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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An early suspension bridge with two double cable towers of pink brick (now stoccoed) with superimposed arches connecting the two piers of each tower and crossing the road bed. Toll houses and walls terminate both ends of the bridge. The original crenellation, pierced openings, and fine detail has been removed or stuccoed over, but the general lines of the structures are still architecturally interesting. The toll houses have stepped gable roofs, parapets, and round arched openings now closed up.

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| PERIOD (Check One or More as | Appropriate) | | |
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| Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century |
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| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat | ble and Known) 1870 | | |
| AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch | eck One or More as Appropri | ate) | |
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The Waco suspension bridge was the first bridge across the Brazos river and the longest single span suspension bridge H in the world when it was built.¹ It was chartered by Waco stockholders November 1, 1866. Col. John T. Flint, President of the Waco Bridge Company, went to New York and contacted the John A. Roebling Company (the Brooklyn Bridge was completed in 1883). The engineer Thomas M. Griffith was sent to Waco to design the bridge. It has a 475 foot span and the cable and pieces were tooled at eastern foundaries and shipped to Galveston. They were then sent on part of the way by rail and the rest of the way by ox teams. Thousands and thousands of local brick were used.

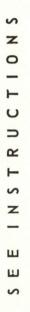
The bridge was opened January 7, 1870 and functioned for twenty years as a toll bridge with a 24 hour toll keeper. On September 1, 1889, it was purchased by <u>McLennan county</u> for \$75,000 and conveyed to the city for one dollar.

A severe flood in 1885 damaged the east approach and a steel span was built for this section. Later the windows and doors of the anchor houses and towers were closed and the brick construction was covered with plaster.

The bridge is still in daily use.

1

O'Dowd, M. A., The Magic Bridge

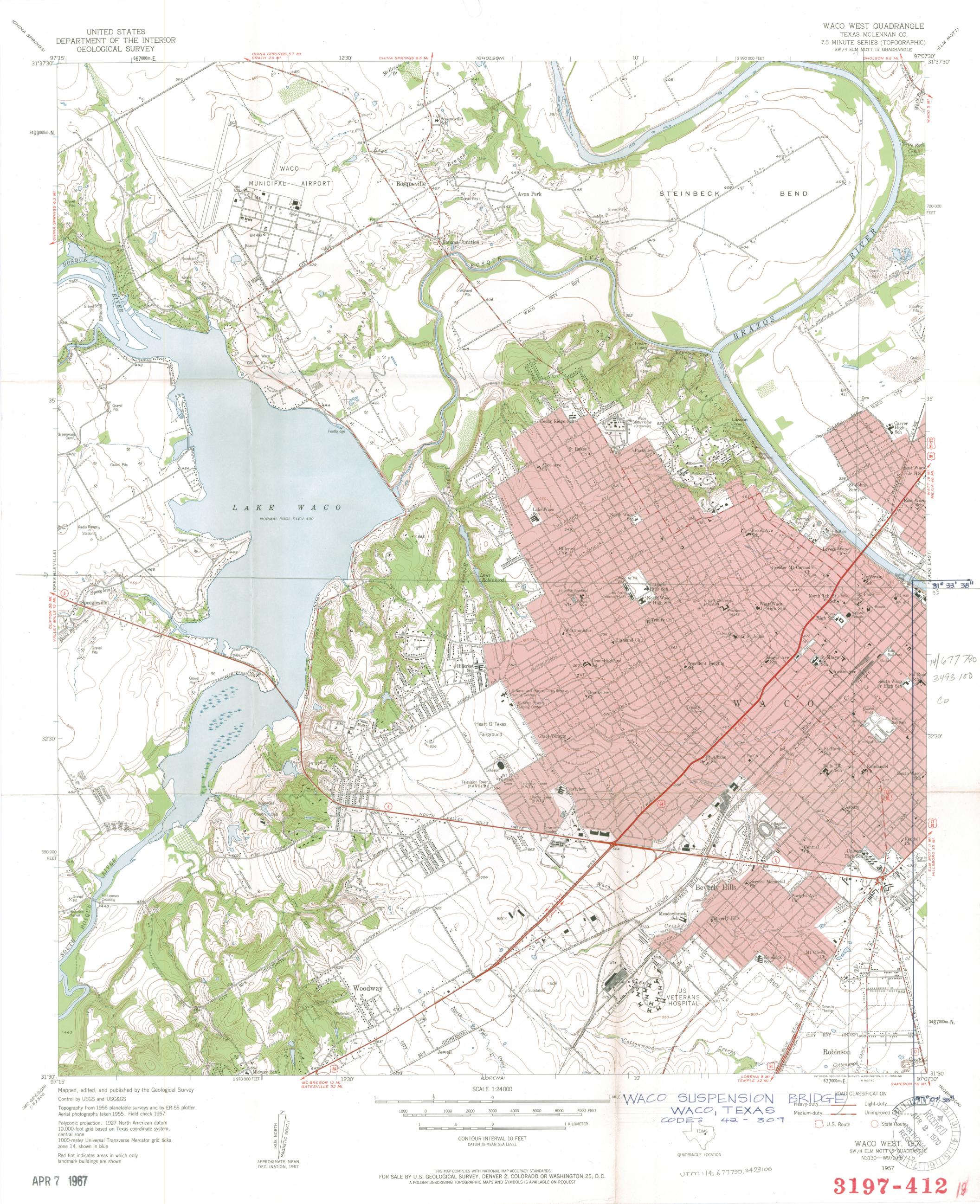


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| Form 10-301 (July 1969) | | | | | TEXAS | | |
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Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 1 9 1978

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Acreage of nominated property: approx. 8 acres

Quadrangle name: Waco West, Texas

Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References: A)14/677800/3493265 B)14/677860/3493245 C)14/677700/3493000 D)14/677600/3493085

Verbal boundary description:

The nominated property is bounded by University Parks Drive, Washington Ave., Lake Brazos Drive, and Franklin Ave.

Property Working Number 12. State CONTROL TECHNI an update Photos sletch Maps Original nomination submitted with simply - under 10 acres. HISTOR So -- this documentation is not out-of-line with that material.' While this is faitly arbitrary, given the scale of the bridge, the state case for needing additional acreage is logical. i.e. 23.79 from 1 - 20 mould be acreacy abition . ARCHITECTURAL This control sheet is for comments re. a VBD being submitted for a bridge which is already listed on the Nat'l Register. I questioned the inclusion of a small bldg. which appears on the USGS map. The bldg no longer stands. I also had doubts regarding he size of the propsed VBD. I did receive an answer on this matter which satisfied me. Defer to historian. ARCHEOLOGIST **OTHER** HAER Inventory _ Review new acreage (8) reflects block Bridge REVIEW sits on rather than solely bridge, but this boundary has the advantage of being easily duplicated. **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF** OK LEBNICH 1/75/79 **BRANCH CHIEF** KEF National Register Write-up Send-back _____ and the second second Entered Federal Register Entry Re-submit _

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



P. O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

RECEIVED DEC 19 1978

December 11, 1978

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

TRUETT LATIMER

The Texas Historical Commission would like to amend the National Register form for the Waco Suspension Bridge. Since the form was submitted in 1970, no verbal boundary description was required. To correct that lack, we have enclosed a new quad map, site plan, and continuation sheet.

Significance of the Bridge depends partially on its visual impact. Its towers, rising 56' above the roadbed, comprise an impressive site for not only the surrounding neighborhoods, but also for the travelers on Interstate Highway 35, a few blocks to the east. Therefore, inclusion of the entire city block is logical, as it will facilitate the continuing isolation this unique structure deserves. The city of Waco owns the entire 8 acres.

Your rapid approval of this material would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Lissa Anderson

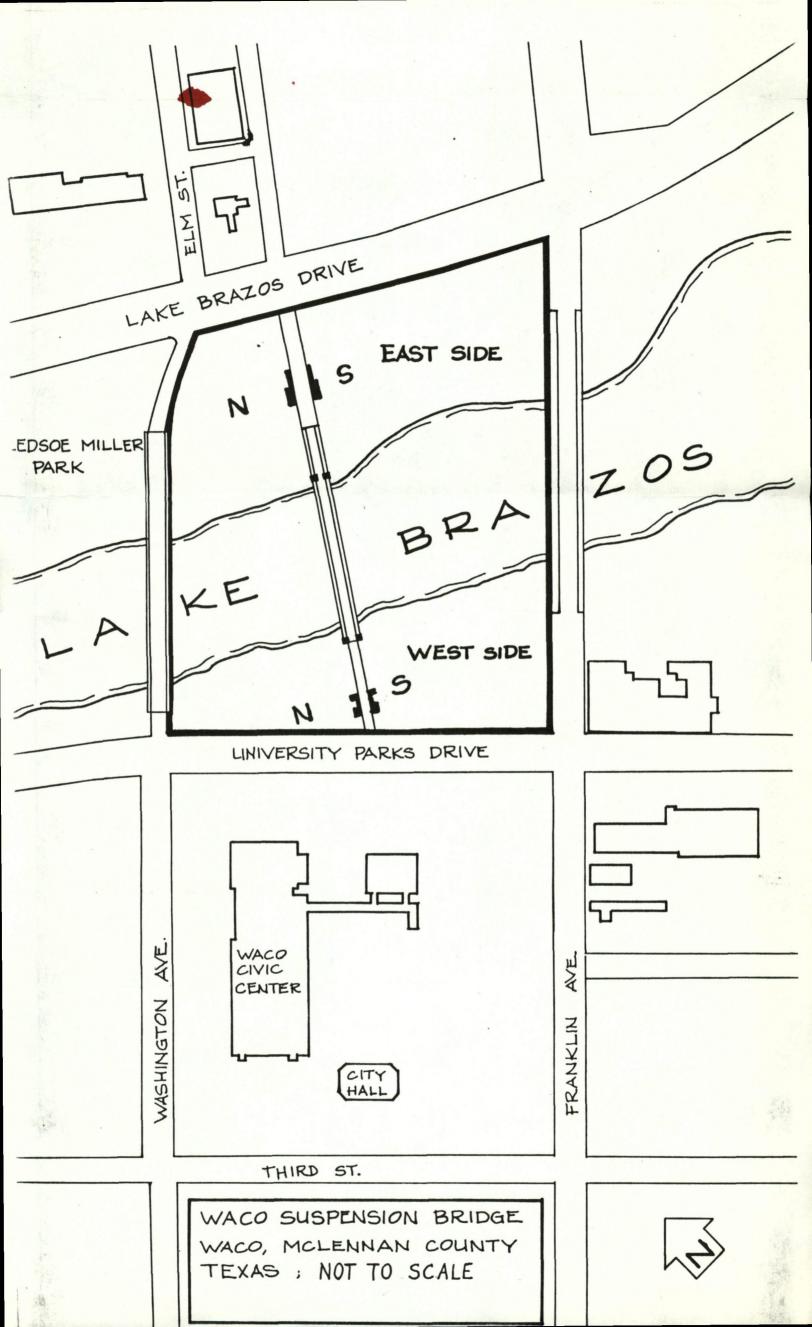
Coordinator National Register Nominations

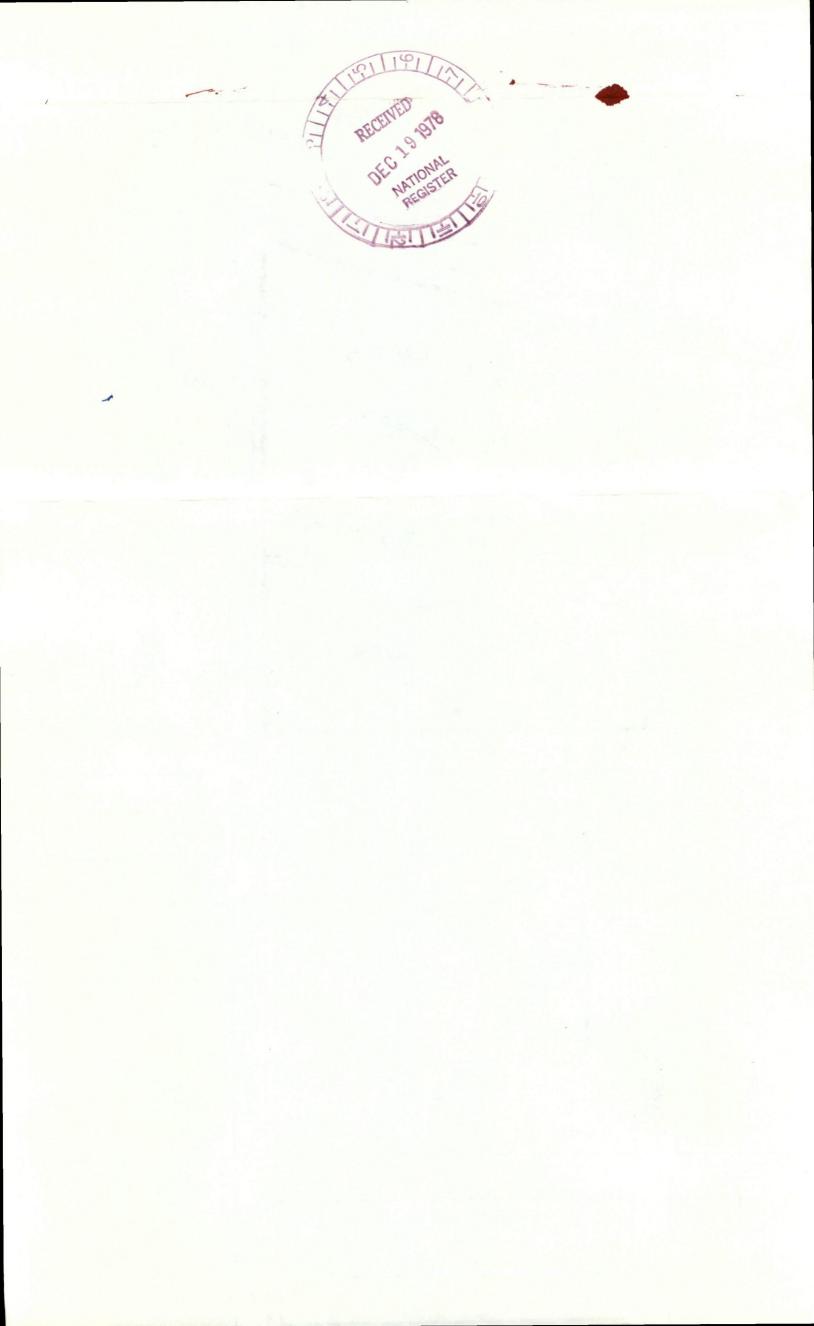
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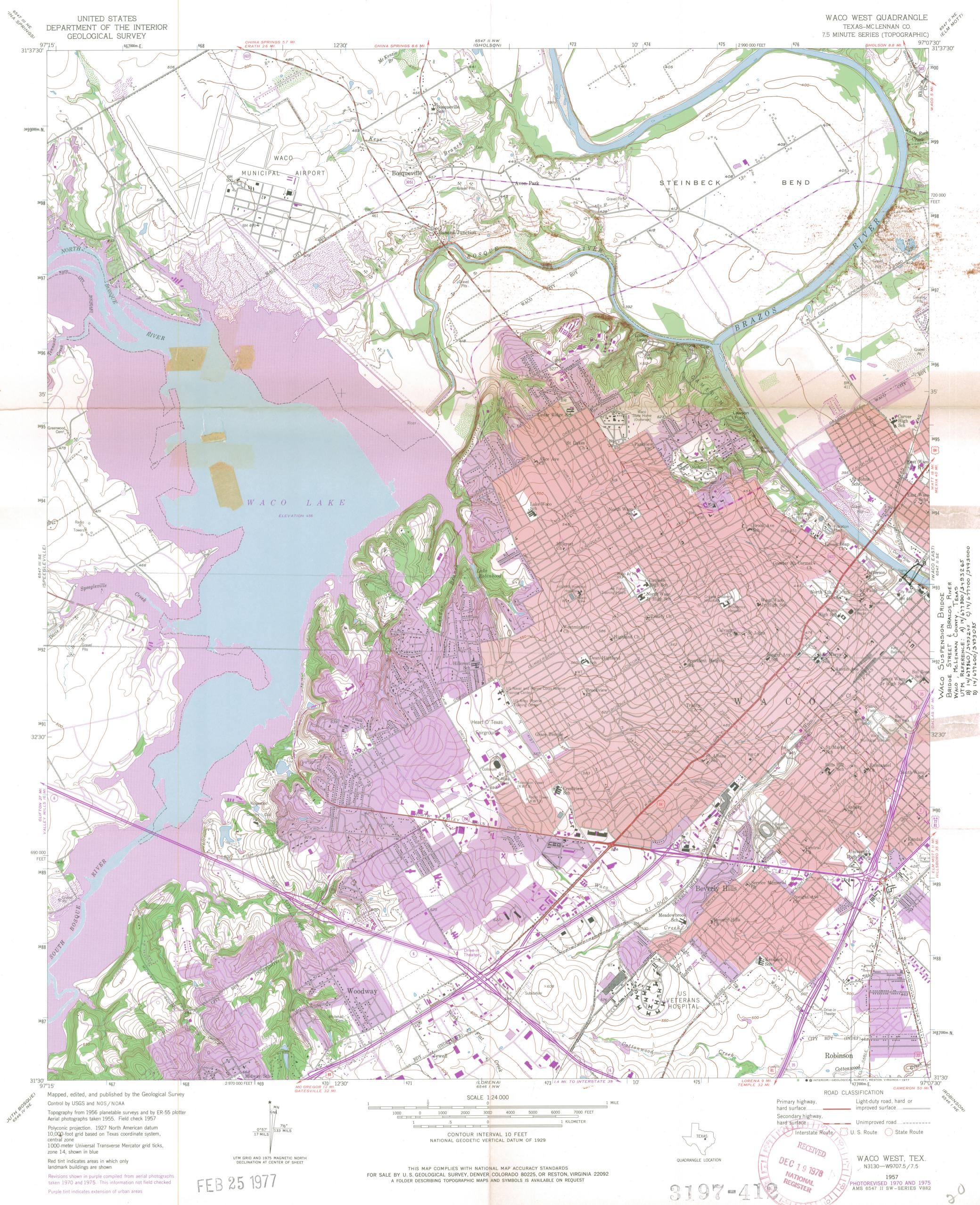
2/8/79 Tolken weik Lissa Anderson regarding updatt sjeperoval of Waco. Duspenson Bridge by Dr. murtagh 1/29/79

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service Pension Building 440 G Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20243

The State Agency for Historic Preservation









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5

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places TEXAS

Texas State Capitol Building

Austin, Texas

Waco, Texas

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Waco Suspension Bridge

Winedale Inn

Winedale, Texas

H30-HR

JUN 2 2 1970

Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Survey Committee 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,

(Signed)

Ernest Allen Connally Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

JUN 22 1970

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6/22/70

Entered in the National Register

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

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H30-HR E JUN 3 0 1970 RETAINED Hon. Ralph W. Yarborough FILT United states Senate Mashington, D. C. DISAL Dear Senator 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 6/22/ 027200 Eistoric Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into Couthvestern Regional the National Register of Mistoric 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, ReadDle :! Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical co: Elrector, Fouthwest Region Mr. Charles Steen, fouthwest IL-Mr. Welvin & Couthwest T Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed. Sincerely yours, (Bad) Thomas F. Flynn DEPUTY Director

Enclosurea

Entered in the National Register

JUN 2 2 1970

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

Duplicate letter sent to:

Hon. John G. Tower United States Senate Washington. D. C. Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

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Texas State Capitol Building

Austin, Texas

Waco, Texas

Waco Suspension Bridge

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Winedale Inn

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BASIC FILE REPAINED

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Hon. W. R. Poage House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Poage:

We are pleased to inform you that the Waco Suspension Bridge in Waco, Texas, has been nominated by the State Liaison 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 Flaces. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John G. Tower 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, 108 Nest 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Thomas F. Flynn DEPUTY Director

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register

JUN 2 2 1970

cc:

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

Director, Southwest Region

Gemble in

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Texas Historical Commission Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711 Truett Latimer Executive Director

October 10, 1974

Norma Rowland Branch of Publications National Register Of Historic Places Department of the Interior National Park Service 18th and C Streets, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ms. Rowland:

 Concerning your questions about the Lampasas County Courthouse, the nomination form should be changed to denote unrestricted accessibility to the public. The measurements
 you requested for the Waco Suspension Bridge include a sixteen foot wide road across the bridge and cable towers measuring fifty-six feet from the surface of the road.

Since the Waco Suspension Bridge was nominated, the bridge has been closed for motorized traffic and is used presently only as a foot bridge.

