, and cartridge boxes and belts were stored and distributed throughout the State. (Manguso:1991).

Construction of the Arsenal began in 1859, continued during the Civil War by the Confederate Army, and resumed by the United States Army following the War. The original site, purchased from James Devine, was expanded to include additional property bought from Toutant Beauregard. The latter parcel was used to construct a 2-story stone storehouse in 1883 (See Figures 1 & 2). Expansion of the complex continued to accommodate the military's needs until the mid-20th century. By the time the Arsenal was deactivated in 1947, the facility had served as a supply point throughout the era of West Texas forts, the Spanish American War, and World Wars I and II. At the time of deactivation, the Arsenal's mission was "retail storage and issue" of ordnance materiel including various accessories, parts, tools, and weapons supplies (85th Anniversary Program). An Ordnance Department map of the Arsenal updated to January 1, 1945,

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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
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illustrates the site just two years before its deactivation (See Figure 3). Between 1947 and 1986, a portion of the Arsenal, notably Building #6 commonly called the Naval Reserve Building, was used for military reserve functions.

The six 19th century buildings remaining on the site-- the office building, magazine, commanding officer's quarters, servants' quarters, stables and storehouse-- are among the State's oldest and most significant military buildings. When the Arsenal was designated a Historic Texas Landmark (1965) and entered in the National Register of Historic Places (1969), recognition was given only to the site's 19th century history and architecture. However, because the Arsenal's military functions did not fully end until 1986, the site's 20th century history is also of significance.

During the late 19th century, the Arsenal served as a supply depot for the Army's West Texas forts, and as a manufacturing facility for saddles and other leather goods used during the Spanish American War. In 1901, the San Antonio Arsenal was reportedly the only such facility south of Rock Island, Illinois, with the closest one to the west located at Benicia, California (*San Antonio Daily Express*, December 20, 1901).

Lt. Col. Almon L. Varney, Commanding Officer of the Arsenal from 1899 to 1903, was committed to the facility's improvement and expansion. As early as 1901, Varney "submitted plans to Washington for a three story store house to be 200 feet in length and 60 feet in width with a tower, etc. making it one of the largest buildings in San Antonio". This building would "give employment to a large number of workingmen and the buildings erected would add to the architectural beauty of the city."

"plans of the War Department call for the construction of one of the largest arsenals in the Nation in this City...The enlargement of the San Antonio arsenal has been brought to the attention of officials at Washington upon a number of occasions. Since the Spanish American war and the acquisition of Philippines, the arsenal has come into prominence by reason of its central location and that it was on the shortest rail route to San Francisco." (*San Antonio Daily Express*, December 19, 1901).

It was speculated that the proposed \$300,000 expansion would allow the Army to consolidate various arsenal operations from other parts of the country and provide the capability to repair small arms "on a large scale" By 1911, it was reported that "all the ordnance stores of the department of Texas are at present stored in the arsenal with the exception of the heavy guns and other equipment used in coast defense" (*San Antonio Light*, August 13, 1911). The arsenal housed "small arms for the infantry, artillery and cavalry, ammunition and repair materials." The facility performed for "all the ordinary repairs of arms and gun carriages in the department." (ibid).

In spite of its important mission and Lt. Col. Varney's commitment to expanding and improving the facility, five Commanding Officers would come and go before a building program was undertaken in 1916. "The most marked growth in the operations of the San Antonio Arsenal was noted in 1916 shortly after the beginning of the latest Mexican trouble along the border. It was then that the War Department noticed the urgent need of additional storehouses for small arms and ammunition" (*San Antonio Express*, October 26, 1922). The local press wrote that while there had been 20 civilian employees at the Arsenal in 1914, there were 30 in 1916. In April 1914, General John J. Pershing assumed command of Fort Bliss, and by 1916, had assembled a field camp of more than 50,000 American soldiers near El Paso. On March 16,

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Pershing's troops crossed into Mexico in their attempt to capture Francisco "Pancho" Villa, and though they were not successful in subsequent months, Villa's followers were scattered (Tyler 5:164).

As noted at the time of the Arsenal's 85th anniversary in 1943, the facility served Pershing's expeditionary force in its pursuit of Villa (San Antonio Arsenal, 85th Anniversary brochure). This task evidently highlighted the inadequacy of the Arsenal's facilities. Pershing was nearing the end of his campaign when the *San Antonio Light* reported on November 26, 1916 that "work will begin within the next few days on the mammoth warehouse ordered by the War Department built on the grounds of the San Antonio arsenal." Designed by San Antonio architect Henry T. Phelps, "the building was planned with a view of permanency and strength," yet "the artistic effects were not overlooked" (ibid). Construction of Building #5 (called by the Army Building #29) began a period of growth at the Arsenal that accelerated after World War I and lasted through World War II.

An architectural rendering of Building #5 published in the *Light* shows a 3-story building with a basement, not the 4-story building that was actually constructed. It was noted that only the basement and first story would be constructed immediately, with the remaining portion "to be added probably next year." It is not clear when these plans changed, but the 1946 facilities' inventory states that Building #5 was built in 1917, giving no indication that it was constructed in phases.

Activity at the Arsenal increased significantly during World War I, and by the time the Armistice was signed, there were 450 civilians working at the site. Between 1917 and 1919, a machine shop, four storage warehouses and various other facilities were constructed (1946 Facilities' Report). According to newspaper sources, two-thirds of the United States' World War I flying fields were supplied with arms and ammunition from the San Antonio Arsenal.

At the end of World War I in 1918, war ordnance was shipped to the San Antonio Arsenal, resulting in continued construction and expanding employment. To accommodate this growth, Building #6 (called by the Army Building #51) was constructed in 1918 immediately south of Building #5. Because it is virtually identical in detailing to Building #5, though half the length in its initial construction, it is assumed that Henry Phelps also designed the first phase of Building #6. As part of the ongoing building program, within a year, the Army had constructed a third smaller storage warehouse between Building #6 and the San Antonio River.

