

PHO 674958

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 9 1979
DATE ENTERED JUN 14 1979

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 James L. Autry House & Grounds

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER #5 Courtlandt Place

CITY, TOWN

Houston

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 house - David W. Beck, Jr. & Nancy Beck / & tennis cts - Wm. H. greenhouse
Boylton & P. M. Schlumberger

STREET & NUMBER 5 Courtlandt Place

CITY, TOWN Houston, TX 77006

STATE 216 Avondale
Houston, TX 77006

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harris County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Houston

STATE TX

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE TX

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 James L. Autry House, built along Courtlandt Place in 1912, is one of 18 prominent residences facing an avenue which still retains the ambience of its early 20th Century origins. Established as an exclusive neighborhood in 1906, Courtlandt Place, a tree-lined, divided boulevard, has maintained its residential integrity despite surrounding commercialism in adjacent blocks. Six restrictive covenants, established in perpetuity and enforced by a Board of Trustees of owner-residents, form the basis for the neighborhood's continued survival.

Designed in 1912 by Sanguinet & Staats with Alfred Finn as associate, the James L. Autry House is a two-and-a-half story, wood frame Neo-Classical Revival House. The shape of the house is basically a square with a one-story, balustraded porte cochere to the east, balanced on the west by a small one-story, balustraded sun room.

Dominating the main facade is a double balustraded gallery across the entire front, supported on four massive two-story, fluted Doric columns. From the central bay a one-story, semi-circular Doric entrance porch projects, accentuating the entrance. This main facade retains a strict symmetry displaying a central door with sidelights and transom on both floors, flanked by wide single-pane sash windows on each side. The elevation is classically enframed by two-story fluted corner pilasters

A distinctive feature of the roofline is the wide eaves with coupled modillions spaced above the columns on the front and singly spaced at intervals on the rear. A hipped roof broken by gables, dormers and exterior brick chimneys at the east and west sides, crowns the structure.

Distinctive interior elements include the 15' x 37' entry hall and receiving room. Oak wainscoting, oak ceiling beams whose central beam is arched, original brass sconces, an oak staircase lighted by an ornate leaded and beveled glass arched window, all embellish the formal reception area. On the second floor at the top of the stairs is another receiving room, 18' x 27'. An original brass ceiling fan with tulip lights hangs from the center of the room.

To the south (rear) of the house is a garage with room for three cars, a work room, storage room and chauffeur quarters on the first floor and a two-bedroom apartment on the second floor.

To the east of the house is a large lot containing tennis courts and a long rectangular greenhouse with an onion-shaped roof.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY (oil)	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Sanguinet & Staats with Alfred Finn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James L. Autry House, designed by Sanguinet & Staats with Alfred Finn in 1912, is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical Revival architecture and reflects the elegance and architectural quality common along Courtlandt Place, one of Houston's earliest and most exclusive subdivisions. James L. Autry was a significant figure in the early days of the Texas oil industry and his house on Courtlandt Place represents a period of personal professional and financial success.

The architectural firm of Sanguinet & Staats originated in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. They designed a number of significant buildings in this area, including the Wilson Building in Dallas, the first eight-story building in Texas. Alfred C. Finn had joined the firm in Dallas in 1904 and in 1912 was hired as the associate on this house in Houston. In 1913 Finn joined A. E. Barnes in Houston to handle the firm's Houston business, but by 1915 Finn left the firm and went into practice for himself. After this time Finn designed some very important works in Texas among them the Governor Ross S. Sterling House (1915), the San Jacinto Monument & Museum (1939), Gulf Building (1929), Metropolitan Theater (1926), Sam Houston Coliseum/Music Hall (1937) and the W. C. Hunt House (1920-21) on Courtlandt Place.

