Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

DATE ENTERED

RECEIVED

AUG 1

1978

* NOV 1 7 1978

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

1	NAME
---	------

HISTORIC

Dallas Hall

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southern Methodist University Campus. NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN

Dallas VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY CODE 048 Dallas Texas

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP**

DISTRICT

X.BUILDING(S)

_STRUCTURE

_SITE

__OBJECT

PUBLIC XPRIVATE

__ВОТН

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

_IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

XOCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

_WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

_YES: RESTRICTED

XYES: UNRESTRICTED

_NO

PRESENT USE

_AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM

_COMMERCIAL PARK

XEDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS

_GOVERNMENT

_SCIENTIFIC

_OTHER:

_INDUSTRIAL _MILITARY

_TRANSPORTATION

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Southern Methodist University

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

STATE

Texas

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dallas County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

600 Commerce Street

Dallas

STATE Texas

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT _GOOD

_DETERIORATED

XUNALTERED (exterior) X ORIGINAL SITE _ALTERED

_MOVED

_FAIR

RUINS __UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dallas Hall, located on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, is a four-story, red brick Neo-Georgian structure, Constructed between 1912 and 1915, the building existed for fifty-five years in its original state. A major renovation in 1970-71 altered the interior to accommodate current needs, while leaving the exterior structurally unchanged. The following description refers to the original and present appearance of Dallas Hall, except where note is taken of interior remodeling.

Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, the Chicago branch of a Boston architectectural firm, designed Dallas Hall in the tradition of Roman Classic Architecture as mediated by the Georgian Period. 2 A central rotunda, inspired by the Roman Pantheon (ca. 120 A.D.), is flanked by east and west wings that terminate in semi-circular porticoes of the Roman Doric order, The building faces south with a frontage of 225 feet and a depth of 111 feet.3

The rotunda, magnificent in both scale and design, rises three stories from the main floor. 4 Its copper dome rests on a brick drum, supported in turn by a brick octagon. Palladian windows ornament four corners of the octagon, and stone balustrades enclose these corners. 5 Contrary to their external appearance, the windows provide no light for the interior of the rotunda; rather, they open into rounded corridors fourteen feet wide which serve as the building's attic.

The top of the copper dome encases a stained glass skylight wreathed acanthus leaves. From this source come shifting patterns of light that enhance the Adamesque ornamentation on the dome's plastered interior, molded plaster was added at the time of refurbishing, the original interior dome having been done in gold leaf. At the same time, electric lights were installed near the base of the plaster. The lights had been included in the original design and indentations made for them in 1915; but the con-

The Fred A. Jones Co. functioned as general contractor in the building of Dallas Hall. The building cost \$265,000, an amount exceeding the net contract price by \$52,123. Robert S. Hyer to Shepley, Rutan & Collidge, 19 June 1912; SMU Today 2, no. 1 (Winter 1969-70); 7.

²Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, "Reports on Dallas Hall" (30 January 1914), pp. 1-2.

³Interview with Charles Dawson, Director of Physical Plant, 7 October 1977

⁴The gound floor underneath the main (or first) floor is technically a basement, although it is built entirely above ground,

⁵James F. White, Architecture at SMU; 50 Years and 50 Buildings (Dallas, Texas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1966), p. 4,

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PAGE 2

tractor, Fred A. Jones, declared bankruptcy in 1915 and left this detail unfinished.

From the marble floor beneath the dome, coupled Corinthion pilasters extend through two floors. The second and third floor walkways which they support give access to upper levels of the east and west wings. Four coffered vaults open off the third floor walkway. On the main floor four oval rooms flank the rotunda.

A tall, shallow portico leading directly into the rotunda serves as the front entrance to Dallas Hall. Six fluted columns, thirty-six feet high and four feet in diameter, support the portico. The concrete columns are capped by Corinthian capitals, hand-carved from Bedford limestone. The concrete stairs adjacent to the portico had become weathered and worn by 1970. Renovators solved the problem by turning them upside down. 10

The east and west wings of Dallas Hall are covered by a roof of hard-veined, unfading green slate. Their exterior walls, like those of the rotunda, are constructed of red Kansas brick from the first through the third floors. The exterior walls of the exposed basement are built of Bedford limestone. The building's foundation rests on a rock strata at a depth of four feet. 11

The east and west wing interiors underwent major changes in the 1970-71 renovation. 12 Originally, these areas housed all parts of the univer-

⁶Interview, Dawson. Two other additions were made to the rotunda in 1971: (1) air conditioning grills, installed in the bays, and (2) the University seal, placed in the center of the marble floor. Except for these changes, the rotunda appears the same today as it did in 1915.

White, Architecture, p. 4.

⁸Dallas Morning News, 29 November 1912,

Shepley, Ruton & Coolidge, "Specifications for Dallas Hall for Southern Methodist University" (30 April 1912), p. 13.

¹⁰ Interview, Dawson,

¹¹ Shepley, et al., "Specifications," p. 9.

¹²The Pierce, Lacey Partnership of Dallas provided plans for the renovation of Dallas Hall. SMU served as general contractor, thereby saving an estimated \$180,000 on the total cost of \$2 million. Program, Formal Opening of Dallas Hall (29 October 1971), p. 4.

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sity: classrooms and laboratories, faculty and administrative offices, library, chapel, post office, and barber shop. Obsolete floor plans gave way to a complete restructuring as renovators modernized two floors for classroom use and two floors for office space. A spacious, 196-seat auditorium with extensive television equipment replaced the third floor, east wing Arden Playhouse (earlier used as the chapel). At the northern entrance to the building one of the matching stairways was removed to provide space for restrooms on each floor and an elevator. 13 Presently, Dallas Hall contains the classrooms and offices of the University's largest academic division, the School of Humanities and Science.

One change resulting from the renovation of Dallas Hall warrants special note. Restoration of the president's office, the southwest oval room off the rotunda, represents a significant recreation of the building's original design. Partitions in the twenty-foot room were dismantled and the oval, oak conference table first used in the room in 1915 was returned. Called the Robert S. Hyer Seminar Room in honor of SMU's first president, this place best symbolizes the historic cycle of change through which Dallas Hall has come.

Dallas Hall, as it presently stands, rates highly when measured by general building standards. The building is Type I fire resistive. Its basic materials, reinforced concrete and structural steel, make it structurally sound. Because of its heavy masonry walls, the building could become energy efficient with only slight modifications. In like manner, the building's heavy mass would make noise suppression possible with some minor modifications. And finally, the building is extremely weather tight. Its masonry walls and slate roof have allowed scant air and water infiltration during the past sixty-two years. 15

¹³ Dallas Times Herald, 29 October 1971; Dallas Morning News, 9 September 1971.

¹⁴Dallas Morning News, 9 September 1971.

¹⁵Interview with Ray Marsh, University Architect, 11 November 1977,

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	XEDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1800-1899 _X1900-	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
△1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1912-1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For sixty-two years Dallas Hall has been the focal point of Southern Methodist University. From its hilltop position on the 150-acre campus, the building has functioned as the center of intellectual activity for four generations of students, all the while providing the unifying feature of SMU for the Dallas Community. Because of its physical, historical, and symbolic significance, Dallas Hall merits consideration as a landmark worthy of preservation.

In 1911 the Texas Educational Commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church South determined to establish a new university commensurate with Methodism's rising standards of higher education. The Commission elected Robert S. Hyer as president of the proposed school and chose Dallas as the site. Dallas' strategic location as a southwestern urban center (1915 population, 100,000) led Wallace Buttrick, Executive Secretary of the General Board of Education of New York, to advise Hyer in 1911 that Dallas was the best unoccupied territory in the South for a university. Dallas citizens indicated their interest in securing the new university by pledging $622\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land and \$300,000 in cash. Their gift of cash financed the construction of

(See attached for continuation)

¹Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Southern Methodist University, 30 June 1913. The establishment of the Regional Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas in 1913 coincided with the founding years of SMU. This proved to be a fortuitous conincidence since the Bank fostered Dallas' growth as a financial center and thereby enhanced future possibilities for SMU's economic support.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See attached)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DAT ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 UTM REFERENCES		acre.		
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Southern Methodist Univ				
LIST ALL STATES AND COUN	TIES FOR PROPERT	TIES OVERLAPPING	STATE OR COUNTY BOUN	IDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
TI FORM PREPARED BY NAME/TITLE Dr. Jody Potts ORGANIZATION Southern Methodist STREET & NUMBER			November 18 DATE TELEPHONE	3, 1977
University at Hill	crest		STATE	
Dallas			Texas	
12 STATE HISTORIC PRE			CERTIFICATION VITHIN THE STATE IS:	٧
NATIONAL	STAT	re	LOCAL X	
As the designated State Historic Preserva hereby nominate this property for inclus criteria and procedures set forth by the N	ion in the National I	Register and certify	/ // /	
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TITLE Texas State History	oric Preserv	ation Offic	er 6ATE 7	78-78
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROP	ERTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATIONAL		17.78
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOG	THE STATE OF THE S	RECERVATION	AREEREN OF THE NAT	IONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTE	fr	1	DATE \\-	16-28
RELIEN OF THE NATIONAL REGISTE	V			

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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8

PAGE :

SMU's first building, named Dallas Hall in appreciation of the city's generosity.

The imposing facade of Dallas Hall derived from Hyer's vision of SMU as a great university built on a grand design. Hyer planned in terms of a monumental building facing a long bouleverd which would eventually be lined with some thirty additional buildings, all harmoniously related with the red brick and white columns of Georgian architecture.

Hyer's plan, executed in later years much as he envisioned it, reflects the Beaux-Arts tradition made popular by the 1893 Chicago Exposition. While Dallas Hall itself is Neo-Georgian, its hilltop setting overlooking Bishop Bouleverd fits the Beaux-Arts pattern of situating a monumental building at the end of a broad avenue, thus providing a dynamic axis with long vistas.

Hyer's selection of a mall design for SMU is significant in that it differed from the traditional quadrangle pattern found on most college campuses in 1915. Moreover, his choice of Neo-Georgian architecture was a vanguard decision, for this style did not reach its prominence in Dallas until the early 1920's.

Equipped with his own detailed sketch of Dallas Hall, Hyer went to Chicago in 1911 to secure the architectural services of Shepley, Ruton & Coolidge. This firm, whose work he had long admired, was later chosen by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to direct the restoration of Williamsburg. Hyer's selection of a nationally prominent architectural firm to design Dallas Hall is particularly significant since all other buildings at SMU have been designed by local architects.

For the first decade of SMU's existence, Dallas Hall served as the only classroom facility. Thereafter, it remained the center of liberal arts studies, thus claiming all students for at least part of their college careers. Few SMU alumni have not been influenced by the intellectual activities housed within its corridors.

	78002913
Property Sallar Hall	
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TECHNICAL	CONTROL
Photos	OK 8.3.78
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	11.6.78
	ARCHEOLOGIST
	OTHER
	HAER
	Inventory
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its relationship to architectural development in area, association with major, a deliberately sought architect	_
firm, and for association/impact on SMU campus community.	accept
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	KEEPER
	a metalat
	(Julia
National Register Write-up Send-back	Entered NOV 17 1978
Federal Register Entry 2-6-79 Re-submit	IN T :2106 = 74

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Dallas Hall Southern Methodist University Campus Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Mike Yancey August 1975 Texas Historical Commission

South Elevation

Photo #1 AUG 1 1978

NOV 1 7 1978



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Dallas Hall Southern Methodist University Campus Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Mike Yancey August 1975 Texas Historical Commission

North Elevation

Photo #2

AUG 1 1978

NOV 1 7 1978



Dallas Hall Southern Methodist University Campus Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

