

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 5 1978
DATE ENTERED JUN 23 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 Rice Hotel **
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER (917 Texas Avenue) Main Street at Texas Avenue NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Houston VICINITY OF 18th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Texas CODE 48 COUNTY Harris CODE 201 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Community Investors IX, Ltd. ✓
STREET & NUMBER 4543 Post Oaks Place, Suite 1005
CITY, TOWN Houston VICINITY OF STATE Texas 77027

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harris County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER 301 San Jacinto
CITY, TOWN Houston STATE Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE none
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rice Hotel, an 18-story, E-shaped masonry structure with a five-story annex and motor lobby, occupies more than three-fourths of the block in downtown Houston bounded by Main Street, Texas Avenue, Travis Street, and Prairie Street. Located in the heart of the central business district, the hotel is within sight of a great variety of contemporary buildings, a number of which are of excellent architectural quality, and of several areas of planned new construction.

The Rice, with its principal (south) elevation on Texas Avenue, is distinguished by a supported cast iron canopy extending the full length of the structure on its Main Street and Texas Avenue facades; a matching second floor canopy forms a gallery over the Texas Avenue entrance to the lobby. At the second story level is a series of sealed arched openings supporting a frieze and cornice formed by the decorative third floor. The arched openings originally contained windows but were sealed sometime after 1942, as suggested by photographs of the period. The main shaft of the building, rising above the three story base course, is designed in the shape of an "E" formed by three connected wings. The central and east wings were part of the original 1912-13 structure designed by the architectural firm of Mauran, Russell, and Crowell of St. Louis, Missouri; the west wing was a 1925-26 addition designed by Alfred C. Finn, architect, of Houston. From the fourth floor level to a string-course above the fourteenth floor, the building is of dark buff brick, with a quoined terra cotta trim around the windows on all major facades. A frieze and cornice for the entire building are formed by the highly decorated fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth floors. The steel, glass, and masonry eighteenth floor was a 1951 addition designed by Staub and Rather, architects, of Houston.

The five-story annex and motor lobby located on Travis Street was designed by J. Russ Baty, architect, of Houston and was added to the hotel in 1958. Constructed of concrete and masonry, the exterior of the annex stands in marked contrast to the older portions of the Rice Hotel. The concrete motor lobby, occupying the first floor level, is separated from the masonry upper portion of the building by a cantilevered canopy extending outward below a concrete frieze and cornice. The upper floors are designed in a series of identical bays divided by a corresponding series of identical, undecorated, and unbroken vertical brick strips. It should be noted that the incompatibility of the annex is minimized by its location at the back of the hotel property and by its scale, which is considerably smaller than that of the hotel.

Due to the various remodelings which have taken place in every decade since the construction of the earliest portion of the hotel in 1912-13, very little remains of the original interiors. Those elements which do remain have been combined with newer motifs to create a notable eclectic quality throughout the public areas of the Rice. The functions of the spaces, however, were largely unchanged from the time the hotel opened in 1913 until its closing on August 23, 1977. The building has had as many as 1000 guest rooms and suites, two enormous ballrooms, and facilities for five restaurants, a beauty shop, a barber shop, and a variety of small retail spaces. There are numerous interior elements of

(cont.)

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special interest: the lobby, extensively remodeled in 1963 but retaining a number of older elements, some of which, such as the walls and piers, date from 1912; the many art deco details throughout the hotel; and the bar in the Old Capitol Club, which is said to be the original bar used in the first Capitol of the Republic of Texas. The old Capitol building, which stood on the site now occupied by the Rice Hotel, housed the Texas Congress from April 1, 1837, until September 10, 1839, and was demolished in May, 1881.

A Houston architectural firm, the McGinty Partnership, is currently developing plans for reuse of the building, either as a luxury hotel or as a residential-commercial complex.

