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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: TEXAS

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The major Academy buildings erected during the nineteenth century remain today to form an ecclesiastical architecture unique to Texas. These buildings range in architectural style from the plain but handsome proportions of the first Academy buildings erected in 1851 to the Priest's house erected in 1882 which is one of the best examples of late Gothic Revival architecture.

1) The first Academy building is a single rectangle, two stories high with roofed two-story porches on both north and south elevations. It is the largest known building in Texas constructed of "rammed earth" or pise de terre and one of the few known true pise buildings in the state and possibly in the United States. Whether the building may be considered a work of "French" architecture is conjectural. It was erected by a French Bishop for French Ursulines by a French architect and was built in a French method of construction. Its plainess of style, however, makes it difficult to assess this building as showing significant Old World influence.

This building is unique in Texas because of the nature of its construction. Its walls are composed of caliche, a calcium carbonate natural formation that abounds in the central and west Texas area, and although buildings of this type were more numerous in the mid-nineteenth century, this is the only known example of such large size that remains.

Adjoined on both east and west ends with later additions the first Academy building faces onto a large yard enclosed by a high stone wall on t the south. A narrow courtyard is formed on the north side by the 1867-70 dormitory building. The Academy building is one of a total of eight that make up the old Ursuline complex.

2) The Academy building addition was the first expansion of the Academy since its founding in 1851 and is evidence of the growth and immediate success that this institution achieved. It is a two-story rectangular structure with a hipped roof, a two-story gallery across the south and east facades, and a small one-story ell on the east facade at the northeast corner. At one time it housed a "small chapel, dormitories and refectories for the boarders and Sisters."

The Academy Chapel forms a significant part of the Ursuline community buildings and is one of the more stylistically noteworthy of the group. Erected during the same period (1867-1870) as the Dormitory building which adjoins it on the north, the chapel is an example of local stone construction in the Gothic Revival style.

The Dormitory building was begun in 1866 and the cornerstone was laid and blessed by Bishop Dubuis on September 14, 1866. The building, with its long axis east to west and its principal facade facing north, is rectangue lar with the exception of an angled facade on the west which follows the line of Augusta street. It is a two-story masonry building with hipped roof, dormer windows, and a two-story gallery across the north facade. The central feature of this building is the square clock-tower centered on the ridge which has heavy wood framing and narrow weather board extension. The chock mechanism, believed to be imported from France, was manufactured for only the south, east, and west faces.

5) The easternmostibuilding of the Ursuline complex, separated from St. Many's street by a high stone wall and gravel drive, was designed as a residence but was used for a workshop. This rectangular, two-story build-

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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ing was erected in 1872 with masonry walk, and a gabled, metal-clad roof. It has a one-story gallery on its north facade and has two chimneys: one centered on the ridge and one on the east end, south slope. The building faces north, with its long axis east to west.

- Another building, originally erected in the 1850's, underwent a major removation in 1910 which then transformed it into a laundry building. The house is one and a half stories high, nearly square in shape except for the west wall which is out of square, making the southwest corner acute and the northwest corner oblique. Allong, narrow, one-story ell adjoins at the southwest corner andiextends eastward. With its low sloping gabled roof with two small windows in the gable, the endt or north facade is a characteristic European type found in Texas. A one-story porch extends across the east and north facades. The laundry building, which is located at the southwest corner of the complex, faces west with thellong ell running east to west.
- 7) The Priest's House, built in 1882, is a two-story rectangular structure with a gabled roof. It has an ell projecting to the west from the southwest corner and a gallery across the east facade. The Priest's House forms the wouthwest corner of the Ursuline complex.
- 8) The razed classroom addition is commected to the Dormitory Addition by a pointed arcade.



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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Centu	ry 20th Century
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☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
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With the end of official Mexican control in 1836, the Catholic Church in Texas entered a period of decline that was recognized as serious by Pope Gregory XVI in 1839. The Reverend John Mary Odin of New Orleans was directed to come to Texas to revitalize the Church in the new republic. Odin's efforts in the first half of the 1840's were directed toward such basic things as church establishments and convents, but by mid-decade Odin was ready to expand the influence of the Church to the educational field. Odin appealed to the Ursuline Order of New Orleans and with their support he established the Ursuline Academy in Galveston in 1847.

