

PH 0675440

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 16 1979
DATE ENTERED JUN 15 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 Christ Church Complex

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1117 Texas Avenue

CITY, TOWN Houston VICINITY OF 18
STATE Texas CODE 048 COUNTY Harris CODE 20/

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Christ Church, Rev. Warren E. Haynes, Dean

STREET & NUMBER 1117 Texas Avenue

CITY, TOWN Houston, VICINITY OF STATE Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harris County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Houston STATE Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites Inventory

DATE October 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY 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 Christ Church Cathedral consists of a group of interconnected buildings including the Church, Chapel, Guild Hall, Latham Memorial Building (and Diocesan Offices), and Cleveland Hall. Located on the western half of block 55 of the original townsite, the complex is dominated by the massive, late nineteenth century Gothic Revival church.

The church building was constructed in 1893 of dark, red brick reportedly salvaged from Christ Church's previous structure which had earlier occupied the site. The architects, Joseph Tempest and Silas McBee, employed a Gothic Revival cruciform plan with steep gable roofs terminated by crenelated battlements. The building's most common motif, the pointed arch, demonstrates the late Gothic Revival influence on Tempest and McBee's design. Recurring throughout the church, the pointed arch is incorporated within most of the building's openings and in much of the brick detailing. The west elevation, for example, is pierced with three large pointed arched windows. The outer openings are connected with a series of intricate pointed arch brick work and demonstrates the expert craftsmanship of the brick masons. This arcade serves as the base for the middle window which perforates the west facade at a higher level than the outer openings. A large four-sided bell tower rises from the northwest corner of the narthex and contains the main entrance. A five-sided turret extends from the northwest corner of the tower and exhibits lancet brick detailing and a crowning crenelated parapet. A large Latin cross extends from the turret.

Although a fire destroyed much of the east wing and chancel, the church's interior remains virtually unaltered since its completion. The nave presents a beamed and strutted ceiling of Tudor arches and is illuminated by stained glass windows. After the disastrous fire in 1938, William Ward Watkin was selected as the architect to remodel the damaged portion. Watkin's design attempted to complement the original detailing, and he installed the ornate rood screen and a new altar.

Watkin's work is not limited to the rebuilt section of the church. He also designed the Golding Chapel, located in a separate, but connected, building between the church and guild hall. This chapel displays undecorated and plastered walls. The chapel has considerable height (31 feet) in proportion to its relatively small width (22 feet).

Guild Hall, the only other nineteenth century building in the complex, predates the church by one year and was designed by Tempest and McBee. Displaying steep gabled roofs and crenelated battlements similar to the church, this structure lacks the ornate brickwork of the church, but nevertheless, displays a high quality of craftsmanship. The interior has been severely altered and few of the original details remain.

The Layham Memorial Building (1951) and Cleveland Hall (1962) serve as administrative and educational facilities. Both structures are brick and are compatible to the architectural composition of the complex.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph Arthur Tempest
Silas McBee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the oldest church buildings still standing in downtown Houston, Christ Church, provides a rare illustration of late nineteenth century Gothic Revival architecture in Houston's central business district. The ornate detailing and sophisticated craftsmanship distinguish the structure as an important architectural landmark in the city.

Established in 1839, the Christ Episcopal Church reportedly is the oldest organized congregation in Houston. The church purchased land at the northeast corner of Texas and Fannin in 1843 and in two years, erected a small brick building. As Houston continued to grow, the congregation of Christ Church also increased, and the need for a larger church building became paramount. In 1859 a new brick building was constructed which served until 1892. During that year, the east wall collapsed because of structural defects, and the church decided to demolish the building and construct a new facility. On Good Friday, 1893, the cornerstone was laid for a new structure which incorporated the salvaged bricks from the old building. By Christmas Day of 1893, the church was completed and services were held for the first time in the building.

Joseph Arthur Tempest and Silas McBee designed the church utilizing a late Gothic Revival style. Tempest and McBee's plan expanded upon an earlier collaboration, the adjacent Guild Hall, which was constructed in 1892, and called for highly skilled masonry work. Tempest was a practicing architect who joined the church after moving from Toronto, Canada in 1891. McBee, the principal designer for the building, was an Episcopal layman from Sewanee, Tennessee with strong religious convictions. He concerned himself with all facets of his religion, ranging from Christian philosophy to architecture. Gothic Revival, McBee believed, most adequately expressed the composition, tone, and proportions for religious architecture, and he incorporated this style into the design for Christ Church.

Since its completion, Christ Church has remained as one of the few nineteenth century, non-commercial structures within an area becoming increasingly dominated by imposing, high-rise buildings. The church has continued to prosper throughout the years despite the relocation of other similar downtown churches to the suburbs. Many of Houston's most prominent citizens have belonged to the church and have played a vital role in the church's continued success.