MAY 5 1978

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) CULTURAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912-13 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mauran, Russell, Crowell* (St. Louis)
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE *(see below)

The Rice Hotel, one of the most advanced and best known Texas hotels since its opening in 1913, stands on a site occupied from 1837-39 by the first Capitol of the Republic of Texas. Since 1841, the property has been used exclusively for hotels, with the exception of a brief period in 1842 when it was again the site of the Texas Capitol. The history of the site and the present Rice Hotel has been both long and colorful and has become an inextricable part of the history of Texas and of Houston.

When the second session of the first Congress of the Republic of Texas met in Columbia in 1836, office and housing facilities were found to be so inadequate that officials decided to move the capital to Houston and appropriated \$15,000 for the construction of Congressional buildings there. The new Capitol was to be completed for the Legislature by April 1, 1837, but as most of the materials had to be shipped to the newly surveyed city, members of Congress were forced to begin their deliberations in unfinished surroundings. Once completed, however, the Capitol became a center of civic, political, and religious activities until Houston was abandoned by the Legislature in favor of Austin on September 10, 1839. Ownership of the old Capitol building was retained by John K. and Augustus C. Allen, founders of the city of Houston and among those most instrumental in the selection of the city as the capital of Texas.

The building continued to be used for public functions until late 1841, when it was leased to N. Norwood who opened it as a "house of entertainment," a popular term for hotels at that time. Following the Mexican invasion of 1842, the "Capitol Hotel" again became the Capitol building when President Sam Houston moved the captial back to the city of Houston from March to September of that year. Afterward, the building continued to be operated as a hotel. Later known as the "Houston House," it remained in the ownership of the Allen family until June 27, 1857, at which time Mrs. Charlotte M. Allen sold the property to R. S. Blount for \$12,000. It had become one of Houston's "favorite hotels" by the end of 1856, and by 1877, the establishment, renamed the "Barnes House," was enjoying a statewide reputation as a result of its swashbuckling caterer, Peter Louiselle.

The old Capitol was razed in May, 1881, by Col. A. Groesbeck, who had purchased the site and who subsequently erected the elaborate five-story brick and stucco "Capitol Hotel," which became a center of social and civic life in Houston. Six months after Groesbeck's death in 1886, William Marsh Rice, who was later responsible for the founding and endowment of Rice University, bought the Capitol Hotel for taxes and added a five-story annex, renaming the building the "Rice Hotel." William Marsh
 (cont.)

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Rice died in 1900, leaving the property to Rice University, but the hotel continued to be operated until 1911, when Jesse H. Jones, a young Houston entrepreneur, purchased the building and leased the property from the school. The building was demolished, and on February 12, 1912, Jones obtained a permit to erect a seventeen-story structure on the site; that structure is the major portion of the present Rice Hotel and was officially opened on May 17, 1913. A pre-opening banquet, held at the Rice on May 16 by the recently formed Rotary Club of Houston, was attended by 593 men and was reported the following day to have been "the most elaborate banquet in the city's history."

The original promotional brochure proclaimed on its title page the following:

The Rice Hotel
Main Street & Texas Avenue
Houston, Texas

A Modern Fireproof Hotel Costing
Two and One-Half Million Dollars
Built by Houston Capital
Under the Leadership of
Jesse H. Jones
1912

Jesse Jones was indeed a leader. Born in Tennessee, Jones was a financial wizard who built not only the Rice Hotel but also many of the commercial buildings that surround it. In 1932, Jones was appointed to head the Federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation and subsequently served as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's wartime Secretary of Commerce. Until his death in 1956, Jones was heavily involved in the promotion and development of Houston, and his many contributions to the city and to the State of Texas remain legendary in scope.

The 1912-13 building, itself, was a landmark. Designed by the St. Louis architectural firm of Mauran, Russell, and Crowell, the Rice Hotel was one of the first two multi-story buildings in Houston constructed with a skeletal steel or cast iron frame carrying the weight of walls, floors, and ceilings. The handsomely finished structure excited such public interest that a crowd of some 10,000 persons toured the building on the day of its official opening.

