Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

SURVEY RECORDS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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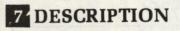
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EXCELLENT

X\_GOOD

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#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

#### **CHECK ONE**

\_UNALTERED

### CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE

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

Completed in 1911, the Galvez Hotel is a six-story stuccoed brick building exhibiting characteristics of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. The structure's red tiled, low pitch roof, plastered walls, and mission parapets are associated with this style. The hotel was erected on Seawall Boulevard and faces south toward the Gulf of Mexico. The St. Louis architectural firm of Mauran and Russell designed the structure and employed a "U" floor plan.

Two five-story wings project to the sea and create a courtyard which has been landscaped with palms and oleanders. These wings display low pitch, red tile roofs with broad eaves and supportive brackets. Both the south and north facades present mission parapeted wall dormers which divide each roof into two sections. Also demonstrating mission parapets, the west elevation entrances are connected by a series of round arched windows and reflect the Spanish Colonial Revival influences on Mauran and Russell's design. A small one-story circular bay section protrudes from the west wing and contains a spacious ballroom. An identical bay extends from the east wing and houses the restaurant and kitchen.

The main section connects the hotel's two projecting wings and contains the majority of the rooms. The central bay rises eight stories and is capped with a hipped roof. Four hexagonal towers with metal ribbed vaults extend from each corner and reveal the broad eaves and elaborate brackets. The top windows are framed with pilasters and are crowned with round arches. Six-story wings flank either side of the central bay and feature gable roofs terminated by the familiar mission parapets. A small four sided tower with a hipped roof protrudes near the southeast corner of the main section.

Originally facing north (away from the Gulf), the main entrance features a porte cochere. The hotel's name and its adopted emblem, Count Galvez' coat of arms, highlight the mission parapet of the porte cochere, and allowed a grand entrance for the many prestigous guests who stayed at the Galvez. The first floor was comprised not only of the ballroom and restaurant, as previously mentioned, but also of offices, service rooms, a large lobby and a loggia overlooking the Gulf. Two elevators provided easy transportation to and from the lobby and the 275 rooms.

The only alterations include the replacement of the original windows with modern fixed glass openings, probably in the early 1970's. Intitially, the walls were pink, but have since been painted white. In 1950, a small, one-story motel was attached to the east facade, but the current owner, in his rehabilitation plans for the Galvez, intends to raze this addition to provide more parking space for the hotel.

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Galvez Hotel stands as the oldest large beach hotel in Galveston. Designed by the St. Louis architectural firm of Mauran and Russell, the impressive six-story structure displays features characteristic of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and represents one of the few examples of this style in Galveston. Facing the Gulf of Mexico, the Galvez was constructed in 1910-1911 on the 2000 block of Galveston's famous Seawall Boulevard.

During the late nineteenth century, Galveston was among the southwest's most important cities. Besides its prominence as the leading port and commercial center for Texas at that time, Galveston was regrarded as one of the nation's most celebrated resort communities. Thousands of tourists visited the city each year to take advantage of Galveston's beaches. The Beach Hotel, a massive four-story frame structure designed by Nicholas Clayton, served as the city's only large beach hotel. In 1898, a fire destroyed the building, and Galveston was left without a major tourist facility.

Plans to replace the structure with another hotel were shortlived because of the infamous 1900 Galveston hurricane. Approximately six thousand lives were lost in the storm, and the city's once flourishing economy was devasted. Because of the severity of damage, recovery was slow; however, the citizens were determined.

During the mid 1900's the entire city's grade was raised several feet, and a protective seawall was constructed to provide protection from future hurricanes. As the local economy was revived, efforts to construct a beach hotel became a priority. In early 1910, a group of prominent Galveston businessmen proposed that a new hotel facility be constructed to capitalize on the city's once popular beaches and help re-establish Galveston as a major tourist center. The project instigators included H. Kempner, Adoue and Lobit - Bankers, Hutchings and Sealy Bank, the Galveston Electric Company, and they conducted an intense advertising campaign to let the country realize that the city was effectively recovering from the storm. A St. Louis architectural firm, Mauran and Russell, was commissioned to design the new hotel. The construction

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hartman, Betty, unpublished monograph, 1979 filed at Texas Historical Comm. Hotel Monthly, March 1912.

National Register submission, prepared Galveston Historical Foundation, Betty Hartman, researcher; filed at Texas Historical Commission.

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS US	EONLY		
RECEIVED	MAR 6	1979	
DATE ENTER	ED	APR	4 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

1

of the Houston-Galveston Interurban Railroad and the high number of reservtions created such a demand that the hotel opened on June 11, 1911 before all construction was completed.

The building was named the Galvez, honoring Count Bernado de Galvez for whom the city was named. Offering 275 rooms, the hotel was equipped with the most modern facilities and was regarded as one of the "best arranged and most richly and tastefully furnished seaside hotels in America." Most of the staff was recruited from hotels all over the country, and its reputation was highly regarded. Many of America's most prominent individuals were guests at the hotel. President Franklin Roosevelt selected the Galvez during a vacation to Texas in 1937. Numerous well-known politicians, military men, movie stars and entertainers stayed at the hotel while in Galveston. Since its completion, the building has also been the scene for numerous important social events. The spacious ball-room with its separate entrance on the west facade often served as the location of parties and celebrations.

Despite the attempts of its citizens, Galveston never achieved the prosperity it had achieved prior to the 1900 hurricane. The Galvez continued to be an important enterprise, particularly during the late 1940's and early 1950's when gambling was popular in Galveston. However, when the gambling industry was shut-down in the mid 1950, the local ecomony became extremely depressed and the Galvez' prestige reflected the town's hardships.

In 1978, the hotel was closed when the current owners purchased the structure. Realizing its significance to Galveston's post 1900 development, the owners plan to rehabilitate the hotel preserving the building's historical integrity and helping the Galvez recapture its popularity as a fashionable seaside resort.

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United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service



APR 4 1979

Galvez Hotel 2024 Seawall Blvd. Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Galveston Historical Foundation, 1978 South elevation Photo #1



Galvez Hotel APR 4 1979 2024 Seawall Blvd. Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

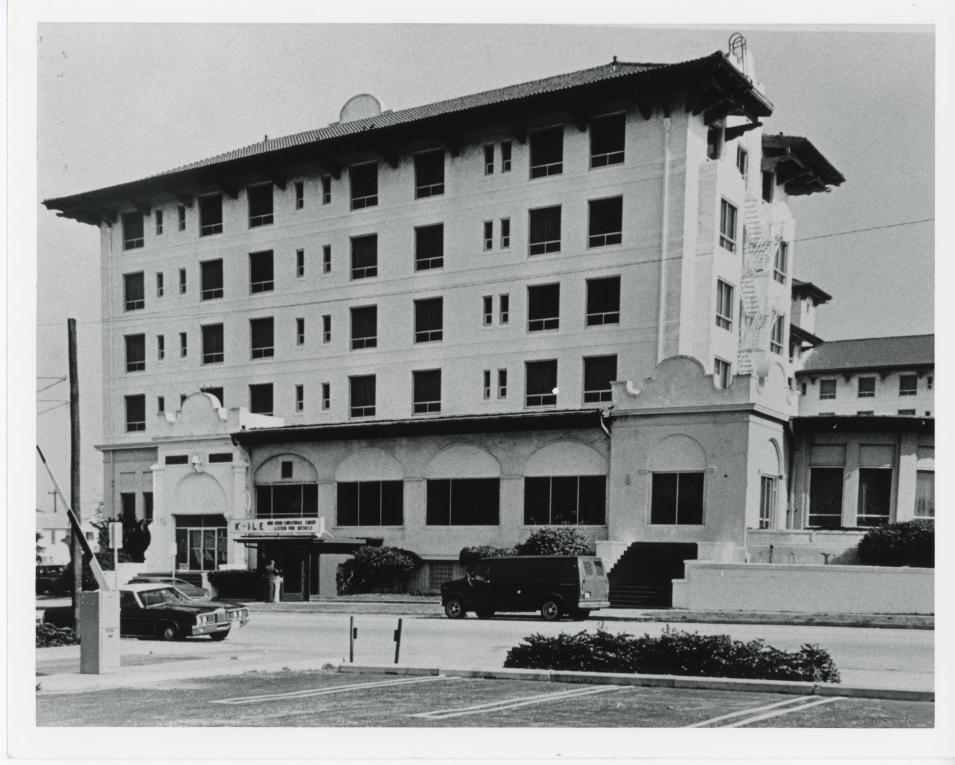
Photo courtesy of Galveston Historical Foundation, 1978 Eastern half of north elevation Photo #2



