

PH0691739

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 23 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 18 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
Galveston Seawall
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Seawall Boulevard
CITY, TOWN
Galveston
STATE
Texas
VICINITY OF
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
9
COUNTY
Galveston
CODE
48
CODE
167

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: engineering

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Galveston
STREET & NUMBER
City Hall
CITY, TOWN
Galveston
STATE
Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Galveston County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Galveston
STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Texas Historic Engineering Site Inventory
DATE
1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
History of Engineering Program, C.E. Dept., Texas Tech University
CITY, TOWN
Lubbock
STATE
Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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

On September 8, 1900, Galveston lost over six-thousand lives and millions of dollars in real estate from a devastating tropical storm. Therefore, after a city charter change, Galveston employed General H. M. Robert (U.S. Army-Retired), Alfred Noble and H. C. Ripley to design a protective wall for the city which could withstand the forces of hurricanes. Plans were submitted and by May 12, 1902, a contract was signed with J. M. O'Rourke and George Steinmetz in behalf of J. M. O'Rourke and Company, as construction contractors for the Galveston Seawall.

The general plan extended the wall from the Government Jetty, near the intersection of Avenue A and Eighth Street, to the Government Reservation on the Gulf of Mexico in the southern part of the city, at Avenue U and Thirty-ninth street. The original segment of the seawall was 17,593 feet long or about 3.5 miles long, 16 feet wide at the base and 5 feet wide at the top, and stood 17 feet above ground elevation with a granite riprap extending from the foot of the wall 27 feet toward the water. The seawall consisted of concrete weighing 20 tons per linear foot and was anchored on a round piling foundation. Piles were not less than 45 feet in length, 12 inches in diameter at the top and 17 inches at the bottom. Over thirteen thousand carloads of materials; 5200 cars of crushed granite, 1800 cars of sand, 1000 cars of cement, 1600 cars of piling, 3700 cars of riprap, and 5 cars of rods went into this protective structure.

The pile foundation prevents the wall from moving. Piles were driven into the ground 40 to 50 feet and cut off two feet above mean low tide. They were arranged in four rows, four feet from center to center longitudinally, and 4.5 feet center to center transversely, except the outer row near the toe of the seawall which was four feet in front of the next row. Between the outermost rows a wooden sheet piling was attached by stringers to the pile foundation to prevent sand from undermining.

After the piles were cut and sand made ready for the concrete, the concrete was formed 16 feet wide and three feet high. Upper portions of the wall were not connected to the base for expansion and movement if needed. From the base, the upper part of the wall rises 16 vertical feet. The back side of the seawall is vertical while the front has a curved face. Curved from two arcs, the wall causes storm water to spray back into the ocean. Corrugated steel bars placed on a 60 degree slope with the horizontal provide reinforcement for the wall.

Riprap protection consisting of large pieces of red granite, extend out from the toe of the wall approximately 27 feet. Specifications called for 50 percent of the rocks to be over 200 pounds a piece, 20 percent over 1000 pounds each.

The Galveston Seawall served its purpose in 1915, when it withstood one of the most severe storms to strike the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Some slight alterations were made at that time.

The Corps of Engineers made a major extension of the seawall in 1918, eastward from 6th Street to Fort San Jacinto. The total length was 10,300 feet.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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The 1918 extension used the general construction methods employed in the 1902 seawall, although better equipment was available. Reinforced concrete sheet piles 9 inches thick and 35 feet long were used instead of the wood sheet piling for the last mile of this early extension of the wall. The sheet piling was placed in front of the seaward row of piles instead of behind, as had been the case previously. The riprap apron was omitted because the wide foreshore in front of the wall provided enough protection. Two sections were poured daily and after setting 48 hours they were stripped.

Since 1918 the wall has been extended several times. Approximately ten miles or nearly one-third of the ocean front of Galveston Island is protected from severe storms and waves from the Gulf of Mexico.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES October 1902-July 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. M. O'Rourke & Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Galveston Seawall has protected Galveston from the threat of further destruction, allowing it to grow into a modern and prosperous city. The Seawall is significant in that it represents positive action by a community manifested in a massive engineering effort to withstand the forces of nature.

On September 8, 1900, Galveston was exposed to the havoc of a severe tropical hurricane. Of the 38,000 citizens residing in Galveston at that time, 6000 were killed and 3600 homes were destroyed.

After the 1900 storm, the City of Galveston decided to reorganize its government completely. A reorganization committee was created and consisted of three lawyers: Col. Walter Gresham, F. D. Minor, and R. Waverly Smith. After examining several charters and documents, they invented the city commission form of government. Commissioners were placed directly in charge of specific departments (e.g. Finance and Revenue, Street and Public Property, Waterworks and Sewerage, and Police and Fire).

On November 22, 1901, the County Commissioners Court appointed a board of engineers to report on a means for protecting the city. The board was made up of General H. M. Robert, former Chief of Army Engineers, Alfred Noble, and H. C. Ripley. The board's purpose was to decide on the safest and most economical means of protecting the city, elevating and refilling lots and land from overflow during a storm, and designing a breakwater or seawall of sufficient strength and height to prevent overflow from the Gulf.

In order to finance the construction of the seawall, Galveston obtained indirect funds from the State. All state taxes of the surrounding area went to Galveston to finance the construction.

Work on the seawall commenced in October of 1902 and was finished by July of 1904. J. M. O'Rourke & Company were contractors, with George Boschke, chief engineer for the city of Galveston.

The original segment of the wall stretched 17,593 feet in length. The back side was vertical with a curved face to turn incoming water back into the Gulf. It was 17 feet high, 16 feet wide at the bottom, and 5 feet wide at the top. The wall had a riprap toe extending 27 feet out from the wall. In 1918 the seawall was extended 10,300 feet.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

A grade-raising project was financed by the city with some assistance from the state of Texas. The contracted cost of moving the sand for the grade-raising was \$2,080,745. This sum did not include the cost of the vast effort of individuals and city and county governments in related operations. More than 2000 private dwellings were raised to new levels. Larger buildings, which were more economical to raise than to tear down and rebuild, were lifted by the ordinary methods of house-raising. New foundations were then built under them before the sand-fill reached their sites. Smaller buildings were supported on posts, carefully braced to prevent the inward rush of water and sand from undermining them. Until proper connections could be made, owners of such raised houses and businesses received their supply of gas through connecting garden hoses. The level of the populated portion of the city was raised as much as 20 feet in places to provide a solid backing for the newly completed seawall and to prevent water from tropical storms from ever reaching dangerous levels in the city.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Galveston Grade-Raising was the necessary relocation of all public services in the city. Such services included water, gas, sewers, and street railway tracks. The streets in the populated districts were raised an average of 8 feet, which required a corresponding rise in the level of street railway tracks, poles, sidewalks, fences, and buildings of all kinds. Because of the depths to which all sewers and other underground pipes would have become buried in the grade-raising operations, it was deemed necessary to raise them also to correspond to the new grades. The altered levels for the sewer pipes proved to be a benefit to the citizens of Galveston because their changed level gave the entire system the grade necessary for proper drainage.

In order to raise fences and other structures too bulky to move, a braced post method similar to that used on the smaller houses was used. Gas, sewer, and water mains, after an initial period of trial and error experimentation, were raised by excavating down to the mains and lifting them progressively a little at a time by chain blocks on tripod derricks, and then filling the trenches under them so as to avoid breaking joints and interrupting service. Once raised to a level where they could no longer be supported on the soil, the mains were carried on temporary supports and when at their proper new grades they were braced by firm struts nailed to timbers driven into the ground on either side of the mains. When thus supported the mains were able to withstand the inward rush of sand and water that buried both mains and supports.

In 1915 Galveston was struck by another tropical storm. Had it not been for the seawall and grade-raising, Galveston would probably have been wiped out.

✓ Today, evidence of the grade-raising is not obvious to the unknowing observer. The seawall has been extended greatly, and is presently over 10 miles in length and protects virtually the entire Gulf side of Galveston Island.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Babbitt, R.P. "Effect of Galveston Storm on Seawall and Causeway." Engineering News, LXXIV, No. 9 (August 26, 1915), pp. 426-427.

"Bulwark of Protection" (pamphlet). Galveston: U.S. Army Engineer District.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 68 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	3, 2, 7, 6, 8, 0	3, 2, 4, 2, 6, 3, 0	B	1, 5	3, 2, 4, 7, 2, 0	3, 2, 4, 0, 0, 6, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Galveston Seawall stretches along the seaward side of Seawall Boulevard from 8th Street to 39th Street.

Acreage includes only the original (1902) segment of the Galveston Seawall.

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

Paul D. Hutchison, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

History of Engineering Program, C.E. Dept.

DATE

12-6-76

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 4089, Texas Tech University

TELEPHONE

(806) 742-3593

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12/21/76

3-17-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

"Concrete Mixing and Handling Machines for the Galveston Seawall." Engineering News, XLIX, No. 3 (January 15, 1903), p. 55.

Corthell, E. L. "Curved Overhang Suggested for Galveston Sea-Wall." Engineering Record, LXXII, No. 14 (October 2, 1915), p. 426.

Davis, Albert B., Jr. Galveston's Bulwark Against the Sea: History of the Galveston Seawall. Rev. ed. Galveston, Tex.: U.S. Army Engineer District, Galveston, 1961.

"Galveston Adopts Plan to Strengthen Its Waterfront Defense Against Future Storms." Engineering Record, LXXII, No. 19 (November 6, 1915), pp. 576-577.

"Galveston Repairs Storm Damage." Engineering Record, LXXII, No. 17 (October 23, 1915), p. 497.

"Galveston's Sea-Wall the City's Salvation." Engineering Record, LXXII, No. 9 (August 28, 1915), p. 247.

"Galveston Survives Hurricane." Engineering News, LXXIV, No. 9 (August 26, 1915), pp. 424-425.

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Hawley, John B. "John B. Hawley Confirms View That Sea-Wall Saved Galveston." Engineering Record, LXXII, No. 9 (August 28, 1915), p. 276.

Hudson, W.S. "The Great Sea Wall at Galveston." Scientific American, XCLL, No. 9 (August 26, 1905), pp. 163-164.