The Ursuline Order was established in Italy in 1535 to educate young girls and to care for the sick and needy. In 1574 the nuns entered France. From their convent near Paris (built in 1611) the order spread to most of Europe and America. The Ursulines also did extensive work in Canada. In 1727 they established a convent in New Orleans. During the French Revolution of 1789 the convents in France were destroyed, restored by Napoleon in 1808, and suppressed again in 1904.

The Galveston school prospered so well that Odin decided to establish another at San Antonio. The sisters arrived in the city on September 14, (1847) under the leadership of Father Dubuis, the pastor of the Castroville Catholic Church. The land for the San Antonio Ursuline Academy had been purchased in 1848 by Bishop Odin for \$1,000 from Ludouic Colquhoun. The original owner had been Erasmo Seguin, a prominent Texan in the early history of the state. When the Ursuline Sisters arrived at their new home, they found that the only building there was inhabited by spiders and scorpions. The structure, which had been constructed by Colquhoun or by Seguin, had been allowed to fall into complete disrepair or had never been completely finished -- the windows had no glass or blinds, the inside was devoid of furniture, and the doors and frames needed repair. The academy building was erected after the sisters came, but the Seguin house was repaired and used as a dormitory for some time? It was a minor miracle that the sisters were able to open school the early part of November -- six weeks after their arrival.

The first building to be constructed on the property was a two-story structure composed of caliche in a French type construction known as pise deterre, more commonly called "pise work." Jules Poincard, a French architect living in San Antonio, was skilled in such work and was probably commissioned by Bishop Odin as the architect and builder. Another

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Frenchman of Poincard's age, Frances Giraud, was knowledgeable in the same sort of work and undoubtedly was th builder of all the Ursuline Academy buildings done after the Civil War. The Reverend Dubuis had a great deal of influence on the design and construction of the buildings. He was the architect and builder of the 1853 addition to the academy.

Both boarding and day students were taught at the girl's academy. The boarding strudents, of whom there were a limited number, received more extensive religious care than the other girls. The school was an immediate success. Besides being excellent teachers the Ursuline nuns must have been good business managers. During the Civil War they acquired a great deal of Confederate money which they had converted into Federal currency in Mexico shortly before Appomattox. With the money they built a chapel and dormitory, both of which were finished by 1870. A residential building was added in 1872, in 1882 the Priest's house was completed, and a two-story school building in 1883. In 1909 an addition was added to the 1883 structure, but the entire building was recently destroyed by fire. In 1965 the Ursuline Academy moved to a new sire--leaving behind a most interesting complex of old buildings.

Although the Texas State Historical Survey Committee designated the u Ursuline Academy as an historic landmark, sections of it are in danger of being destroyed by a provate estate which owns part of the property. The San Antonion Conservation Society acquired the main portion of the Academy in 1965.



12/4/69	National Register Inventory-Nomination Forms	Bexar uline Academy	Texas NPS Number 69-10-42-001
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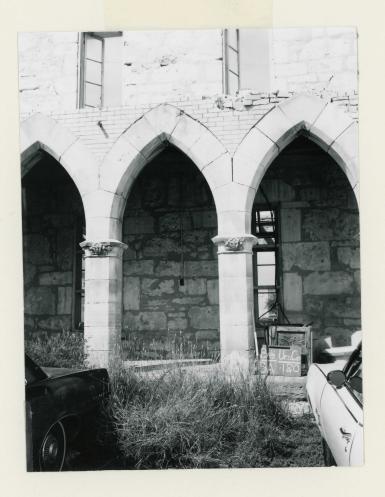
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

Texas #7

COUNTY

Bexar

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

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4	IDENTIFICATION		

Rear and side facades of Priest's House--southwest elevation

MPS Number 69.11.42.0010

Title: Ursuline academy

Loc. 300 augusta

San antonio, Tex.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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и	108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas	78711		
2	IDENTIFICATION			
	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
	View through portion which connects the on the south to the Dormitory Building east elevation			

MPS Number	er_ 69.11.42.0010)
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Te	xas 78711
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Title:	Ursuline academy	
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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	108 W. 15th Street,	Austin	, Texas	78711	
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	Front facade of workshop-	-north	west ele	evation	

s Number 69.11.42.0010 tle: Ursuline academy oc. San antonio, Tey.