Building #6 is illustrated on both a map entitled *Progress Plan of Project 163-1: Percentage of Completion 99%* dated July 2, 1919, and a 1921 photograph (National Archives, Record Group 156; Fort Sam Houston Historical Files)(see photo #27). Project 163-1, certified as complete on August 29, 1919, included three buildings constructed at a total cost of \$149,270.

The local newspaper noted in 1922 that "the Government has spent more than \$500,000 in new buildings since the World War" (*San Antonio Express*, October 26, 1922). Improvements at the Arsenal between 1916 and 1922 included storehouses, a small arms shop, a machine shop, magazines, barracks, quarters, a mess hall, a railroad spur, tunnels, loading platforms, roads, sewers, and spotlights (ibid). By 1922, the Arsenal was described as "one of the most complete and best equipped repair shops for small arms in existence" with the only ordnance optical repair shop in the United States (ibid). At that time, more than 10 million rounds of pistol, revolver and rifle ammunition and 150,000 rounds of

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artillery ammunition were stored at the Arsenal together with spare parts for field artillery equipment and a reserve supply of instruments.

During peacetime, the role of the Arsenal necessarily diminished, and from a peak employment of 450 civilians in 1919, the number fell to 84 in 1927 (*San Antonio Express*, October 26, 1922; June 21, 1927). The danger of storing ammunition at the Arsenal was recognized, and this function was moved to the Leon Springs Military Reservation (Camp Stanley) some 23 miles to the north. By 1927, activities at the Arsenal were limited to modification, upkeep, storage, issue and repair of small arms, machine guns, optical instruments, tractors, tanks and mobile artillery. Only small arms to fill "normal" requisitions were stored at the downtown site.

Construction during the late 1920s and 1930s was limited to smaller buildings including a dispensary, greenhouse, sheet metal shop, paint shop, and motor pool garage. Only one large warehouse and a new loading dock expanded the depot's shipping and storage capacity during the decade before World War II.

The Arsenal's final period of growth is associated with World War II. Between 1940 and 1944, the site was densely developed with storage sheds, shops, guard stations, and auto repair and maintenance facilities to meet the Army's wartime needs. As part of this mobilization, Building #6 was doubled in size in 1941. The expansion of the building 144 feet to the east was completed by the Constructing Quartermaster, 8th Construction Zone, at a cost of \$70,000 (San Antonio Arsenal Historical Report, 1919-1942). When the Arsenal celebrated its 85th anniversary in 1943, a commemorative publication noted that "the number of items in the Ordnance material groups now stocked at this depot has increased approximately 50% in the past 12 months, and the shipments handled have increased by 150%." Personnel had increased 300% between 1942 and 1943, and women comprised half of the work force (San Antonio Arsenal, 85th Anniversary brochure).

Photographs taken at the Arsenal during World War II clearly document Building #6 and its role in wartime activity. A guardhouse was constructed on the southwest corner of the roof, permitting "an unobstructed view of the entire fence line of this reservation" (National Archives and Records Center, Southwest Region). The fourth floor of Building #6's eastern addition housed the leather shop, and the fifth floor the Maintenance Branch's instrument shop. The remainder of the building served as offices of the Location and Receiving units, the Operations and Warehouse office, and as the processing point for incoming and outgoing property and machine records. A double track railroad spur ran between Buildings 29 and 51.

After World War II, in November 1946, the Army announced the Arsenal's closing, and on January 27, 1947, began transferring its equipment and stores to the Red River Arsenal near Texarkana (*San Antonio Light*, November 13, 1946). Other functions were transferred to the San Antonio General Depot at Fort Sam Houston. A *San Antonio Light* photograph dated June 30, 1947, the day of the Arsenal's deactivation, shows guard Jefferson D. Lindsey locking the gates for the last time (*San Antonio Light Collection*, Institute of Texan Cultures).

Removal of the Arsenal was decried by City fathers to no avail, and many plans were proposed for the Arsenal property. The land was considered as a site for various institutions including San Antonio Junior College, the fire and police departments, the Civic Center, and a new branch of the University of Texas Medical School. Though few agreed on the

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property's use, most felt that access through the site was needed, and in 1948-49, the City extended South Main Avenue through the Arsenal (*San Antonio Light*, October 10, 1948). The Commander's House and old office building west of Main Avenue were isolated from the military supply buildings east of the new street. The Arsenal buildings on both sides of Main Avenue were soon occupied by a variety of government agencies including the selective service, army recruiting, internal revenue, F.H.A., W.A.A., Department of Agriculture, the Marine and Naval Reserves, and the Treasury Department's Bond Division (*ibid*).

The United States Naval Reserve facilities program was established after World War II, and Building #6 was acquired to house the joint Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Training Center. In May 1947, the Naval Reserve approved an architectural and engineering services contract with the Austin firm of Page, Southerland and Page for work at its new facilities in San Antonio, Austin and Corpus Christi. The scope of services included in the \$19,500 contract is not known, but it likely included design of a new entrance to Building #6 to provide access for the many Reservists visiting and training at the facility. The Page, Southerland, and Page Collection at the Austin History Center contains no material related to this project. Building #51 and 1.15 acres of land was formally transferred to the U.S. Naval Reserve on November 19, 1948 (Naval Reserve Records, Record Group 2, Boxes 7-10, Contracts Noy 14000-Noy 15699 as provided by Hardy, Heck, and Meyer).