"Loss in Galveston Probably From Three to Four Million Dollars." Engineering Record, LXXII, No. 10 (September 4, 1915), pp. 306-307.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3

Ousley, Clarence. Galveston in Nineteen Hundred. Atlanta: William C. Chase, 1900.

"Plans for the Protection of Galveston from Floods." Engineering News, XLVII, No. 17 (April 24, 1902), pp. 343-344.

"The Galveston Sea Wall." Engineering Record, XLVIII, No. 1 (July 4, 1903), pp. 14-16.

Property

Galveston Seawall

Galveston

State

Texas

Working Number

3.23.77.466

Ref. # *7700 1443*

TECHNICAL

Photos *6*

Maps *1*

CONTROL

OK 3.23.77

HISTORIAN

*accept
B. Brannen
5/13/77*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Defer to HAER
Lebovich
5.11.77*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

the Seawall is without doubt one of the most important structures in Galveston. The large bibliography submitted with the nomination would appear to support the claim of Natl significance.

*To HAER
Inventory
Review *accept*
*Donald C. Baker**

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*accept
Coke
7/21/77*

BRANCH CHIEF

*Hunt
8.16.77*

KEEPER

8/18/77

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered

AUG 18 1977

Federal Register Entry

9-6-77

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

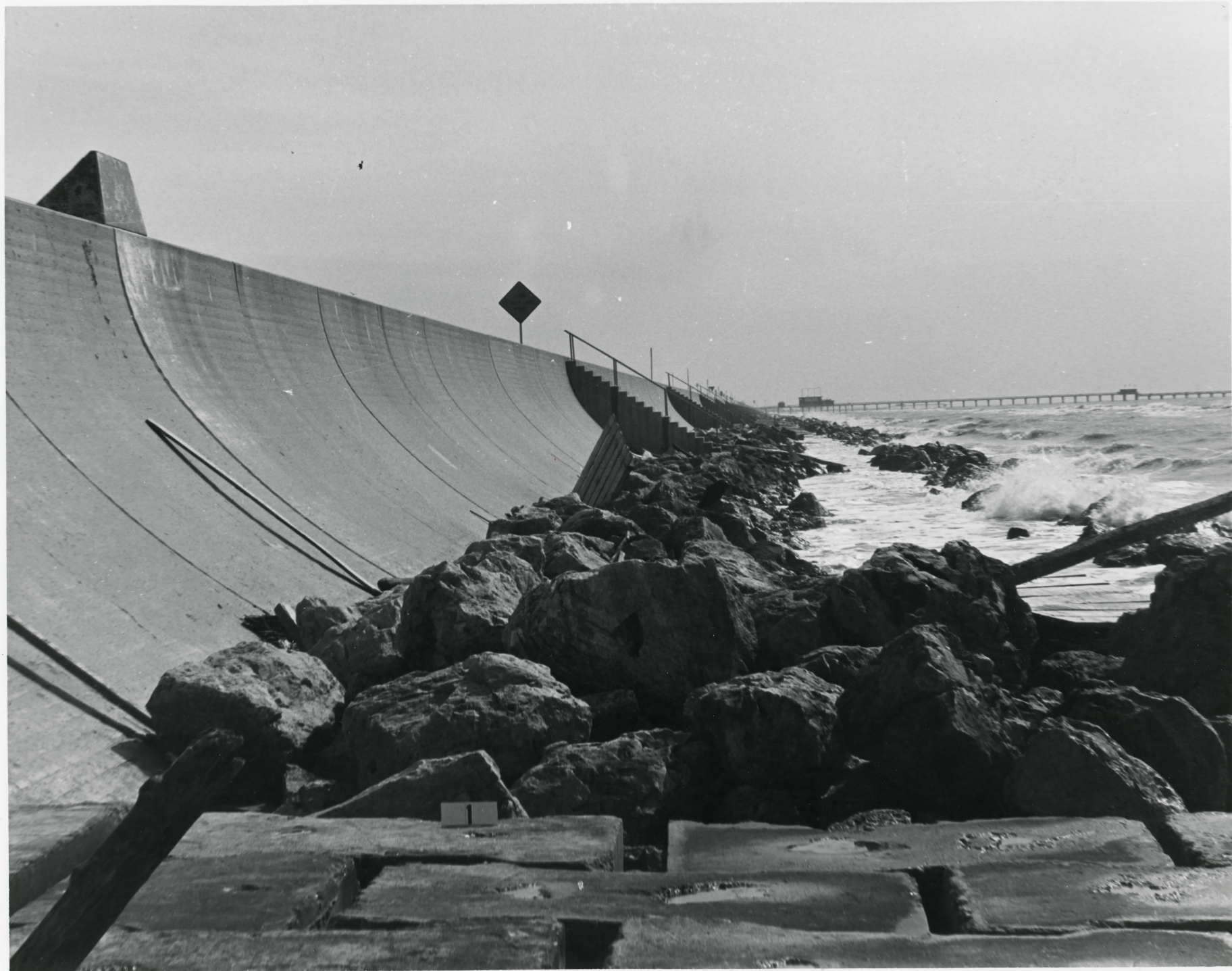


PHOTO #1 of 6

MAR 23 1977

Galveston Seawall

Galveston, Texas

Galveston Co.

