

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

AUG 10 1976

DATE ENTERED

AUG 29 1977

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bexar County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Plaza

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

-20-

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF  
CODE

048

COUNTY

Bexar

CODE

029

## 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

County of Bexar

STREET & NUMBER

Main Plaza

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bexar County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Plaza

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

STATE

Texas

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1968

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

J. Riely Gordon, Architect for the Bexar County Courthouse, described the new structure in 1896 as follows: "The new Count Courthouse is a four-story and basement structure of the Romanesque style of architecture. The materials are all native Texas granite and red sandstone. With its tall towers, tile roof and numerous colonades it makes a mammoth structure...It has been especially designed with reference to the peculiarities of this climate. The open court on the east (Dwyer Avenue) has been designed for the purpose of securing the prevailing southeast breeze...With wings projecting out it catches all the breeze that strikes between them upon the principle of a funnel, and forces it throughout the entire structure, and the natural breeze is not wasted, thereby securing a thorough system of ventilation. It is entered by ascending very large and spacious granite steps with immense granite columns and bronze lamps on each side, to a platform floored in marble with a granite balustrade. Over this is a magnificent 26 foot fountain, surrounded by various kinds of tropical plants...From the first platform which is flanked by stairs of granite, turning to the right, and left, one enters into the colonades which surround the entire court and fountain. They are floored with marble and surmounted with polished granite columns with magnificently carved capitals and spacious hall on the right and left. The approach from Main Plaza is flanked on each side by heavy granite buttresses and magnificent bronze lamps. Expensive (sic) steps pass under the massive 32 foot segment arch, built between the two towers, which act as buttresses to resist its thrust...The south entrance is also gained through massive arches, polished granite columns with marble floored loggia, etc. The entrance from the west has not yet been completed and is not included in any of the present contracts, but the arrangement is for an entrance through a carriage porch of heavy granite arches, enabling ladies and others to attend court, as well as to be used in wet weather..." In addition, the two towers on Main Plaza were elaborate, the west one topped by a pyramid of green tile, and the taller east tower by a beehive form of red tile. Building of this structure continued from 1892 through 1896 under the supervision of George Dugan, Otto P. Kroeger and David Hughes. (See Appendix A)

The Courthouse proved adequate as constructed for only twenty years. In 1914, the construction of a five-story addition on the south side of the building was begun. Architects for this work were Leo M. J. Dielmann and Charles T. Boelhauwe. The structure was completed in 1915. H.N. Jones Construction Company served as contractor.

It was not until June, 1926, that the Courthouse underwent a major remodeling. Architects were Phelps and Dewees and Emmett T. Jackson and George Willis. E. Simpson Company was the engineering firm, and Walsh and Burney the general contractors. A fifth story was added to the center of the building, and a new roof constructed. Two wings were added to the west side. As in the 1914 work, the same granite and sandstone of the original structure were used. Tile flooring was installed in public spaces, and cork floors in courtrooms and libraries. The entire structure was artificially heated and cooled, an innovation for the time. The steel beams and masonry arches of the original structure were removed, and a reinforced concrete frame used.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

San Antonio Historic Survey  
Local 1972  
San Antonio City Planning Department  
San Antonio, Texas

Historic Sites Inventory  
State 1970  
Texas Historical Commission  
Austin, Texas 78711

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The 1926 remodeling unfortunately destroyed the east side patio, one of the building's finest features. This work was completed in October, 1928, and brought the overall dimensions of the Courthouse to 400 feet long and 140 feet wide.

The Courthouse remained intact for almost fifty years. Then in 1963, a new addition to the Sheriff's Department was made, and two courtrooms added on the second floor. In 1970, a \$2,600,000 project was undertaken to modernize and expand the entire structure. An addition of 24,000 square feet was made to the southwest corner of the building. Central air conditioning and heat were installed as well as new plumbing and wiring. Edward R. Gondeck was architect for both projects. Hilmer Uhr served as contractor for the 1963 work, and Wallace L. Boldt for the 1972 work. In neither of these additions was the same use of materials of the original structure made, and a major portion of the west side of the building was destroyed in the 1972 work.

The most recent work was done in 1973 when a law library was constructed under the roof, creating a sixth story on top of the old library. This work was done at the cost of \$124,000. Architects for the project were Jack Peterson and John Williams.

