

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 11 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 6 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

1879 Houston Waterworks

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

27 Artesian Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Houston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

8

STATE

Texas

CODE

48

COUNTY

Harris

CODE

201

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Houston

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Houston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harris County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Houston

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Texas Historic Engineering Site Inventory

DATE

Fall, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Tech University

CITY, TOWN

Lubbock

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Houston Waterworks was built by a private company, the Houston Waterworks Company, in 1879. The waterworks was begun shortly after the organization of the company on April 18, 1879, and was completed by August of the same year. The original system consisted of a pumping plant to draw water from Buffalo Bayou and pump it directly into water mains (using a Worthington duplex steam pump with a twelve-inch bore), a pumping reservoir adjacent to the pumphouse, and a system of underground laterals for distribution.

Until 1887 Buffalo Bayou was the sole source of water for the Houston system, but at a later date increased numbers of artesian wells began to provide most of the water. Giving greatly improved water quality, the artesian wells quickly came to be the favored water source for consumers. However, the practice of pumping bayou water into the mains from time to time by the company irritated consumers and made the entire privately-owned system very unpopular with the citizens. The city authorities and the waterworks management constantly were at odds with each other over the occasional use of bayou water. In 1904 a Supreme Court decision prevented the Houston Waterworks Company from pumping the Buffalo Bayou water into the city water system, but the disputes between the citizens and city officials on one hand and the waterworks management on the other were not solved until 1906, when the City of Houston purchased the waterworks for \$901,700. From that time to the present the municipality has operated the Houston water system.

The extant remains of the 1879 Houston Waterworks consist of one brick and concrete underground reservoir. This circular masonry structure with a conical concrete covering is adjacent to the 1926 Bayou Pumping Station. It served as the pump well for the initial pumping station at the site in 1879, but today it functions as a sand trap on the present-day system. The reservoir is approximately 32 feet in diameter, but its depth is unknown. At the side of the 1879 pump well are the remains of the foundation of the building thought to have been the original waterworks pumphouse, but probably only excavation of the site would document its identification.

Because the remains of the 1879 Houston Waterworks are located in a land-capped area at the side of the 1926 Bayou Pumping Station, the site of the original city waterworks is ideal for the erection of interpretive displays to explain this century old structure in downtown Houston.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES **1879** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Houston Waterworks Company**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of a waterworks in Houston was a necessary step in its growth into the metropolis which it became. It is important, in addition, because it included structures involved in the 1904 Supreme Court decision to prevent the Houston Waterworks Company from pumping Buffalo Bayou water into the city water system. Its remains are significant as important examples of municipal water engineering of the 1870's and are among the limited number of century old structures in downtown Houston.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Annual Report of the Houston Water Department for the Year Ending February 29, 1912.
 n. p.: 1912. (Available at Water Department, City of Houston, Houston, Texas.)
 Baker, M. N., ed. The Manual of American Water-Works. New York: Engineering News
 Publishing Co., 1890.
 Baker, T. Lindsay. "Houston Waterworks: Its Early Development." Water; Southwest
Water Works Journal, LVI, No. 4 (July, 1974), p. 37.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	27,0	9,0,0	3,219,4	80,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

T. Lindsay Baker, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION

History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech University

DATE

May 21, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 4089

TELEPHONE

(806) 742-1231

CITY OR TOWN

Lubbock

STATE

Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

SIGNATURE

William G. Smutney

TITLE

Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

June 4, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Noted

William G. Smutney

DATE

5/6/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE

5.6.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property 1879 Houston Waterworks
State Tx Working Number 11.11.75 2029

76002037
Harris

TECHNICAL

Photos 1
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
11.12.75

Concur with Ward.

HISTORIAN

Return
E. Smith
1-7-76

More on the function of the water works and its significance is necessary before we can evaluate alterations?
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
RETURN H. J. ...
12/22/75

ARCHEOLOGIST

There is a question about foundation of earlier station, but I'm inclined to accept as is.

OTHER

Accept
W. R. ...
4/26/76

Since it is the only remains of Houston's 1st waterworks. I would think this sufficient for significance at the local level. We may be able to get a bit more on the description - but not very much. There is not very much more one can say about a reservoir that has been converted to an sand trap other than the reservoir was filled up sand.

HAER

Inventory ~~5/23/75~~
Review T. Lindsay Baker 5/75
Accept Eudy
2/23

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-26-76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept
5.6.76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry G-1-76 Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 6 1976

INT:2106-74



Houston Water Works

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 5.6.76

Title: 1879 Houston Water Works
Harris Co., Texas

Loc. NW to pump reservoir. Much
of structure now underground.
Old pumping reservoir now used
as a sand trap for nearby well
in the present water system.
Pipe entering fr. side is part of
more recent system. Orig. pump
reservoir at Bayou Pumping Stat. at
27 Artesian St., Houston, Texas.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 11 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 6 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

1870 Houston Water Works

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Houston

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Harris

STATE

Texas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

History of Engineering Program

DATE OF PHOTO

May 15, 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT

History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech University

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Northwest to pump reservoir of the 1879 Houston Water Works.

