

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0693847

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 19 1978
DATE ENTERED FEB 1 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
Hotel Blessing

AND/OR COMMON

same *See "Main Courthouse" (restaurant)*

2 LOCATION

Ave. B

STREET & NUMBER
Ave. B between 9th & 10th Sts.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Blessing

VICINITY OF

1714

STATE
Texas

CODE
048

COUNTY
Matagorda

CODE
335 32

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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Blessing Historical Foundation

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 517

CITY, TOWN
Blessing

VICINITY OF

STATE
Texas *77477* 77419

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Matagorda County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Bay City

STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Texas State Historical Survey

DATE
1968

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hotel Blessing's wood frame construction is an unusual expression of the Mission Revival style in Texas. Built in 1907, the two story structure pre-dates the popularization of the style in the southwestern and western U. S. The most evident stylistic influences on the rectangular edifice are the simple mission parapets at the east end of the main gable and on a cross gable near the center of the structure. Reinforcing the revival style are the 15' x 15' towers flanking the east entrance to the hotel, reminiscent of the bell towers associated with the Spanish Colonial Missions. Topping the twin towers are pyramidal roofs with wide overhanging eaves. These roofs are of pressed tin shingles. Fenestration of 1/1 light wood sash windows is regular.

An attached one story porch protects the east ground level entrance. Columns supporting the porch roof/balcony are covered with cypress siding as is the rest of the building. A simple ballustrade of squared ballusters and posts tops the porch roof and is a railing for the second story balcony. Protecting the second story exit to the balcony is a shed canopy supported by brackets attached to the wall.

In 1910, the original horizontal pine shiplap siding was covered with cypress lap siding. The pressed tin shingles of the main roof (but not the towers) have been replaced with V-crimp galvanized sheets. A portion of the wood floor at the east entrance porch was replaced with concrete slab. A two-light window at the west end was replaced with a 12/12 light wood window of different dimensions. One original window on the north side has been removed, adding a public entrance to the dining room. An early shed addition is attached at the rear of the building, adjoining the kitchen. Also on the property is a wood frame outbuilding, used for storage.

The interior of the hotel remains intact with original finish on the wood-work, unaltered floor plan, and many of the original furnishings and accessories. Twenty-five rooms in the hotel once were served from the large dining room at the northwest end of the ground floor.

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 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 1907; siding 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the oldest buildings in the town of Blessing, the Hotel Blessing is both a unique combination of architectural influences and an important community center.

The hotel is architecturally unique in its translation of the Mission Revival influence into Anglo wood frame construction. In the typical Southwest Mission Revival structure, some attempt was made to resemble adobe (often with plaster over brick). Here is an unusual honesty of wood construction, with the forms only, and not the surface treatment, reflecting the Mission Revival influence. The twin towers flanking the east entrance to the Hotel are reminiscent of the Spanish Colonial Missions' bell towers, as are the simple mission parapets above the entrance and at the ends of the roof's cross gable.

The hotel has served as an important landmark to the community since it was built. It was constructed by Jonathan E. Pierce, who founded the town. Blessing was named by Pierce in gratitude for the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1903 (following rejection by the railroad of "Thank God" as a name), after he had given right-of-way through his ranch land. In September, 1907, the Blessing townsite was platted and subdivided; the Hotel Blessing was opened for the traveling public and landseekers in December of that year. Growth of the town was due to the importance of the railroad to the area's commercial and agricultural activity. Since World War II, freight train traffic has stopped at Blessing only to leave and pick up cars of grain at the town elevator, and the depot buildings have been removed.

With its location on the town square and on the highway through Blessing, the hotel became the central gathering place for the community. The coffee shop of the hotel retains that function, serving as the "tactical planning center" each morning for the area's farmers and ranchers.