Continued improvement of the hotel's facilities and services over the following years is exemplified by the Rice Hotel Cafeteria, which opened in 1922 as the first air-conditioned public room in Houston; its expansion in 1924 made it the largest hotel cafeteria in the United States; and by the 1970's, Rice promotional brochures were billing the room, with its capacity of 840 persons, as the largest hotel cafeteria in the world.

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In 1921, Jesse Jones retained Alfred C. Finn, a Houston architect, to design alterations for Jones' seventeenth floor apartment at the Rice. This was Finn's first work on the hotel, and his association with Jones continued over a period of many years. In 1925-26, the Rice was enlarged according to Finn's design to a capacity of 1000 guest rooms and suites by the addition of a west wing. Both the scale of the wing and its detail matched the earlier portion of the structure, and it was this addition which gave the hotel its distinctive E-shape. During the course of this project, the cast iron canopy was carefully extended with ironwork produced at the Herzog Iron Works of St. Paul, Minnesota; terra cotta trim for the wing was provided by the Atlanta Terra Cotta of East Point, Georgia.

The importance of Finn's involvement with the Rice can be more fully appreciated by examining his remarkable career. A Fellow in the American Institute of Architects, he was born in Bellville, Texas, in 1874, the son of a blacksmith. Without benefit of a college education, he trained for the profession with the firm of Sanguinet and Staats of Dallas, where he came under the personal tutelage of Charles D. Staats, considered at the time to be one of the finest architects of the Southwest. Finn opened his own office in Houston in 1913, and from that time exerted a powerful influence on the architecture of the city of Houston. In addition to the west wing of the Rice, local buildings he designed included the San Jacinto Monument, the Gulf Building, the Shrine Crippled Children's Hospital, in the Texas Medical Center, the Ezekiel Cullen Building at the University of Houston, St. Paul's Methodist Church, the U. S. Naval Hospital, the Sakowitz Building, and the City National Bank Building.

In 1928, the Democratic National Convention was held in Houston, having been induced there by a \$200,000 contribution from Jesse Jones, and City tax records indicate that the hotel may have altered some of its rooms in order to increase accommodations for the delegates, most of whom made their headquarters at the Rice. It is known that Jesse Jones had a shed built on the hotel roof to be used as a bunkhouse during the convention, and although built as a temporary structure, this bunkhouse became, during the Depression, part of the famous "Top Deck of the Rice," the most popular dance spot in the city. It is of interest that during the Convention, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who nominated Al Smith for the Presidency, was a guest in the hotel. Also of interest are two memorable incidents of local color, if not history, which occurred at the time: an irate cattleman emptied his pistol into the door and shaft of an elevator after the crowded car had passed him by once too often; and a female rodeo star rode her horse up the staircase to the mezzanine, and hitched it to a large potted plant while she went to the powder room.

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During the next decade, many other things added to the character of the Rice. The famed Rice Hotel Barber Shop was opened in 1930 and became during its forty-seven year tenure in the same location something of an institution in its own right. In 1935, the Crystal Ballroom became the first ballroom in Houston to be air conditioned, measurably increasing its popularity. One of the most unusual events at the hotel during the 1930's, was the 1936 meeting of the Texas Cattlemen's Association. Some 600 cattlemen, many of them carrying guns, turned the fashionable Crystal Ballroom into an air-conditioned "chuck wagon," roped downtown shoppers from the hotel balcony, and held a square dance in the lobby. In May of that same year, more than 1400 persons, the largest crowd in the Hotel's history, filled the "Top Deck of the Rice" to hear Gus Arnheim and his orchestra. Other famous bands which played on the popular Rice Roof Garden, as it was later called, included Freddy Martin, Ted Weems (with singer Perry Como), and Lawrence Welk. Such events and associations have afforded Houstonians much entertainment and activity over the years and developed within them the strong and somewhat remarkable devotion that now exists for the Rice.