Much of the structure is underground. The old pumping reservoir is now used as a sand trap for a nearby well in the present

PHOTO NO. 1

over

water system. The pipe entering from the side is part of this more
redent system.

The original pumping reservoir is located at the Bayou
Pumping Station in the center of Houston at 27 Artesian Street
Houston, Texas

NAME

HISTORIC

1870 Houston Water Works

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY/TOWN

Houston

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Harris

STATE

Texas

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO LABEL

History of Engineering Program

NEGATIVE FILED AT

DATE OF PHOTO

May, 15, 1973

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. BY DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET.

Northwest to pump reservoir of the 1870 Houston Water Works.

Much of the structure is underground. The old pumping reservoir is now
used as a sand trap for a nearby well in the present

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 11 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC
1879 Houston Waterworks

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
Houston

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Harris

STATE
Texas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS

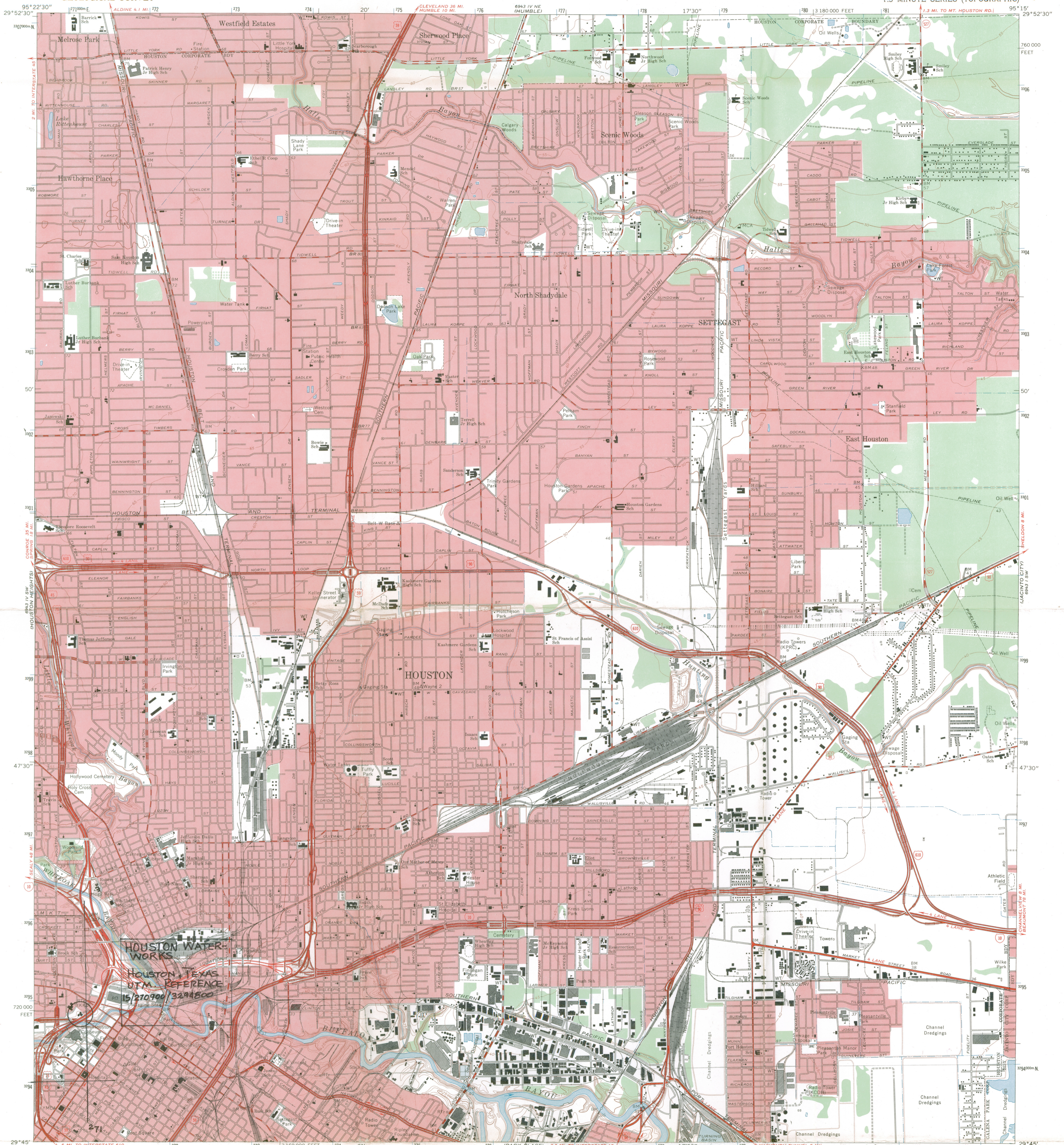
SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1967