(See Appendix A, Drawings/Photos and Appendix B, Surveys)

## Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Bexar County Courthouse	Bexar, Texas	77001426

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form (Page 7.2)

Photographs

USGS Map

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The entire courthouse square containing the 19th century court-  
house and jail is being nominated to the National Register, but  
the 1956 jail is not considered a historic resource.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Urban Design
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bexar County Courthouse is important architecturally, historically, and symbolically. The 1892 structure has served as the center of county government and a focal point of downtown activity since its completion. It illustrates the historical association of Main Plaza with the administration of justice throughout the development of San Antonio and Bexar County. Along with the San Fernando Cathedral on the west side of the Plaza (itself a National Register Property), the Courthouse gives definition and continuity to this vital portion of the central city. It serves as a cornerstone for the Main and Military Plaza Historic District recently designated by the San Antonio City Council.

Main Plaza

When the Canary Islanders, the first civilian settlers of San Fernando de Bexar, joined the established Spanish military population in 1731, they made their homes on what became known as Plaza de los Islenos (later Main Plaza). Three years after their arrival, in 1734, the cornerstone for the parish church of San Fernando was laid on the Plaza's west side, and the Casas Reales, the town's governmental center, was begun in 1742 on the east side of the Plaza.

Casas Reales

This first meeting place for city officials was a one-story adobe structure with dirt floors, with the jail adjoining. It was completed in 1749. The Casas Reales functioned as a meeting place for public officials throughout the Spanish and Mexican rule of the area, and through the period of the Republic of Texas. It was twice reconstructed, however, first in 1779, and again in 1783. By the mid-Nineteenth Century, much needed new buildings to house city and county offices and the jail were begun in September, 1850, on Military Plaza.

Bat Cave and Jail

Built by Thomas Whitehead, this early City/County complex became known as the "Bat Cave" due to the number of bats that inhabited it. The buildings served as the courthouse and jail until 1879, and were occupied by the Recorder's Court, Police Headquarters and jail until 1889 when it was demolished. Even as early as 1870, the building had inadequate space for both city and county offices and some offices moved back to Main Plaza to the French Building on the southeast corner. Still more offices were in the Kampmann Building on the northeast corner of the Plaza.

On February 20, 1872, the split between City and County government, favored since 1870 was authorized. The "Bat Cave" and jail buildings became city property, though the county would continue to occupy them free until a new courthouse could be built. On August 1, 1872, the Commissioners' Court authorized the purchase of the "Masonic

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chabot, Frederick C., San Fernando, Naylor Printing Company, San Antonio, Texas, 1930.

Gordon, James Riely, Sketches from the Portfolio of James Riely Gordon, Architect, San Antonio, Texas, A.B. Benesch.

(Continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY APPROXIMATELY 1 ACRE

UTM REFERENCES

A	14	549160	3254780
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Joe R. Williams, Project Director  
Ann Maria Watson/Ronald A. Bechtol, Researchers

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission DATE 4/7/76

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station TELEPHONE (512) 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN Austin STATE Texas 78711

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Smelt Johnson* July 27, 1976

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Charles DeLoach*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/29/77  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 8-29-77



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Building" on the side of Soledad Street and 54'9" to the north for the new courthouse and jail. This site was just north of Main Plaza.

Masonic Building

Though there were offices in the Masonic Building in the 1870's, it was not enlarged and remodeled until 1882. Alfred Giles was chosen as architect and D.C. Anderson as contractor. The project was completed and accepted April 3, 1883. The building developed structural as well as space problems very early and by 1887, a new courthouse project was being considered. On March 13, 1891, the Commissioners' Court passed a resolution declaring the County in need of a new courthouse, and on May 11, a bond issue for property purchase was passed. The location chosen was the south side of Main Plaza, property owned by the estate of Joseph Dwyer.

Present Structure

A series of bond issues to enable construction, eventually totaling \$621,000 was passed, and a design competition was held. James Riely Gordon, architect of courthouses throughout the United States and Texas particularly, won first prize of \$1,000 when he was only 27 years old.