### APR 4 1979

Galvez Hotel 2024 Seawall Blvd. Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Galveston Historical Foundation, 1978 Western end of north elevation Photo #3



## APR 4 1979

Galvez Hotel 2024 Seawall Blvd. Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Galveston Historical Foundation, 1978 West elevation (21st St. entrance) Photo #4

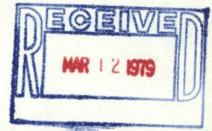


acknowledgment sent 3-15-79 SL

Suan

Denton A. Cooley, M. D.
Texas Heart Institute
In The Texas Medical Center
Houston, Texas 77025

March 7, 1979



Dr. William Murtagh Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Galvez Hotel

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As representative of the owners of the Galvez Hotel in Galveston, Texas, I hereby waive the right of notification in order that the review of this nomination may proceed as quickly as possible. The owner group understands the substance and implications of the Tax Reform Act of 1976. Thanking you in advance for your consideration, I am

Yours truly,

Denton A. Cooley, M.D.

DAC: jm

.bcc: Ms. Betty Hartman Denton A. Cooley, M. D. Texas Heart Institute In The Texas Medical Center Houston, Texas 77025 March 7, 1979 Dr. William Murtagh Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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DAC: jm

# Galveston Historical Foundation, Inc.

Organized in 1871 • Chartered and Incorporated in 1954
P.O. BOX 302 • GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553
Ph. (713) 765-7834

March 9, 1979

Mr. Bill Lebovich Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a copy of the waiver letter which the owner of the Galvez Hotel, Dr. Denton Cooley, sent on March 7, 1979 to Dr. Murtaugh. As soon as I receive a copy of the National Register nomination from the staff of the Texas Historical Commission, I will forward that to you also.

We appreciate very much your expediting the approval of the nomination of this important landmark structure.

Best regards,

Yours truly,

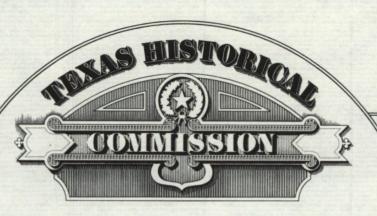
Peter H. Brink
Executive Director

PHB/aem Enclosure

cc. Mr. Costa Kaldis

Truett Latimer, Texas Historical Commission

THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED
	INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT
	TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)



TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

March 9, 1979

Ms. Betty Hartman
Galveston Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 302
Galveston, Texas 77553

Dear Betty,

Enclosed is a copy of the National Register nomination for the Galvez Hotel. I appreciate you gathering information for me. We will let you know when the Galvez is listed on the National Register.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

David Moore

# · UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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Texas	CODE 048	Galveston	CODE 167
CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
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_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
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DESCRIPTION

EXCELLENT

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\_FAIR

CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_UNEXPOSED

\_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE
MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Completed in 1911, the Galvez Hotel is a six-story stuccoed brick building exhibiting characteristics of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. The structure's red tiled, low pitch roof, plastered walls, and mission parapets are associated with this style. The hotel was erected on Seawall Boulevard and faces south toward the Gulf of Mexico. The St. Louis architectural firm of Mauran and Russell designed the structure and employed a "U" floor plan.

Two five-story wings project to the sea and create a courtyard which has been landscaped with palms and oleanders. These wings display low pitch, red tile roofs with broad eaves and supportive brackets..., Both the south and north facades present mission parapeted wall dormers which divide each roof into two sections. Also demonstrating mission parapets, the west elevation entrances are connected by a series of round arched windows and reflect the Spanish Colonial Revival influences on Mauran and Russell's design. A small one-story circular bay section protrudes from the west wing and contains a spacious ballroom. An identical bay extends from the east wing and houses the restaurant and kitchen.

