

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 30 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1978

**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

Fourth Ward School

AND/OR COMMON

San Antonio Independent School District Administration Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

141 Lavaca Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

20

STATE

Texas

CODE  
048

COUNTY  
Bexar

CODE  
029

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS N/A

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

San Antonio Independent School District

STREET & NUMBER

141 Lavaca Street

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bexar County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Main Plaza

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio

STATE

Texas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

San Antonio Historic Survey  
State of Texas Historic Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

San Antonio City Planning Department/Texas Historic Commission

CITY, TOWN

San Antonio/Austin

STATE

Texas



## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

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

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

An excellent example of the Victorian style used for schools in 1875 can be found in the buildings that house the Administration Offices of the San Antonio Independent School District. Originally constructed by the City and used as a combination fire station and Fourth Ward School, this is the only structure left of the original five schools in the district.

Located at 141 Lavaca across from Hemisfair Plaza, the site for the Federal Courthouse and Federal Office Building, and two blocks from the King William District, these administration buildings provide a vital link between the modern buildings to the north and the historic King William area to the south. The original architect and builder are not known but the structures reflect the strong German-Victorian craftsmanship known to this area at that time. The style is classified as Victorian-Italianate by the San Antonio Historic Survey.

The two rectangular stone buildings are built perpendicular to each other, forming a "L" shape, and are connected by an "L" shaped porch. They are both two-story, have a hip roof and gables, and load bearing walls. The eaves around the buildings are decorated with wooden modillions and consoles.

Building A (See the site plan), housing the Superintendent's Office is constructed of limestone and is 84 feet by 33 feet. It contains four gables one on each side with a circular wooden vent. This vent is surrounded by a wide smooth stone trim. The eaves of the gables are decorated with wooden modillions whereas the eaves at the end are ornamented with wooden consoles. All four edges of the building are decorated with quoins.

The east facade is divided into three bays with a gable roof over the center bay. The second floor contains a series of four windows with transoms in each bay. The windows in the center bay have a single smooth stone lintel. The first floor has a series of windows in each bay with a single smooth stone lintel except for the left bay which contains a door, a later addition. All the windows are six over six glass lights and have sills of smooth stone.

The south facade contains a series of six windows with a single smooth stone lintel and sill. The windows on the second floor have transoms. The bottom part of the building is plastered. The first floor of the west facade has a series of round arched openings, two are doorways and five are windows with stone sills. A third doorway has a stone lintel. The limestone on the lower part of the building has been covered with plaster. A concrete porch and stairs were added at a later date and the ends on the second floor porch were enclosed for a storage room and a ladies lounge. The second floor contains three doorways alternating with windows. The openings have a smooth stone segmental arch and the windows have a smooth stone sill.

A later concrete addition projects outward from the north facade of the original building. The first floor contains a door to the left of the addition and a window to the right. The second floor contains a window on each side.



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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The second building (Bldg. B) is constructed of quarry-face stone and is 45 by 52 feet. The north facade is divided into three bays. The center bay projects outward and is crowned with a gable roof decorated with coupled consoles beneath the eaves. The gable contains a wooden roof vent with a round stone arch with a smooth keystone. The center bay contains four windows, two on each floor whereas each of the side bays contain two windows on the second floor and a window and door on the first floor. The lintels for all the openings and the window sills are of stone.

The west facade contains a series of six windows which are divided into three bays by wooden pilasters. The upper windows have a wooden lintel and the lower windows contain a stone lintel. All windows have a stone sill. The eaves of the roof are decorated with wooden consoles.

The first floor of the south facade contains a lintel window and a door on the left half and three windows and a door on the right. The second floor contains two doors with transoms on the left and three windows and a door on the right. The porches were replaced with concrete ones at a later date. Although the columns on the first floor are concrete, the second floor contains square wooden columns with moulded capitals. A wooden scalloped Victorian trim joins the capitals of the columns.

The first floor of the east facade contains a door with a transom to the left of the building and two equally spaced windows with stone lintels and sills to the right. There are two identical windows on the second floor.

The San Antonio Independent School District Administrative Center is located on a beautiful corner lot with several large pecan trees and well kept lawn areas which contribute to an air of serenity and peace to the facility and substance to the neighborhood. It is accessible to the central business district and highly adaptable for reuse.