Gordon made a specialty of constructing public buildings mainly in the Romansque mode. He developed a plan that served him well in many projects, that of a Greek cross with a square central stairwell and quarter-circular entrance porches in each corner. He built a dozen courthouses of this type in Texas between 1891 and 1900. Some of them included Fayette County (La Grange, Texas, 1891), Victoria County (Victoria, Texas, 1893), Ellis County (Waxahachie, Texas, 1897) and Comal County (New Braunfels, Texas 1898). Among his other notable buildings were the Arizona State Capitol at Phoenix and the Texas Pavilion at Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition. In all his career, Gordon designed 72 courthouses. In 1904, at the age of 40, James Riely Gordon moved to New York. He served 13 terms as the president of the New York Society of Architects. Gordon died in 1937 in New York at the age of 73. (See Appendix C)

Ground was broken for Gordon's structure on August 4, 1891, and laying of the granite foundation was begun. (See description) In spite of disputes over construction techniques and building materials, the cornerstone was laid December 17, 1892 by Alamo Lodge 44 and Anchor Lodge 424. Several delays and bond issues later, construction was fully completed in 1896.

The Bexar County Courthouse has been the center of local and regional judicial activity since its completion. In 1896, it housed the 37th and 45th Judicial District Courts. The 37th dates to 1884, and the 45th to 1889. The need for rapid expansion of courthouse facilities is explained by the increase in the number of courts housed in the structure. The 57th Judicial District Court was created in 1899, the 73th in 1911, the 94th in 1923, and later the 131st 144th, 150th, 166th, 186th, and 187th District Courts were added. In addition to these, there are six County Courts, five Justice

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Courts, the District Attorney and District Clerk all located in the Bexar County Courthouse.

Recent pressures to increase the number of courts in Bexar County, as well as discussion of merging City and County government once again (separated in 1872) in one office complex adjacent to the present facility, make it imperative to draw attention to the importance of the existing structure.

(See Appendix D)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Jutson, Mary Carolyn Hollers, Alfred Giles: An English Architect in Texas and Mexico, Trinity University Press, San Antonio, Texas, 1972.

Morrison, Andrew, Historic San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, 1887.

Property Bexar County Courthouse

State Texas Working Number 8.10.76.3912

Bexar

Ref. # 77001466

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 5+2  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*pl*  
*OK 8.12.76*

**HISTORIAN**

*ACCEPT*  
*Livengood*  
*28 Oct 76*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*while eligible, two questions. (1) should this be nothing left part of large district of which it is the focus, (2) how extensive is the addition? (need photos)*

*Call / accept*  
*Welsch / Welsch*  
*11.8.76 3.28.77*

**LARGE UNSYMPATHETIC ADDITION (1960s)**  
**IS RESTRICTED TO REAR SIDE**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
*Cole*  
*4.3.77*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Thompson*  
*8.25.77*

**KEEPER**

*W...*  
*8/29/77*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 10-4-77

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered AUG 29 1977

INT:2106-74



Bexar  
County

~~Bexar Co.~~ Courthouse  
San Antonio  
Texas Hist. Comm.  
Northeast Oblique  
Across Plaza  
1976  
Ron Bechtol:Photographer

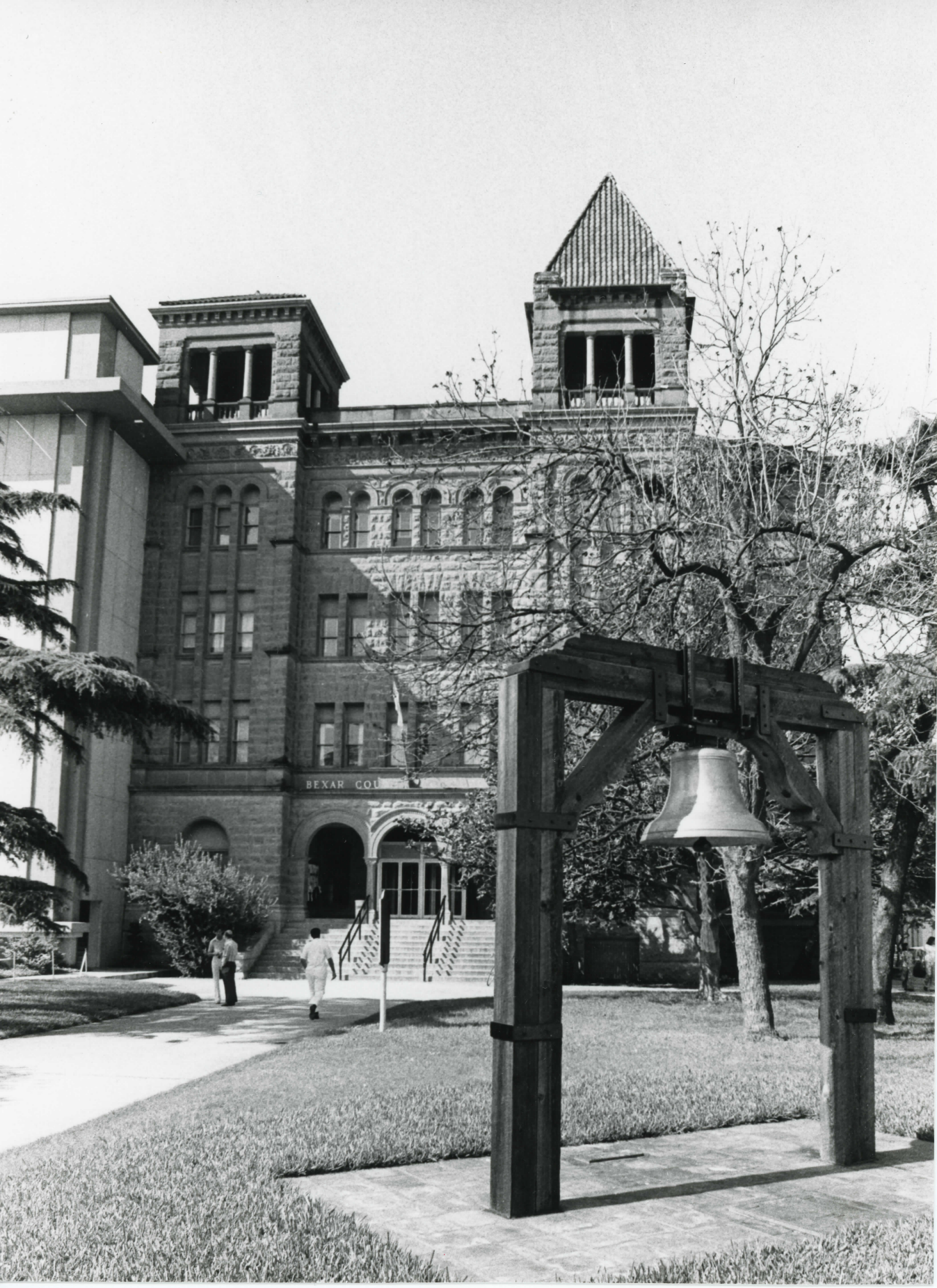
AUG 10 1976

AUG 29 1977

Photograph #1 of 7

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1



BEXAR COU

Bexar Co. TX

Bexar Co. Courthouse  
San Antonio  
Texas Hist. Comm.  
South Blenation  
1976  
Ron Bechtol:Photographer

AUG 10 1976

Photograph #2 of 7

AUG 29 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





Bexar County

Bexar Co. Courthouse  
San Antonio  
Texas Hist. Comm.  
Northeast Oblique  
1976

AUG 10 1976

Ron Bechtol: Photographer

Photograph #3 of 7

AUG 29 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

BEYAR CO. COURT HOUSE  
- 1892 -

JUDGE S. W. MCALLISTER  
- COMMISSIONERS -

J. E. DWYER, PETER JONAS,  
W. BOERNER, FRANK GMSCHED,  
THAD. W. SMITH - CLERK.

Bexar County

Bexar Co. Courthouse  
San Antonio  
Texas Hist. Comm.  
Detail North Tower  
1976  
Ron Bechtol: Photographer

