

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>TEXAS</b>	
COUNTY: <b>f Marion</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>69-10-42-0005</b>	DATE <b>10/28/69</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Jefferson Playhouse**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Senai Hebrew Synagogue, St. Mary's Catholic School**

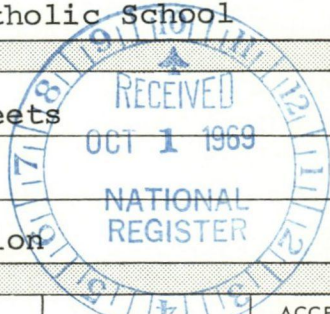
2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**NW corner of Market and Henderson Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Jefferson**

STATE: **Texas** CODE: **42** COUNTY: **Marion** CODE: **315**

*BLK + Lot #5  
MA  
7,89*



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
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 type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
**Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Jefferson** STATE: **Texas** CODE: **42**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Marion County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**224 Austin Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jefferson** STATE: **Texas** CODE: **42**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.517 acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1966** Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington, D. C.** STATE: CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. Mary's Catholic School (c. 1860) portion of the Synagogue-School building is a two story Greek Revival structure with a central hall plan and two principal chambers on each level. The structure originally had a rear wing, containing several rooms, which have subsequently been removed. Two exterior, end chimneys (of which only the north chimney remains) allowed fireplaces in all rooms. A modern rear addition contains a two-story porch and a kitchen and bathroom facilities. The principal facade (east elevation) has a tetra-style portico with two-story square columns. The columns have plinth bases and molded capitals. A wide entablature--including a box cornice with a heavy bed and crown mold tops the portico. The entablature on the main building is a similar composition. The doorway has double, French-type, four-panel wooden doors with four-light sidewindows and a five-light transom. Window and door moldings on the building are very simple. Windows throughout the building are very wide sash-type with six-over-six lights. The school building is covered with a low hipped-roof.

Built around 1876 the Senai Hebrew Synagogue is a two-story building in the transitional period between the late Greek Revival and the Victorian styles. The tall, simple rectangular structure has a gabled-roof with a pedimented gable end on the south elevation. The north elevation of the structure abutts St. Mary's School. A fine Greek Revival entablature tops the building with a box cornice, crown and bed molds, and a division between the architrave and the frieze. The same composition is used in the pedimented gable. A small gabled projection on the east elevation housed the sacred objects connected with the synagogue. Two tall rounded head windows on both the east and south elevation light the interior of the structure. A very elaborate doorway on the west elevation is the main entrance to the synagogue. The doorway has double, French-type paneled doors, which are recessed. Beveled inset panels at the jamb and head of the doorway form the recess. The exterior of the doorway has a simple facia=board molding. There are three small, six-over-six light, windows on the second floor of the west elevation. The interior of the synagogue has a fine balcony supported by columns and reached by an exterior stairway. The altar and surrounding woodwork exhibits a high level of craftsmanship. The exterior wall finish of the two-part structure is clap-boarding.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) *c 1860*

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

During the days when Jefferson was a national center of passenger and commercial river traffic, both the Jewish and Catholic faiths were strongly represented in the town. Many of the members of the two religions were from the New Orleans area.

After Jefferson lost its cosmopolitan port population, the Jewish Synagogue and Catholic School buildings were sold. For a while they were used as a residence. Now the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club owns and maintains the building as a playhouse. The program often depicts scenes from the history of Jefferson.

In 1965 it was designated a historic landmark by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dean, Winnie Mims. Jefferson: Queen of the Cypress.  
Dallas: Mathis, Van Nort & Co., 1953.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		94 ° 20 ' 49 "	32 ° 45 ' 26 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

15/373770  
3624970  
CO

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Wayne Bell, Project Director (GH, JF, DC, JM)**

ORGANIZATION: **Texas State Historical Survey Committee** DATE: **8-18-69**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**108 West 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: *Walter Salinger*  
Title: State Liaison Officer  
Date: September 25, 1969

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

*Ernest Allen Connally*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: OCT 28 1969

ATTEST:  
*William J. Smayda*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 28 1969

71000930

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Jefferson Playhouse  
N.W. Corner of Market and  
Henderson streets  
Jefferson, Texas

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 10-28-69  
Date Due: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action:  ACCEPT \_\_\_\_\_  
 RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Condition</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> excellent<br><input type="checkbox"/> good<br><input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated<br><input type="checkbox"/> ruins<br><input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | <b>Check one</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> unaltered<br><input type="checkbox"/> altered | <b>Check one</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> original site<br><input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
|--|---|--|---|

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Texas State Historical Survey Committee**

Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

Truett Latimer

Executive Director

March 26, 1970

Mr. Al Chambers, Historian  
National Parks Service  
801 19th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Al:

✓ Thanks for your call this morning. In answer to your questions, the Bremond Block acerage was figured at 5.1 acres. Why it was left off the nomination form I cannot say.