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

SPECIFIC DATES 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1875 the first school system was established in San Antonio and fourteen teachers were assigned to five schools. One of these schools, the Fourth Ward was located at the corner of Lavaca and Matagorda and occupied the second floor of a building constructed by the City while the first floor served as a fire station. This is the only building left of the original five schools and is reflective of the type of architecture used in the schools. The same building is now the Administration Office for the San Antonio Independent School District, the oldest and largest school district in the city, and houses the Superintendent's Office. Located close to the Alamo and within two blocks of the historical King William District, the school served the educational needs of many prominent members of the community.

The first floor of the building constructed by the City of San Antonio in 1875 served as a fire station until 1882 and the second floor contained the Fourth Ward School. The entire structure became the Seventh Ward School in 1882. The structure served as the Page School Annex until it was converted to offices in the late 1920's. It continues to serve the same purpose today.

The first step toward the establishment of a permanent system of free public education was taken on January 4, 1853. The City Council appointed three of its members as a Committee on Education and instructed them to formulate a plan for a system of public schools. That spring primary grade classes were held in two locations with high school classes established later. The first Board of Education was appointed on March 1, 1855 and by 1865 ninety pupils, fifty-five boys and thirty-five girls, were in attendance.

A far-reaching law was passed by the State Legislature in 1873, setting aside one-half of the public domain for the support of schools and authorizing any incorporated city to provide for the gratuitous education of all children of school age within its limits - thus permitting the establishment of independent school districts. In 1875 the five schools, including one for Black children, were placed under the supervision of C. Plagge.

By 1890, the system consisted of ten schools and the Superintendent was J.E. Smith. All of the larger grammar schools were two-story white limestone structures of four classrooms, two down and two upstairs, with an outside stairway leading from a lower porch to one above. The Administration Building is an excellent example of this type of architecture.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records: Files from the Historic Preservation Office of San Antonio  
 San Antonio Independent School District File  
 People Interviewed: Mr. Emmitt Tuggle, Architect, 615 Soledad, San Antonio Texas  
 78205, September, 1977.  
 Newspapers: San Antonio Express and News, Sunday, September 26, 1965, p. 54T.  
San Antonio Herald, September 6, 1875.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .33 acres approximately  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	14	549825	3254100	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The San Antonio Independent School District is located at 141 Lavaca Street. This area is bordered by Matagorda on the east, Durango on the north, and Alamo on the west. The legal description is the NCB 13815, Block 4, replated from NCB 706, lots 7, 8, and 9.

## 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

Harold H. Hitt, Superintendent

ORGANIZATION

San Antonio Independent School District

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

141 Lavaca Street

TELEPHONE

(512) 227-5121

CITY OR TOWN

San Antonio

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

*Emmitt Tuggle* 5-23-78

TITLE

Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11-17-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Marcella Sheff*

DATE

11-16-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1899, the school system was chartered as an independent administrative unit and control was removed from the City Council and placed in the hands of a Board of Trustees, while keeping the same area as the municipality, thus establishing the San Antonio Independent School District.