Other than the 1938 fire which destroyed much of the east wing, the building has remained virtually unaltered since its completion. The property being nominated to the National Register includes the church, Guild Hall (1892), Golding Chapel (1938), the Latham Building (1951), and Cleveland Hall (1962). All of these structures are interconnected and are vital elements of the church and its functions.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnstone, Marguerite, A Happy Worldly Abode, Cathedral Press: Houston, Texas, 1964.

National Register Submission prepared by Marie Rippe, filed at Texas Historical Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre Quad name: Settegast Scale: 1:24000
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	2 7 1 7 4 0	3 2 9 4 3 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded by Fannin St. on the north, Texas Ave. on the west, and San Jacinto St. on the south. The rear boundary follows the rear walls of the Cathedral, Golding Chapel, the Children's Chapel, the Guild Hall, and Cleveland Hall. Cleveland Hall's north wall forms the final boundary. The Christ Church complex occupies the western portion of Block 55, and includes all of lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, and 12, and part of lots 9 and 10.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joe Williams, Project Director; David Moore, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Texas Historical Commission

DATE

February 1, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 12276

TELEPHONE

(512) 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN

Houston

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

Joe Williams
 DATE February 14, 1979

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/15/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/15/79

79002957

Property Christ Church Complex

State Ill (Harris)

Working Number 4.16.79.833

TECHNICAL

Photos 5
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
4.16.79

Church Complex's history as oldest + most prestigious Episcopal Parish, well documented. ~~Complex as separate job together~~ Has continued as active parish despite increasing growth of business district surrounding it.

HISTORIAN

accept
B. Francker
6/14/79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Ornate detailing and sophisticated craftsmanship distinguish the late 19th century Gothic Revival church building and provide that building with important local architectural significance. Except for the Diocesan Offices, the other buildings in the church complex appear to have similar architectural

Accept
Call Books
6/15/79

characteristics to the church. They form a cohesive grouping with the church as the dominant element. The complex provides significant architectural contrast to the 20th century modernism surrounding it.

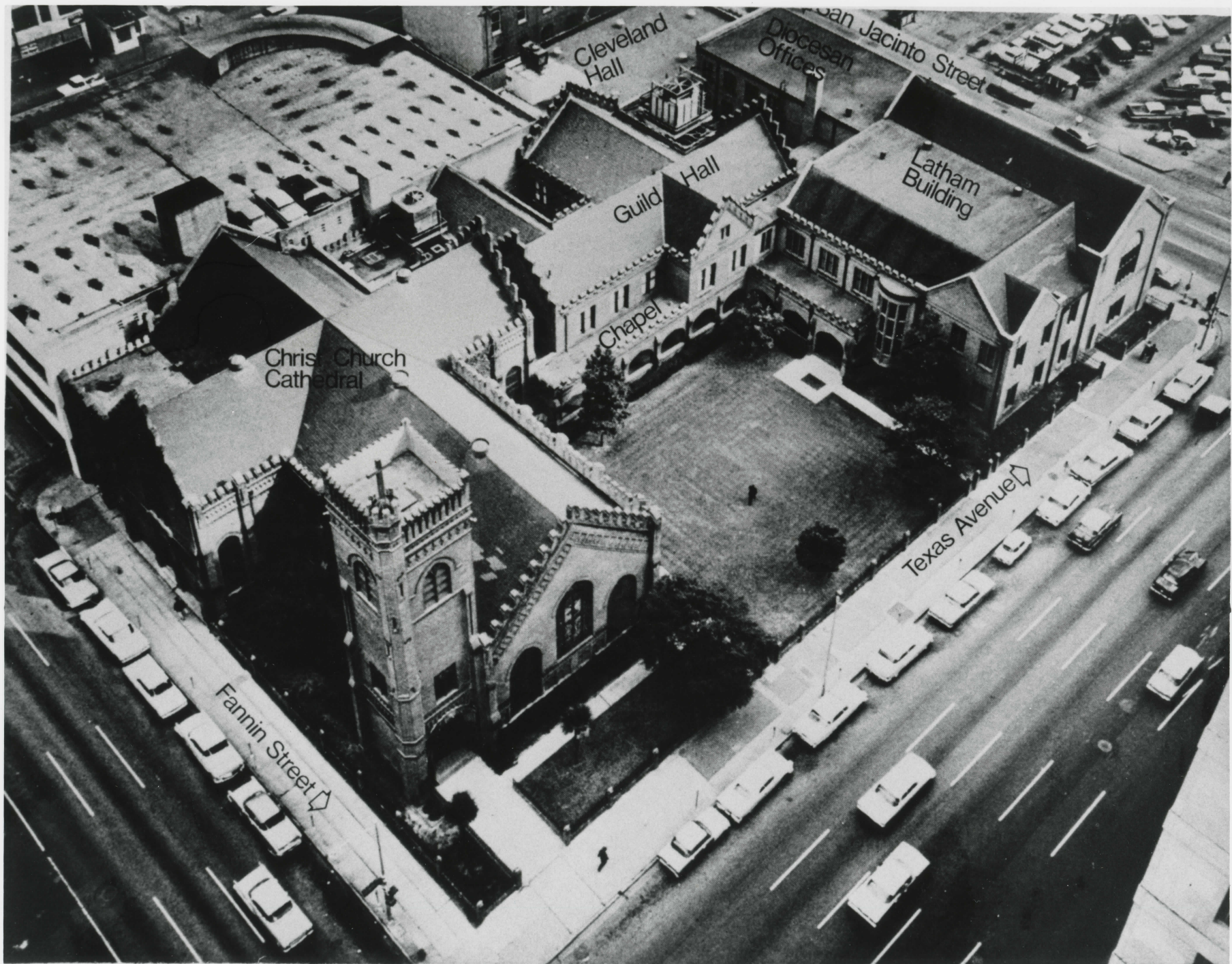
BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 7-3-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUN 15 1979