Major interior remodelings of the lower floors of the hotel in 1938 and 1940 resulted in a number of changes, the most notable of which were the development of the Empire Room, a large dining room of art deco design, and the covering of the lobby to enable expansion of the mezzanine. During the 1940 remodeling, the Rice became the first hotel in Houston to make major use of fluorescent lighting and plastic upholstery, which were introduced when the coffee shop was converted to the "Skyline Room."

In January, 1942, the "Roof Garden of the Rice" closed in response to the blackout imposed during World War II and never reopened. Following the war, the hotel continued to expand. In 1946, the Rice became the first hotel in Houston to provide an escalator for its guests, and by 1947 the entire hotel had been air conditioned.

The eighteenth floor was added to the Rice in 1951. Designed by the Houston architectural firm of Staub and Rather, the steel, glass, and masonry addition was occupied by the Petroleum Club of Houston until the early 1960's and has remained virtually unaltered since its construction.

John Staub, of Staub and Rather, has, like Finn, exerted considerable influence on Houston architecture. A Tennessean by birth, Staub was trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and first came to Houston to open an office for Harrie T. Lindeberg, a New York architect. Staub remained in Houston and became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a man best known for his residential designs. In addition to the eighteenth floor of the Rice Hotel, his commissions have included Bayou Bend (the former home of Miss Ima Hogg and today a museum) and the River Oaks Country Club.

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Following the death of Jesse Jones in 1956, the Rice Hotel became the property of The Houston Endowment, Inc., a philanthropic foundation established by Jones, which continued to operate—and to remodel—the hotel. In 1957, the Empire Room was converted into the Old Capitol Club and the Flag Room, both of which remained in use until the closing of the Rice twenty years later. In 1958-59, a \$3,000,000 five-story, concrete and masonry annex designed by Houston architect J. Russ Baty was added to the rear of the hotel; this final addition which housed, among other facilities, an air-conditioned motor lobby and the immense Grand Ballroom, was officially opened on April 18, 1959. It is of interest that Baty at one time worked in the office of Alfred C. Finn. The last major interior work undertaken by the Endowment was an \$8 million modernization program begun in 1961 and involving, to varying degrees, most areas of the hotel. This included a \$175,000 lobby remodeling, which was designed by Richard Kent, Inc., of New York; J. Russ Baty was the architect.

On August 21, 1962, the seventh Mercury-Atlas Mission Conference of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Manned Spacecraft Center was conducted in the new Grand Ballroom and featured the Pilot's Flight Report of M. Scott Carpenter. Guests in the hotel included all of the United States' original astronauts and others responsible for the development of the space program. Other events during the 1960's included visits by President John F. Kennedy in 1962 and 1963, a major policy address by Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1963, and ceremonies held on January 10, 1964, officially dedicating the Sam Houston \$.05 Commemorative Postage Stamp. For the first day of issue sale of the stamps, a "Republic of Texas Capitol Station" was established in the hotel.

In 1971, the Rice Hotel was donated by the Houston Endowment to Rice University, owner of the land on which the building stood. The University continued to operate the hotel until 1975, when it closed the facility rather than comply with a new Houston fire code, and announced plans to sell or demolish the building.

The closing of the hotel by Rice University was observed by hundreds of Houstonians who crowded into a "Last Dance" at the Rice. The evening included dancing and cocktails in the glass enclosed eighteenth floor that was once the Rice Roof and later the Petroleum Club, and afterward dinner and more dancing in the Crystal Ballroom. Tickets were \$150 per couple, or \$1000 for a table, and proceeds were given to the Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston.

Demolition seemed inevitable until, at the last minute, Rittenhouse Capital Corporation of New York agreed to purchase the Rice. After a major refurbishing program, the Rice reopened in April, 1976,

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as the Rice Rittenhouse Hotel but was closed by court order the following year and was sold at a foreclosure auction in September, 1977. In March of 1978, Rice Preservation Corporation, which bought the Hotel and Lease at auction, sold the property to Community Investors IX, Ltd. Simultaneously, with its acquisition of the building, Community Investors IX, Ltd. purchased the land from its owner, Rice University, and plans reuse of the building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books:

Daniels, A. Pat. Texas Avenue at Main Street. Houston: Allen Press, 1964.
 Writers Program, Texas. Houston (American Guide Series; compiled by workers of the Writers Program of the Work Project Administration in Houston (cont.))

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Lat. 95°21'47"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.147842 A.

Long. 29°45'40"

QUADRANGLE NAME Settegast, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 271540 3294400

B

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Rice Hotel occupies Lots 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 25'x100' of 3, and 25'x50' of 11, all lying in Block 57, South Side Buffalo Bayou Subdivision, Houston, Texas.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ellen Beasley and Ken Wellborn

March 24, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Beasley and Wellborn

DATE March 24, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1145

TELEPHONE (713) 762-9852

CITY OR TOWN

Galveston,

STATE Texas 77553

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE

DATE May 2, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE 6-23-78

ATTEST: William Lelovich

DATE June 21, 1978

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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in the State of Texas). Houston: The Anson Jones Press, 1942.

"Alfred C. Finn," A Guide to Manuscript Collections, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Part I, Houston Public Library, [n. d., unpublished].

Newspaper Articles: ~~Magazines:~~

"Story of Architect's Career is Roll Call of Important Buildings," The Houston Chronicle, February 22, 1938.

"Alfred C. Finn Succeeded Without College Education," The Houston Chronicle, October 10, 1950.

"Architect Finn Awaits Public's Verdict," The Houston Chronicle, February 18, 1951.

"Rice Record Rich in Famous Firsts," The Houston Chronicle, October 17, 1957.

"Excavating for Rice Hotel Annex," The Houston Chronicle, January 5, 1958.

"Contract for 5-Story Rice Annex Awarded," The Houston Chronicle, January 15, 1958.

"Rice Hotel Price Tag \$6.6 Million, Bidders Not Close," The Houston Chronicle, January 5, 1975, Section 3, p. 15.

"Firm Takes Over the Rice Hotel," The Houston Chronicle, January 15, 1975.

"The Last Dance at the Rice," The Houston Post, March 20, 1975, Section F, p. 1.

"~~Rice~~ Rice Hotel to Reopen About April 1 With Up to 400 Refurbished Rooms," The Houston Chronicle, January 22, 1976.

"Old Rice Hotel Slated for Reopening in April," ~~The Houston Post~~ The Houston Post, January 27, 1976.

"Rice Hotel May Convert to Apartments," The Houston Chronicle, September 7, 1977.

Magazines:

Meyer, Wendy Haskell. "An Interview With John Staub," Houston Home and Garden, August, 1976, pp. 135-136.

Snell, David. "'Hubub' of Houston, the Rice Hotel Goes to the Great Convention in the Sky," Smithsonian, Vo. VI (July, 1975), pp. 48-57.

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Architectural Drawings, (Mss. 19, Alfred C. Finn, 39 Boxes, Houston Metropolitan Research Center);

The New Rice Hotel, Main Street and Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas; Mauran, Russell, and Crowell, architects, St. Louis, Missouri, and Houston, Texas; 14 sheets [n.d.].

The New Rice Hotel, for Jesse H. Jones, Esq., Houston, Texas; Mauran, Russell, and Crowell, architects, St. Louis, Missouri, and Houston, Texas; 11 sheets [n.d.].

Alterations in the Apartment of Mr. Jesse H. Jones, 17th Floor, The Rice Hotel; Alfred C. Finn, architect, Houston, Texas; 3 sheets, September 21, 1921.

The Rice Hotel, Houston, Texas; Office of Alfred C. Finn, architect, Houston, Texas; Job 320; numerous miscellaneous sheets, 1925-1927.

Tax Records:

Rice Hotel File (Acct. # 011-057-00-004-0), Tax Department, Commercial Division, City of Houston, miscellaneous records, 1913-1978.

