

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 5 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 29 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 "Treue der Union" Monument

AND/OR COMMON

Civil War Monument, Union Monument, Nueces Battlefield Monument

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

400 Block, High Street (Lot 122 of original survey)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Comfort

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

21st

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY

Kendall

CODE

259 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER Monument

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Citizens of Comfort, Texas

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Comfort

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kendall County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boerne

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Texas Historical Landmark

DATE

1968

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The monument was constructed of native white limestone quarried and shaped in the area of Comfort. The base has three unequal tiers. The lowest is about 9'-6" square; the middle tier is 5'-9" square; the upper tier is 5'-5" square. (These are existing dimensions, the existing tiers cover the original stone tiers.) In the case of the middle tier, the existing and the original dimensions are the same. The four faces of the main section of the monument are carved to form recessed panels, each inscribed with different wording. This section is constructed of four pieces of stone. "True der Union" is engraved on the front panel. The panel to the right contains the names of those captured and murdered after the battle. The next, the names of those 19 men who were killed in action at the Battle of the Nueces, and the fourth panel the names of those who were killed two months later attempting to cross the Rio Grande River. The main section is capped with two large stones, which together were carved to form four pediments, resembling Greco-Roman forms. The four corners of the pediment have simplified shapes which recall classical acanthus leaf finials. From this pedimented cap, an obelisk rises to a height of 8'-9". This part of the monument is made of three separate stones, set one upon the next. The entire structure is about 18' tall and is surrounded with a triple strand of chains, naturally-swagged between obelisk-shaped posts. These posts are duplicates of the original stone posts. There are twelve posts, arranged to form three panels per side, a square of thirty feet per side.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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				

Commemorative

SPECIFIC DATES August 10, 1866 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This monument has a three-fold significance for Comfort, for German-Texans, for Texas and for the Nation.

First of all, "Treue der Union" monument is the only community monument within a participant Civil War state to honor the 'other side'; and has often been referred to as "the only Union monument south of the Mason-Dixon Line."

Secondly, it stands as the single most important symbol honoring the loyalty and courage of the more than 20,000 Germans who immigrated to Texas in the mid-1800s.

Finally, it may also be the only monument in the Nation responsible for the survival of a community. Many students of the German immigration believe that this monument was the principal reason why Comfort, only 12 years old when the monument was erected in 1866, survived, while similar German settlements vanished into history. The only apparent significant difference was that Comfort had a monument symbolizing the very roots of the people in their new land. To desert the young settlement would have meant both an abandonment of those consecrated by "treue der Union," and a symbolic rejection of the principal value for which they died, loyalty to country.

This monument is dedicated specifically to 36 predominantly German-born Americans who died because of their loyalty to the United States. It was erected above - common grave, in which were interred their remains, retrieved from a tragic, South Texas battle site at the war's end.

Texas' secession from the Union to join the Confederacy in 1861 was strongly opposed by the German settlers, many of whom had just sworn their allegiance to the Union as new citizens. Rather than renounce this oath by swearing the newly-required oath to the Confederacy, in frustration, some 65 young men of the German-populated counties of Kendall, Kerr and Gillespie chose instead to escape to Mexico. From there, many hoped to join Union forces and fight for their beliefs. Few succeeded.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

After the ninth day of riding, and less than 50 miles from safety and freedom, the small band was savagely attacked in the pre-dawn hours of August 10, 1862 in its bivouac near the Nueces River by a Confederate cavalry force. In the ensuing battle, 19 of them were killed and nine others brutally murdered after capture. According to a DALLAS MORNING NEWS article (May 5, 1929) it was "The Blackest Crime in Texas Warfare." The survivors scattered and were relentlessly pursued. Two months later, on October 17, others were killed or drowned in the Rio Grande River in a final desperate attempt to escape. Eight of their names are on the monument.

Nearly every family in the eight-year old community had lost a member. When the war ended, survivors returned to Comfort, after having fought for the Union in later campaigns, and led a group of fellow citizens to the site of the massacre. The bleached, unburied bones were gathered, returned to Comfort and interred in the common grave on a low rise overlooking the settlement.

A January 20, 1866, article in HARPER'S WEEKLY reporting the burial, ended with:

"Small in number, far away from the patriotic heart and the strong arm of the loyal North, surrounded by fierce enemies of the Union, those brave and devoted Germans offered their lives as a holy protest---".