Photo Credit: History of Engineering Program

Date of Photo: January 1973

Negative filed at History of Engineering
Program, C. E. Dept. Texas Tech Univ.,
Lubbock, Tx.

View: Looking northeast along seawall near
southwest end

AUG 18 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO #2 of 6

Galveston Seawall
Galveston, Texas

Photo Credit: History of Engineering Program
Negative filed at: History of Engineering
Program, C.E. Dept., Texas Tech Univ.,
Lubbock, Tx.

View: North to seawall from pier at 25th St.

Galveston Co.

MAR 23 1977

AUG 18 1977

SEA WALL BOULEVARD AND SIDEWALK
STARTED FEB. 19TH 1906
FINISHED FEB. 28TH 1912.

COUNTY JUDGE, GED. E. MANN.
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

ALEX. GOMEZ,	FIRST PRECINCT.
FRED. C. PABST,	SECOND PRECINCT.
R. W. WOLSTON,	THIRD PRECINCT.
A. W. BEATS,	FOURTH PRECINCT.
COUNTY CLERK,	COUNTY AUDITOR,
GEORGE BURGESS,	JOHN M. MURCH.
COUNTY ENGINEER,	ASST. CO. ENGINEER,
	C. A. HOLT, JR.

SEA WALL
AND GRADE ELEVATION
DESIGNED BY
GEN. H. W. ROBERT. ★
ALFRED NOBLE.
H. C. RIPLEY.
ENGINEERS.

PHOTO #3 of 6

Galveston Seawall, Galveston, Texas

Galveston Co.

Photo Credit: History of Engineering Program

Negative filed at: History of Engineering
Program, C.E. Dept., Texas Tech Univ.,
Lubbock, Texas

View: 1912 Seawall Construction Monument
at Seawall Blvd. and 23rd St.

MAR 23 1977

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Galveston Seawall
Galveston, Texas

PHOTO #4 of 6

Photo Credit:

MAR 23 1977

Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

Date of Photo: November 18, 1926

Negative filed at History of Engineering
Program, Civil Engineering Dept., Texas Tech
U., Lubbock, Tx.

View: Pouring seawall footings in 1926
extension of Galveston Seawall.

Galveston Co.

AUG 18 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTO #5 of 6

MAR 23 1977

Galveston Seawall, Galveston, Texas

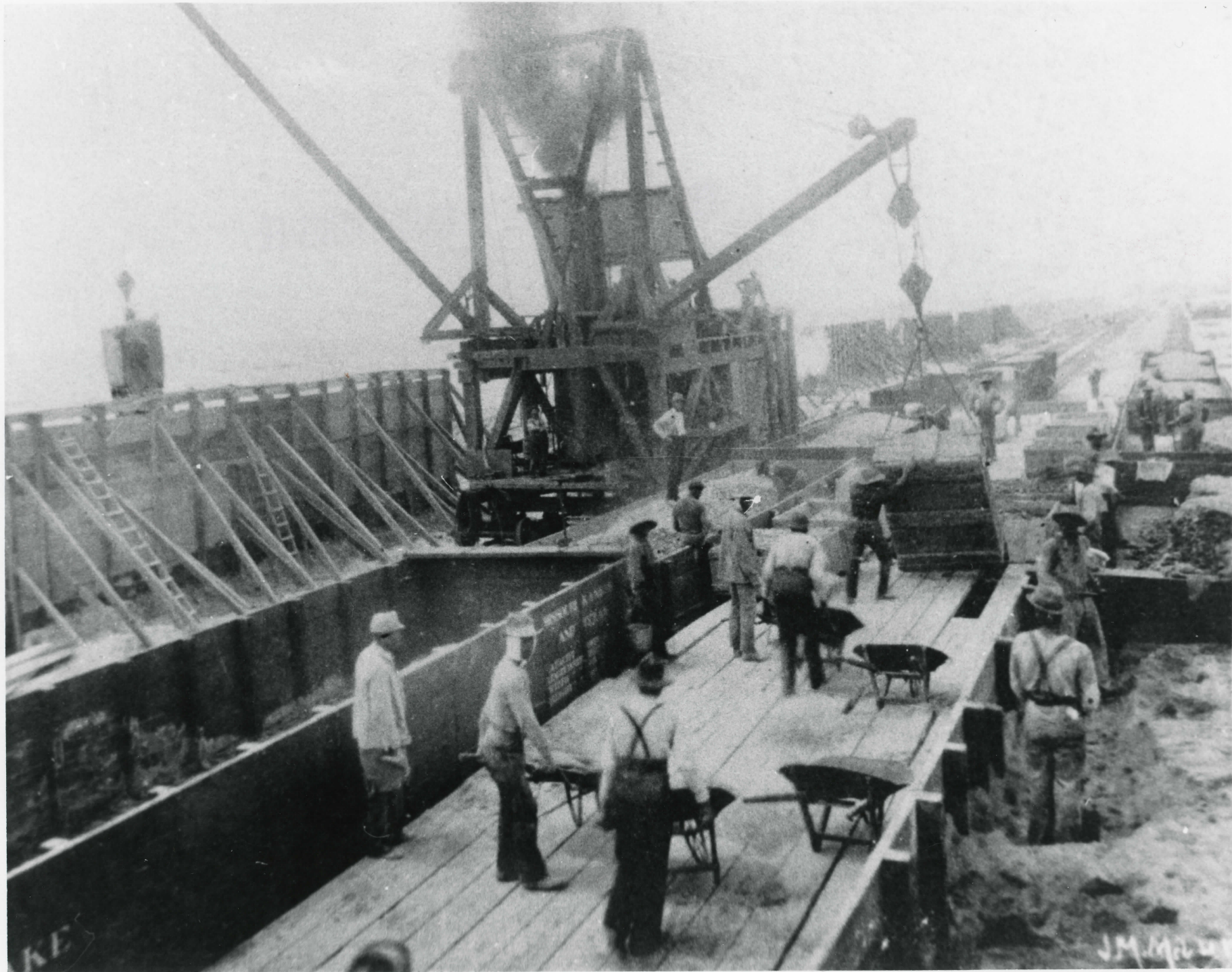
Galveston Co.