Hotel Brochures:

"The Rice Hotel, Main Street and Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas," 1912.

"The Rice Hotel," [n.d., c. 1970].

Other:

Chain of Title, prepared by Capital Title, 2223 West Loop South, Houston, Texas; March 6, 1978.

Property

Rice Hotel

78002947
Harris

State

IN.

Working Number

5.5.78.3053

TECHNICAL

Photos 11
Maps 1

CONTROL

ok ~~JP~~ 5.8.78

agree with architect historian. Clear summation
of changes

HISTORIAN

Marcello Shiff
6-5-78
accept

HOTEL IS MORE THAN LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT.
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT TOO.
1958 ANNEX DOES NOT INTRUDE TO THE EXTENT THAT IT
MAKES HOTEL INELIGIBLE.
Documentation thorough - photos good.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Jean Gilman
6/2/78
ACCEPT

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

I concur with
above

of architectural significance as
large characteristic early 20th C hotel -
important, but late historical associations
to be renovated by McGinty, Associates

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Lebowich
6/8/78

BRANCH CHIEF

Lebowich
Cole
6/21/78

KEEPER

Approved
6/23/78

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JUN 23 1978

Federal Register Entry

8.1.78

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Harris County

MAY 5 1978

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: February, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Texas Avenue facade
7. photograph no. 1 of 11

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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Harris County

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: February, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Texas Avenue facade
7. photograph no. 2

MAY 5 1978

JUN 23 1978

811



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Harris County

MAY 5 1978

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: February, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. corner Texas Avenue & Main Street
7. photograph no. 3 of 11

JUN 23 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Harris County

MAY 5 1978

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: February, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Panoramic view - Jones Hall, Houston Chronicle, Rice, Texas Tower
7. photograph no. 4 of 11

JUN 23 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

MAY 5 1978

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: February, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Main Street corner of Hotel and streetscape across Texas Avenue
7. photograph no. 5 of 11

JUN 23 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Harris County

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: February, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Canopy and gallery, Texas Avenue facade
7. photograph no. 6 of 11

MAY 5 1978

JUN 23 1978



1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: February, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Corner detail, floors 15-18, Texas
Avenue facade
7. photograph no. 7 g 11

HARRIS County

MAY 5 1978

JUN 23 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

HARRIS County

JUN 23 1978

MAY 5 1978

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: February, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Annex & motor lobby, corner of Travis Street & Prairie Avenue
7. photograph no. 9 11



PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY

Bert Brandt & Associates

Fine Photography by Experts

3704 GARROTT
HOUSTON 6, TEXAS

PHONE: JA 9-3224

THIS IS YOUR MASTER TRIST 128-158

NO. _____

To assist you in reordering
please refer to this number.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Harris County

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Bert Brandt
4. date: not known (early 1970's)
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Hotel lobby
7. photograph no. 10 g " JUN 23 1978

MAY 5 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Harris County

MAY 5 1978

1. Rice Hotel
2. Houston, Texas
3. photographer: Larry Payne
4. date: Febraury, 1978
5. 219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas
6. Annex & motor lobby, corner of Travis Street and Prairie Avenue
7. photograph no. 11 11

JUN 23 1978

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name

Rice Hotel

County, State

Harris, Texas

Reference Number

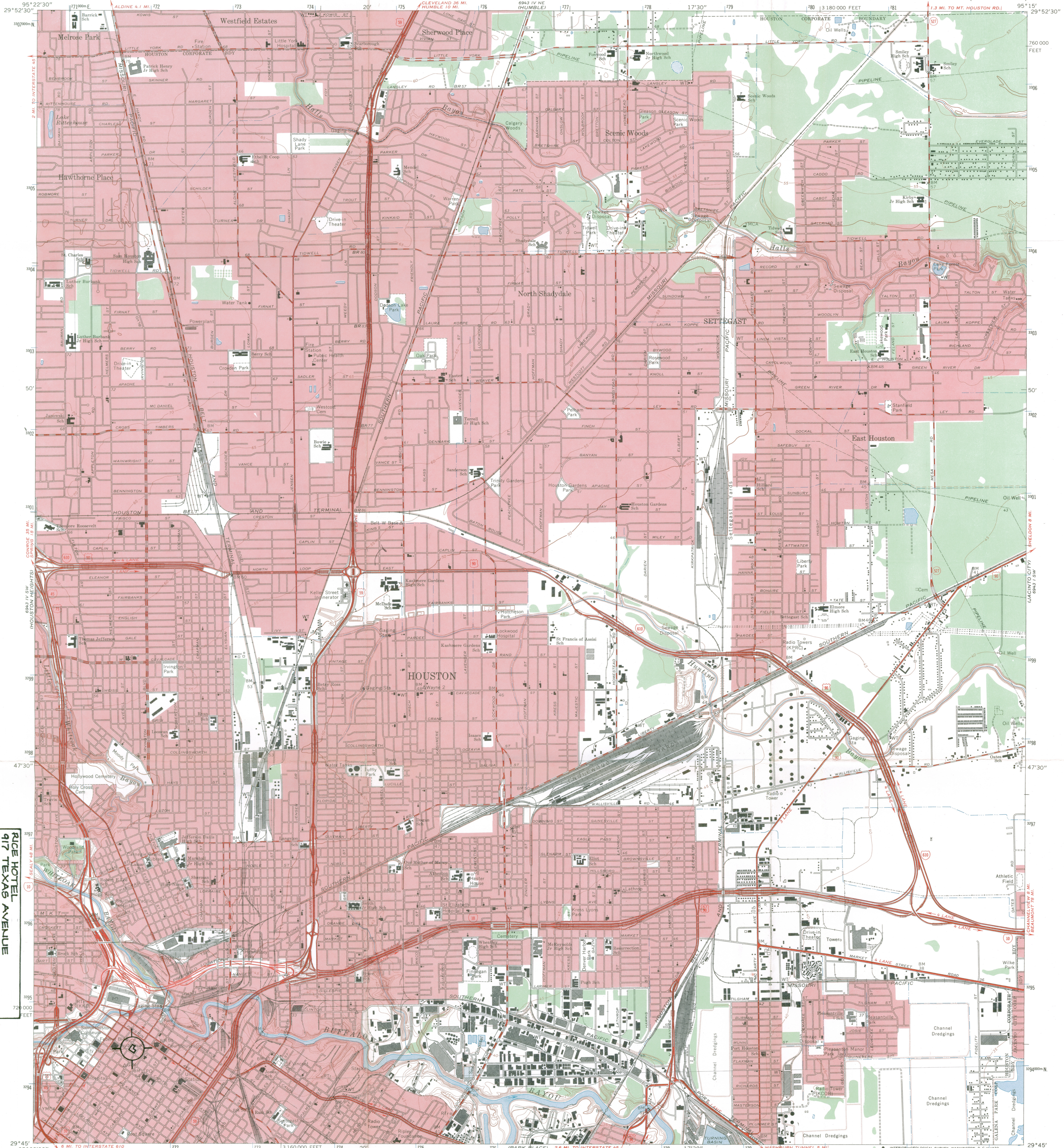
78002947

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

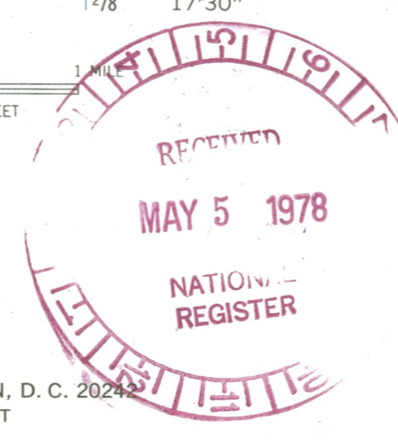
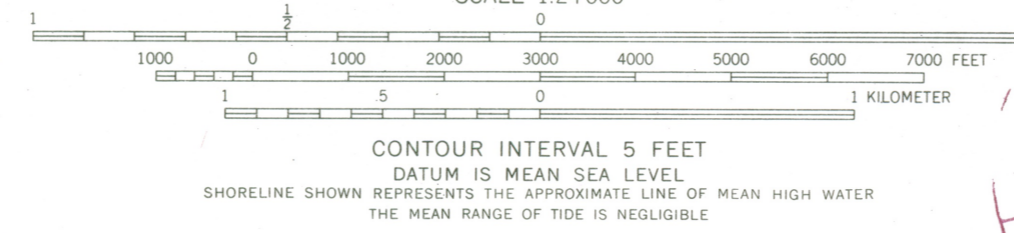
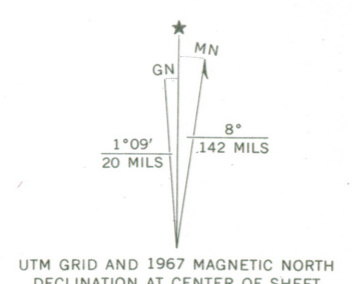
Photographs (Photograph 8)

USGS Map



RICE HOTEL
917 TEXAS AVENUE
HOUSTON, HARRIS CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE:
15 / 271840 / 3294400

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1966. Topography enlarged from 1:31 680-scale AMS map of Settegast
Quadrangle. Original map by planetable surveys 1943. Revised 1967
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

SETTEGAST, TEX.
N2945—W9515/7.5

1967

AMS 6943 IV SE—SERIES V882

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

**Advisory
Council On
Historic
Preservation**

File

Rice Hotel

Harris Co.
J.F.

1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Reply to:

Lake Plaza South, Suite 616
44 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80228

April 22, 1981

Mr. James J. Smith
Director
Economic Development Division
609 Fannon, Suite 2021
Houston, Texas 77002

COPY

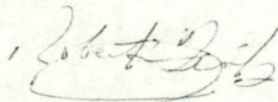
Dear Mr. Smith:

We have received the City's notice of April 11, 1981, that the City proposes to rehabilitate the Rice Hotel, an undertaking funded by an Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Because this undertaking may have an effect on the Rice Hotel, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places, we request the City investigate this matter to determine whether the nature of the effect requires that you obtain the comments of the Council in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320). Steps to determine this responsibility are set forth in Section 800.4 of the Council's regulations, "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). A copy of the Council's regulations is enclosed for your use.

As you are aware, in utilizing UDAG funds for an undertaking which may affect a National Register listed or eligible property, the City assumes the responsibility of a Federal agency regarding Section 106 compliance. We note that the City's letter states that the prime developer will obtain the comments of the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer and the Council. We remind the City that request for the Council's comments must come from the City even if some other party agrees to produce the necessary documentation. If you have further questions or require assistance, please call Robert Fink at (303) 234-4946.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Louis S. Wall
Chief, Western Division
of Project Review

Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEXAS

STATE

Date Entered JUN 23 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Johnson, Joseph P., House	Seguin Guadalupe County
Colorado County Courthouse Historic District	Columbus Colorado County
Rice Hotel	Houston Harris County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen
Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Abraham Kazen, Jr.
Honorable J.J. (Jake) Pickle
Honorable Barbara C. Jordan

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

NR Mott/bjr 6/26/78

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Rice Hotel
 ② OTHER NAMES:
 ③ date of entry: JUN 23 1978
 ④ county code: 201

⑤ LOCATION street & number city / town vicinity of state county
 917 Texas Ave. (Main St. and Texas Ave.) Houston TX Harris
 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 18th ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME NO ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME NO ⑮ ACREAGE 1.15
 if state who prepared form? Beasley and Wellborn
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed unexcavated altered unaltered reconstructed excavated original site moved unknown

⑰ features: INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

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

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

㉒ CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

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

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

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

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

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP