Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (Rev. 6-72) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Texas	
COUNTY:	

Bexar FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY DATE

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The Menger Soap Works, a two story vernacular limestone building over a basement, was constructed in 1850 to serve as San Antonio's first manufacturing enterprise. The massive stone structure is built of large, monolithic stone blocks, used particularly at the base and in the corners of the building for added structural support, while the upper portions of the walls contain smaller limestone rubble. This type of construction is similar to the technique employed by the Spanish in constructing the San Antonio missions and other

colonial structures.

The roof is pitched with the gable end facing the main or North facade. A round limestone window frame, now filled in, is visible in this gable portion. Three tall, narrow windows with cedar lintels once extended from the lower portion of the gable to the floor, but their size has been diminished in recent years by filling in portions of the opening with brick and rubble. The central window appears to have been shortened and widened to provide for a double door, but this later entrance has also been filled with rubble limestone.

Inset in the thick stone walls of the east elevation there is a series of doorways with transoms and cedar lintels. On the west side similar entrances have been enclosed by brick to support smaller modern window frames. On the rear or South facade tall windows equal in the size to the original windows on the North, have now also been altered in size by the addition of brick. Protruding stones, which must have been used somehow in the soap making process, add interest to the east and west wall elevations.

The Menger family owned and ran the factory until after the turn of the century. Converted into apartments in 1950, the owner added a new roof and removed the old chimney, flagstone floor, and a section of the building which fronted on Martin Street. However, the building remains basically as it was originally built.

This important pre-Civil War industrial building, threatened recently by demolition, is important to the industrial history of San Antonio, as well as to the State. The San Antonio Conservation Society hopes to purchase and save this building from destruction and restore it to its original architectural integrity.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	ole and Known) 1850	THE THE PERSON NO.	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch.	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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In 1850 a German immigrant, Johann Nicholas Simon Menger, founded a factory on the banks of the San Pedro Creek in San Antonio, Texas, to manufacture soap for the fast-growing Southwest area. Soap had first been imported from Saltillo, Mexico, in 1835. As the Texas population began to grow, the demand increased for such basic needs as soap. Thus, Simon Menger decided to abandon his occupation as San Antonio's first classroom music teacher, and establish the more profitable industry of soap manufacturing.

Menger located his factory on the San Pedro Creek to take advantage of the water supply, He built a large limestone vernacular building with high ceilings and tall windows to allow proper ventilation from the steel vats. The soap making process involved obtaining suet from the various San Antonio butcher shops, mixing it with water from the nearby creek, then adding lye and acids. In the tall, open room this mixture was heated in large steel vats on a fireplace hearth, thought to be below ground level. The liquid soap was then poured into square wooden vats to cool. sectioning the solid cakes by pushing them through strong wires, someone stamped the Menger label and wrapped the soap. It was then distributed by wagon and rail throughout Texas and the Southwest. Production at one time is said to have reached 40,000 pounds a week. Some of the brand names that were listed in early city directory advertisements were Alamo Queen, Katy Flyer, Dragon, Trilby and German.

Simon Menger's son, Erich, continued his father's factory until his death before World War I. The firm then closed and the building remained vacant for many years. In 1950 the structure was converted into apartments. Formerly hidden by dilapidated structures, the partial clearing of the area has just recently revealed the charm of the early building.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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9. MAJOR	BIBLIU	GRAPHICA	AL REFE	RENCES

Heusinger, Edw. Warner, The Chronology of Events in San Antonio, (San Antonio: Stanford Printing Co., 1951).

San Antonio Express/News, Sunday, 15 March 1970.

San Antonio Express, Friday, 20 March 1970.

San Antonio Express/News, Sunday, 29 March 1970.

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12.	. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CE	RTIFICATION		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION				
	Austin IZ. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION 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 significant of this nomination is: National State Director, Professional Services Truett Latimer Title State Historic Preservation Officer Date November 6, 1973 Texas NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION					U coriofex		

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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) #1

STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Bexar	
FOR NPS USE ON	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	1 9 1973

(Number all entries)

The Menger Soap Works was the first manufacturing enterprise in San Antonio and possibly the first soap factory in the Southwest. The building is a significant and rare example of industrial architecture because it is the only pre-Civil War industrial building remaining in Texas and perhaps in the Southwest.



PROPERTY Menger Soap Works	STATE Jepas	1	1
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Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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(2) NPS Number Dec. 12, 1973 Title: Menger Soap Works Loc. Befar Co, Jepas Corner detail showing CALTTOL CT. P.O. ECH . TEXAS HISTORICAL COLUMNISM A [NOISSIMEE L.CHLIM GEORED CL LON OTPI STAG NEG. BY: TEXAS HIST COMMISSION VIEW: CONNEY OLE tail

Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

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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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Corner detail showing the large monolithic stones used in construction.