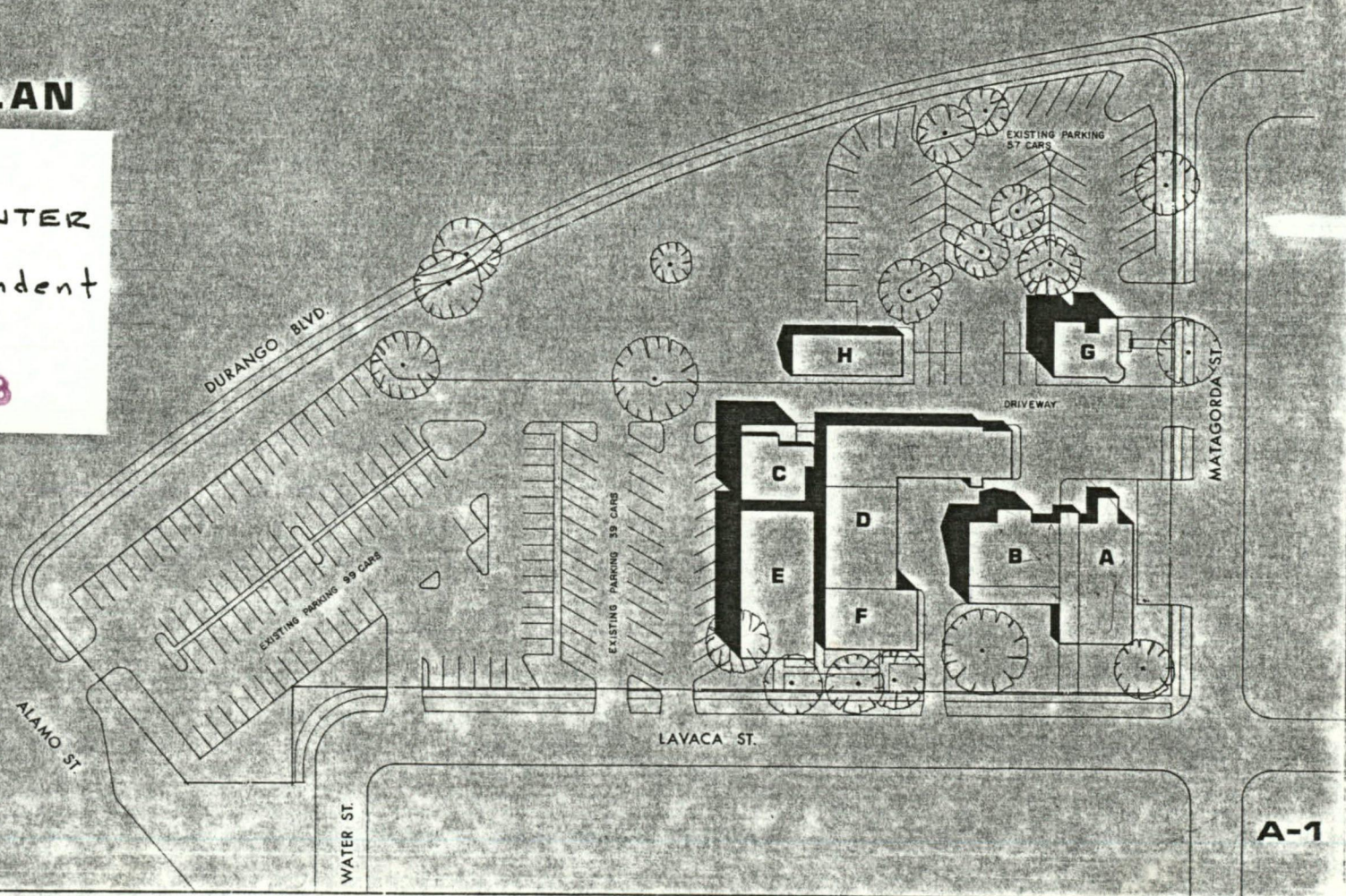
S.A.I.S.D. STRUCTURES

- A. ADMIN. & BUSINESS
- B. BUSINESS & P.I.
- C. CAFETERIA & I.S.
- D. PUBLICATION
- E. PERSONNEL & I.S.
- F. BOARD
- G. TAX
- H. TEMPORARY

**EXISTING PLAN**

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
San Antonio Independent  
School District

MAY 30 1978





NOV 17 1978



Property Fourth Ward School

State Texas

Working Number 5.30.78.3215

Ref. # 78002891

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 5  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*OK 6.1.78*

**HISTORIAN**

*This fine building deserves a better architectural statement besides - only remaining example. - If historian agrees with accepts on strong historical associations - I can't*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*accept  
Branson  
8-16-78*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

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

Agree with architect that building is more architecturally significant than described - but #8 acceptable in describing value of structure as representative school building type, associations with many prominent families in area, representation of educational development. VBD problem solved.

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Sheffy for ↑  
11-16-78  
accept*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*Accepted 11/17/78*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 2-6-79

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

Entered NOV 17 1978

INT:2106-74







Fourth Ward School

NOV 17 1978

San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas

San Antonio Independent Schl Dist, 1977  
Oblique from southwest of the main

facade showing Building A to the  
right and Building B to the left and  
the gallery that joins the two.