Photo Credit: Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tx

Negative filed at History of Engineering Program, Civil Engineering Dept., Texas Tech U., Lubbock, Texas

View: Original segment of Galveston Seawall soon after construction

AUG 18 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Galveston Seawall
Galveston, Texas

PHOTO #6 of 6.

MAR 23 1977

Galveston Co.

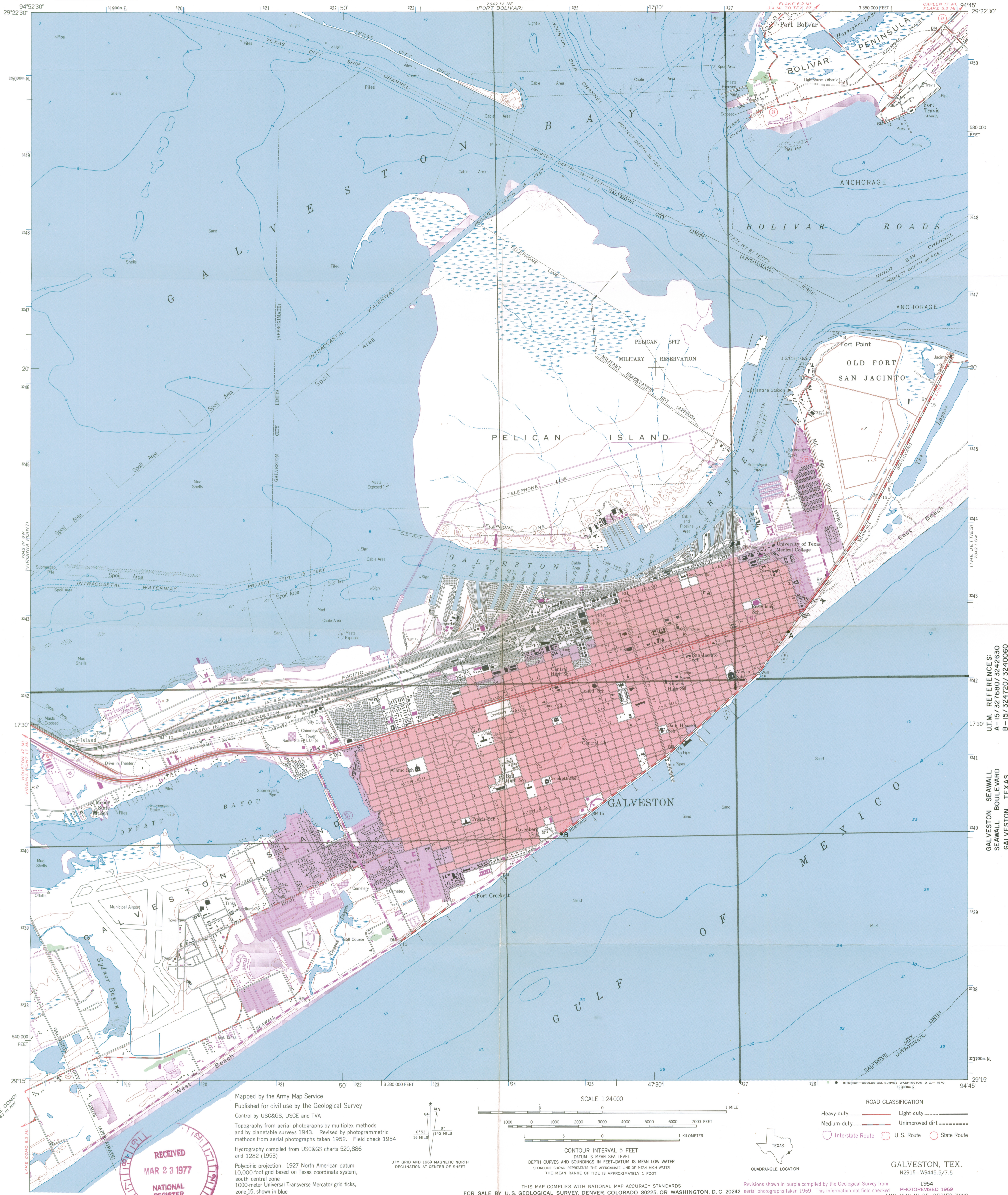
Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