Cleveland Hall

Diocesan Offices

San Jacinto Street

Guild Hall

Latham Building

Chapel

Christ Church Cathedral

Texas Avenue

Fannin Street

Christ Church ~~Complex~~
1117 Texas Avenue
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Woodallen of Houston and courtesy of
Christ Church Cathedral. date unknown.
Aerial view from northwest

Photo #1

APR 16 1979

JUN 15 1979



Christ Church ~~Complex~~
1117 Texas Avenue
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Woodallen of Houston and courtesy
of Christ Church Cathedral, 1957
West facade

Photo #2

APR 16 1979

JUN 15 1979



Christ Church ~~Complex~~
1117 Texas Avenue
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, 1978
Southwest oblique of Latham Building
Photo #3

APR 16 1979

JUN 15 1979



Christ Church ~~Complex~~
1117 Texas Avenue
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, 1978
West facade

Photo #4

APR 16 1979

JUN 15 1979

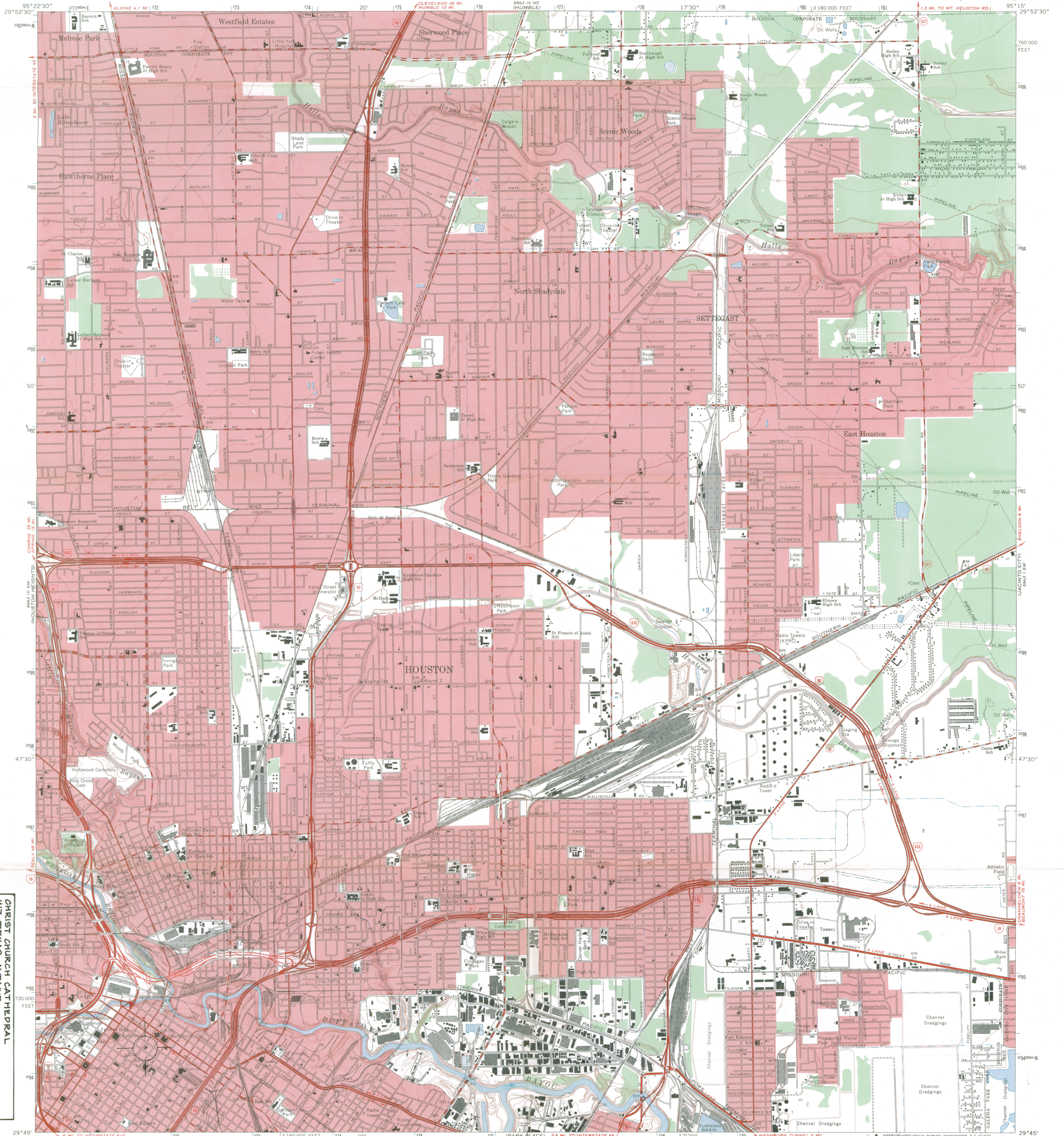


Christ Church ~~Complex~~
1117 Texas Avenue
Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Woodallen of Houston,
and courtesy of Christ Church
Interior of Cathedral, 1970
Photo #5

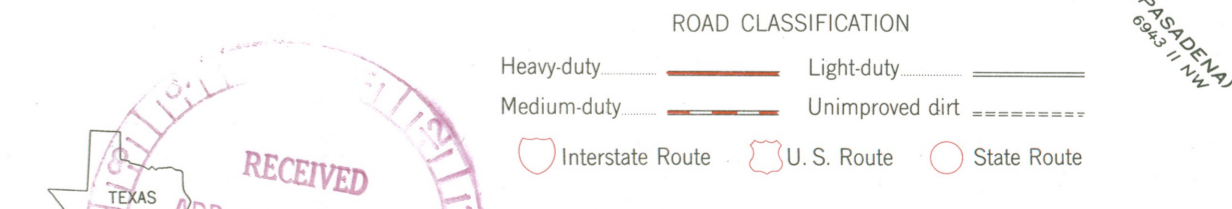
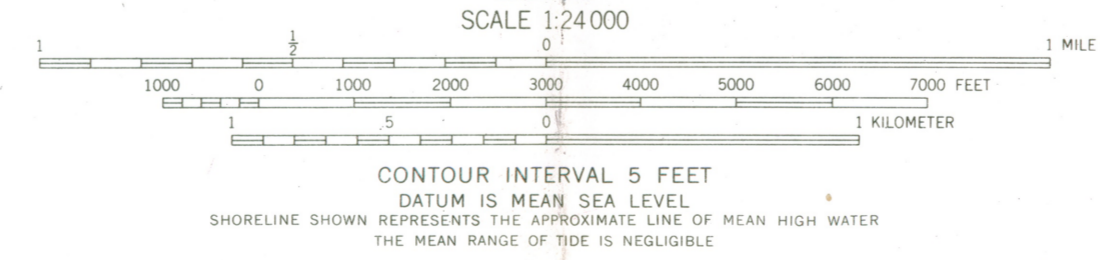
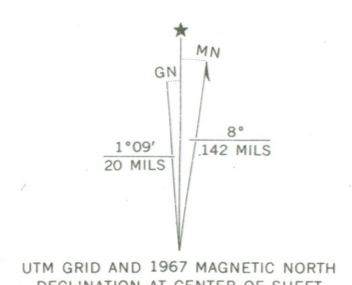
APR 16 1979

JUN 15 1979

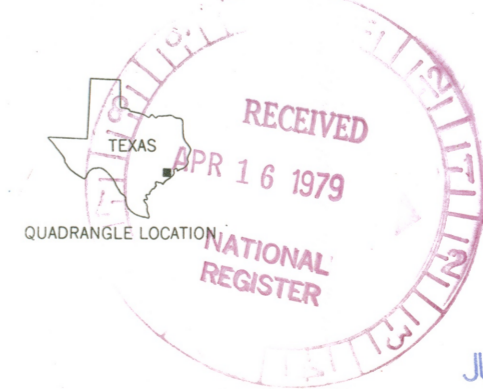


CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
1117 TEXAS AVENUE
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
LTM REFERENCE: 15/271749/3294300

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



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



SETTEGAST, TEX.
N2945—W9515/7.5

1967
AMS 6943 IV SE—SERIES Y882

JUN 15 1979

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEXAS

STATE

Date Entered JUN 15 1979

Name

Location

Christ Church

Houston
Harris County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Mickey Leland

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 6/19/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.