Photo #1

MAY 30 1978







Fourth Ward School  
San Antonio, Bexar Co, Texas

NOV 17 1978

San Antonio Independent Schl Dist, 1977

Southeast oblique of the south facade  
showing Building B

Photo #2

MAY 30 1978





**WARNING**  
RESERVED PARKING  
BY PERMIT ONLY  
VEHICLES IN VIOLATION WILL  
BE TOWED AWAY AT OWNER'S RISK

**NO PARKING**  
THIS SIDE  
OF THIS  
BLOCK

GT



Fourth Ward School  
San Antonio, Bexar Co, Texas

NOV 17 1978

San Antonio Independent Schl Dist, 1977

East facade of Building A

Photo #3

MAY 30 1978





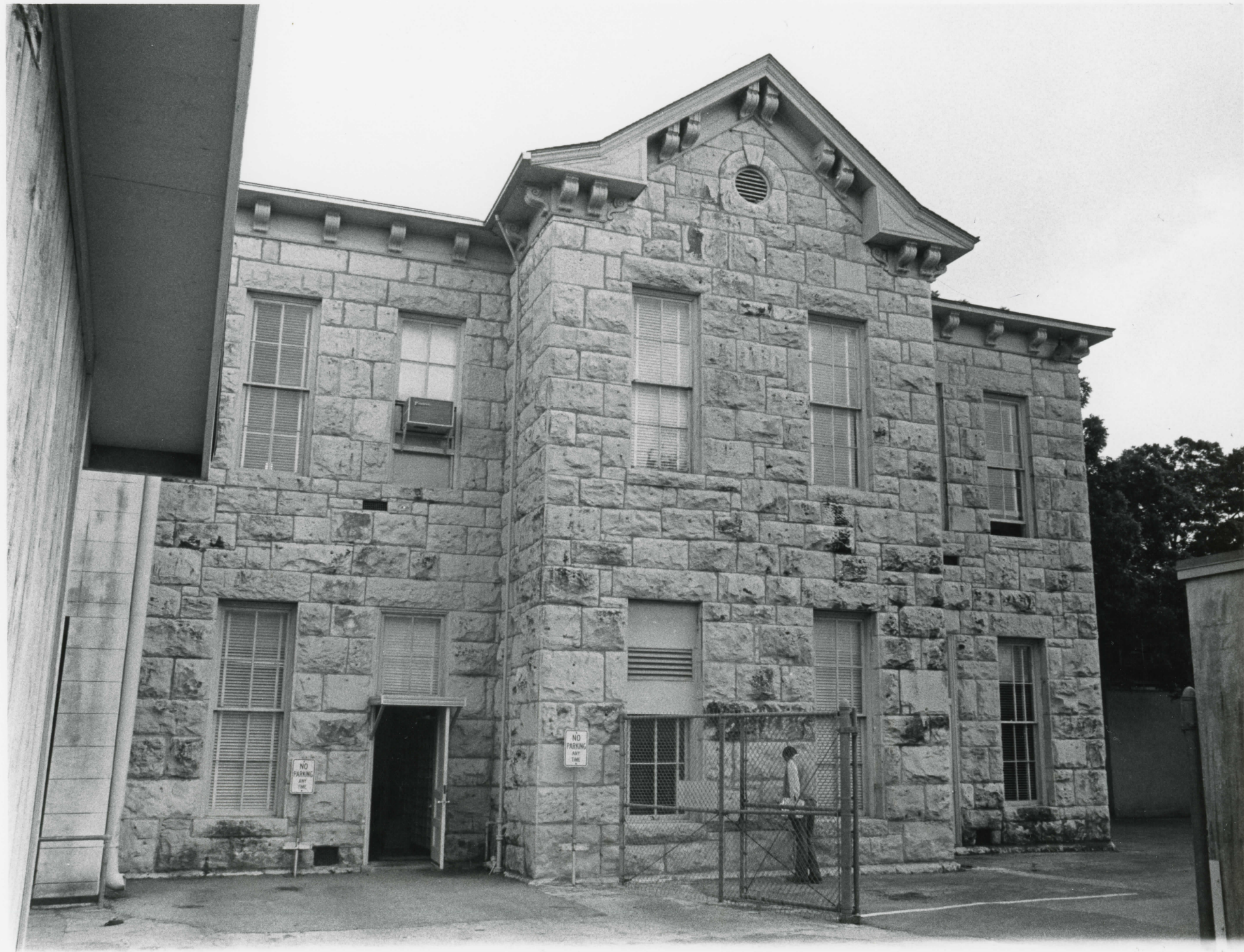
NO  
PARKING  
ANY  
TIME



NOV 17 1978

SAN ANTONIO ISD MAY 30 1978  
ADMINISTRATION BLDG.  
NORTH FACADE (East half)  
(Enclosure on 2nd floor porch  
contains the ladies lounge)