Date of Photo: Circa 1903

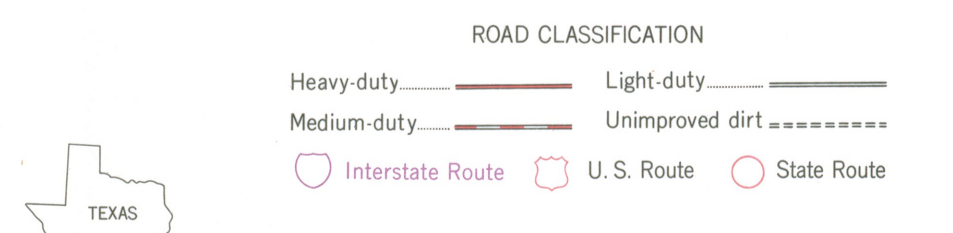
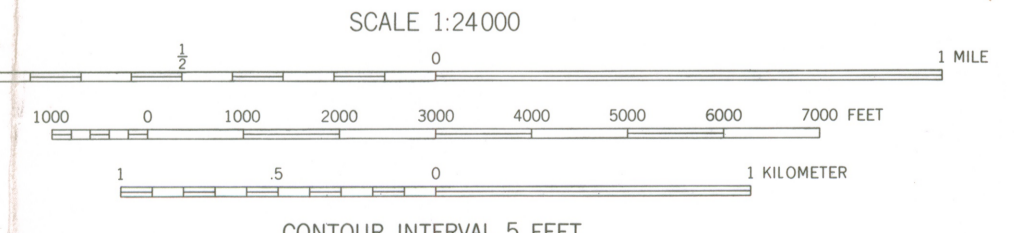
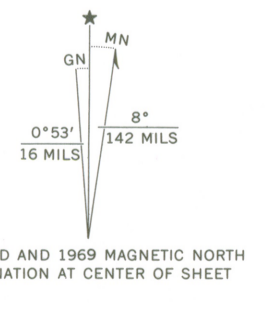
Negative filed at History of Engineering
Program, Texas Tech University, Lubbock,
Texas

View: Construction crew working on initial
section of Galveston Seawall

AUG 18 1977



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by US&GS, USCE and TVA
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
and by planetable surveys 1943. Revised by photogrammetric
methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954
Hydrography compiled from US&GS charts 520,886
and 1282 (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 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown



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

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1969. This information not field checked
AMS 7042 IV SE-SERIES V882

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1969
N2915-W9445.5/7.5

GALVESTON, TEX.
N2915-W9445.5/7.5

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

UTM REFERENCES:
A-15/327680/3242630
B-15/324720/3240060

GALVESTON SEAWALL
SEAWALL BOULEVARD
GALVESTON, TEXAS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered AUG 18 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Coryell County Courthouse	Gatesville Coryell County
Erath County Courthouse	Stephenville Erath County
Old Victoria County Courthouse	Victoria Victoria County
Point Bolivar Lighthouse	Port Bolivar vicinity Galveston County
Val Verde County Courthouse and Jail	Del Rio Val Verde County
Galveston Seawall	Galveston Galveston County
Oliphant House	Milam vicinity Sabina County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd Bentsen
Hon. W. R. Poage
Hon. Omar Burlison
Hon. John Young
Hon. Jack Brooks
Hon. Robert C. Krueger
Hon. Charles Wilson

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

Mott

8/18/77

880

Linda -
This was in
the mail -
Amy



GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Organized in 1871 Chartered and Incorporated in 1954

November 29, 1995

Ms. Carol Schull
Keeper of The National Register
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



Dear Carol,

Thank you for making time to discuss the proposed Seawall mural project with me. Enclosed is a copy of the proposal put forth by a Galveston artist for this project. (Please excuse my margin notes, this was my only copy.)

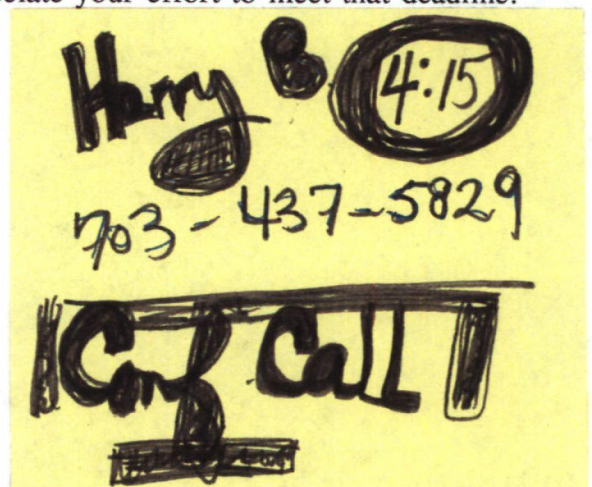
As we discussed, the 100th anniversary of the Great Storm of 1900, the worst natural disaster ever to strike the United States, will be marked on September 8, 2000. The Seawall was built subsequent to that storm as a measure of protection against future hurricane winds and water. It is Galveston Historical Foundation's intention to initiate the nomination of the Seawall as a National Historic Landmark during calendar year 1996 with the hope that by the year 2000, the Seawall will be recognized as a National Historic Landmark. We think this is an appropriate and effective commemoration of the anniversary of the Great Storm. My question is whether the painting of the proposed mural along the water elevation of the seawall will affect its eligibility to be selected as a National Historic Landmark. Also, I would ask the question whether or not this mural would affect its placement on the National Register of Historic Places?