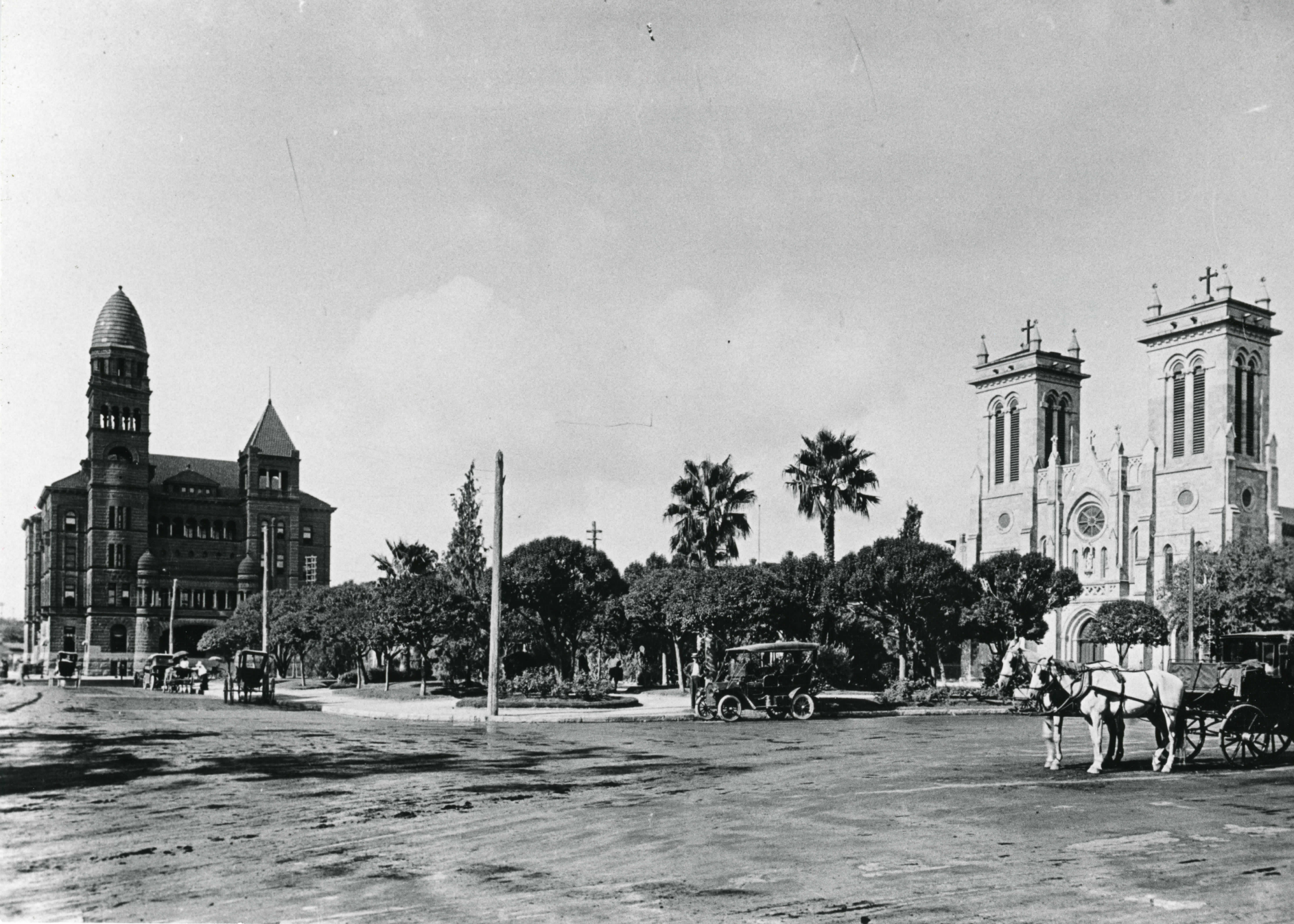
AUG 10 1976

Photograph #4

of 7

AUG 29 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
FRANK B. VAUGHAN, JR.  
County Commissioner - Precinct No. 3  
BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78204

Texas

Bexar Co. Courthouse  
San Antonio  
Texas Hist. Comm.  
Viewing South  
From Main Plaza  
Ca. 1910  
From Office of Frank B. Vaughn Jr.  
County Commissioner Pec. #3  
Bexar County

AUG 10 1976

AUG 29 1977 Photograph #5 of 7

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Bexar County Courthouse  
San Antonio, Texas

JAN 5 1977

Stanley Klein, November 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Northwest oblique of the courthouse  
showing the addition made to the  
west(side) and south(rear) facades  
of the building.

#6 of 7

AUG 29 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





Bexar County Courthouse  
San Antonio, Texas

JAN 5 1977

Stanley Klein, November 1976  
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique of the south (rear)  
facade revealing the addition made to  
the southwest corner of the building.