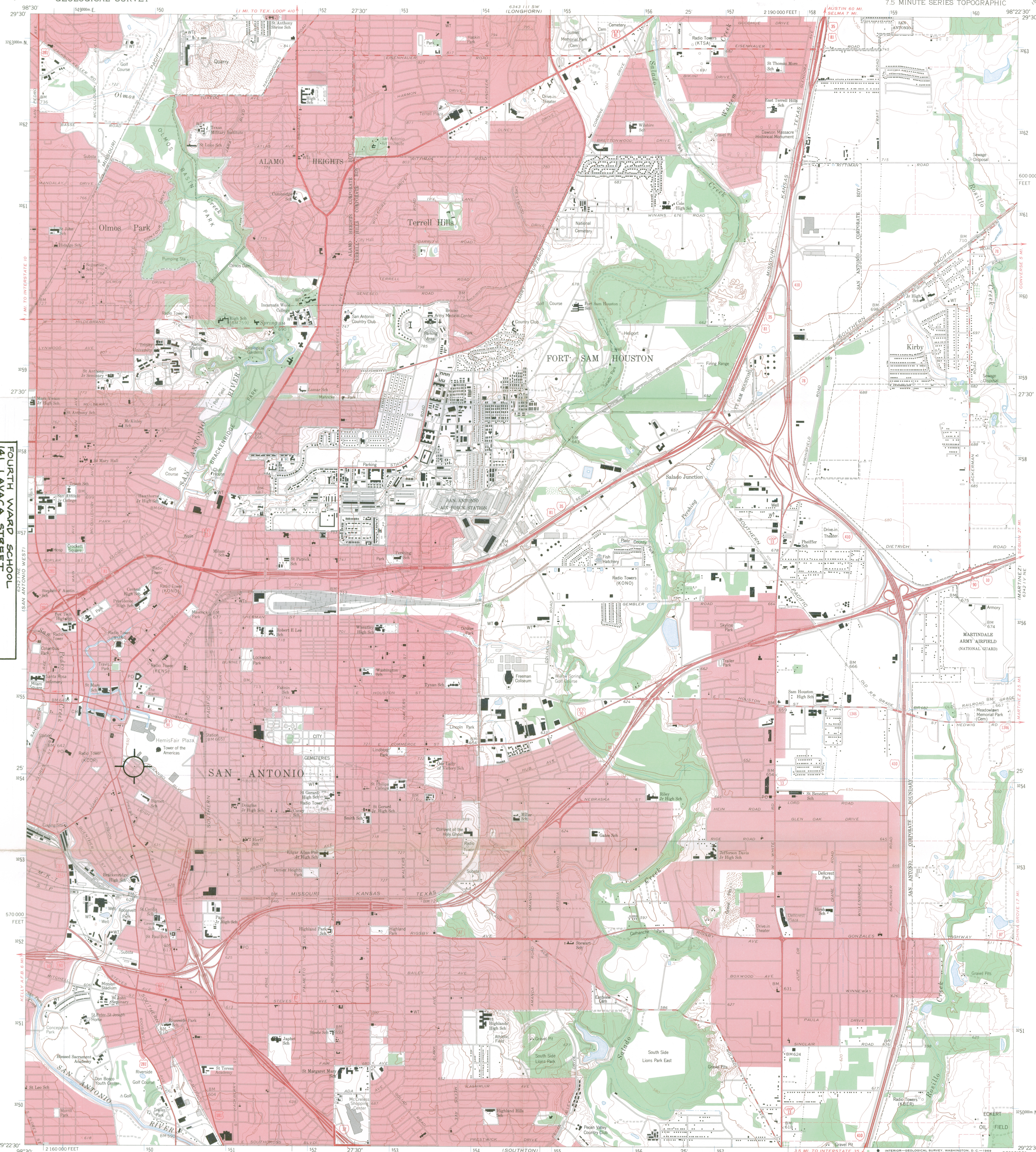


SAN ANTONIO ISD  
ADMINISTRATION BLDG.  
NORTH FACADE  
(West half)

