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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

М

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Texas
COUNTY:

Mason

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

NO. 2 0 1974

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	☐ District ☑ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisi	tion:	▼ Occupied	Yes:	
	☐ Site ☐ Structure	▼ Private	☐ In Pro	cess	Unoccupied	Restricted	
	☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being	Considered	Preservation work		4
					in progress	□ No	
	PRESENT USE (Check One or M.	More as Appropriate)					
	☐ Agricultural ☐ Go	overnment	Park		Transportation	Comments	
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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	
Mason	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 2	1974

(Number all entries)

7. Description continued.

The three-story structure is raised over a full basement with servant's quarters, laundry room, wine storage room, and room for dry cool storage. The basement area is completed by a five foot walkway encircling the basement rooms. The first floor has four large rooms designed as the family living area, while the second floor contains the bedrooms. The third floor serves as the recreational area containing a ballroom with banistered balcony for musicians, card room, billiard room, bar and a meditation room.

The interior rooms have beautifully hand carved woodwork as in the beaded ceilings, turned bannisters and stairway details, wainscoting, and walnut doors and windows. Engraved, solid brass hardware and leaded stained and jeweled glass were used throughout the house. An interesting feature is the use of narrow doors, one-third the size of standard doors, in the bay projections of the first and second floors. These act as doorways or ventilators as well as an unusual decorative architectural feature.

When Oscar Seaquist bought the house in 1919 he hired Richard Grosse to complete the unfinished third floor, in addition to replacing the first floor gallery and the iron water tank. Mr. and Mrs. Garner Seaquist repaired and restored the house beginning in 1972, enclosing two portions of the first floor porch for bathrooms and closing the back stairway on the third floor to install a bar. These few changes are the only alterations from EpM. Reynold's original plan for the house

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

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FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
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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 Applica	ble and Known) Ca. 18	91	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (CA	neck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
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☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other Specifys
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	6
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☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	N AUG 2 2 1974
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	NATIONAL
Conservation	Music	Transportation	REGISTER
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANC	Ε		CITATION .

The nineteenth century architecture of Mason, Texas, (see National Register Submission: Mason Historic District, March, 1974), has a unique masonry tradition, for after Fort Mason was abandoned in 1869, the city used the sandstone of the Fort's structures as material for their town buildings. In addition, the abundance of local sandstone quarries assured the continued availability of the material. Most of the late nineteenth century private residences are L-shaped or T-shaped Victorian cottages. Towering above the modest one-story residences, however, is the three-story Seaquist home, Mason's most outstanding Victorian mansion.

A Methodist minister, Thomas Broad, first built a twostory stone house on this property c. 1887. The house changed
hands twice between 1889 and 1891 and was finally purchased
by E. M. Reynolds. Having just purchased a large portion of
shares in the new Citizens National Bank, later known as the
First National Bank, Reynolds moved to Mason from New York
in May, 1891. His official position with the bank was that
of Cashier. Reynolds hired an architect/builder, Richard E.
Grosse, and immediately began expanding the house. He tore
down most of the original Broad home, but used the beautiful
hand carved stone, displaying roses, grapes, tulips, stars
and parrots, done by Mr. Broad.

Grosse, whose father and grandfather had both been architects, was born in Germany in 1860. He, too, received an architectural license after studying at the State Architectural School of Dresden, Germany, from 1877-1882. In 1883 at the urging of a friend in Texas, Grosse decided to apply his talents in the German-settled hill country of Texas. In 1887 he founded R. Grosse Lumber Yard in Mason and the enterprise is still owned and maintained by his descendants. Grosse served

Form 14,300 a (July 1969) AUG 2 2 1974 NATIONAL REGISTER Wumber all proving

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) # 2

STATE	
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Mason	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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8. Significance continued.

as the town builder and architect for a number of private residences, schools, and churches in Mason and the surrounding communities of Art and Hilda. His craftsmanship, however, was most creatively expressed in the Seaguist House.

Reynolds' association with the bank was terminated c. 1898 and he left Mason. His wife and four children continued to reside in the house until Oscar Seaquist purchased it in 1919.