# 7 of 7

AUG 29 1977

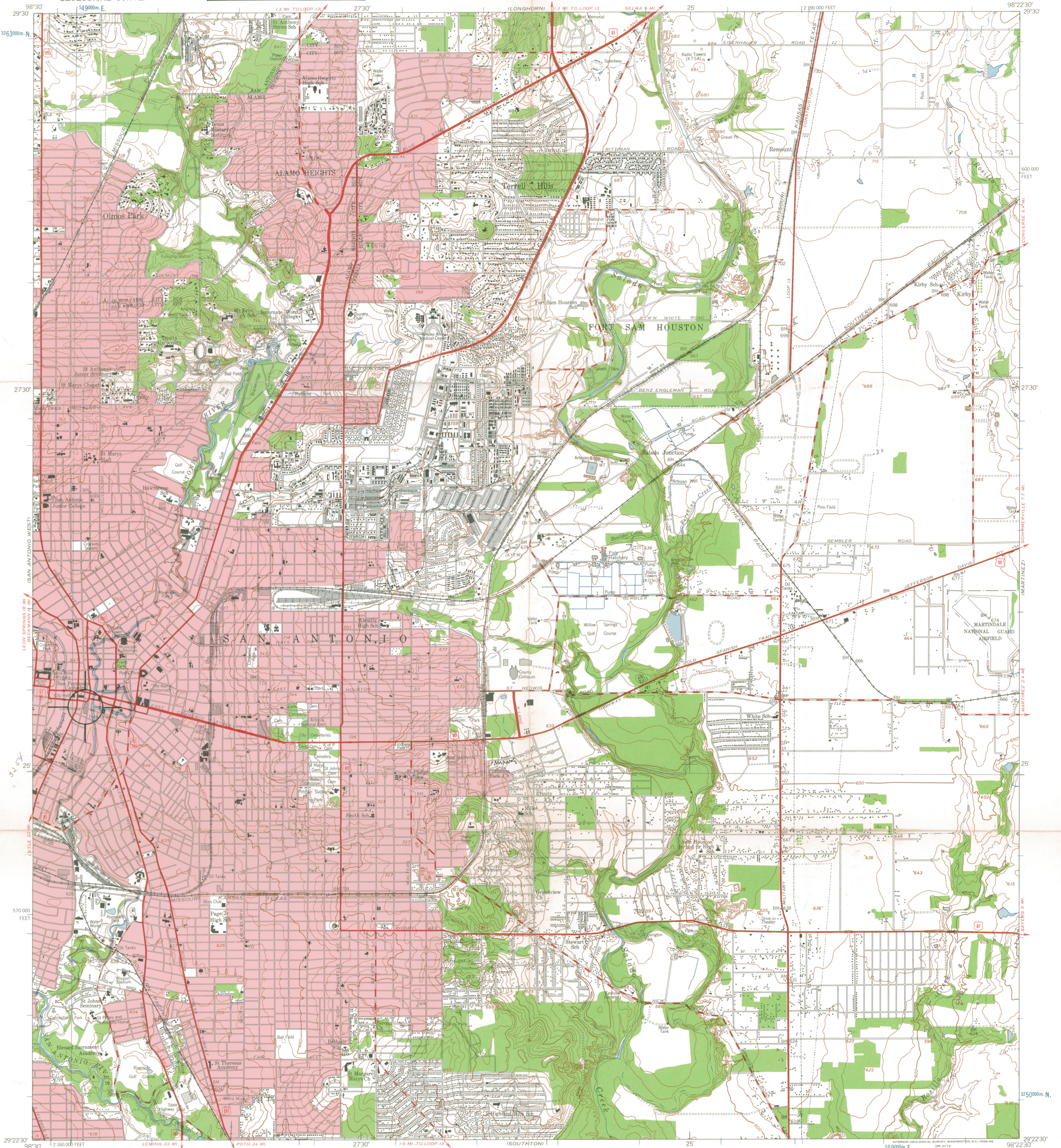
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE  
14 / 549160 / 3254780**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

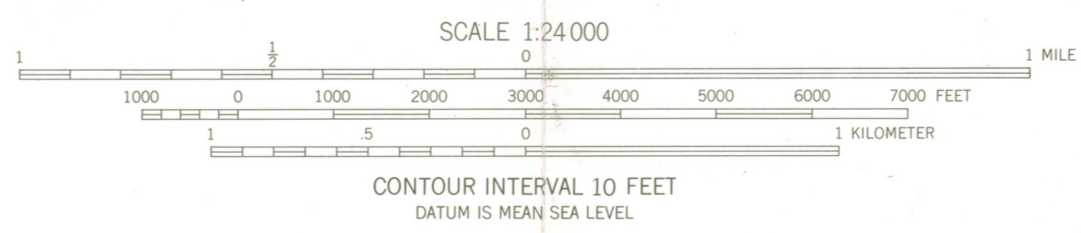
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