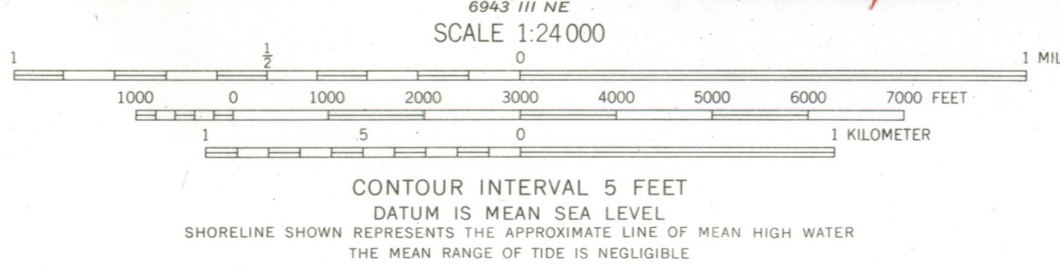
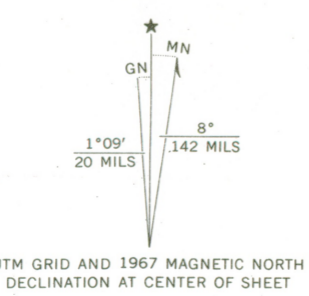
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

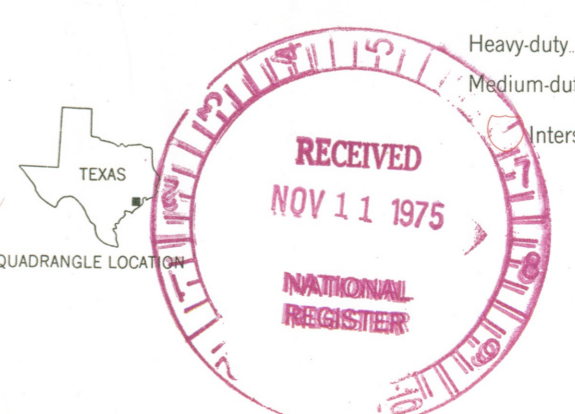


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1956. Topography enlarged from 1:31 680-scale AMS map of Settegast
Quadrangle. Original map by planetable surveys 1943. Revised 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SETTEGAST, TEX.
N2945—W9515/7.5

1967
AMS 6943 IV SE—SERIES V882

27 Artesian Street

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE Texas

Date Entered MAY 6 1976

Name

Location

1879 Houston Waterworks

Houston
Harris County

Leona River Archeological Site
(41 UV 49)

Uvalde Vicinity
Uvalde County

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Bob Eckhardt
Hon. Robert C. Krueger

Also Notified

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Regional Director, Southwest Region

PR-M. Mott:fdf 5-11-76

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: 1879 Houston Waterworks
 2 OTHER NAMES:
 3 date of entry: 5-6-76
 4 county code: 201

5 LOCATION street & number: 27 Artesian St.
 city / town: Houston
 vicinity of:
 state: TX
 county: Harris
 6 NPS REGION: Southwest

7 OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name)
 8 ADMINISTRATOR:
 9 EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL
 10 FUNDED? YES NO
 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 8
 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: NO
 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: NO
 15 ACREAGE: 0.1
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION
 excellent good fair
 deteriorated ruins unexposed unexcavated
 altered unaltered reconstructed excavated
 original site moved unknown
 17 features:
 INTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS: YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown
 19 ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO
 20 SAVED? YES
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1
 AGRICULTURE-3
 ARCHITECTURE-4
 ART-5
 COMMERCE-6
 COMMUNICATIONS-7
 CONSERVATION-8
 ECONOMICS-9
 EDUCATION-10
 ENGINEERING-11
 ENTERTAINMENT-26
 EXPLORATION-12
 INDUSTRY-13
 INVENTION-14
 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15
 LAW-16
 LITERATURE-17
 MILITARY-18
 MUSIC-19
 PHILOSOPHY-20
 POLITICS/GOVT.-21
 RELIGION-22
 SCIENCE-23
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24
 SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30
 TRANSPORTATION-25
 RECREATION-28
 SETTLEMENT-29
 URBAN PLANNING-31
 OTHER (SPECIFY)
 22 CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

23 functions: industrial
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:
 CURRENTLY:
 24 dates of initial construction: 1879
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s):
 27 architect:
 28 master builder:
 29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer:
 31 interior decorator:
 32 artist:
 33 artisan:
 34 builder/contractor: Houston Waterworks Co.

35 NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

Circular brick reservoir with a conical concrete covering ^{comprises} ~~constitutes~~ remains of 1879 Houston Waterworks originally served as pump well for initial pumping station, now functions as sand trap for 1926 Bayou Pumping Station. Important example of municipal water engineering;