After the extension of Main Avenue in 1949, the United States Government retained the western portion of the Arsenal site. A part of that property including the Commanding Officer's Quarters was declared surplus in 1972, and transferred to the City of San Antonio which uses it as a senior citizens' center. In 1950, title to the majority of the eastern part of the site was transferred to the Texas National Guard Armory. The National Guard continued to use the property until 1976 when it was put up for sale (*San Antonio Express*, May 19, 1976). In 1981, the majority of the eastern portion of the Arsenal property was purchased by H-E-B Grocery Company for redevelopment as its corporate headquarters. Building #5 was renovated as part of that project. The Naval Reserve remained in Building #6 until 1986 when the unit moved to a new center at Fort Sam Houston and the structure was declared surplus. The Naval Reserve Building was then acquired by H.E.B. Grocery Company for expansion of its headquarters' offices.

In addition to being listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969, the Arsenal was recorded in 1968 in the Historic American Buildings Survey as the *United States San Antonio Arsenal Depot Complex (TEX-3188)*. HABS documentation includes 8 data pages on the Arsenal's general history. In addition, the six buildings noted in the 1969 National Register listing are individually recorded as follows: Commanding Officers' Quarters (TEX-3177); Magazine (TEX-3167); Office Building (TEX-3176); Servants' Quarters (TEX-3179); Stable (TEX-3178); and Storehouse (TEX-3168). Documentation on these individual buildings includes plans, photographs, and data pages. The Arsenal is a Texas Archaeological Landmark (41BX 351 and 41BX622) and a City of San Antonio Historic Landmark (Ordinance 45864, 1975). Finally, San Antonio's Spanish acequia system, including the San Pedro Acequia, is recorded in the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) as site TX-1.

In the year 2000, in spite of site changes including the construction of South Main Avenue and removal or alteration of war-time warehouses, the Arsenal retains the significant character-defining structures and buildings associated with its role as a major local military facility until 1947. The San Antonio United States Arsenal is therefore significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Military.

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FIGURE 1
San Antonio Arsenal, c.1859



San Antonio Arsenal San Antonio, Bexar

Comprises two tracts deeded to the United States as follows

One of $8\frac{17}{100}$ acres by G. P. Devine March 8, 1859
.. $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. .. P. H. Bell May 2, 1859

Total 15.92 acres in the two tracts

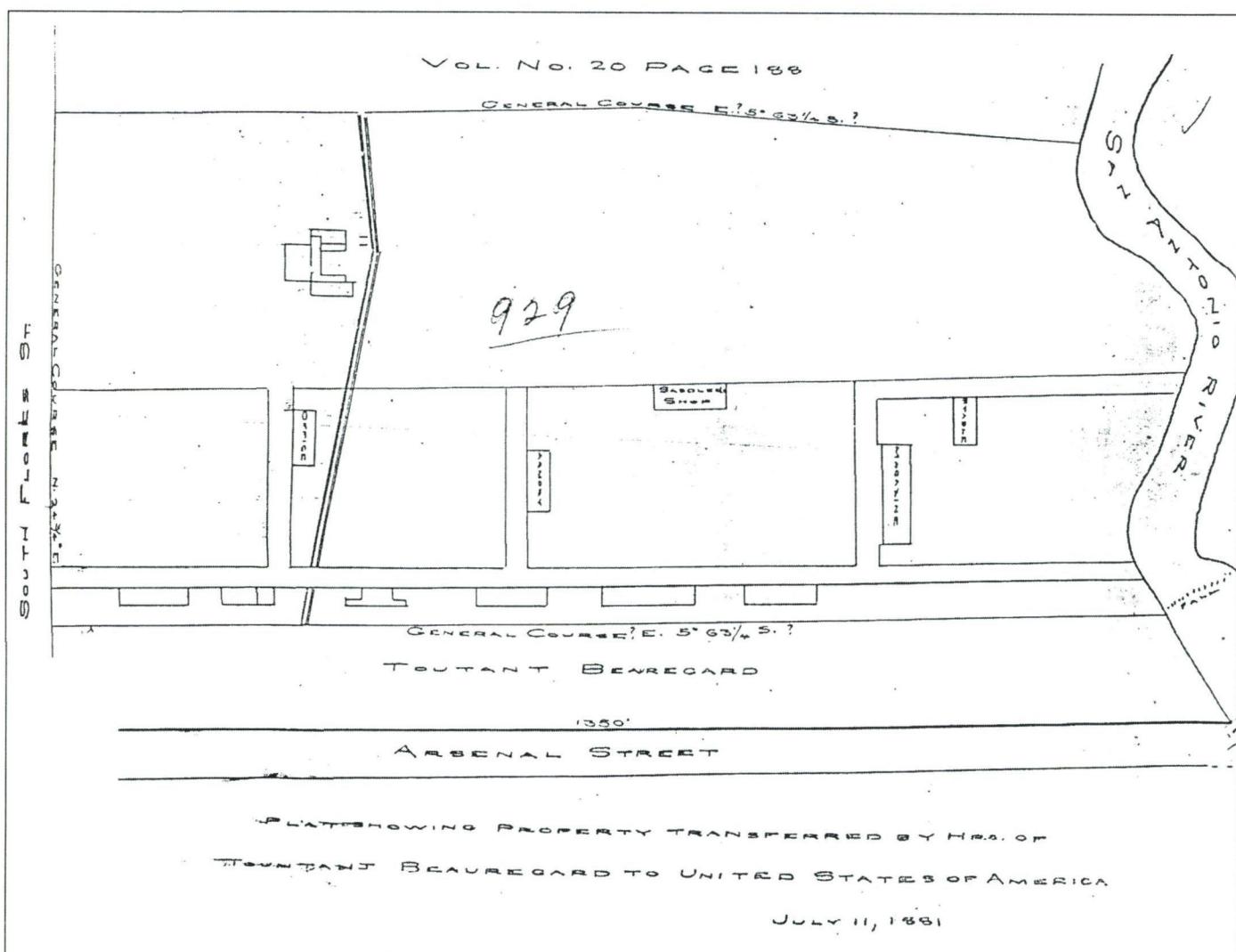
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Figure 2
Land transferred to United States from Toutant Beauregard