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1 SIGNIFICANCE

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—PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799 —1800-1899 —1900-	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _AGRICULTURE &ARCHITECTURE _ART X_COMMERCE _COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNINGCONSERVATIONECONOMICSEDUCATIONENGINEERINGEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENTINDUSTRYINVENTION	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE _LAW _LITERATURE _MILITARY _MUSIC _PHILOSOPHY _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

1910-1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Mauran and Russell

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Galvez Hotel stands as the oldest large beach hotel in Galveston. Designed by the St. Louis architectural firm of Mauran and Russell, the impressive six-story structure displays features characteristic of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and represents one of the few examples of this style in Galveston. Facing the Gulf of Mexico, the Galvez was constructed in 1910-1911 on the 2000 block of Galveston's famous Seawall Boulevard.

During the late nineteenth century, Galveston was among the southwest's most important cities. Besides its prominence as the leading port and commercial center for Texas at that time, Galveston was regrarded as one of the nation's most celebrated resort communities. Thousands of tourists visited the city each year to take advantage of Galveston's beaches. The Beach Hotel, a massive four-story frame structure designed by Nicholas Clayton, served as the city's only large beach hotel. In 1898, a fire destroyed the building, and Galveston was left without a major tourist facility.

plans to replace the structure with another hotel were shortlived because of the infamous 1900 Galveston hurricane. Approximately six thousand lives were lost in the storm, and the city's once flourishing economy was devasted. Because of the severity of damage, recovery was slow; however, the citizens were determined.

During the mid 1900's the entire city's grade was raised several feet, and a protective seawall was constructed to provide protection from future hurricanes. As the local economy was revived, efforts to construct a beach hotel became a priority. In early 1910, a group of prominent Galveston businessmen proposed that a new hotel facility be constructed to capitalize on the city's once popular beaches and help re-establish Galveston as a major tourist center. The project instigators included H. Kempner, Adoue and Lobit - Bankers, Hutchings and Sealy Bank, the Galveston Electric Company, and they conducted an intense advertising campaign to let the country realize that the city was effectively recovering from the storm. A St. Louis architectural firm, Mauran and Russell, was commissioned to design the new hotel. The construction

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

of the Houston-Galveston Interurban Railroad and the high number of reservtions created such a demand that the hotel opened on June 11, 1911 before all construction was completed.

The building was named the Galvez, honoring Count Bernado de Galvez for whom the city was named. Offering 275 rooms, the hotel was equipped with the most modern facilities and was regarded as one of the "best arranged and most richly and tastefully furnished seaside hotels in America." Most of the staff was recruited from hotels all over the country, and its reputation was highly regarded. Many of America's most prominent individuals were guests at the hotel. President Franklin Roosevelt selected the Galvez during a vacation to Texas in 1937. Numerous well-known politicians, military men, movie stars and entertainers stayed at the hotel while in Galveston. Since its completion, the building has also been the scene for numerous important social events. The spacious ball-room with its separate entrance on the west facade often served as the location of parties and celebrations.

Despite the attempts of its citizens, Galveston never achieved the prosperity it had achieved prior to the 1900 hurricane. The Galvez continued to be an important enterprise, particularly during the late 1940's and early 1950's when gambling was popular in Galveston. However, when the gambling industry was shut-down in the mid 1950, the local ecomony became extremely depressed and the Galvez' prestige reflected the town's hardships.

In 1978, the hotel was closed when the current owners purchased the structure. Realizing its significance to Galveston's post 1900 development, the owners plan to rehabilitate the hotel preserving the building's historical integrity and helping the Galvez recapture its popularity as a fashionable seaside resort.

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## Galveston Historical Foundation, Inc.

Organized in 1871 • Chartered and Incorporated in 1954
P.O. BOX 302 • GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553
Ph. (713) 765-7834

March 14, 1979

Mr. Bill Lebovich Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Dept. of Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a copy of the Register nomination for the Galvez Hotel (sent in a few weeks ago).

Please try to expedite.

Thank you.

Peter H. Brink Executive Director

PHB/aem Enclosures cc. Constantine Kaldis

Jour- please attach to file. Hotel should be listed by the time you get this.

DATE	NATION L REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE REC'D MAR 2 2 1979
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### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered APR 4 1979

Name

Location

Galvez Hotel

Cartwright, Matthew, House

Galveston County

Terrell Kaufman County

### Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower Honorable Jack Brooks Honorable Ray Roberts State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Commission P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

NR Byers/bjr

4/9/79