In 1880 Oscar E. Seaguist was born Oscar Edward Johnson Sjokvist in Oslo, Sweden. The son of a prosperous middle class family, his father disowned him when he chose to apprentice as a bootmaker. Immediately following his apprenticeship, Oscar Sjokvist was drafted into the Swedish army. The young man was unhappy with army life and after a dispute with an officer, he left for the United States. Arriving in Galveston in 1901, he began working his way across Texas. While working as a farm laborer in Round Rock the same year, Sjokvist heard that a bootmaker in Mason needed a craftsman. He left for Mason immediately and began working for Mr. Christerson and within a year the Swedish newcomer bought the business. His reputation as a bootmaker eventually spread far beyond the small community of Mason. In 1905 Sjokvist married Ada Garner of Mason and they soon Americanized the spelling of their name to Seaguist. In 1919 Seaguist bought the home of Mrs. E. M. Reynolds. Because Mr. Reynolds had never completed some of the original plans, particularly on the third floor, Seaquist finished the interior work and made several repairs. Oscar Seaguist died in 1933, but Mrs. Seaguist resided in the home until her death in 1972. Presently, the house is owned by Seaguist Incorporated--Garner E. Seaquist, Michael E. Seaquist and Jack L. Seaquist. a son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Seaquist, and his wife presently occupy the home.

The Seaquist House stands apart as Mason's largest and most elaborate Victorian home. The three-story house was originally built by E. M. Reynolds, a wealthy banker, and completed by Oscar Seaquist, a man probably anxious to display his success as a bootmaker to his estranged family. The house expresses the ambition of the men who lived here as well as the quality of local craftsmanship. The Seaquist House represents an important architectural landmark for the city.

GPO 931-894

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Faubion, Mrs. Morris, Unpublished report prepared by Mason County Historical Survey Committee, 1974.

Seaquist, Mrs. Garner, Oral Interview by Marie Landon, March 1974.

Webb, Walter Prescott, ed., <u>The Handbook of Texas</u>, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952.

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Form No. (7/72)	10-3014		S DEPARTMENT OF TIONAL PARK SERVIO			Texa		
		NATIONAL REG	ISTER OF HIST	ORIC PL	ACES	COUNTY		
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Form No. 1 (7/72)	0-301a UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF T NATIONAL PARK SERVIC		Texas
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HIST	ORIC PLACES	COUNTY
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N 7	West (front) elevation		
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR STATE Form No. 10-301a NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (7/72)Texas COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Mason PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) S NOV 2 0 1974 Z 1. NAME 0 COMMON: Reynolds-Seaquist HOuse AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 400 Broad CITY OR TOWN: AUG 2 2 1974 2 Mason STATE: COUNTY: NATIONAL CODE CODE Texas 048 REGISTER Mason 319 3. PHOTO REFERENCE Texas Historical Commission PHOTO CREDIT: 1972 DATE OF PHOTO: ш NEGATIVE FILED AT: THC ш 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. North Elevation ∴ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-I



Form No. 10-301 (7/72)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	INTERIOR	Texas
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☼ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III -



STATE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Texas Form No. 10-301a COUNTY (7/72)NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Mason FOR NPS USE ONLY PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM DATE ENTRY NUMBER (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) S Z 1. NAME COMMON: Reynolds-Seaguist House 0 AND/OR HISTORIC: LOCATION RECEIVE STREET AND NUMBER: U 400 Broad AUG 2 2 1974 -CITY OR TOWN: œ NATION Mason CODE COUNTY: REGIS: 319 STATE: 048 Mason Texas PHOTO REFERENCE PHOTO CREDIT: Texas Historical Commission Z DATE OF PHOTO: 1972 SEGATIVE FILED AT: ш THC ш 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Detail of one of the narrow openings in the bays which act as doorways or ventilators. U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 Ⅲ-I



7/72)	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Texas
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	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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Form No. (7/72)	10-301a UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Texas
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	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Mason
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	Detail of hand carved limestone surrou	nding the main
	entrance.	