#11



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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4.	IDENTIFICATION							
	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIF	RECTION, ETC. se-up of vestibule ex	ntrance	to the	chapel-	-west		

MPS Number 69.11.42.0010

Title: Academy

Loc. San antonio, Tex.

#12



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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FOR NPS USE ONLY					
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	DATE OF PHOTO: October 9, 1969								
	NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee								
	108 W. 15th Street, A	ustin.	Texas	78711					
4.	IDENTIFICATION								
	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.								
	Front facade of the first Academy buildingsoutheast								
	elevation								

NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY - TEXAS 048

Ursuline Academy, Bexar County - 029

Geographical data, Item 10, Form 10-300 is given as:

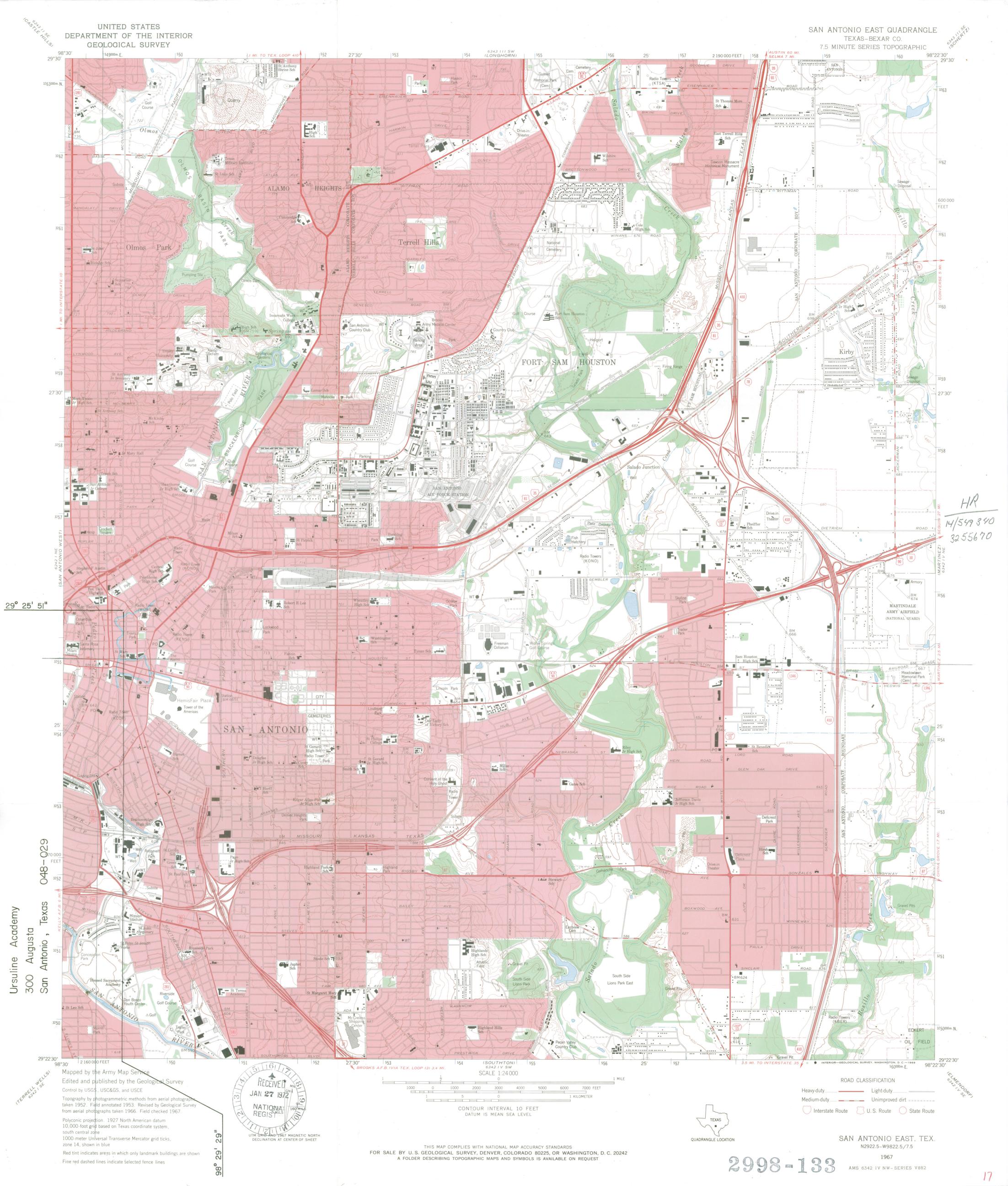
Latitude 98° 29' 29" Longitude 29° 25' 51"

Please CHANGE this to correctly read:

Latitude 29° 25' 51" Longitude 98° 29' 29"

A new, correctly marked map is being enclosed. Please DESTROY the old map and replace it with this one. Thank you.





Form	10-301			
(July	1969)			

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3. Latitude and longitude reference.

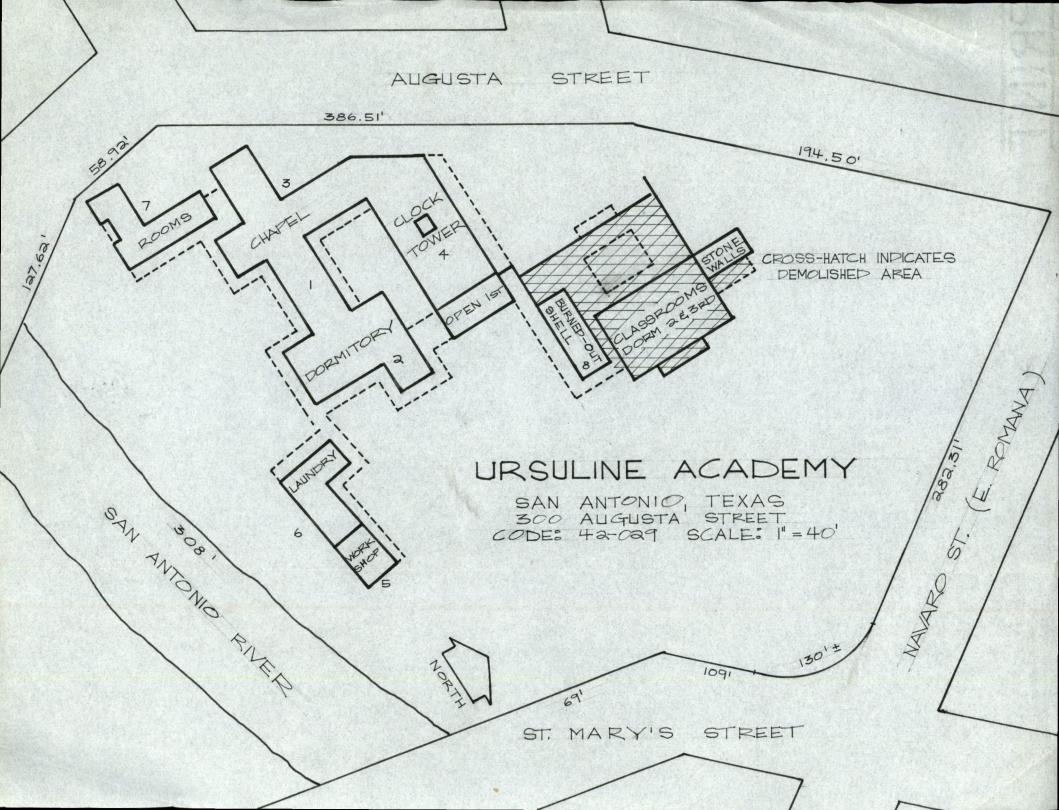
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
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Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
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69-11-42-0010	11/25/6

San Antonio east, Texas

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TO BE INCLUDED ON	ALL MAPS				NATIONA	
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History and

NOV 25 1066

Hou. Beligh W. Yorkorough United States Denste Fashington, D. C.

Dear Constar Taxbarousis!

We are pleased to inform you that the bistoric properties listed on the enclosure have been norineted by the officer appointed by the Covernor for the implementation of the Dational Historic Preservation Progress in Terms and have been entered into the "Rabional Register of Historic Places." Benater John G. Tower and the eppropriate Representatives here also been provided with this information. A leatlet explaining the Intional Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally Chief, Office of Archeology and Mictorio Preservetion

Inclosures

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 100 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 70701

Duplicate letters sent to: Hon. John G. Tower Hon. Wright Pateson

Hon. J. Jake Pickle Hon. Henry B. Conzulez



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 801 19TH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34-HR

NOV 25 1969

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Freeman Plantation (Marion County)
French Legation (Travis County)
Driskill Hotel (Travis County) Ursuline Academy (Bexar County)

H34-HR

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

Dear Senator Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the Ursuline Academy
in 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 the appropriate Representatives
have also been provided with this information. A leaflet
explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

HENRY B. GONZALEZ 20th District, Texas Bexar County

116 CANNON OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

MEMBER:
BANKING AND CURRENCY
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOUSING
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

Congress of the United States Bouse of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 13, 1969

GAIL J. BEAGLE
KELSAY R. MEEK
MRS. CORA FAYE CLAYTON
HORTENCE G. MENA
BONNIE M. CUNIC
IRMA H. MARTINEZ
RAYMOND I. CANTU
MRS. BRENDA ROGERS
PATTY M. BARRERA

HOME OFFICE: 203 FEDERAL BUILDING SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205

MRS. LUZ G. TAMEZ ALBERT G. BUSTAMANTE

FILE REF.: H3

Mr. Ernest Allen Connally, Chief Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation 801 19th Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Connally:

I deeply appreciate your courtesy in letting me know that Ursuline Academy has been nominated for inclusion in the National Historic Preservation Program.

However, I no longer represent the entire city of San Antonio but just the heart of it; therefore, Ursuline Academy is no longer a part of the district which I represent in Congress. I thought you would like to know for your future information that is is located in the 21st Congressional District which is represented by Congressman O. C. Fisher.

With best wishes to you during this Holiday season, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Henry B. Gonzalez M. C.

Jon pale Francous Jon pale Francous Jone mation 11/18/69



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

January 4, 1972

Dr. Robert J. Mullen Chief, Bureau of Registration National Register 801 19th Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Bob:

Under separate cover we are forwarding corrections for the National Register submissions which were rechecked here in our office and found to be in error. I trust that this means of correction will not confuse the issue.

There may possibly still be errors but to date these are the only ones we have discovered. If you will notify us of any errors of which you are aware we will be glad to treat the submissions similarly.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer State Liaison Officer

By:

M. Wayne Bell, AIA Project Director

TL/MWB/pbs

URSULINE CONVENT (48-72-00020-00). San Antonio, Bexar Co. Private ownership (San Antonio Conservation Society). A mid-19th century convent showing French architectural influence that was one of three Ursuline Convents important in the State's early history. Acquisition of one wing to complete the Society's ownership of the main buildings of the Academy complex. \$11,862.00.

NOTIFICATION OF GR	ANT-IN-AID ACTI	ОИ			5 - 10 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	Do No Use
1. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER 2. (Reserved for use by State central information reception agency)						This Space
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b. Organizational unit National Park Service c. Administering office—(1) Name					•	_
Division of Grants						
(2) Address - Street or P.O. Box 18th and C Streets, NW.		City State Zip Code Washington D.C. Zip Code			Zip Code 20240	
	. Code b. Title					
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c. Purpose Work will include the basement, exterior e drainage system and door	excavation, st	ructura				
5. GRANTEE: o. Nome Texas Mr. Truett Latim	er. Exec. Di	ector.	Texas State H	Historical Su	rvev Committee	
b. Address Street or P.O. Box	ici, Dacer Di	City	Torras bears 1	State	Zip Code	-
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c. U.S. Code 16 U.S.C.						
15. FACILITY LOCATION: (For facility grant a. City 300 Augusta Street San Antonio		b. 0	County Bexai	c		
*Southwest Craft Center						