NOV 17 1978

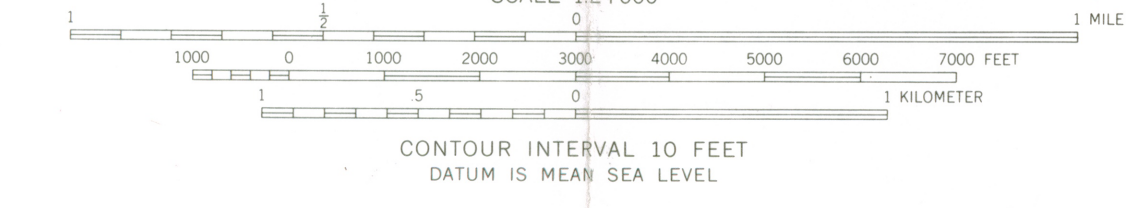
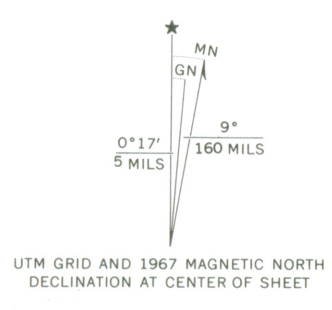
MAY 30 1978





FOURTH WARD SCHOOL  
141 LAVACA STREET  
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE:  
14 / 549825 / 3254100

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USCGS, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1952. Field annotated 1953. Revised by Geological Survey  
from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 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 14, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX.  
N2922.5-W9822.5/7.5

2998-133  
AMS 6342 IV NW-SERIES V882  
NOV 17 1978



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# TELEPHONE REPORT

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OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

---

PROJECT: South Ward

---

TO/FROM: Lissa Anderson

DATE: 11-16

---

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

---

STAFF MEMBER: Sheffy

DIVISION:

---

REPORT:

~~South~~ Ward

What are the other buildings included (shown in site plan)?

- Historical associations are not so strong to accept without architectural discussion

Only Bldgs A + B included -  
legal description does limit the VBO  
to those 2 properties. Avenues are  
not relevant to VBO

---



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE    TEXAS

Date Entered    NOV 17 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Southern Pacific Railroad Passenger Depot	Brownsville Cameron County
Dallas Hall	Dallas Dallas County
Fourth Ward School	San Antonio Bexar County
Bonham, James Butler, Elementary School	San Antonio Bexar County
Rawlins, Capt. R.A., House	Lancaster Dallas County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen  
Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable E. de la Garza  
Honorable James M. Collins  
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez  
Honorable Olin E. Teague

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



# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: **Fourth Ward School**      ② OTHER NAMES: **Administration Office**      ③ date of entry: **NOV 17 1978**      ④ county code: **29**  
**San Antonio Independent School District /**

⑤ LOCATION street & number: **141 Lavaca St.**      city / town: **San Antonio**      vicinity of:      state: **TX**      county: **Bexar**      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 **20th**      ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL  
(if state, who prepared form?) **San Antonio School Dist.**

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME \_\_\_\_\_  NO      ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME \_\_\_\_\_  NO      ⑮ ACREAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
 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  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  NO      ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2  ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1  AGRICULTURE-3  ARCHITECTURE-4  ART-5  
 ENGINEERING-11  ENTERTAINMENT-26  COMMUNICATIONS-7  CONSERVATION-8  ECONOMICS-9  EDUCATION-10  
 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  LAW-16  EXPLORATION-12  HEALTH-27  INDUSTRY-13  INVENTION-14  
 POLITICS / GOVT.-21  RELIGION-22  SCIENCE-23  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24  SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30  TRANSPORTATION-25  
 RECREATION-28  SETTLEMENT-29  URBAN PLANNING-31  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

㉓ CLAIMS: explain 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENTLY: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉕ dates of initial construction: \_\_\_\_\_ major alterations: \_\_\_\_\_ historic events: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_

㉗ architectural style(s): \_\_\_\_\_      ㉘ architect: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉙ master builder: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉚ engineer: \_\_\_\_\_

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉜ interior decorator: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉝ artist: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉞ artisan: \_\_\_\_\_      ㉟ builder/contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

㊱ NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EVENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 INSTITUTIONAL: \_\_\_\_\_

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP