

PH0686280

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 19 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 8 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 South Texas National Bank  
AND/OR COMMON United Fund Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 215 Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Houston VICINITY OF 18  
STATE Texas CODE 048 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Lance Funston / Portfolio Management of Texas, Inc.  
STREET & NUMBER 4543 Post Oak Place Drive #100  
CITY, TOWN Houston VICINITY OF Texas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Houston: An Architectural Guide  
DATE 1972  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Texas Room, Houston Public Library  
CITY, TOWN Houston STATE Texas

# 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 type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED interior			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

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

The South Texas National Bank building is situated at 215 Main Street or on Lower Main, as the area is called by Houstonians. It is a two-story structure with basement of smooth gray-white marble and built in the Neo-Classical style. The focal point of the building is a central pedimented portico with four rounded and fluted Corinthian columns and a recessed five-bay entrance. The pediment is carved with two cornucopias surrounding a cartouche, and duplicates the dentiling and modillion detail of the facade cornice. Openings under the portico also are ornamented with carved details. The first floor door and flanking windows are pedimented while the three central openings on the second floor have projections (ears) on top and bottom. Separating the simpler side openings of the portico are squared pilasters which are a variation of the corner pilasters on the street facade.

Balanced wings with three bays are on either side of the portico. The only decorative element on the wing openings are the pairs of carved sill brackets on each window. A restrained entablature encircles the building, while a low balustrade repeats the roof and pediment line.

Originally, the South Texas National Bank building consisted essentially of the central portico section with four columns. When opened in 1910, one account, The Southern Architectural Review, described the style as "Grecian Corinthian with composite combination." The same article identified that polished Vermont granite was used on the base and that the facade was Georgia marble. Carved on the frieze of the entablature was "SOUTH TEXAS NATIONAL BANK," which has since been erased. The atrium was shielded from street view by a solid, carved projection above the pediment. When the wings were added in 1921, the entablature surmounting the portico was carried around the building and the simpler windows of the original building were copied on the wing facades.

Most of the elaborate details of the interior have been removed or covered during several remodeling projects. Through removal of a drop ceiling, it will be possible to restore the atrium of the main lobby as well as some details such as the columns. On the second floor are two Board rooms with decor dating from the 1921 addition. The walls of the larger room are paneled with recessed shelving on the fireplace and a second wall. Leaded glass doors cover the shelving.

The South Texas National Bank building and its neighbors reflect a variety of architectural styles as well as revealing the commercial history of the Lower Main Street area. Abutting the south wall of the bank building is a late nineteenth century structure while to the immediate north is a small vacant lot and a larger eight-story twentieth century office building.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1910 1921	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	C. D. Hill & Co. of Dallas William Ward Watkins, Houston
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

South Texas National Bank is significant for its role in the development of Houston's banking community and for its visual contribution to downtown Houston. From 1910, when it was completed, until 1955, the bank reflected the growth of financial activity throughout the city. In addition, 215 Main Street is an architectural landmark and represents the work of two major architects, C. D. Hill and William Ward Watkins, who practiced throughout the state.

Chartered in 1890 the South Texas National Bank had grown steadily in spite of the nationwide panics of 1893 and 1907. As one of the largest banks in the rapidly growing city of Houston, the opening of the new building on April 4, 1910, was widely acclaimed in local news coverage. The Houston Chronicle stated that "...South Texas National Bank officials had set out to erect in their prosperous city one of the most, if not the most, complete and finest exclusive bank buildings in the Southwest."

The architect for the building was C. D. Hill and Co. of Dallas. Hill opened an office in Houston in 1910 under the supervision of E. R. Glick and maintained it until 1925. Established in 1907, the firm had already designed the Dallas Golf and Country Club, the Coliseum at the Dallas State Fair, and the First Church of Christ, Scientists, in Houston. Later work included other buildings in Houston and Dallas, and also in Galveston, Austin, Corpus Christi, Waxahachie, and Texarkana.

In 1912, South Texas National Bank merged with the Commercial National Bank, which had been chartered in 1886. This merger formed one of the strongest national banks in the Southwest, under the name of the South Texas Commercial National Bank. In 1949, the name reverted to the original wording.

The side wings were added to the building in 1921 to accommodate the growing business of the bank. The architect for the addition was William Ward Watkins, a noted Houston architect. Watkins had come to Houston in 1910 as supervising architect for the Boston firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson to oversee the construction of the original buildings of Rice Institute. From that time, he was associated with the Rice Department of Architecture. In addition, his work included the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Ideson Building of the Houston Public Library, and association on the YWCA buildings in Beaumont, Galveston, and Houston.

South Texas National Bank outgrew the building at 215 Main Street, especially after the 1953 consolidation with the Union Bank (chartered in 1905) which was located across the street at 220 Main Street, and became the Texas National Bank. Pneumatic tunnels connected the two structures. In 1955, the bank moved to the new 21 story building at the location of Main Street and Polk.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The First National Bank at 201 Main Street bought the building at 215 Main as well as the structure between the buildings known as Burgeheim's Pharmacy, which was demolished to make preparations for expanding banking services. The 215 Main Street building was used for additional office space and storage. In 1958, the bank relocated, joining the movement of the banking community away from lower Main Street.

T. J. Bettes Co., one of the largest mortgage investment firms in Houston, bought the First National Bank Building and the South Texas National Bank Building in 1958 to provide office space for 400 employees working in several locations throughout the city. Three years later, the firm gave the building at 215 Main Street to the United Fund and Community Council. Extensive interior remodeling was done under the supervision of Herman Lloyd of the firm of Lloyd, Morgan, and Jones. Work included closing of the atrium space in order to construct floor space on the second level for office use and a large office area on the first level. The United Fund and Community Council offices opened in April of 1963 and operated from that location until many of its funded agencies had moved out of the inner-city area. Since 1976, when the United Fund moved, the building has been vacant.

In April of 1978, Portfolio Management of Texas, Inc., purchased the building and plans for renovation have been initiated. In the context of its proximity to the old Houston National Bank, a National Register building, at 202 Main Street, and to the growing complex of county governmental courts and offices, 215 Main Street is in an excellent position to provide needed space for the county or for auxilliary legal services. Of major importance is the building's contribution to and enrichment of Houston's architectural heritage.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Houston Chronicle, April 4, 1910, p. 5. On microfiche: June 25, 1952; August 24, 1952; November 14, 1952; May 31, 1953; October 17, 1955; May 4, 1956; June 18, 1958; August 7, 1958  
The Southern Architectural Review, September 1910, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 8-9, 16-20.  
 United Fund and Community Council of Houston and Harris County, dedication booklet for 215 Main Street, April 1963.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Settegast, Tex QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	2 7 1 8 0 0	3 2 9 4 6 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Description of a 0.26434 acre tract of land located in Block Twenty-One (21), South Side of Buffalo Bayou in the City of Houston, Harris County, Texas and consisting of Lot 7, and portions of Lots 6, 8, 12, 3, and 2 in said Block.

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

Ellen Beasley and Kenneth Wellborn

ORGANIZATION

Beasley and Wellborn

DATE

September 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1145

TELEPHONE

(713) 762-9852

CITY OR TOWN

Galveston

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

*Shelly Laing*

Oct 13, 1978

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

Shelly

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

12-7-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-8-78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12-7-78

78002948

Property South Texas National Bank

State 2d. Working Number 10.19.78.4292

TECHNICAL  
Photos 8  
Maps 1

#13 - date OK Sherry

CONTROL  
pl  
10.19.78

Although hard to judge, bank undoubtedly has local associative significance as described. #8 does not appear to elaborate on specific architectural value except for association ~~with~~ with prominent community architects.

HISTORIAN  
Sherry  
12-4-78  
? accept

Despite steering of #8 to hist. assoc. the bank could stand on design integrity; if not approved as written would ask for rewrite with emphasis on design. Accept KTP 12-6-78  
Also contributes to vanishing 19thC landscape of Houston

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

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

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Although architectural value could be stronger - historical associations & some architectural value are summarized. Sherry  
accept  
12-7-78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered DEC 8 1978  
Federal Register Entry 2-6-79 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



1. South Texas National Bank
2. Houston, Texas
3. Larry Payne
4. August, 1978
5. Filed with photographer,  
219 Glenwood, Houston, Tex. 77007
6. Looking northeast on Main Street  
showing 201 and 215 Main and va-  
cant lot between the two buildings.
7. No. 1

DEC 8 1978

OCT 19 1978



1. South Texas National Bank
2. Houston, Texas
3. Larry Payne
4. August, 1978
5. Filed with photographer,  
219 Glenwood, Houston, Tex. 77007
6. Looking southwest on Main Street  
from 202 Main.
7. No. 2

DEC 8 1978

EAST  
OCT 19 1978



1. South Texas National Bank
2. Houston, Texas
3. Larry Payne
4. August, 1978
5. Filed with photographer,  
219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas 77007
6. View of front facade showing roof,  
atrium housing, original sky-  
lights.
7. No. 3

DEC 8 1978

OCT 19 1978



1. South Texas National Bank
2. Houston, Texas
3. Larry Payne
4. August, 1978
5. Filed with photographer,  
219 Glenwood, Houston, Texas 77007
6. Present interior atrium space on  
first floor showing 1962 closure  
of atrium for office space--to be  
restored. **OCT 19 1978**
7. No. 4

**DEC 8 1978**



1. South Texas National Bank
2. Houston, Texas
3. Larry Payne
4. August, 1978
5. Filed with photographer,  
219 Glenwood, Houston, Tex. 77007
6. Detail of original column in  
atrium.
7. No. 5

DEC 8 1978

OCT 19 1978



1. South Texas National Bank
2. Houston, Texas
3. Larry Payne
4. August, 1978
5. Filed with photographer,  
219 Glenwood, Houston, Tx. 77007
6. Atrium with 1962 remodeling  
closure--to be restored.
7. No. 6

DEC 8 1978

OCT 10 1978



1. South Texas National Bank
2. Houston, Texas
3. Larry Payne
4. August, 1978
5. Filed with photographer,  
219 Glenwood, Houston, Tx. 77007
6. Board room in 1921 addition by  
William Ward Watkins.
7. No. 7

DEC 8 1978

OCT 19 1978

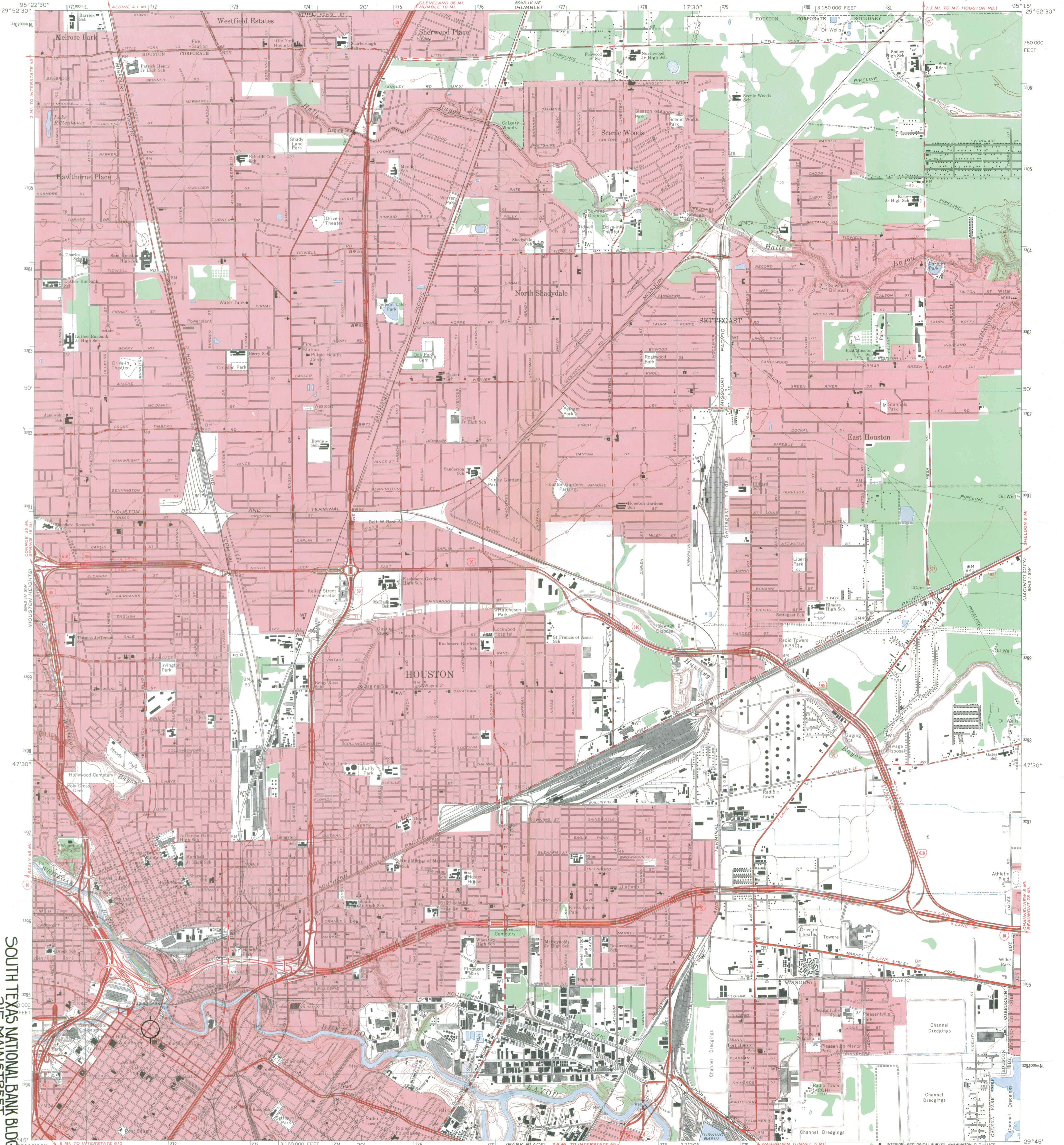


DEC 8 1978

South Texas National Bank

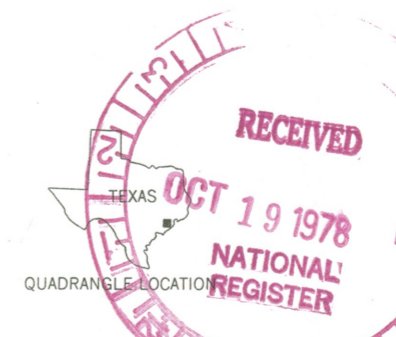
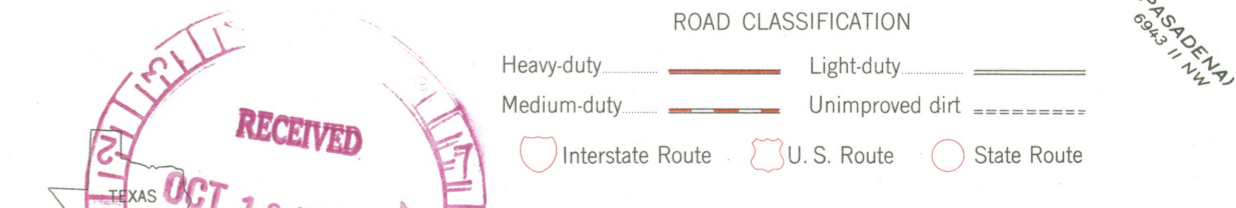
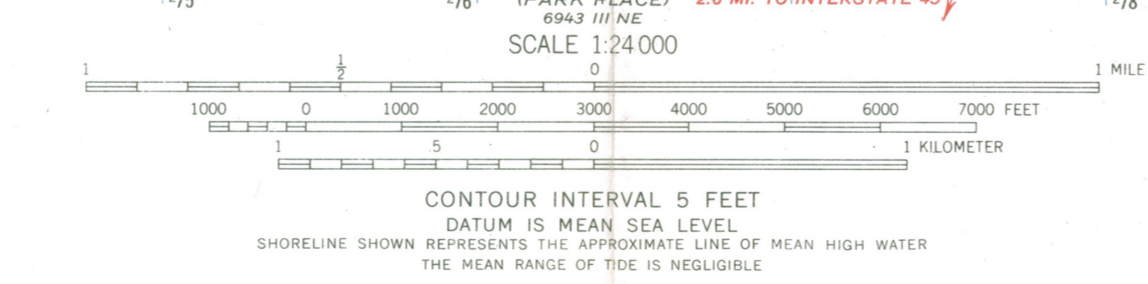
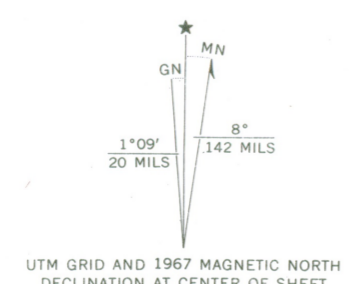
Interior Rendering

OCT 19 1978



SOUTH TEXAS NATIONAL BANK BLDG.  
215 MAIN STREET  
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE 15J271800/3294600

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



SETTEGAST, TEX.  
N2945—W9515/7.5

1967  
AMS 6943 IV SE—SERIES V882

MAR 14 1974

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

2995-431

DEC 8 1978

8

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      TEXAS

Date Entered      DEC 8 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
South Texas National Bank	Houston Harris County
Ferguson House	Temple Bell County
Mather-Kirkland House	Austin Travis County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen  
Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Barbara C. Jordon  
Honorable W. R. Poage  
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle

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

NR      Byers/js      12/29/78

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

**1 NAME as it appears on federal register:** South Texas National Bank  
**2 OTHER NAMES:** United Fund Building  
**3 date of entry:** DEC 8 1976  
**4 county code:** 201  
**5 LOCATION street & number:** 215 Main St.  
**city / town:** Houston  
**vicinity of:**  
**state:** TX  
**county:** 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** 18  
**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**  
 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  
 ENVIRON  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  
**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**