SAN ANTONIO EAST QUADRANGLE  
TEXAS-BEXAR CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Photography field annotated 1953  
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 14, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH  
APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION, 1953



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———



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AUG 29 1977

SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX.  
2998-133  
1953

DEC 9 1968



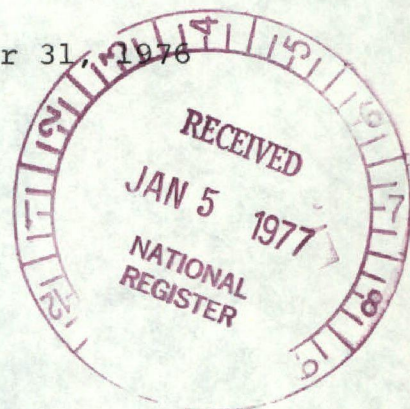
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

TRUETT LATIMER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 31, 1976

Mr. Bill Lebovich  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
18th and C Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Bill:

Regarding your request for photographic coverage of the Bexar County Courthouse additions, I have enclosed two pictures revealing the west and south additions. Although the modern annex is unsympathetic to the original building, the Richardsonian Romanesque design and architectural features of the 1890 courthouse are still evident. Furthermore, the additions were made to the southwest corner (rear) of the building and do not detract from the prominent north facade, which faces the Main Plaza. I think the description of the alterations in Item #7 is sufficient, but if you need further information, let me know. The appendixes mentioned in the description that you inquired about were part of a prepared format sent to us by the Bexar County Historical Commission and were only zerox pictures, not appropriate for the National Register nomination.

Also at your request I am sending a photograph of the modern Val Verde County Jail located on the square with the historic courthouse and jail, as well as a continuation sheet explaining exactly what is being nominated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marie D. Landon".

Marie D. Landon  
Coordinator, National  
Register Nominations

MDL/s  
Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE    TEXAS

Date Entered    AUG 29 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Irion County Courthouse	Sherwood Irion County
Tyler Hydraulic-Fill Dam	Tyler vicinity Smith County
Bexar County Courthouse	San Antonio Bexar County
Browne-Wagner House	Brownsville Cameron County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower  
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen  
Hon. Robert C. Krueger  
Hon. Ray Roberts  
Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez  
Hon. E. de la Garza

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

8/31/77

Mott

880

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 28 Oct 76  
 Reviewer INITIALS: [Signature]  
 NR DOE  
 AUG 29 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Bexar County Courthouse

OTHER NAMES:

### LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER Main Plaza  
 CITY, TOWN San Antonio CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 20th  
 STATE Texas 048 VICINITY OF COUNTY code  
 Bexar 029

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
-- Substantially intact-1	-- Substantially intact-2	-- Substantially intact-3
-- unknown - 4	-- unknown - 5	-- unknown - 6
-- not applicable - 7	-- not applicable - 8	-- Not applicable-9

-- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructed	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/> Excavated	

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- COURTHOUSE

now- same

### SIGNIFICANCE:

- |                                                  |                                       |                                                         |                                              |                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE         | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS    | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             | <input type="checkbox"/> health                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION    | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE                     | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                       | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      | <input type="checkbox"/> settlement                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION  | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                          | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY          |                                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban & commun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT |                                              | planning                                           |

### Claims

"first?" YES NO "oldest?" YES NO "only?" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Romanesque*

architect/m.builder: *James Risly Gordon* engineer:

landscape/garden designer: *addition Leo Dislmann + Charles Bess/hauwe* artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

*George Dugan, Otto P. Kroeger  
and David Hughes  
addition H. No Jones Const. Co.*

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal

(label role  
&  
appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1891-1896*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: *1914 addition, 1926 remodel*

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): *1963 addition, 1970 remodel*

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) *1*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

*HABS 1968*

*STONE, 5 STORY, RECTANGULAR, TOWERS, RUSTICATED, ~~BRICK~~, HIP ROOF*

*LARGE 1963 ADDITION*

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

*The Bepa County Courthouse has been the center of local and regional judicial activity since its completion. The imposing Romanesque architecture symbolizes its function and forms one side of the Main Plaza.*