I would appreciate any comments you might offer, any direction you might give. There is a public meeting on December 4; it would be helpful to receive your comments by then. I apologize for the shortness of response time, and appreciate your effort to meet that deadline. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Betty A. Massey
Executive Director

A:cs.d33





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DAVID ←
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SEEWALL '96

THE SEAWALL MURAL PROJECT

SEEWALL '96 -- PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Many cities are using murals to attract tourists. In an attempt to contribute to the special character and uniqueness of Galveston's island community, local artist Peter Davis has conceived the idea of SeeWall '96, a 2.4 mile mural which would be painted on the landmark Seawall, spanning from 61st Street down to 27th Street. Once completed, the mural would break all records as both the largest and longest mural in the world, measuring 117,600 square feet.

The basic theme of SeeWall '96 is a time line of Gulf Coast beach and marine life. Beginning with pre-historic marine organisms, the mural will trace the evolution of sea life to present time. From there, the work will focus on the desecration of our natural environment, followed by a section on beach revitalization efforts and the current trends of conservation, recycling and renourishment. The final section of the mural will be a return to an "ideal" natural marine environment. Interwoven throughout the mural will be section on Galveston's beach history, including the devastating hurricane of 1900 and the recent beach nourishment project.

Public participation will be the key component to the project. Once the project art director and resident artists have created a paint-by-number outline, the public will be invited to actually create the SeeWall. Volunteers from all over the Galveston area will be recruited to paint the mural over a two weekend period. Mural artists, including students, teachers, professionals and volunteers, will be assigned to groups of ten who will paint a section of the mural. A resident artist will be a part of each team, assisting and advising during the painting effort and doing final touch-ups.

The goal for SeeWall '96 is to expose and promote the rich and varied experience of the Texas coastal region. It will celebrate our successes and warn about the potential for failure in our fragile relationship with the natural environment. As it strives for this ultimate goal, it will also promote Galveston as a tourist attraction and let the world know something we've known all our lives -- Galveston is a great place to be!

Since the Seawall is on the Nat'l Register, doesn't this need THC approval?
What happens when it starts to fade?
Who will maintain this? It sounds like a great big billboard to me.

DB

PROJECT PROMOTION

SeeWall '96 will provide a multitude of promotional and public relations opportunities that will greatly enhance awareness of this unique community project and of Galveston as a tourism destination.

The public participation aspect of SeeWall '96 will require a time frame of approximately three weeks from start to finish, once all preparatory work has been completed. Timed to coincide with the beginning of the beach season, the project should be launched with a kick-off festival on the beach, possibly coordinated with the April Adopt-A-Beach cleanup. Arrangements will be made with the Galveston school system and the public will be invited over the next two to three week period to participate in actually painting the mural. Another spectacular event would be staged to mark the grand finale of the creation of SeeWall '96. Following its completion, the mural will continue to be a source of interest both to the media and to tourists visiting the Island.

A comprehensive advertising, public relations and promotional campaign will promote participation in and extensive media coverage of this visual, interactive event. Exciting promotional extensions of the project are endless -- from enlisting the participation of corporate partners and Galveston-area school children to tying in media partners and conducting a dynamic, statewide and regional media blitz.

BUDGET

Paint Supplies		
Block Filler - 1 coat; 2,352 gallons		\$18,816
Base Coat - 2 primer coats; 9,408 gallons		\$18,816
Paint - 2 coats; 9,408 gallons		\$18,816
Art Director - 1 year		\$25,000
Artists		
2 Primary - 4 months; \$10,000 each		\$20,000
200 Resident - 2 days; \$100/day		\$4,000
Touch-Up Fee		\$5,000
Supplies and Materials		\$1,950
File Cabinet	\$100	
3 Overhead Projectors	\$300	
2 Generators	\$600	
Extension Cords	\$50	
Brushes	\$200	
Transparencies	\$200	
Miscellaneous	\$500	
Advertising/Public Relations/Promotions		\$25,000
Contingency		\$10,000
Estimated Project Cost		\$147,398

Expenses not included: Festival costs (i.e. tents, loudspeakers, concessions, etc.); logistics (i.e. storing and distributing paint); and future refurbishing of mural .

ltr - gal

H32(2280)

12/13
Carol -
I spoke to Betty Massey
by telephone and told her
letter would be forthcoming.
You may wish to have
Robie add something
about NHL require-
ments in process.
Linda McC

Ms. Betty A. Massey
Executive Director
Galveston Historical Foundation
2016 Strand
Galveston Island, Texas 77550

Dear Ms. Massey:

We have received your letter of
paint a mural on the Galveston
commemoration of the 100th an
foot portion of the seawall built
listed in National Register of Historic Places on August 18, 1977, as a significant work of
engineering and for its role in the rebuilding and 20th century development of Galveston.

The mural, proposed to fill the seaward elevation of wall for a distance of 117,600 feet from 27th to 61st street, would have a substantial impact on the historic integrity of that portion of the wall that is listed on the National Register and lies between 27th and 39th street. While the proposed subject matter would be of popular interest, the painting would seriously alter the historic character of the functional, steel-reinforced concrete structure. It would also negatively affect historic portions of the wall that might be eligible for listing in the National Register but are not included in the current nomination, such as the 10,300-foot segment constructed in 1918. In cases where a National Register property is severely diminished by alterations or destruction after listing, the eligibility of a property may be reconsidered and the property, if found to have lost its historic integrity, will be removed from the National Register.

Your letter indicated that the Galveston Historical Foundation is interested in having the seawall considered for National Historic Landmark designation. Although the nomination, which was completed in 1976, recommended that the property has national significance, the statement of significance does not provide sufficient historical context on the importance of the seawall from a national perspective to support this recommendation. Additional documentation will be needed if you wish to pursue possible landmark designation for this property..... (provide language regarding requirements for NHL consideration, etc.)

If you have any further questions, please contact Linda McClelland of the National Register staff at 202-343-9544 or Robie Lange of the National Historic Landmark staff at 202-343-0350.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Register, Historic, and Education Programs

CC: Texas SHPO

ldr - gal

H32(2280)

Ms. Betty A. Massey
Executive Director
Galveston Historical Foundation
2016 Strand
Galveston Island, Texas 77550

Dear Ms. Massey:

We have received your letter of November 29, 1995, asking us to comment on the proposal to paint a mural on the Galveston Seawall, Galveston County, Texas, as part of the city's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Great Storm of 1900. As you know the 17,593-foot portion of the seawall built between 8th and 39th streets from October 1902 to July 1904 was listed in National Register of Historic Places on August 18, 1977, as a significant work of engineering and for its role in the rebuilding and 20th century development of Galveston.

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Sincerely,

could be documented and you

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Register, Historic, and Education Programs

cc: TX SHPO

bcc: 0001-Kennedy
2200-Stevenson
2550-Bowers

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 2280
FNP:LMcCLELLAND:MG:02\08\96:F\NR\LTR-GAL

Shull

DRAFT

H32(2280)

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Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Register, Historic, and Education Programs

cc: TX SHPO

Sand

I apologize for taking so long to answer

the base because the air long and the big storm we have gotten far behind.

negative

sted (lean in)

historian, you call Robie Lange of our national historic landmarks survey staff at 202-343-0350 to discuss the seawall and how it might be significant and how it might be documented and justified.

lmc
12/13/95
Shall
12-14-98

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2016 Strand
Galveston Island, Texas 77550

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.....

justify

national

I suggest the
or call

National
Historic Landmark
discuss the
potential of the
seawall and
how it might
be documented

Shall
12-14-98

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Keeper of the National Register
National Register, Historic, and Education Programs

CC: Texas SHPO

H32(2280) FEB 13 1996

Ms. Betty A. Massey
Executive Director
Galveston Historical Foundation
2016 Strand
Galveston Island, TX 77550

*OK
02/12/96
Lmc
2/13/96*

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(Sgd) Carol D. Shull

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2200-Stevenson
2250-Bowers

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 2280
FNP:LMcCLELLAND:NLC:02\12\96:F:\NR\LTR-GAL

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Galveston Seawall
 2 OTHER NAMES:
 3 date of entry: AUG 18 1977
 4 county code: 167

5 LOCATION street & number: Seawall Blvd.
 city / town: Galveston
 vicinity of:
 state: TX
 county: Galveston
 6 NPS REGION: SW

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: 9th
 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: 8
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION deteriorated altered original site
 excellent ruins unaltered moved
 good unexposed reconstructed unknown
 fair unexcavated excavated
 17 features:
 INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5
 NOT APPLICABLE-7 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 EXTERIOR NOT APPLICABLE-9
 ENVIRONS 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
 21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS/GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY)
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30
 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25
 22 CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

23 functions
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: seawall
 CURRENTLY: seawall
 24 dates of initial construction: 1902-1904
 major alterations: 1902-1904, 1918
 historic events: 1900, 1915 (tropical storms)
 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s):
 27 architect:
 28 master builder:
 29 engineer: Gen. H. M. Robert, Alfred Noble, and H. C. Ripley

30 landscape architect / garden designer:
 31 interior decorator:
 32 artist:
 33 artisan:
 34 builder/contractor: J. M. O'Rourke + Company

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

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP 3.5 mi long concrete seawall, 16 ft wide at base, 5 ft wide at top; anchored on a round piling foundation.
 Built, 1902-1904, as part of a reorganization of the city's government and public services after a 1900 tropical storm cost Galveston thousands of lives and millions of dollars.