A year after the burial and on the fourth anniversary of the Battle of the Nueces, the completed monument was dedicated. Annual pilgrimages soon became traditional. Particularly significant were the 25th, 50th, 75th and centennial commemorations. Plans are being made for a special ceremony in 1979, the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the founding of Comfort, and 117 years after the Battle of the Nueces.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ransleben, Guido, "A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas" 1954
 Schuetze, Albert, "Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Book of Comfort" 1929
 Various articles in "The Comfort News", "The San Angelo Standard-Times",
 "The San Antonio Express-News", "The San Antonio Light", "Harper's
 Weekly" (January 20, 1866) Dallas Morning News.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY *less than one* fraction of an acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Comfort, Texas QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on lot 122 of the original survey
 400 Block of High Street opposite Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

STATE	Texas	CODE	COUNTY	Kendall	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Comfort Task Force

April 18, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Kendall County Historical Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Boerne

STATE

Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

SHPO 1/6/79

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

Joell Johnson 5-25-78

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

Bill

11/29/78

Nov 28, 1978

78002966

Property Freue des Union Monument

State Iexas Working Number 6.5.78.3290

TECHNICAL
Photos 5
Maps 1

CONTROL
OK 6.7.78

Unquestionably significant and well-presented in nomination.
Monument commemorates episode important to this particular community
and its specific population of German immigrants and has
obviously come to have its own historical value to community.
Community source of identity.

HISTORIAN
accept
11-9-78

seems to be of exceptional
significance on the local level + state
level for commemorative nature
of historical concern

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
accept
8.18.78
Brasham

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

This commemorative monument was
erected in 1866 and has taken on a
historical significance in its own right -
(also reflects artistic treatment of monuments at
this time).

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF
Accept
Belovich
11/28/78

BRANCH CHIEF
EXCEPTION TO CRITERIA

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-6-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 29 1978
INT:2106-74



Trene
der
Union

DEC 1 1977

Treue der Union Monument
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas

JUN 5 1978

Al Scott, February 1978
Negative in personal file

NOV 29 1978

East facade showing the front
panel with the carved monument
title, "Treue der Union."

Gefallen am 10. October am Rio Grande

J. Elsner	V. Hohmann
E. Felsing	M. Weisz
H. Herrmann	F. Weisz
Peter Bonnet	

DEC 1 1977


Treue der Union Monument
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas
400 block of High St.

Al Scott, February 1978
Negative in personal file

South facade listing those killed at the Rio
Grande

JUN 5 1978

NOV 29 1978



Gefallen am 10 August 1837 am Nueces

L. Bauer	J. G. Kalenberg
F. Behrens	H. Markwart
E. Bessler	C. Schäfer
L. Börner	L. Schierholz
A. Bruns	H. Slevs
H. Degener	W. Telgmann
H. Degener	M. Weirich
P. Diaz	H. Weyershausen
F. Vater	A. Vater
A. Schreiner	—

DEC 1 1977

Treue der Union Monument
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas

JUN 5 1978

Al Scott, February 1978
Negative in personal file

NOV 29 1978

West facade showing the panel
including the names of the men
who died at the Battle of Nueces.

Gefangen genommen und ermordet

W. Börner	A. Luckenbach
T. Brückish	L. Köbsamen
B. Bock	A. Röbsamen
H. Flüg	H. Siefert
V. Tays	



DEC 1 1977

Treue der Union Monument
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas
400 block of High St.

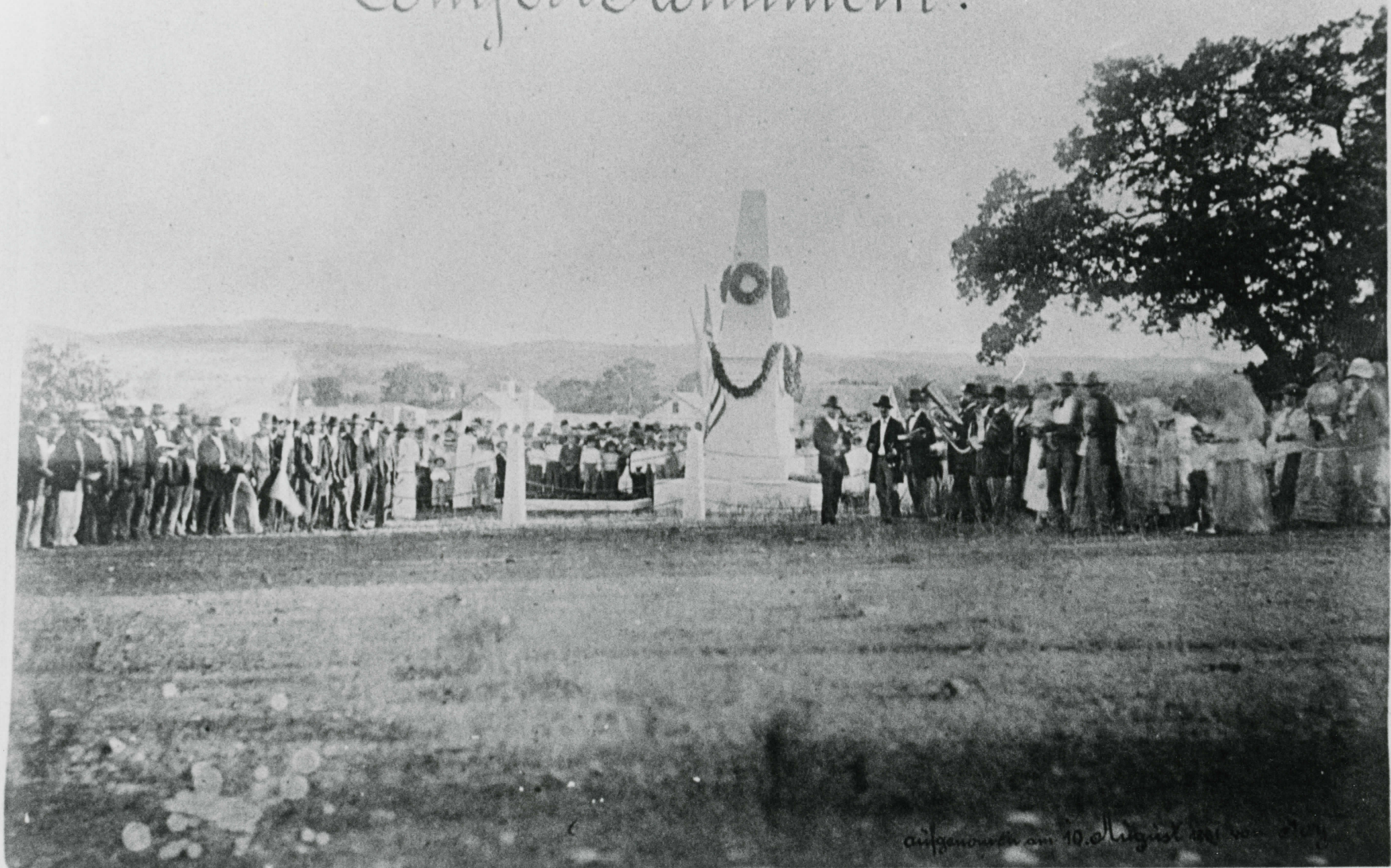
Al Scott, February 1978
Negative in personal file

North facade listing those caught and murdered

JUN 5 1978

NOV 29 1978

Comfort Monument.