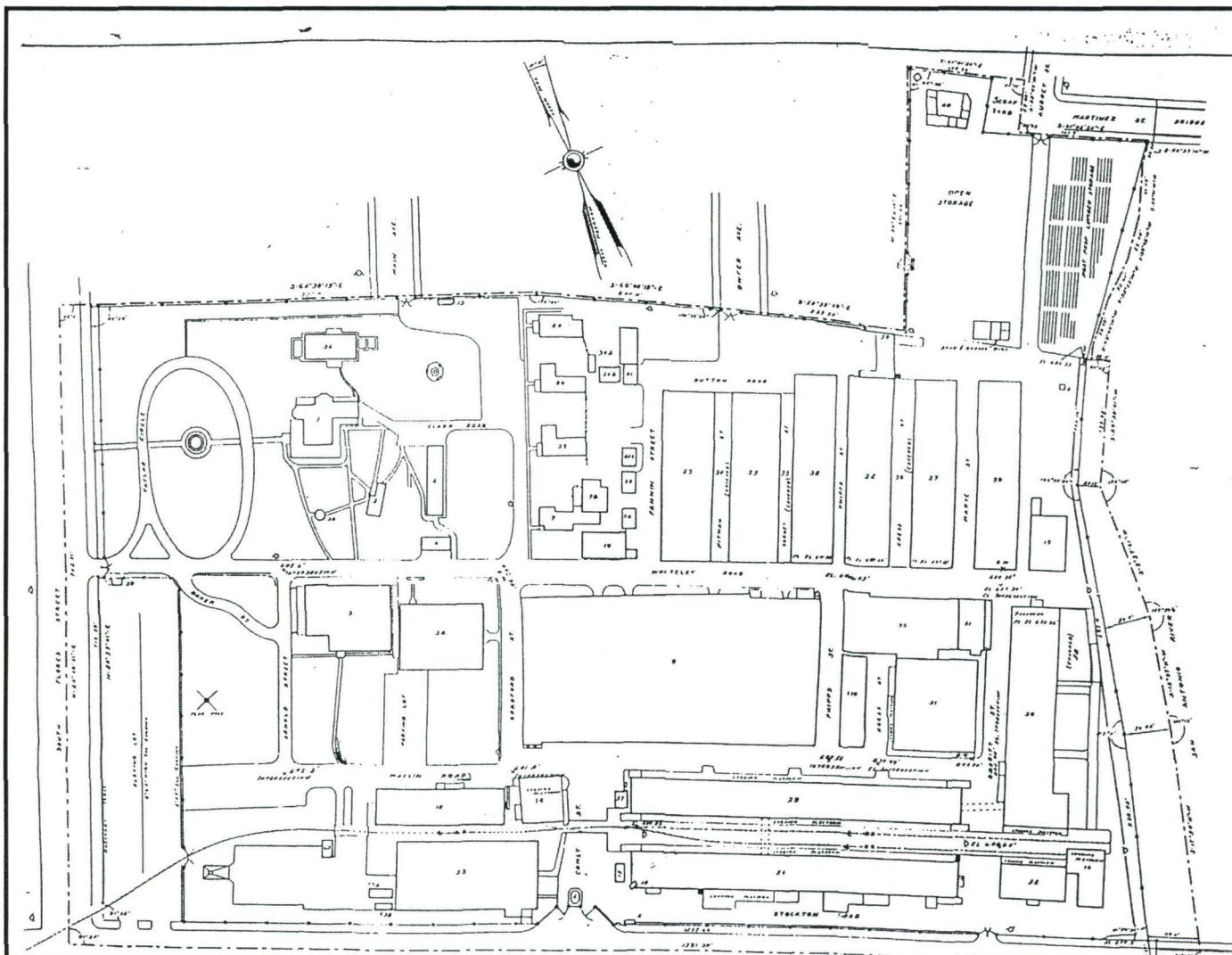
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Figure 3
San Antonio Arsenal, 1945



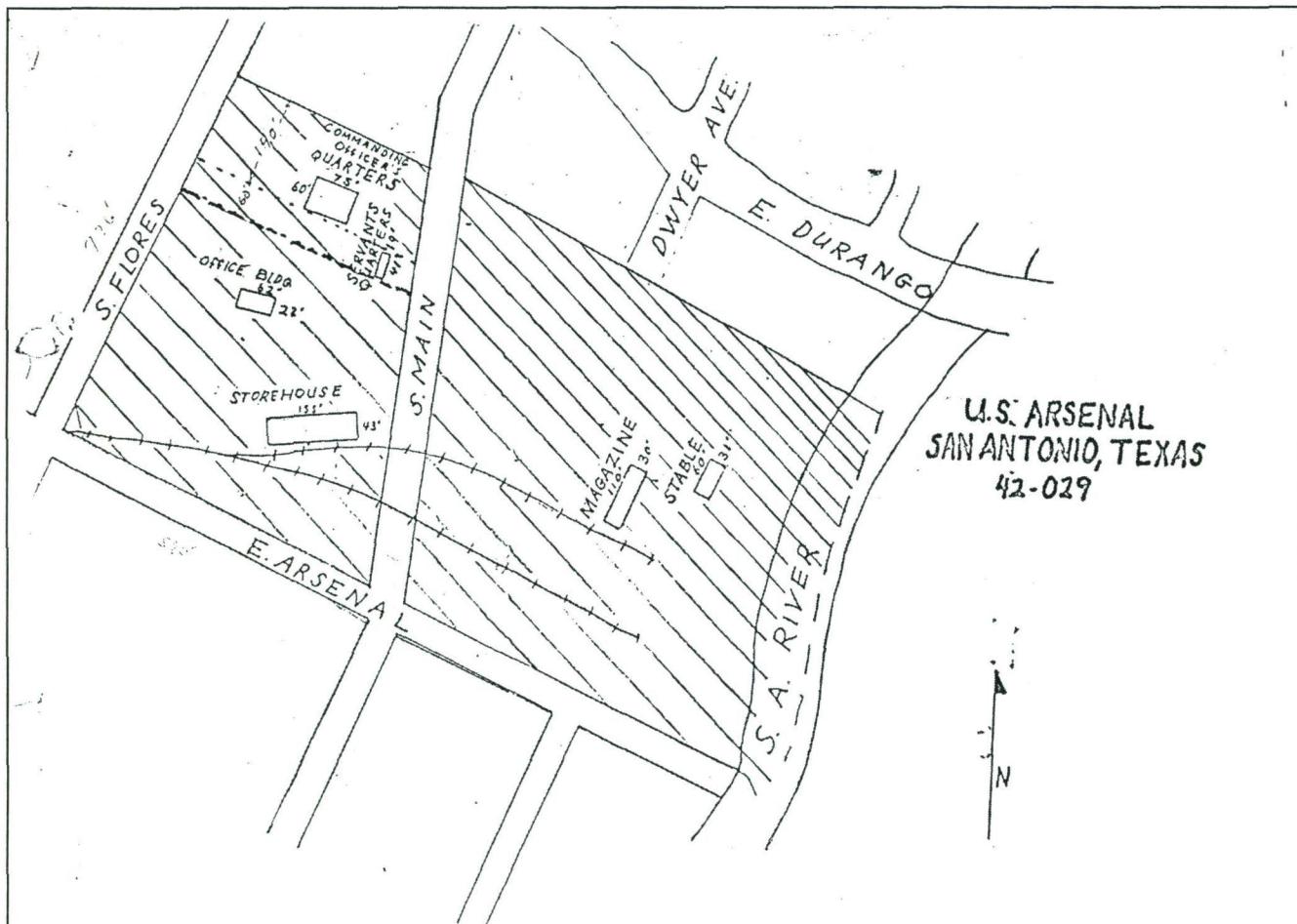
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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
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Figure 4
Map included with 1969 National Register nomination



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U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
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Figure 5
Current site plan

(SEE REVERSE)

SOUTH ARSENAL

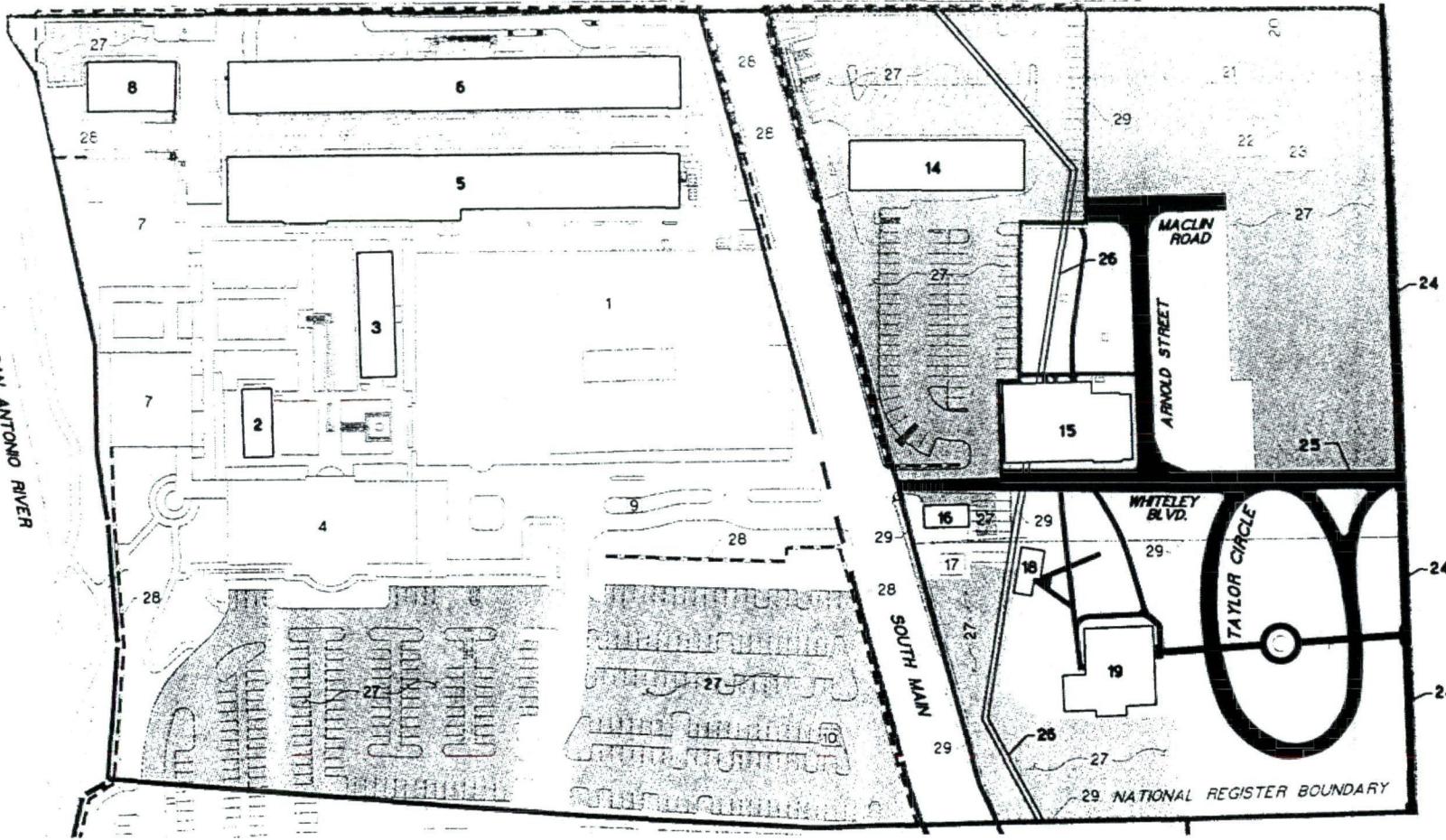
28

2

20

SAN ANTONIO RIVER

LEGEND



ITEM #	ITEM	DATE
1	WEST BUILDING	1917-63
2	STABLE	1873-74
3	MAGAZINE	1860
4	NORTH BUILDING	1983
5	STOREHOUSE	1917
6	STOREHOUSE	1918; 1941; 1947
7	RIVER BUILDING	1918-63
8	STOREHOUSE	1919
9	GUARD HOUSE	1963
10	STORAGE	1955

ITEM #	ITEM	DATE
14	STOREHOUSE	1883
15	HEADQUARTERS BUILDING	1859-60
16	COMMANDING OFFICERS' GARAGE	1914; 1918; 1936
17	STORAGE BUILDING	c. 1950
18	SERVANTS' QUARTERS	c. 1855
19	COMMANDERS' QUARTERS	1883-86
20	MOTOR POOL OFFICE	c. 1945 (2)
21	WASH RACK	c. 1946 (2)
22	SHOP	c. 1990
23	OFFICE	c. 1990

ITEM #	ITEM	DATE
24	ROCK WALL AND POSTS	c. 1883
25	SIDEWALK AND STREET PATTERN	c. 1900
26	SAN PEDRO ACEQUIA	1731-34
27	PARKING LOTS	c. 1923
28	CONTEMPORARY WALLS	1983-99
29	CHAIN LINK FENCING	c. 1975

CONTRIBUTING

CONTRIBUTING / NON-CONTRIBUTING ITEMIZATION EXHIBIT
SAN ANTONIO UNITED STATES ARSENAL
HEB CORPORATE, HEADQUARTERS
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

START DATE:	03/30/08
DESIGNER:	THOMAS
DRAWN:	R.G.
CHECKED:	
JOB NO.:	40721.05
PAPER DAWSON H CIV. & ENVIRONMENTAL	
300 EAST BURKE 800 MILE MARK 3000 PITTSTON, PA 16132	

WALMUTT GROCERY COMPANY

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San Antonio Daily Express, December 19-20, 1901

San Antonio Evening News, November 18, 22, 1946

San Antonio Express, October 26, 1922; June 21, 1927; November 13,14,20,1946; December 6,19,1946; January 5,14, 1947; February 13, 1947; March 31, 1972; May 19, 1976.

San Antonio Light, August 13, 1911; November 26, 1916; November 14,15,18,22,1946; December 16,19,27, 1946; January 14,29, 1947; October 10, 1948; September 14, 1952; January 3, 1954.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: *approx. 20 acres*

UTM REFERENCES		Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	548740	3254100	3	14	544160	3254140
2	14	548820	3254320	4	14	549100	3253920

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The district is bounded by the San Antonio River on the east, E. Arsenal on the south, S. Flores on the west, and private property to the north**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** The boundary includes all property historically associated with the arsenal. The boundary is unchanged from the original 1969 nomination.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Maria Watson Pfeiffer**ORGANIZATION:** ReSearch**DATE:** May 12, 2000**STREET & NUMBER:** 213 Washington St.**TELEPHONE:** (210) 222-1586**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio**STATE:**

TX

ZIP CODE: 78204-1336

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS**MAPS** (see continuation sheets 8-20 through 8-24)**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-27)**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

PROPERTY OWNER (see continuation sheet PROPERTY OWNERS-28)

NAME:**STREET & NUMBER:****TELEPHONE:****CITY OR TOWN:****STATE:****ZIP CODE:**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 27

U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

PHOTO LIST

All photographs (with the exception of #27) taken by Clem Spalding
March 2000
Negatives are held by H-E-B Grocery Company.

1. West Building (Building #1), north elevation looking south
2. Stable (Building #2), west elevation looking east
3. Magazine (Building #3), north and west elevations looking southeast
4. North Building (Building #4) (with Magazine to the right), north elevation looking south
5. Storehouses (Buildings #5 on the right, #6 on the left), west elevations looking east.
6. Storehouses (Building #5 in the foreground, #6 in the background), oblique view looking from northwest to southeast.
7. Storehouse (Building #6), south elevation looking northeast
8. Storehouse (Building #6), south elevation, western end, looking north
9. Storehouse (Building #6), south elevation, second section, looking north
10. Storehouse (Building #6), south elevation, third section, looking north
11. Storehouse (Building #6), south elevation, fourth section, looking north
12. Storehouse (Building #6), south elevation, fifth section, looking north
13. River Building (with San Antonio River in foreground), east elevation, southern section, looking west
14. River Building (Building #7) (with San Antonio River in foreground), east elevation, northern section, looking west
15. Storehouse (Building #8) (with Building #6 in background), east and south elevations looking northwest
16. Guardhouse (Building #9) (with Building #1 on right and Building #4 in background), looking east
17. Storehouse (Building #14), north elevation looking southwest
18. Headquarters Building (Building #15), north elevation looking south
19. Commanding Officers' Garage (Building #16), east elevation looking west
20. Storage Building (Building #17), looking northeast
21. Servants' Quarters (Building #18), west elevation looking southeast
22. Commanders' Quarters (Building #19) (with Building #18) in background
23. Southwest corner South Flores and Arsenal Streets (showing from left to right: Buildings #23, 22, 21, 20)
24. Rock wall and entry posts (with South Flores Street in foreground and Building #19 in background)
25. Main Avenue looking north (with Building #6 on right)
26. Courtyard showing Building #7 on left and Building #5 on right
27. Aerial Photograph of Arsenal, c. 1921. Fort Sam Houston Museum.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PROPERTY OWNERS Page 28

U.S. San Antonio Arsenal (period of significance expansion)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

H-E-B Grocery Company
ATTN: Mr. Wesley D. Nelson
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283

City of San Antonio
Department of Planning
ATTN: Ann McGlone
Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283-3966

General Services Administration
Greater Southwest Region
ATTN: Steve Kline
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY U.S. San Antonio Arsenal
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 12/22/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/05/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 69000200

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.26.01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



WEST BUILDING (BUILDING #1)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 27



2
STABLE (BUILDING #2)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 27



MAGAZINE (BUILDING #3)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 27



NORTH BUILDING (BUILDING #4)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 27



STOREHOUSES (BUILDING #5 ON THE RIGHT, #6 ON THE LEFT)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 27



STOREHOUSES (BUILDING #5 IN THE FOREGROUND,
#6 ON THE LEFT)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

6
PHOTOGRAPH 6 of 27



STOREHOUSE (BUILDING # 6)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 7 of 27



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STOREHOUSE (BUILDING #6)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 8 of 27



STOREHOUSE (BUILDING # 6)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 9 of 27



STOREHOUSE (BUILDING #6)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 10 of 27



STOREHOUSE (BUILDING #6)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 11 of 27



STOREHOUSE (BUILDING #6)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 12 of 27



RIVER BUILDING

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 13 of 27



RIVER BUILDING (BUILDING #7)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 14 of 27



STOREHOUSE (BUILDING #8)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 15 of 27



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GUARDHOUSE (BUILDING #9)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 16 of 27



STOREHOUSE (BUILDING # 14)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 17 of 27



HEADQUARTERS BUILDING (BUILDING # 15)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 18 of 27



COMMANDING OFFICERS' GARAGE (BUILDING #16)

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 19 of 27



STORAGE BUILDING (BUILDING # 17)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 20 of 27



SERVANTS' QUARTERS (BUILDING # 18)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 21 of 27

#21



22
COMMANDERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING # 18)
UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 22 of 27

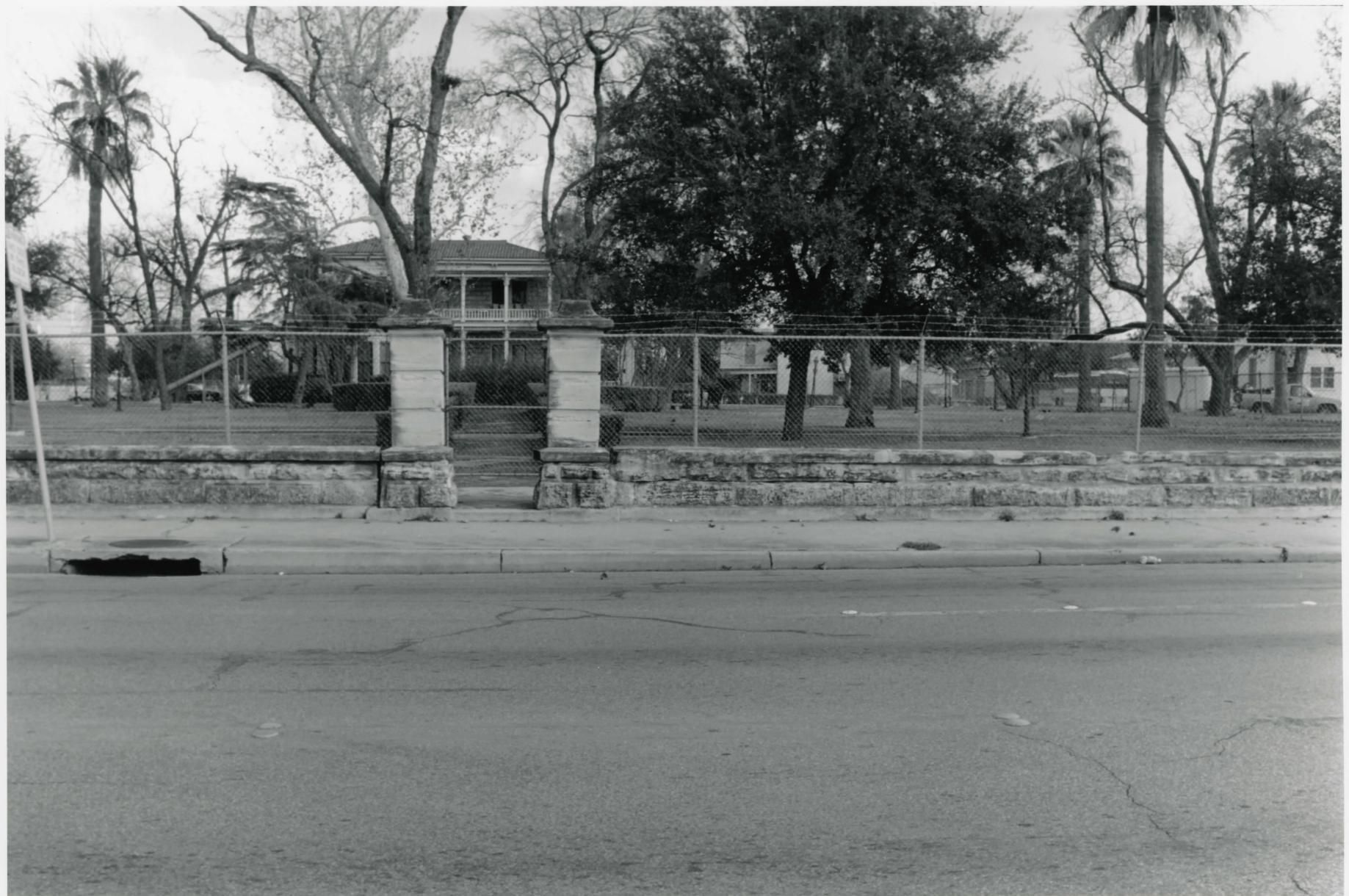


UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 23 of 27

#23



240

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 24 of 27

#24



UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 25 of 27

425



UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 26 of 27

26



UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT
(EXPANSION)

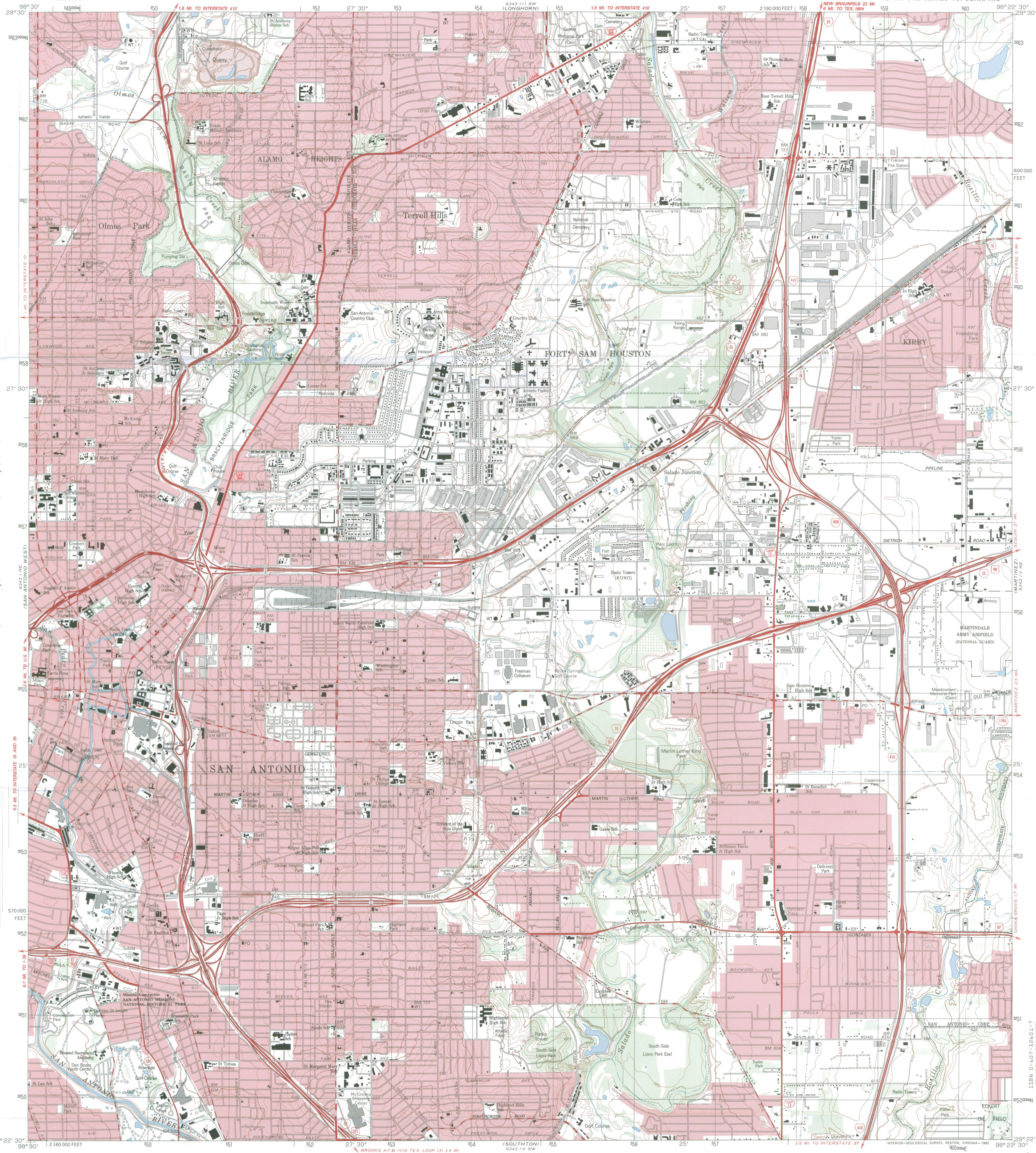
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS'

PHOTOGRAPH 27 of 27

UNITED STATES SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL DISTRICT (PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE)
ROUGHLY BOUNDED BY SOUTH FLORE, EAST ARSENAL, THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER & EAST DURANGO
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES: 14/1-949740/3254100 3549160/3254140
2548020/3254320 4549100/3253920

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SAN ANTONIO EAST QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-BEXAR CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES TOPOGRAPHIC



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX.
29098-D4-TF-024

1992

DMA 6342 IV NW-SERIES V882

2998-133



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWERENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 6, 2000

Constance Werner Ramirez
Director, Cultural Environmental and Accessibility Programs PXSC
National Office
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration,
1800 F Street, NW
Room 4209
Washington, DC 20405

RE: U.S. San Antonio Arsenal National Register nomination (period of significance expansion), San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Dear Ms. Ramirez:

We are submitting the U.S. San Antonio Arsenal National Register nomination (period of significance expansion), San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, to the National Park Service and are soliciting your review and comment. The property was listed in 1969, but only 19th century buildings were noted in the original document. The nomination amendment includes a comprehensive list of all properties associated with the arsenal within the original boundaries of the district.

No change in contributing status is proposed for any GSA properties through this amending of the original nomination. I have enclosed the nomination for your review. If you wish to comment, please send correspondence within 30 days to the Texas Historical Commission at the above referenced address, as well as a copy to Linda McClelland of the National Register Division of the National Park Service at 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, FAX 202-343-1836.

If you have any questions, please contact Gregory Smith at (512) 463-6013 or greg.smith@thc.state.tx.us. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory W. Smith".

Gregory W. Smith
National Register Coordinator

for F. Lawerence Oaks, SHPO

enclosures