✓ The spelling on the Jefferson Play House should be Sinai rather than Senai as it appears on page two, first line second paragraph.

The date on the Cass Gilbert designed Barker Texas History Center on The University of Texas campus is 1913, so it will slip under on age.

Hope to have many of the state sites to you soon.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Wayne Bell".

M. Wayne Bell, AIA  
Restoration Architect

MWB/sb

NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY - TEXAS 048

Jefferson Playhouse, Senai Hebrew Synagogue, St. Mary's  
Catholic School - Marion County - 315

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

Latitude 94° 20' 49"                      Longitude 32° 45' 26"

Please CHANGE this to correctly read:

Latitude 32° 45' 26"                      Longitude 94° 20' 49"

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







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



NPS Number 69-10-42-0005

Title: Jefferson Playhouse  
Synagogue

Loc. Jefferson, Texas  
southeast elevation

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number 69.10.42.0005

Title: Jefferson Playhouse

Loc. Jefferson, Texas  
south elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number 69.10.42.0005

Title: Jefferson Playhouse

Loc. Jefferson, Texas  
front & side facade of Synagogue  
addition - east elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

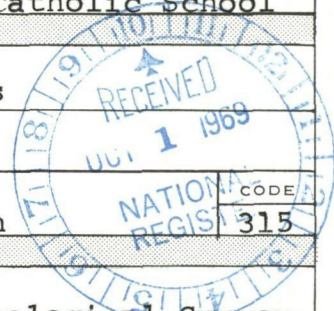
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Jefferson Playhouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Senai Hebrew Synagogue, St. Mary's Catholic School			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
NW corner of Market and Henderson Streets			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Jefferson			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Marion	315
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1962			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.		State of Texas Map Reference #3294-431	
2. North arrow.		Jefferson Quadrangle	
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-10-42-0005	

1. NAME

COMMON: Jefferson Playhouse  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Senai Hebrew Synagogue; St. Mary's Catholic School

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Northwest corner of Market and Henderson Streets  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Jefferson

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	Marion	315

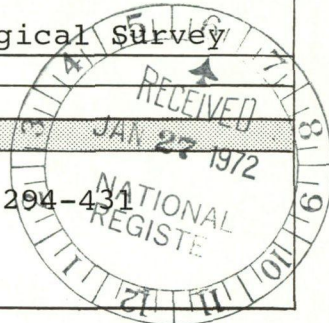
3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey  
SCALE: 1:24000  
DATE: 1957, 1962