aufgenommen am 10. August 1881

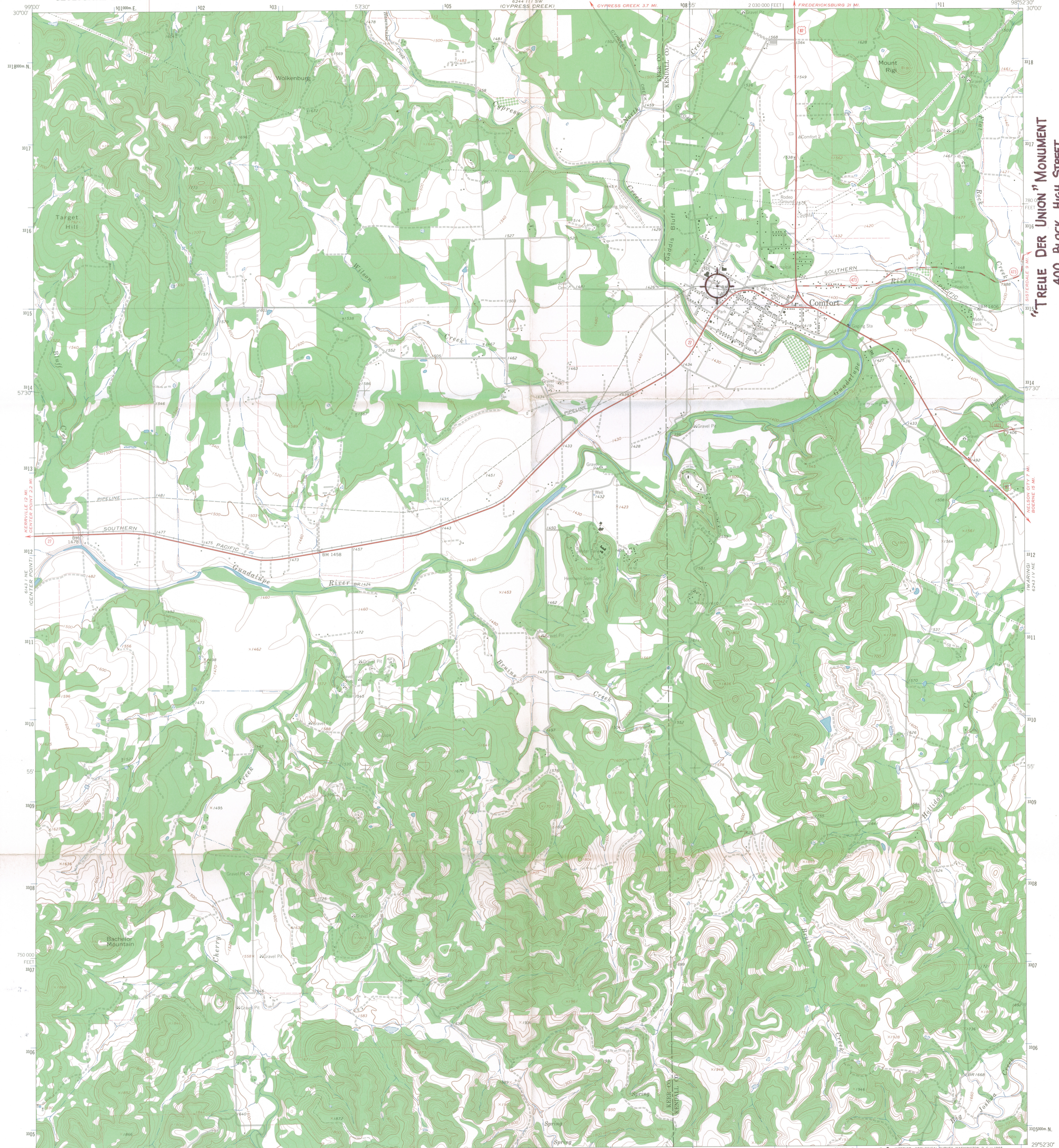
Treue der Union Monument
Comfort, Kendall County, Texas
400 block of High St.

Photographer unknown 1881

Copy negative filed at the Texas Historical
Commission

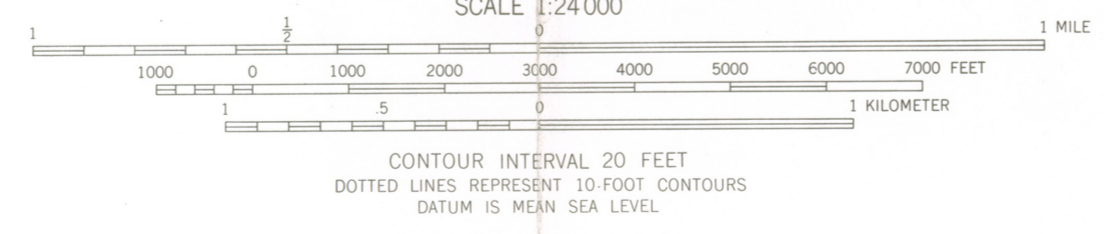
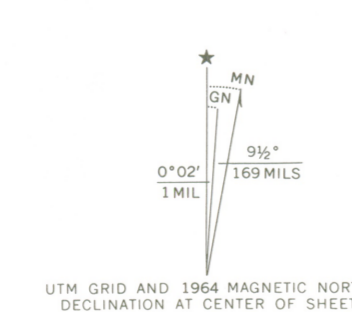
NOV 29 1978

JUN 5 1978



ATRELE DER UNION 71 MONUMENT
400 BLOCK, HIGH STREET
COMFORT, KENDALL COUNTY TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/508340/3151235

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1964
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
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Route	State Route

COMFORT, TEX.
N2952.5 - W9852.5/7.5
1964
AMS 6243 IV NW - SERIES V882

RECEIVED
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NATIONAL REGISTER

2998 = 888

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

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered NOV 29 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Navarro, Jose Antonio, Elementary School	San Antonio Bexar County
Treue der Union Monument	Comfort Kendall County
Strain, W. A., House	Lancaster Dallas County
Wichita Falls Route Building	Wichita Falls Wichita County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen
Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
Honorable Robert C. Krueger
Honorable Olin E. Teague
Honorable Jack E. Hightower

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

TEXAS HISTORICAL

COMMISSION

TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 12276
AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

RECEIVED

JUL 12 1979

NATIONAL
REGISTER

July 6, 1979

Dear Mr. Herrington:

At its meeting June 9, the Texas State Board of Review approved 26 sites and districts on the National Register for review by your office as possible National Historic Landmarks. We understand that this action is appropriate, since the mechanism for nominating National Historic Landmarks has changed. Therefore, we would appreciate your directing the staff to mark the level of significance of these National Register forms as being at the National level and routing them through the National Historic Landmark division for review and possible upgrading. The sites and districts are:

- nothing* Bexar County - San Fernando Cathedral
- Briscoe County - Lake Theo Folsom Site
- Cherokee County - George C. Davis Site (41CE19) (A proposed addition *in review* to the Davis Site was submitted June 27, 1979)
- El Paso County - Hueco Tanks (41EP2)
 - Presidio Chapel of San Elizario
 - Mission Socorro
 - Ysleta Mission
- nothing in letter*
nothing in letter
 Fisher County - Steadman Site (41FS2)
- Galveston County - "Old Red" (Ashbel Smith Building)
 - George Sealy House
- Hutchinson County - Adobe Walls
- Karnes County - Panna Maria Historic District
- Kendall County - Treue der Union Monument
- Marion County - Jefferson Historic District
- Menard County - Fort McKavett
- Nacogdoches County - Oil Springs Oil Field Discovery Well
- Panola County - International Boundary Marker
- Pecos County - Canon Ranch Railroad Windmill
- Red River County - Kiomatia Mounds Archeological District
- Starr County - Roma Historic District
- Terrell County Meyers Springs Pictograph Site (41TE9)
- Travis County French Legation
- Val Verde County Mile Canyon Archeological District
 - Seminole Canyon Archeological District
 - West of Pecos Railroad Camps District
- Victoria County - Fort St. Louis Site (41VT4)

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Mr. Charles Herrington
Page Two
July 6, 1979



Additional information is enclosed for the George Sealy House. This material recently became available upon the departure of the owner-occupant. Landmark status would be especially valuable for the preservation of this house, since it has been given to the University of Texas and its future use is uncertain. Therefore, we are sending the photographs and report immediately and hope that you might be able to review it first.

The decision on the aforementioned Register properties was made after lengthy discussion and study by SHPO staff members, the Board of Review, and the State Archeologist. We believe them to be of national importance, as evidenced by the statements of significance already on file. If more information is needed, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Truett Latimer".

Truett Latimer
State Historic Preservation Officer

TL/cm

Enclosures

Mr. Charles Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
Pension Building
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Treue der Union Monument
 ② OTHER NAMES: Battlefield Monument; Civil War Monument; Union Monument; Nueces/ Battlefield Monument date of entry: NOV 29 1978
 ④ county code: 259

⑤ LOCATION street & number: High St. city / town: Comfort vicinity of: TX state: Kendall county: SW
 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: 21st 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: 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 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 EXPLORATION-12 CONSERVATION-8 ECONOMICS-9 EDUCATION-10 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) _____
 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