Born in Holly Springs, Mississippi on November 4, 1859, James L. Autry moved to Navarro County in 1876 to undertake management of a ranch. After studying under a Corsicana lawyer, he was admitted to the bar in 1880. In partnership with W. J. McKie, Autry served as counsel to J. S. Cullinan, the oil entrepreneur who moved to Corsicana with the oil boom in the 1890's. With the discovery of oil at Spindletop in 1902, Cullinan moved to Beaumont to form the Texas Fuel Co. and Autry followed in 1904 to become general counsel. In 1905 the company reorganized and expanded into the Texas Company (later known as Texaco) in which Autry was elected a director and became general attorney. Autry moved to Houston in 1908 when the corporate offices moved to take advantage of other oil fields down the Gulf Coast and within a few years Autry built his home on Courtlandt Place. In 1913 Autry, Cullinan and Will C. Hogg resigned from the Texas Co. and formed the Fidelity Trust Co., Farmer's Petroleum Co., American Petroleum Co., and Republic Production Co. Autry served as president of the Farmers Petroleum Co., president of Fidelity Trust Co., and vice-president and general counsel of the last two under the combined name of American Republic Co.

Autry suffered a stroke in 1915 and spent the last five years of his life a semi-invalid. He died on September 29, 1920. His wife, daughter Allie, and son James L. Autry, III remained in the house. The family sold it in 1938.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wray, Beth, compiler, "Guide to the Papers of James Lockhart Austry," Woodson Research Center, Rice University, Houston Texas, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Bellaire, TX

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 26,9 6,1,0 3,2 9,2 4,7,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Vol. 357, pg. 409, Harris Co. Deed Records
 house-Lot 24 and E 1/2 of Lot 23 and W 3/4 of Lot 25 (125' x 170')
 greens & tennis cts-E 1/2 of Lot 24 and W 3/4 of Lot 25 (100' x 170')

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 Marie D. Landon, Historian

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission

DATE December 19, 1978

STREET & NUMBER Box 12276, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE 512 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN Austin

STATE TX 78711

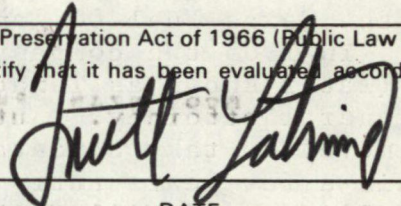
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

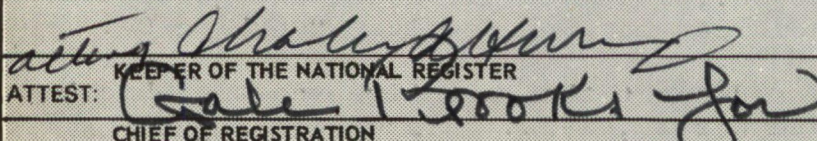


TITLE Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 30, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: 
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6.19.79

DATE 6/11/79

79 00 2953

Property Austry, James L., House

State Ill. (Harris) Working Number 4.9.79. 792

TECHNICAL

Photos 8
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 4.10.79

HISTORIAN

*accept
B. Francis
6-6-79*

Association with prominent oil, early TX. oil man, involved in initial creation of what was to become the Texaco Oil Co.. Also locally prominent architect - design on architectural significance.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Conjw/Accept
Calk/Books
6/11/79*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry _____

7-3-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUN 14 1979



JAMES L. AUTRY HOUSE (#5)

South facade (front)

April, 1976

James L. Autry House and Grounds
5 Courtlandt Place
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Woodallen of Houston, 1976
Northwest oblique of north (front) facade
Photo #1

APR 9 1979

JUN 14 1979

WOODALLEN

3505 LOUISIANA

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

PHONE 713 - 526-1747

No.

FR2 - 194



J. L. AUTRY HOUSE (#5)

North and West facades (looking
southeast)

Circa 1935

James L. Autry House
5 Courtlandt Place
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Woodallen of Houston, c. 1935
Northwest oblique
Photo #2

JUN 14 1979

APR 9 1979



James L. Autry House and Grounds
5 Courtlandt Place
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Beck, 1978
Northwest oblique
Photo #3

APR 9 1979

JUN 14 1979

→ Front and West side



James L. Autry House
5 Courtlandt Place
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Beck
Detail of east facade
Photo #4

APR 9 1979

JUN 14 1979

① East side



James L. Autry House
5 Courtlandt Place
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Beck, 1978
Southwest oblique of rear
Photo #5

APR 9 1979

JUN 14 1979

back east side



James L. Autry House
5 Courtlandt Place
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Beck, 1978
Southwest oblique of rear
Photo #6

APR 9 1979

JUN 14 1979

back

47



24

James L. Autry House
5 Courthandt Place
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Beck, 1978
North elevation of garage
Photo #7

APR 9 1979

JUN 14 1979

garage



JAMES L. AUTRY HOUSE (#5)

Greenhouse and tennis court east of
house. Standing near Courtlandt
Boulevard looking south.

April, 1976

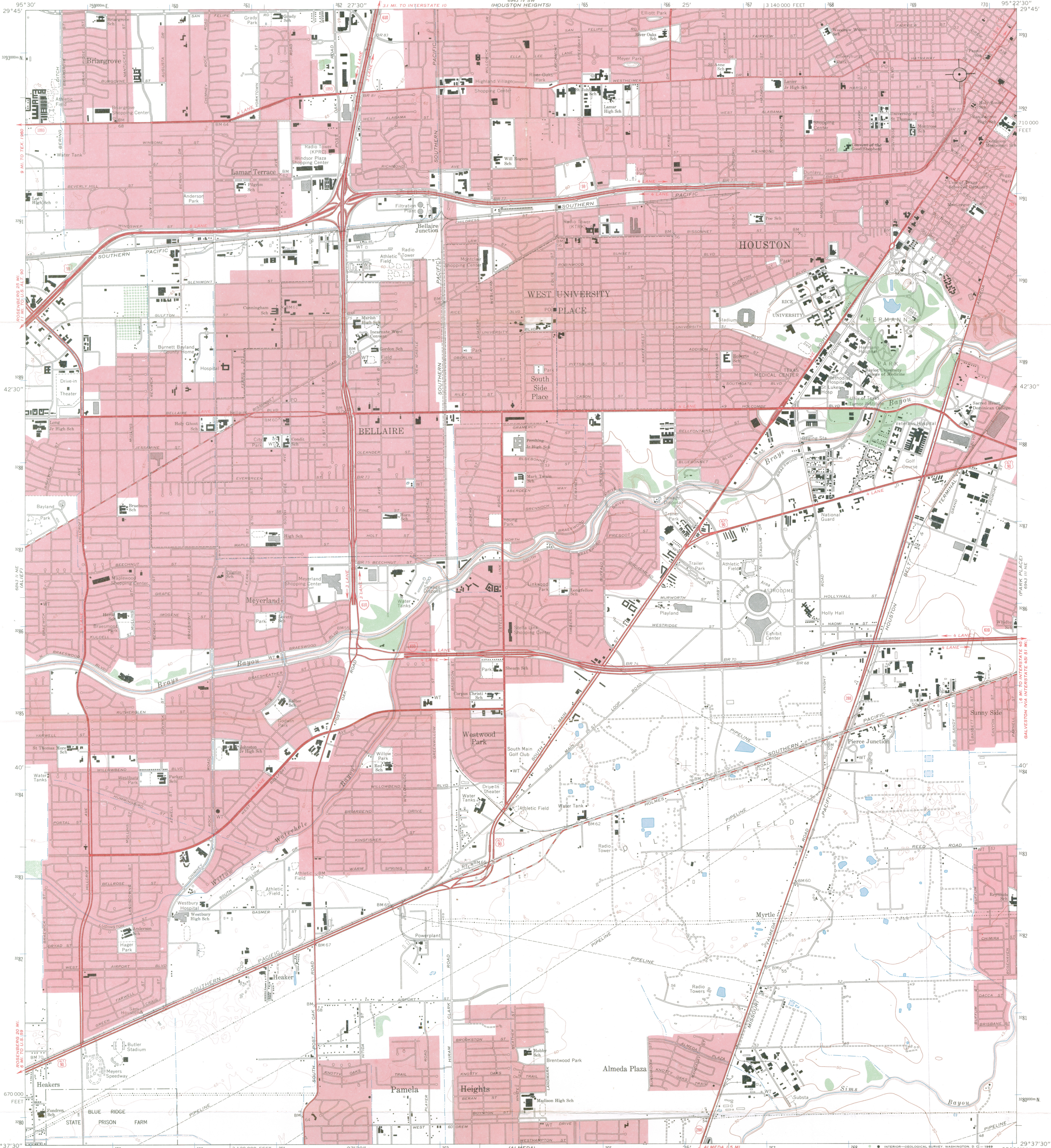
APR 9 1979

James L. Autry House and Grounds
5 Courtlandt Place
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Woodallen of Houston, 1976
Northwest oblique of greenhouse, tennis courts
to the east of the greenhouse.
Photo #8

JUN 14 1979

-38

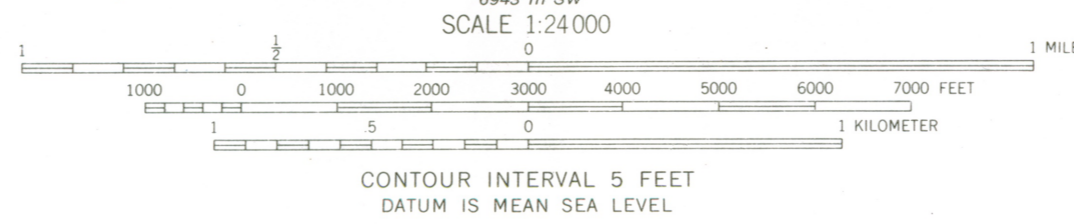


Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1966. Topography enlarged from 1:31 680-scale AMS map
of Bellaire quadrangle. Original map by planetable surveys 1943
Field checked 1967

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

UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



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

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

RECEIVED
APR 9 1979
NATIONAL REGISTER
JUN 14 1979

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
BELLAIRE, TEX.
N2937.5—W9522.5/7.5
1967
AMS 6943 III NW—SERIES V882

2995-423

yp
TEXAS CRUDE PRODUCTION CORPORATION

SUITE 203, 3220 LOUISIANA
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

Autrey, James L., House

4/24/79

(X)

April 27, 1979

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building
440 G. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20243

Att'n: NOM

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

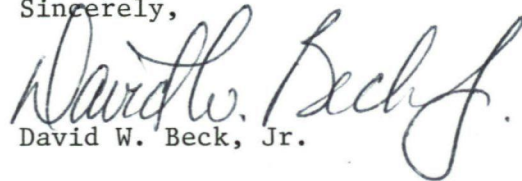
My wife and I would consider it a great honor to have our home listed on the National Register. We believe that the home truly meets all of your guidelines. Our property is as follows:

David W. Beck, Nancy Beck
5 Courtlandt Pl.
Houston, Texas 77006

Re: Autrey, James L, House

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,


David W. Beck, Jr.

DWB:cb

(713) 523-4163

LOUISIANA BUILDING • COURTLANDT SQUARE

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D MAY 03 1979

_____ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

_____ INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

_____ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

o/s of

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEXAS

STATE

Date Entered JUN 14 1979

Name

Location

First Presbyterian Church

Mineral Wells
Palo Pinto County

Parker, John W., House

Houston
Harris County

Myer, Sterling, House

Houston
Harris County

Autry, James L., House

Houston
Harris County

Neuhaus, C. L., House

Houston
Harris County

Cleveland, A. S., House

Houston
Harris County

Also Notified