STATE: Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TEXAS COUNTY: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Galveston INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) 8/25 70.8.42.00/2 NAME COMMON: The Bishop's Palace AND/OR HISTORIC: The Gresham House LOCATION  $\circ$ STREET AND NUMBER: 1402 Avenue J (Broadway) CITY OR TOWN: Galveston STATE COUNTY: CODE CODE 042 Texas Galveston 167 3. CLASSIFICATION ACCESSIBLE CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS TO THE PUBLIC (Check One) Z Public Yes: Public Acquisition: District X Occupied X Building X Restricted Private ☐ In Process ☐ Site ☐ Structure Unoccupied ☐ Unrestricted ☐ Being Considered Both Object Preservation work ☐ No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Government Park Agricultural Transportation ☐ Comments ☐ Industrial 2 Commercial Private Residence Other (Specify) ☐ Military ☐ Educational Religious Museum Entertainment Scientific OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: The Catholic Diocese of Galveston-Houston STREET AND NUMBER: Ш 1700 San Jacinto STATE: CITY OR TOWN: CODE Houston 042 Texas LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Galveston County Courthouse STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Galveston Texas 042 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: ENTRY NUMBER Historic American Buildings Survey 1966-67 K Federal State Coun FOR NPS USE DATE OF SURVEY: Local DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress STREET AND NUMBER: ONLY CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE 00 Washington DA District of Columbia 08 (cont'd)

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The Bishop's Palace is a three-story masonry mansion on a partially raised basement. It is of rusticated limestone with granite and sandstone trim. The roof is of glazed tile. The main portion has a high pitched hip roof with a short ridge parallel to the front facade, but there are numerous towers, dormers, and gables each separately roofed and creating a picturesque and irregular roof line.

The plan is visually asymmetric, but is in fact essentially central, with central entrance and hall and a grand open stairway of curved plan located in a rotunda at the rear center of the main block. Round and polygonal bays swing out from the princpal rooms creating interesting interior spaces and an irregular front facade. There are gabled ells on both sides and there is a two-story rear wing. A one-story veranda wraps around the southeast corner of the house. There is a one-story apse-shaped glassed-in conservatory on the east side. There are five chimneys: one on the east facade and one on the west opposite each other on the central block, one on the north wall of the west parlor extension, one on the north wall of the rear ell, and one on the east gable of the dining room extension. All of the chimneys are carried up to great height and are highly ornamented.

The front entrance is approached by a grand flight of stone steps. The veranda railing is of delicately proportioned cast iron with slender columns and lacy brackets. The cast iron balustrade at the main level is repeated to form a balcony railing at the second level. A matching small bracketed cast iron balcony forms a canopy over the central second story door.

The windows of the two main stories are double hung with single lights and those of the second-story chapel are of stained glass. Each window has a single pane transom and these vary in treatment, some decorated and some opaque. There are carved lintels above the transoms. The third-story windows are varied; those of the round tower are treated as a Romanesque arcade. There is a tall barbican beside the round tower. The entire building is richly ornamented but the most elaborate stone work is concentrated near the roof line. Large cast iron griffins and stone finials cap the roof apexes.

The interior is richly finished with ornate paneling, wainscots, and wallpapers and the first-story floors are of parquet. The house is furnished throughout with elegant period pieces.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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Texas State Historical Survey
1967 State
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street
Austin Texas 042



	SIGNIFICANCE			
	PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
	☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
	☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bishop's Palace in Galveston, Texas, has received national attention as an extreme example of the exuberance of the eclectic late Victorian taste in America. The architect was Nicholas J. Clayton of Galveston, who created bold effects and strongly modulated facades in many of his churches and commercial buildings of the period, and here released all restraints. There is an emphatic irregularity to the building, emphasized by an energetic and varied facade, and the roof line is crested with towers, tall chimneys, and heavy ornament. Fine craftsmanship is evident in the stonework and also in all the detailing throughout the mansion.

The house was built by Walter Gresham, a prominent lawyer, Texas Legislator, and Representative to the fifty-third Congress. Gresham was born July 22, 1841, in King and Queen County, Virginia, into a family of planters and notable lawyers. He was the grandson of Thomas Gresham, who practiced law in Essex County, Virginia, and the son of Edward Gresham, who was trained in law, but devoted his time to the family plantation.

Walter Gresham received his early education in private schools. Between 1861 and the end of the Civil War in 1865, he fought with Lee's Rangers in the Army of Virginia, and earned an L.B. degree at the University of Virginia. When family fortunes were ruined by the war, he moved to Texas, and landed in Galveston December 31, 1866 with \$5.00. He opened a law office, and in October of 1868 he married Josephine Mann.