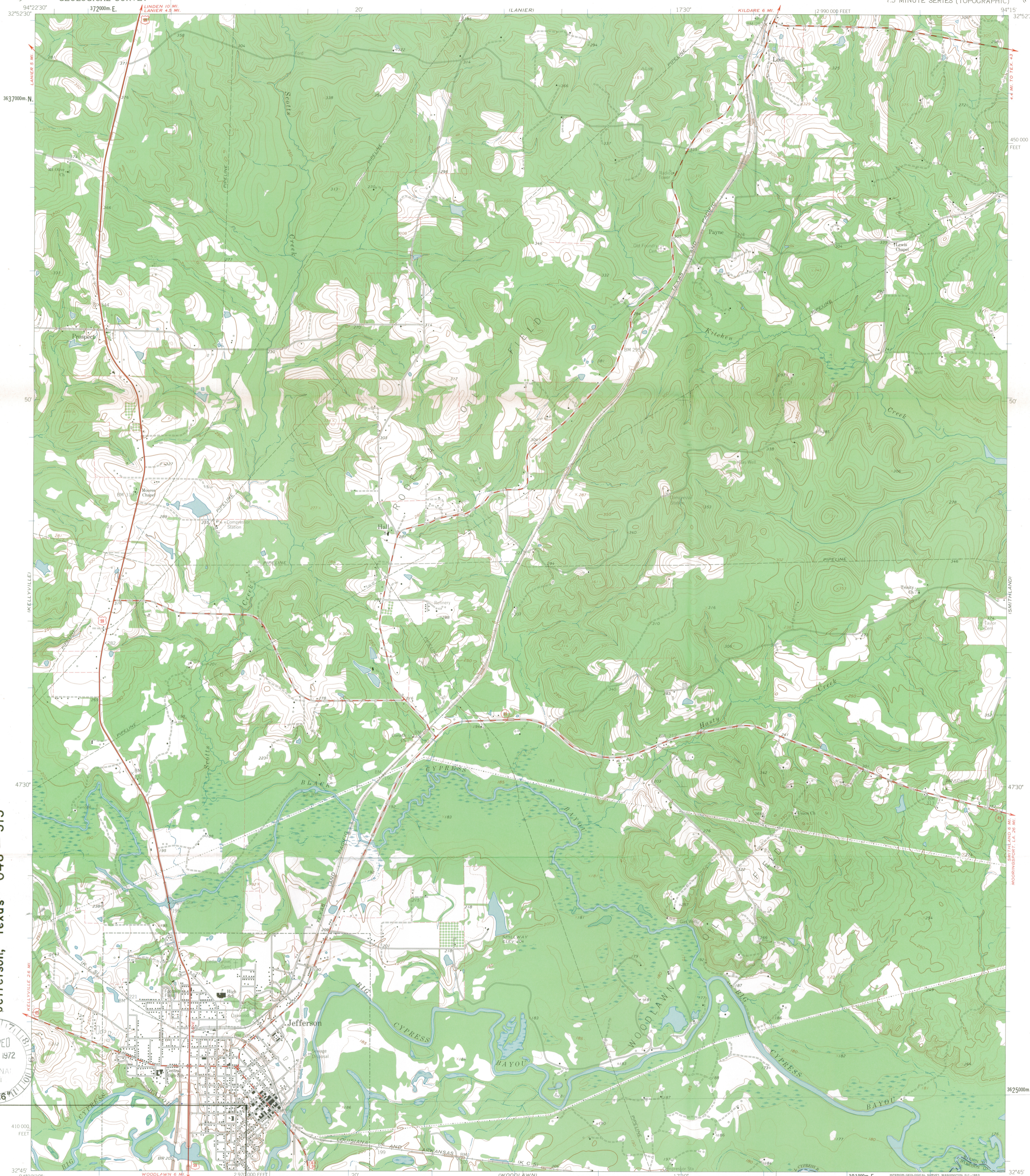
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required. Texas Map Reference #3294-431
- North arrow. Jefferson, Texas
- Latitude and longitude reference.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



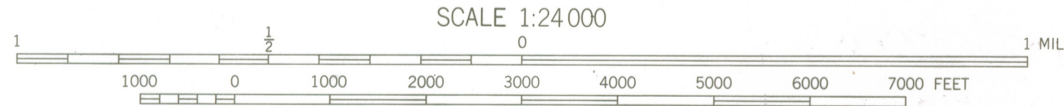
Jefferson Playhouse, Senai Hebrew Synagogue, St. Mary's Catholic School  
N.W. corner of Market and Henderson Streets  
Jefferson, Texas 048 — 315



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1957. Field checked 1962  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, north central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

94° 20' 49"

TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

15/373 770  
3624 970  
TX  
CO



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

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

3294-431

JEFFERSON, TEX.  
N3245-W9415/7.5  
1962

H30-MR

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

Dear Senator Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the "National Register of Historic Places." Senator John Tower and Representatives Wright Patman and Jack Brooks have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally  
Ernest Allen Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology  
and Historic Preservation

Enclosures

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

Duplicate copies sent to:

Hon. John Tower	Hon. Wright Patman	Hon. Jack Brooks
United States Senate	House of Representatives	House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.

Regional Director, Southwest Region

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

10/27/69

cc: Mr. Steen  
T-Butterfield  
DAL-Mr. Melvin  
HR  
RGamble:mb



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
801 19TH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-HR

057 88 105

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

- Alley-Carlson House (Marion County)
- Epperson-McNutt House (Marion County)
- ✓ Jefferson Playhouse (Marion County)
- Old United States Post Office and Courts Building (Marion County)
- Excelsior Hotel (Marion County)
- The Presbyterian Manse (Marion County)
- George Sealy House (Galveston County)
- Old Red (Galveston County)
- El Mina Shrine Temple (Galveston County)