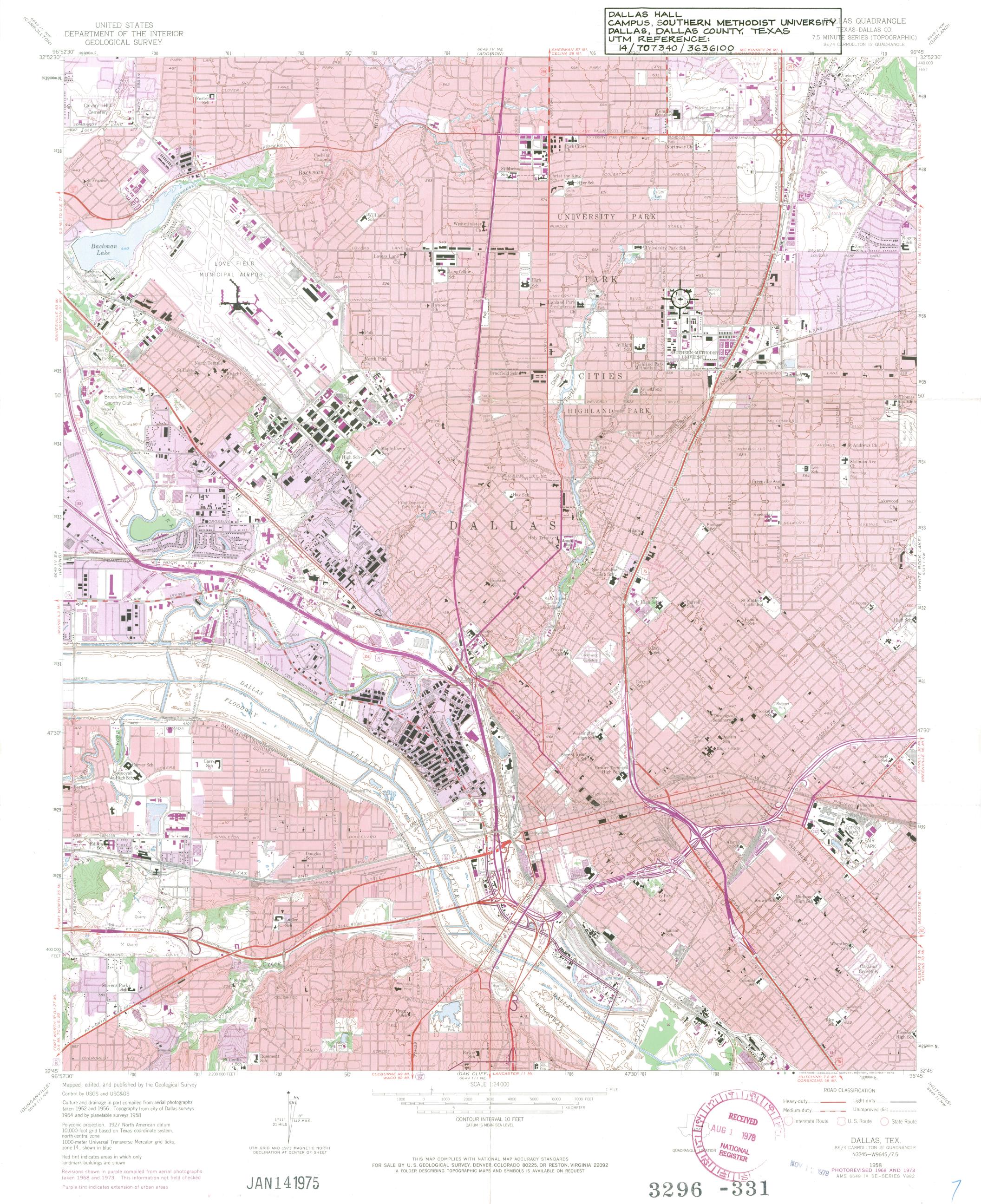
South elevation Photographer unknown ca. 1915

reproduction filed at Texas Historical Commission

Photo #3

AUG 1 1978

NOV 17 1978



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered

NOV 1 7 1978

Name

Location

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 OTHER NAMES (4) county code: NAME as it appears on federal register: 113 Dallas Hall (6)NPS REGION: LOCATION street & number county city / town vicinity of state Southern Methodist University campus Dallas TX Dallas. SW BADMINISTRATOR: OWNER PRIVATE OSTATE MUNICIPAL OCOUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) (9) EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL (10) FUNDED? TYES NO (11) CONGRESS. DISTRICT SOURCE of NOMINATION if state who prepared form? MUTHIN MATIRMAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? MOWETHEN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ONG TYES, HAME __ DYES, NAME Original site CONDITION deteriorated altered 17 features: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT - 3 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 Dexcellent Pruins ONOT INTACT-O O NOT INTACT-O Dunaltered moved O NOT INTACT - O □ good unexposed UNKNOWN-4 Dreconstructed Dunknown UNKNOWN-5 5 UNKNOWN -6 \(\text{fair} \) unexcavated Dexcavated NOT APPLICABLE - 9 ZO NOT APPLICABLE -7 MO NOT APPLICABLE-8 (19) ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 600 SAVED? TYES IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no BACCESS ☐YES-Restricted ☐YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access Unknown CLAIMS: explain AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.- 15 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT. - 21 RECREATION -28 □ ENGINEERING - 11 'first' ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric - 2 COMMERCE - 6 ☐ LAW - 16 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ RELIGION - 22 SETTLEMENT-29 ARCHEOLOGY - historic - 1 ☐ LITERATURE - 17 COMMUNICATIONS - 7 ☐ EXPLORATION - 12 ☐ SCIENCE- 23 URBAN PLANWING-31 'oldest' ☐ AGRICULTURE -3 □ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 □ OTHER (SPECIFY) CONSERVATION - 8 ☐ HEALTH - 27 MILITARY - 18 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ MUSIC - 19 □ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY - 13 ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30 'only' ☐ TRANSPORTATION - 25 ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 INVENTION - 14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY - 20 ETHNIC GROUP dates of initial construction: functions ASSOCIATION major alterations: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: historic events: CURRENTLY: architect: engineer: master builder: architectural style(s): artisan: builder/contractor: artist: alandscape architect/garden designer: interior decorator: NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL: MATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE

reviewers initials.

date

78002913

Acreage - less than one approximately 5 (see 8/13 continuation sheet)

Structure with apron described as follows:
Beginning at a point approximately 75' east of eastern curb of Boaz Lane and approximately 180' south of southern curb of Boaz Lane north of structure; proceed east approximately 280', then north approximately 170', then west approximately 280', then south approximately 170' to point of origin.

FHR-8-900 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received AUG 1 3 1886 date entered

Continuation sheet

DESSRIPTION

Item number

Page 2

Acreage: Approximately 4.5

Structure and quadrangle south of structure which serves as a terminus for Bishop Boulevard, described as follows:

Begin at point where walkway oriented N-S and approximately 80' east of and parallel to central axis from Bishop Boulevard to Dallas Hall intersects north curb of Dyer Street. Proceed north approximately 185' along eastern edge of walkway, then east approximately 135' along southern edge of walkway oriented E-W to western curb of Hilltop Lane. Proceed north along curb approximately 500', then following curve around east side of Dallas Hall and west along curb approximately 300'. Follow curb as it curves south around western side of Dallas Hall, then south approximately 500', then east approximately 140' along southern edge of sidewalk oriented E-W, then south approximately 185' along western edge of sidewalk oriented N-S, and approximately 80' west of and parallel to central axis from Bishop Boulevard to Dallas Hall, then east along north curb of Dyer as it curves north approximately 50', then east approximately 100', then south approximately 50' to accommodate a traffic turnaround, then east to point of origin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Thomas, Mary M., Southern Methodist University, Founding and Early Years, 1924, Historical and Architectural monographs exerpted from above reference; supplied by SMU and on file at THC

White, James F., Architecture at SMU, SMU Press, Dallas, 1966, p. 3-11

10. Geo	graphical	Data	UTM NO	T.VERIFIED	
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GEORGIAN REVIVAL BUILDINGS OF SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY Thematic Resources
Dallas Hall

North Terminus, Inner Campus Quadrangle SMU Campus

Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

SEP 27 1980

PHOTO: Historic, Ca. 1915, Photographer unknown Courtesy Bennett Miller

VIEW: South Elevation, Camera Facing North

PHOTO # 1 of 19

MAY 2 0 1980



GEORGIAN REVIVAL BUILDINGS OF SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY The matter Resources

Dallas Hall

North Terminus, Inner Campus Quadrangle SMU Campus

Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

PHOTO: Danny Hardy, 7/27/79 Negative on file at THC

SEP 27 1980

VIEW: Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest

PHOTO # 2 of 19

Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000844