

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAY 24 1979**
DATE ENTERED **JUL 27 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
Kennedy Bakery
AND/OR COMMON
La Carafe

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
813 Congress St.
CITY, TOWN
Houston
STATE
Texas
VICINITY OF
CODE
048
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
18
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
William V. Berry
STREET & NUMBER
813 Congress
CITY, TOWN
Houston, VICINITY OF
STATE
Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harris County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
301 San Jacinto
CITY, TOWN
Houston
STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Inventory
DATE
1978
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Texas Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN
Austin
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Considered to be the oldest Houston building existing on its original site, the Kennedy Bakery Building stands today at 813 Congress, across from Market Square, which is Houston's original commercial district. Built in the 1860's, the structure represents a style of commercial architecture that became prevalent in Texas as well as the United States during the latter half of the 19th century.

Today this narrow, two-story brick building, located on a mid-block lot, is bounded on the west by a modern commercial structure which butts against the west wall of the bakery, and on the east by a five foot wide alley that separates it from its modern, three-story neighbor. The main facade is of load-bearing brick, laid in running bond with every sixth course a header course. This facade is approximately twelve inches thick, fifteen feet wide, and features bricked corbels at the parapet level. The single door entrance is framed with wooden pilasters and a bracket-supported architrave. The door is a four pane wooden unit, eight feet in height, topped with a transom. The first floor window is a twenty-four light, stationary sash unit of wooden construction. A soldier course lintel spans the facade directly above the door and window. The second floor window openings are larger than the first floor opening and are further distinguished by segmental arches of soldier coursed bricks. The lower portion of the openings are filled with unadorned panels and double-sashed nine-over-nine windows. The corbel consists of rows of horizontal delineations supported by regularly spaced vertical elements. This parapet area is a false front supported on either end by sloping buttresses. The flat roof slopes slightly to the alley side for drainage. The remaining facades are unadorned plaster-covered brick.

The alley is shielded with a single-story brick wall which is pierced by a single door, segmental arched opening. This alley leads to a rear courtyard in which the cistern and privy for the structure were located. The courtyard is enclosed in single-story, plaster-covered brick walls and used as part of the restaurant, La Carafe.

The interior walls of the building are plastered brick, with a considerable amount of brick exposure. The ground floor consists of a concrete slab floor and a modified ceiling of plywood and false beams. A steep, narrow stairway, trimmed with closely-spaced wooden bannisters which are terminated on the second floor with a carved newel post, is located at the rear of the building. The second floor walls are similar to those of the ground floor, and the floor and ceiling are constructed of wood. Evidence of two chimneys remains on the west wall. The chimneys, rising three feet above the roof line, conform to the Houston fire codes of the 1860's which required bakeries to be of brick construction, tile roofs, with chimneys extending at least three feet above the roof.

In an effort to prevent the building from being condemned, the owner had the structure reinforced in the 1960's. At this time, a non-structural, decorative grill was added to the second story of the facade. This wrought iron feature is inconsistent with the character of the structure, but is removable.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Believed to have been constructed in the 1860's, the Kennedy Building in downtown Houston is generally acknowledged as the oldest structure in Houston existing on its original site. The building occupies the site of the previous "Shakespeare Coffee House." Legends report the two-story brick structure, which was built for pioneer merchant John Kennedy, at various times housed a trading post, stage stop, and slave market. Research indicates, however, that the structure housed Kennedy's bakery. This long, narrow building, constructed of load-bearing masonry, is a fine example of 19th century commercial architecture with elaborate brick delineations in the cornice area.

John Kennedy, a native of Ireland and a baker by trade, came to Houston in 1842. Residing first in New Jersey and later in Missouri, Kennedy had amassed and subsequently lost two considerable sums of money before moving to Houston, penniless at the age of twenty-three. In the fall of 1842, Kennedy opened a small bakery on Franklin Street, between Main and Fannin, which was later moved to what is believed to have been the old two-story, wood frame coffee house on Congress Street between Travis and Franklin. In the next few years Kennedy acquired this latter property, now identified as 813 Congress, as well as the adjoining property at the corner of Travis and Congress. A building erected on the corner lot became known as Kennedy's Building and the property thereafter known as Kennedy's Corner. These properties are located in what was once Houston's central commercial district, Market Square. A disastrous fire swept through the block in August, 1860, destroying all of Kennedy's property improvements. He began reconstruction immediately and erected a second Kennedy Building, a three story brick structure on the site of the original one. It is believed that the present bakery building, today known as La-Carafe, is this building.

By the time the Civil War began, Kennedy was maintaining a steam bakery, gristmill, and a retail grocery store as well as a large number of Negroes and several thousand acres in Harris and adjoining counties. During the war, the Kennedy Building served as an arsenal and the Bakery was contracted to supply the Confederate Army with "hardtack." When the occasion arose, Kennedy engaged in running cotton through the blockade established by Federal authorities. Following the war, Kennedy disposed of his vast acreage, which he considered worthless with the abolition of slavery, and focused his attention on mercantile pursuits. Kennedy's reputation for honesty and sound business management earned him respect and popularity in professional and private circles. For many years one of the few Catholics of means within the city, Kennedy was a primary supporter of Houston's first Catholic church, St. Vincent de Paul, constructed in the early 1840's. Kennedy contributed significant funding to the first church building and donated lots for the present cemetery. He entertained priests and visiting dignitaries at his home on San Jacinto Street and offered his trading post (as it became known) as a refuge for missionaries and a haven for the poor, regardless of color or creed.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

1

The 1873 Houston City Directory lists a druggist operating from the bakery building, and drug stores, under several different ownerships, continued to operate there until 1932, from which time a wide variety of businesses occupied it. Ownership remained in the Kennedy family until 1970. The building was sold to William V. Berry in 1970, who operates a pub, known as La Carafe, in the building.

In the mid 1960's, the family made structural repairs on the building and added non-structural grillwork to the facade. This grillwork, while inconsistent with the historic fabric of the structure, is removeable and should not be considered an irreversible incursion into the architectural integrity of the building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Institute of Architects, Houston, An Architectural Guide, 1972, p. 26
 Berry, William V., Owner, La Carafe (Kennedy Bakery), Oral Interview, January 20, 1977
 Daniels, A. Pat, Harris County Historical Commission, Historical information compiled and submitted to Texas Historical Commission, Includes statement of significance, architectural description, biography of John Kennedy, and bibliography. On file at Texas Historical Commission. April 25, 1977

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES Settegast, Texas, Quadrangle

Scale: 1:24000

A	1 5	2 7 1 6 1 6 1 0	3 2 9 4 6 6 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

West 1/2 of Lot 2, Block 19, Houston, Texas.
 John Austin, SSBB

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

Linda C. Flory, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Texas Historical Commission

DATE

May 15, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 12276

TELEPHONE

512-475-3095

CITY OR TOWN

Austin

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

Linda C. Flory

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 16, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles G. ...
Gale ...

DATE

7.27.79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7/27/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- "Fosgard, G.A., Reminiscences of", History of Texas Together With a Biographical History of the Cities of Houston and Galveston, Chicago, Lewis Publishing Company, 1895, pp.445-7
- Fuermann, George, The Face of Houston, Houston, Press of Premier, 1963. p. 30
- Houston, City of, Fire Regulations, Houston City Directory 1867-8, "Compendium of Ordinances, p. 92.
- Heritage Society, Harris County, Harris County Heritage Society News, Vol. 2, No. 2, Fall 1975, p. 5.
- Harris County Deed and Probate Records.
- Houston, City of, City Directories, 1873, 1879, 1880, 1886, 1889, 1897, 1908.
- Houston Post, October 24, 1962, p. 1, Sec. 2, Columns 7 & 8.
- Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph, August 18, 1860, p. 2, column 2.
- Phelps, Marie Lee, Houston, Harris County Heritage Society, 1959, The Buffalo Tree.
- Wilson, Mrs. Austin C., Harris County Heritage Society Research Specialist, Oral Interview, January 20, 1977.

Property Kennedy Bakery

79002963

State 24 (Harris)

Working Number 5.24.79.1239

TECHNICAL

Photos /

Maps /

CONTROL

pl
OK 5.24.79

Significant as Houston's oldest structure still on its original site. Also associated with a well-respected local businessman concerned with the well-being of his community.

HISTORIAN

Accept
Lightner
7-26-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

Important for historical association, this simple mid-19th century vernacular building also has local architectural significance. The grill work applied to the facade in the 1960's did not greatly alter the building's integrity, and it can be removed.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Carol Brooks
7/27/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry 9-4-79

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered JUL 27 1979



Kennedy Bakery Building
813 Congress,

Houston, Harris County, Texas

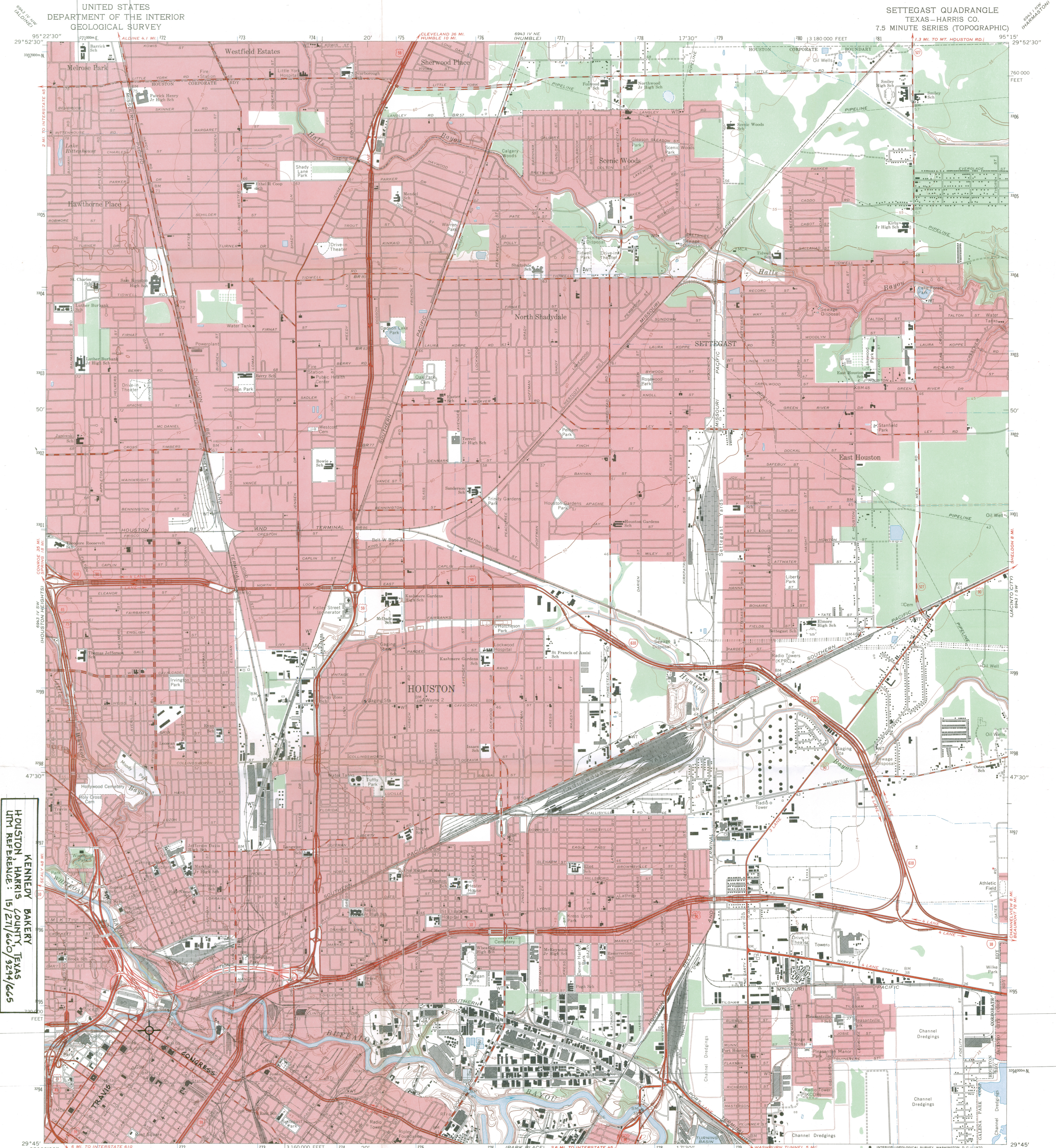
Photo Credit: Texas Historical Commission
1978

Southwest Oblique

Photo # 1 of 1

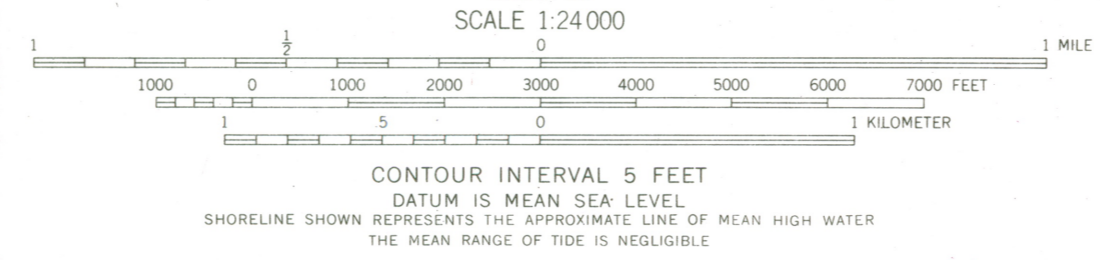
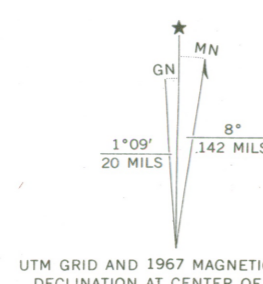
MAY 24 1979

DOE
JUL 27 1979



KENNEDY BAKERY
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/27/660/3294/665

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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route

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U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAPS
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SETTEGAST, TEX.
N2945—W9515/7.5

1967
AMS 6943 IV SE—SERIES V882

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

JUL 27 1979

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEXAS

STATE

Date Entered

JUL 27 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Arnot House	Marshall Harrison County
Scholz Garten	Austin Travis County
Kennedy Bakery	Houston Harris County
Barret, Tol, House	Nacogdoches vicinity Nacogdoches County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr.
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle
Honorable George Thomas
Honorable Charles Wilson

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 8/2/79

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