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Title: Menger Soap Works

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NOT TO EE USED WITHOUT PERMISSION TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276 CAPITOL STATION AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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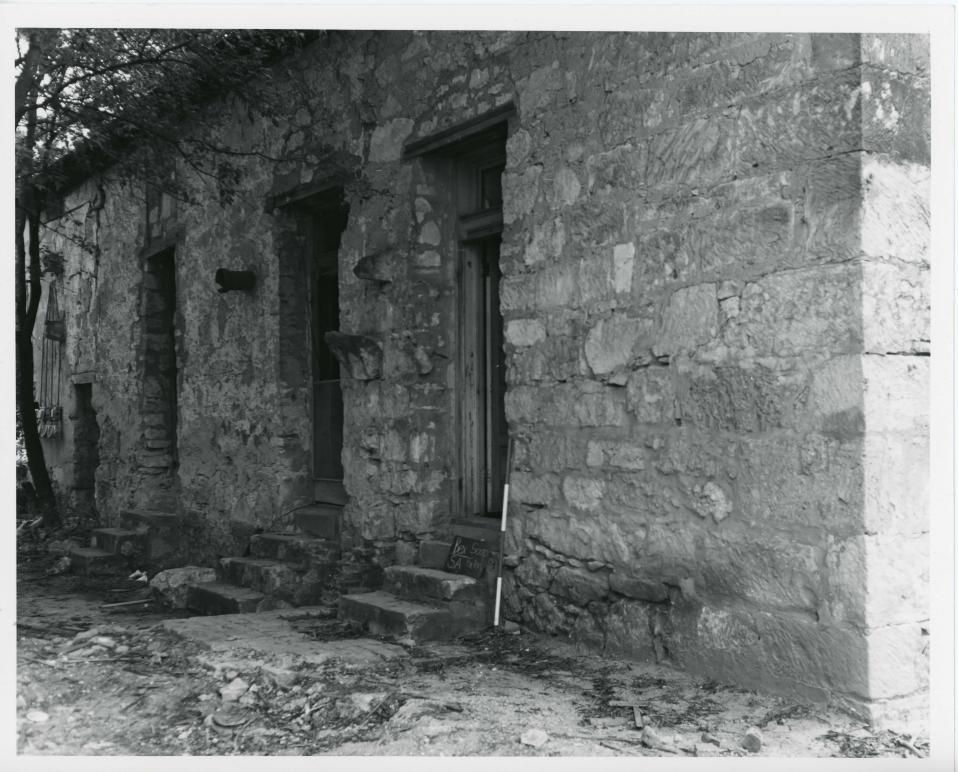
Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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CAPITOL STATION AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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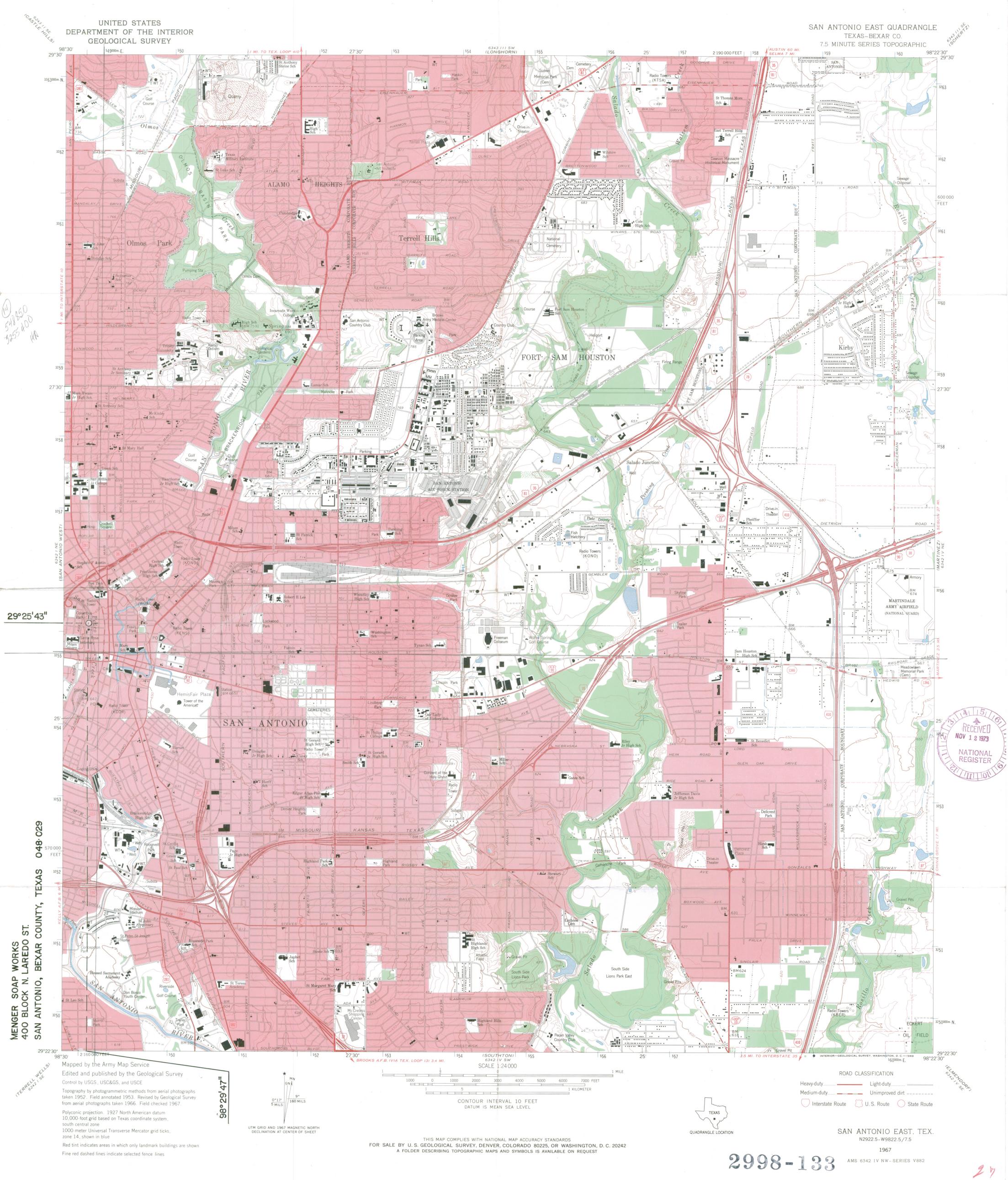
Form No. 10-301 Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

6 November 1973

Sear Carol -Attached is the subminion on the REGISTER Menger Soop, about which I spoke to you on the telephone this morning. I ful it is a particularly important building for Texas and we want to assist the San Antonio Consuvation society in their efforts to save it. Thank you for your speedy attention to this. We look forward to suing you in late San wary. With wound youds,

gay

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 1 2 1973

Name

Location

Menger Soap Works

San Antonio Bexar County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower

Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen

Hon. Henry B. Gongales

Mr. Floyd H. Hyde, Department

of Housing and Urban Development

Director, Southwest Region
PR MMott 12/21/73

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Post Office Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NOTIFICATION OF GRANT-IN-A	D ACTION					Do Not Use
1. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER 2. (Reserved for use by State central information reception agency)						
48-73-00045-02						
3. GRANTOR: a. Federal agency						
Department of the Interior b. Organizational unit						
National Park Service	A 574					
c. Administering office – (1) Name						
Division of Grants		25 100			1= -	
(2) Address – Street or P.O. Box	City		13 27	State	Zip Code	
18th and C Streets, N.W. 4. FEDERAL AGENCY GRANT IDENTIFIER: a. Code b.	Title Was	shingtor		D. C.	20240	
48-73-00045-02	Menger Soap	p Works	Developm	ent, Phase	e I	
c. Purpose Constructed in 1850, thi manufacturing enterprise in San Southwest. Project work will i restoration.	Antonio and	d possib	ly the f	irst soap	factory in the	e
5. GRANTEE: a. Name					Committee	
TEXAS Mr. Truett Latimer, E	xecutive Di	rector.	Texas St	ate Histor	STATE OF THE PARTY	
b. Address – Street or P.O. Box	City			State	Zip Code	
Post Office Box 12276, Capitol	Station A	istin		Texas	78711	
6. GRANTEE TYPE (Check only the single most applicable	e box)					
a. State b. Inter-c. County d. Cit	e. School district	f. Special unit	g. Con acti		Sponsored i. Other organization	
7. APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE 8. ACTION DATE		9. EFFECTIV	E STARTING DA	TE 10. EN	DING DATE	S 1000
Year Month Day Year Mon	th Day	Year	Month [Day Year	Month Day	
75 1 29 75 0	2 27	75	02	27 75	02 26	
11. TYPE OF ACTION (Check as many boxes as apply to a. New b. Continuation c. Supplemental grant grant (identify agency in item	d. Change i	n existing gran in (2) Decre durati	ase in (3) C	Cancellation (4) I	increase(\$) (5) Decrease	(\$)
12. AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION	6 16 X 16 X 16 X		17.4			
a. Federal—(1) basic (2) Supplemental	b. State		c. Local		d. Other	
\$,500 s	\$ 13,239*	73/8/41	\$		\$	
13. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (if none, clarify in item 16)	a. Program Numb				ental Program Number	
14. AUTHORIZATION	15.90	4				
	0-0-1-405					
		PL	Title Sec.	PL	Title Sec.	
8	9 665					
c. U.S. Code 16 U.S.C.	470		d State			
15. FACILITY LOCATION: (For facility grant actions only		Section .	120			
a. City San Antonio	b	. County	Bexar	•		
*Callaway Properties					STANDARD FO	
Prepared by Ralph E. Thomas 52	3(139)-5-54				Budget Circular A 240–101	-98