Form 10-301 (July 1969)

S

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)

1. Property broundaries where required.

3. Latitude and longitude reference.

2. North arrow.

Texas

COUNTY

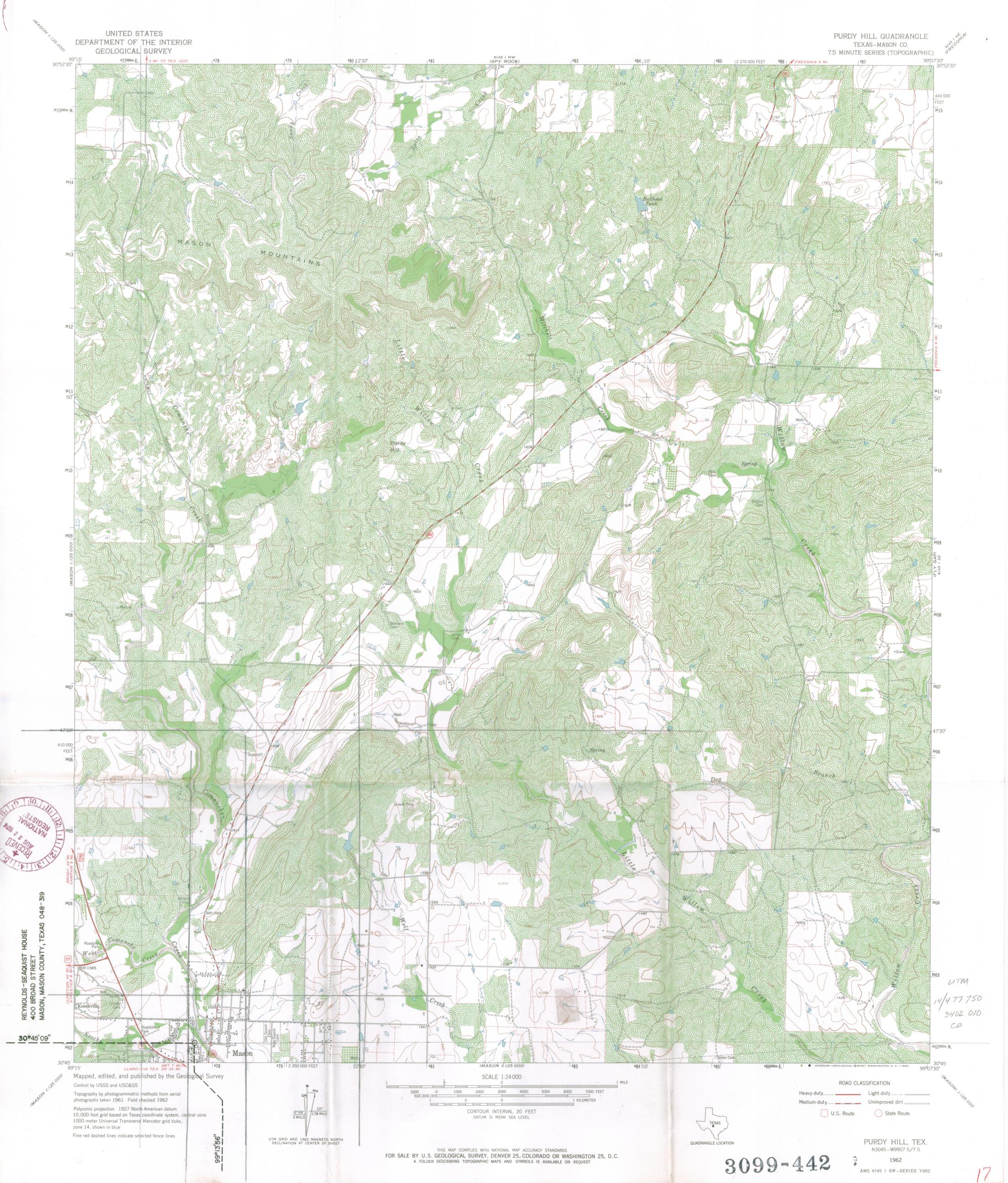
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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Mason	AUG 2 2 1974
STATE:	CODE COUNTY: CODE
Texas	048 Mason NATIONAL 319
3. MAP REFERENCE	V NEGISTER A
SOURCE:	(6)
USGS 7.5' series	TITTON
scale: 1:24000	
DATE: 1962	
4. REQUIREMENTS	
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS	



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered

MOV 2 0 1974

Name

Location

Reynolds-Seaquist House

Mason

Mason County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen Hon. O. Clark Fisher

Regional Director, Southwest Region

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

MMott/cha