There has been another change in a recently accepted nomination. Only a few days after the "Little Campus" submission was accepted in September, 1974, some of the structures were demolished. The buildings referred to as the carriage house and the two-story brick structure built in 1912 have been razed in order to create an access road adjoining a section of Interstate Highway 35 under construction. However, the three most important structures in the complex remain unthreatened at this time.

If you have further questions concerning past submissions, we will be glad to help you.

Sincerely, Marie Landon

Marie D. Landon Historian

MDL/dra



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

CITY OF

P. O. BOX 1370

WACO, TEXAS 76703

October 28, 1974

Ms. Marie Landon Texas Historical Committee Box 12276 Capitol Station Austin, Texas

Subject: Suspension Bridge Over the Brazos - Waco, Texas

Dear Ms. Landon:

Under separate cover are three blueline copies of original drawings concerning the Suspension Bridge about which Roger N. Conger asked me to send you information. The key points which you might be interested in are as follows:

ORIGINAL BRIDGE - 1870

1. Span - 475 ft. 2. Brick Towers a. Height of cables from roadbed - 43'-3" b. Overall height from roadbed - 49'-0" 3. Wood Trusses a. Bolted wood sections b. Total height trusses - 6'-8" 4. Wood Roadbed a. Width - 18'-0" b. Total width wood structure - 22'-0" BRIDGE - REMODELED - 1914 Span - 475 ft. 1. 2. Towers - Original brick was stuccoed. Cable height raised with concrete addition. Concrete arch added. Castellated brick removed. a. Height of cables from roadbed - 51'-1" b. Overall height from roadbed - 56'-10"

- Trusses All original wood removed and replaced with steel trusses

 Riveted steel angles, channels, and I-beams
 - b. Total height trusses 14'-8"

- Roadbed A wood roadbed was installed and two pedestrian walkways. Later, asphalt was installed over the wood roadbed (no date).
 - a. Width 18'-0"
 - b. Walkway 6'-0" both sides
 - c. Total width all steel 34'-0"

BRIDGE ROADBED AND WALKWAYS - 1949

All of the roadbed and walkways were replaced to new specifications. Asphalt on roadbed was also installed. Since this date, roadbed has been repaired as needed.

BRIDGE - 1953 TORNADO

During the 1953 Waco tornado, the roadbed and structure were lifted in the center of the span and received minor damage. All steel was repaired as necessary to restore its vehicular useage.

BRIDGE - 1974

At present, detailed renovation plans are being planned as part of Waco's bicentennial celebration. The bridge is now used only for pedestrian traffic being closed to vehicular traffic in 1971. The bridge is planned for utilization for art shows, exhibits, outdoor dinners, and general public events.

Ms. Landon, I hope that this summary has the specific information that you are seeking. I have now secured all drawings of the bridge in the city secretary's fireproof vault. The Mc Lennan County engineer also maintains a copy of most of the drawings that the City of Waco has at this time; however, our drawings are more complete. Unfortunately, we do not have the original drawings of the bridge; however, before the 1914 changes, a record of the original bridge was made. Also, enclosed you will find cover sheet copies and a bibliography copy from a report we are utilizing which may be of help to you.

If you need any additional information, please, feel free to call.

Sincerely, Denis Blocks Linnun

DENNIS BROOKS LINAM, Associate A.I.A. Bicentennial Coordinator

DBL/cb encls



Texas Historical Commission Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711 Truett Latimer Executive Director

November 1, 1974

Ms. Norma Rowland Branch of Publications National Register of Historic Places Department of the Interior National Park Service 18th and C Streets, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ms. Rowland:

Recently you wrote to the Texas Historical Commission requesting additional information on the measurements of the Waco Suspension Bridge. The information I sent to you on October 10, 1974, was based on a scale drawing of the bridge included in an architectural report at the University of Texas. Yesterday, I received this very detailed report from the Waco City Planning Office and thought you might be interested in the material.

Sincerely,

Marie D. Landon

Marie D. Landon Historian

MDL/dra Enclosure

TELEPHONE REPORT OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT: DATE: 1/8 To/FROM: ADDRESS: PHONE: STAFF MEMBER: DIVISION: REPORT: No motable structures (gage of floads) no imminent and construct park is planned consid const in area, however she says not a buffer because no clear + present danger that which was purchased with bridge; is itude unchanged since construct of pridge j sherfigel "Small blog no longer exists." redd call other questions not addressed