In 1872 Gresham was elected District Attorney for Galveston and Brazoria Counties. In 1875 he became involved in the rail-road business. He was one of the active leaders in the organization of Galveston citizens who acquired the charter of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Company. He was a stockholder in the company and served as director, attorney and second vice-president.

(cont'd)

Texas State Historical Survey Committee, marker files.

Photo-Data Book, The Galveston Architecture Survey, 1966-67 John Garner, Director.

AIA listing of the 100 most significant buildings in the U.S.

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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

(Continuation Sheet)

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In 1887 Gresham's interests turned again to politics. He was elected to the Twentieth Texas Legislature, a position he held for six years. During that time he served as chairman of the House Financial Committee. In 1892 he was elected as a Representative of the tenth Congressional District to the Fifty-third Congress.

Gresham also worked actively to secure a deepwater harbor for Galveston, as well as good water transportation systems for all of Texas. From 1901 to the outbreak of World War I, for example, he was active in such groups as the National Rivers and Harbors Congress and the Inter-Coastal Canal Commission.

Gresham's affluence increased as his participation in civic affairs developed. In 1887, the same year he was elected to the Texas Legislature, he commissioned the Galveston architect, Nicholas Joseph Clayton, to design a grand mansion. Cost estimates of the Gresham mansion vary from contemporary guesses of \$250,000 to \$500,000. In 1887, however, reporters were more conservative, and the lowest cost reported, \$75,000, was the public figure released by Gresham during the construction of the building.

Clayton was at work on the design early in 1887, and construction was reported to have begun in the spring of that year. Building activity continued for the following six years, and although the house was unfinished in some minor details, the Greshams formally opened their home on January 1, 1893.

In 1923 the Galveston-Houston Diocese of the Catholic Church purchased the Gresham House for \$40,500. The mansion became the Bishop's Palace when the Most Reverend Christopher C.E. Byrne lived there until his death in 1950. The Most Reverend Vincent M. Harris, Chancellor of the Galveston-Houston Diocese, and later Bishop of Beaumont Diocese, also occupied the Palace.

The Catholic Church turned the Palace over to the Newman Club in 1963, and three months later, the diocese opened the building to the public.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark- 1967.

	PROPERTY Beshops Palace REGISTER NUMBER	Tegas
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# PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL PEGISTER

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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DATE OF PHOTO:	March, 1969	(8) 11.1(9)
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### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SOUTH ELEVATION

20 FEET

DRAWN BY: LARRY D. JOHNSTON

GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION INC., AND OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

1406 BROADWAY

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE WALTER GRESHAM HOUSE GALVESTON,

SURVEY NO. TEX

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 7 OF 11 SHEETS

GALVESTON, COUNTY

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Bishop is Palace (Gresham House)
Galveston County, TX
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WALTER CRESHAM HOUSE

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Photo P. Andrus 7/24/91 By periodically looking at such issues, Review Board members with their independent perspectives can determine the effectiveness of a State program in reaching the broadest possible constituency.

Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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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)

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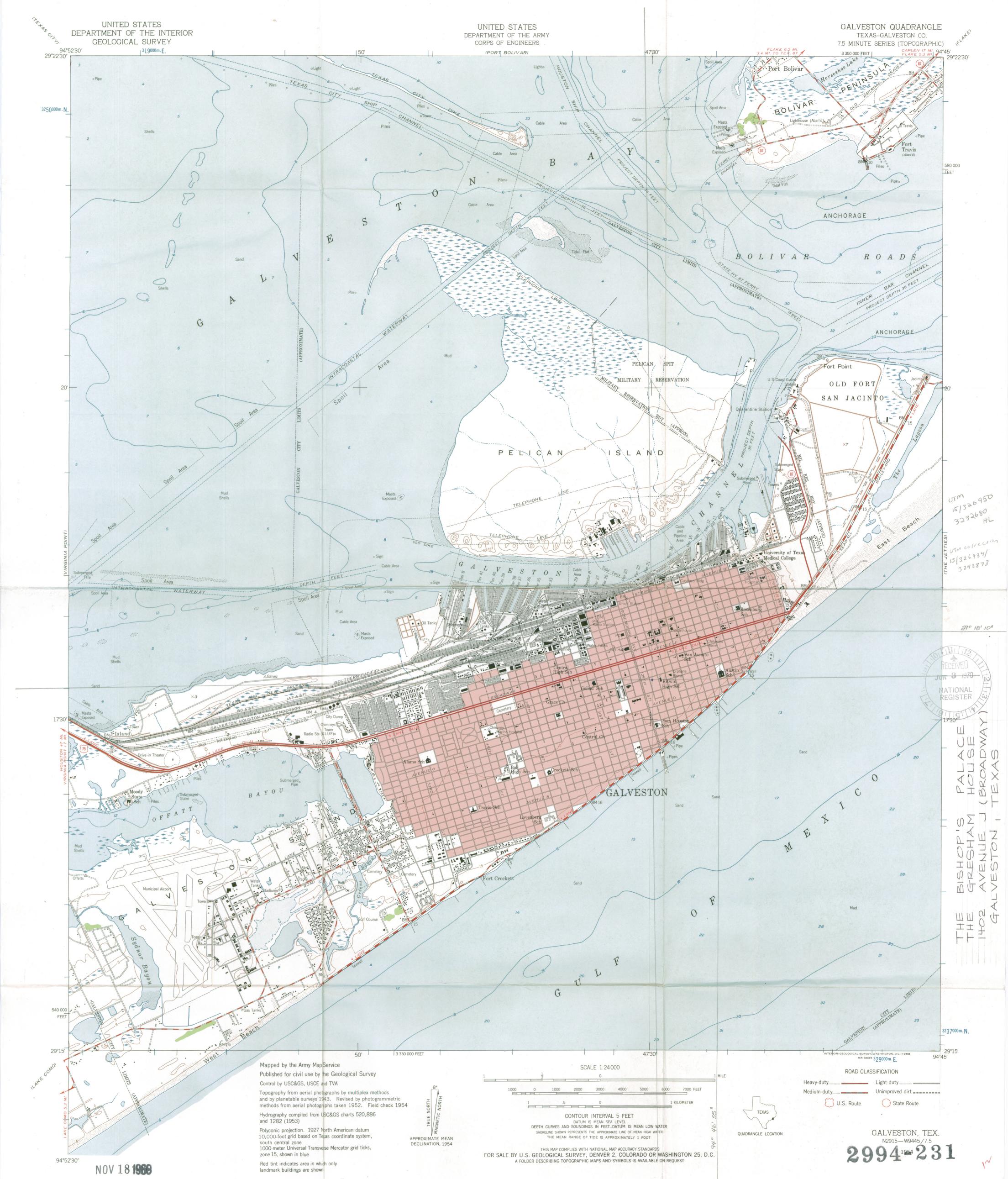
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Biships Pelece telnester & Leyes AUG 2 5 1970 H30-HR Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Survey Committee Post Office Box 12276 Capitol Station 108 West 15th Street Austin, Texas 78701 Dear Mr. Latimer: We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence. Sincerely yours, /S/ Ernest Allen Connally Ernest Allen Connally Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

AUG 2 5 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc: HR

RGamble:mm

8/13/70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

#### Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

#### TEXAS

Bishop's Palace Old Land Office Building Barker History Center Neill-Cochran House Old Post Office and Federal Building Woodlawn The Governor's Mansion Gethsemane Lutheran Church Hollamon House (Erskine House #1 Carrington-Covert House Klein (Stephen) House Schubert House Tinnen House Sedberry House Sebastopol (Zorn House) Littlefield House Old Galveston Custom House Captain Singleton House Lindheimer Home Captain William Perry House Beard House

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Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Austin, Texas Seguin, Texas Austin, Texas New Braunfels, Texas Giddings, Texas Georgetown, Texas Jefferson, Texas Sequin, Texas Austin, Texas Galveston, Texas Jefferson, Texas New Braunfels, Texas Jefferson, Texas Jefferson, Texas

Bishops Palace Halrestan Co, ty

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Jeans Hy Eaton 2 of 100

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

Dear Senetor Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison 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 G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosures

AUG 2 5 1970

Entered in the National Register

ec:

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, 108 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78701

Duplicate letter sent to:

Hon. John G. Tower United States Senate Washington, D. C.

Director, Southwest Region Li-Mr. Melvin T Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

#### TEXAS

Bishop's Palace

Vold Land Office Building

Barker History Center

Neill-Cochran House

/ Old Post Office and

Federal Building

Woodlawn

The Governor's Mansion

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Hollamon House (Erskine House #1)

Carrington-Covert House

Klein (Stephen) House

Schubert House

Tinnen House

Sedberry House

Sebastopol (Zorn House)

Littlefield House

Old Galveston Custom House

-Captain Singleton House

-Lindheimer Home

Captain William Perry House

Beard House V

Galveston, Texas

Austin, Texas

Seguin, Texas

Austin, Texas

New Braunfels, Texas

Giddings, Texas

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Hon. Jack Brooks House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Limison 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. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John G. Tower have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Limison Officer, Mr. Truett Letimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosures

AUG 2 5 1970

Intered in the Mational Register

c:

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, 108 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78701

. Director, Southwest Region

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

#### TEXAS

Old Galveston Custom House Bishop's Palace Galveston, Texas Galveston, Texas