The hotel was refinished and painted in the 1930's. Room rental was discontinued in 1972. The hotel remained in the hands of J. E. Pierce's heirs until 1977, when A. B. Pierce, Jr. (grandson of the builder) deeded the building and land as a gift to the Blessing Historical Foundation. The Foundation has undertaken repairs and painting of both the interior and exterior. A new need for room rental has resulted from the construction of the South Texas Nuclear Project, which has brought increased commercial activity to the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Monographs provided by the following, on file at Texas Historical Commission:
Abel B. Pierce, Jr., Mrs. Abel B. Pierce, Sr., & Mrs. Howard Ham

"'Thank God' Name Turned Down By Railroad, 'Blessing' Substituted",
Matagorda County Tribune, April 26, 1956

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.033

QUADRANGLE NAME Blessing, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 772020 3196705

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 771

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northern half, block 35, measuring 150' x 300'

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

Danny Hardy, Survey Specialist & Carol Kennedy, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Texas Historical Commission

DATE

12-04-78

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 12276

TELEPHONE

512-475-3094

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 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 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE December 11, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

for Charles Adams
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2-1-79

ATTEST: Marcelle Shep
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1-31-79

Property

Hotel Blessing

79002993

State

Id

Working Number

12.19.78.4800

TECHNICAL

Photos

3+1+1

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 12.21.78
pl

HISTORIAN

Shoffy

1-29-79

accept

Very clear case made for architectural value, for importance of association with town founder, and for long use as community center. A building which must really symbolize the town.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

A very unusual example of Mission

Revival architecture in that it is of frame construction with no effort made to simulate masonry. The floor plan is unaltered and interior wood work retains its original finish. Alterations are slight.

Buggen 1/31/79
accept

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Significance as above described

Shoffy

1-31-79

accept

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

3-6-79

Send-back

Entered

FEB 1 1979

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Hotel Blessing
Ave. B between 9th and 10th St.
Blessing, Matagorda County, Texas
Photo by Stan Klein, Texas His-
torical Commission, 1976
Northeast oblique

Photo #1

Matagorda Co TX

DEC 19 1978

FEB 1 1979



Hotel Blessing
Ave. B between 9th and 10th St.
Blessing, Matagorda County, Texas
Photo by Stan Klein, Texas His-
torical Commission, 1976
Southeast oblique

Photo #2

Matagorda Co TX

DEC 19 1978

FEB 1 1979

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Hotel Blessing
Ave. B between 9th and 10th St.
Blessing, Matagorda County, Texas
Photo by Stan Klein, Texas His-
torical Commission, 1976
West facade

Photo #3
Matagorda Co. TX
DEC 19 1978

FEB 1 1979

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DEC 28 1978

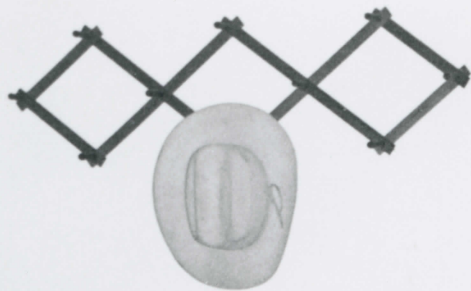
Hotel Blessing
Ave. B between 9th and 10th St.
Blessing, Matagorda County, Texas
Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical
Commission, 1976
North facade

Photo #4

Matagorda Co. TX

FEB 1 1979

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



#5 #11

FEB 1 1979 JAN 22 1979

Piercy Blessing
Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Hotel Blessing
Matogarcia Co. TX

Hotel Blessing is popular
with cattlemen, farmers and
hunters. Many winter visitors
also come.



#2 of 11

FEB 1 1979

JAN 22 1979
Liese - Blessing
Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Hotel Blessing
Original town fire bell
standing near N entrance
of Hotel Blessing. Rust
removed, frame repainted.
C. M. G. Co TX



0711

FEB 1 1979 JAN 22 1978

Hotel Blessing
Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Hotel Blessing
Guadalupe Co. TX

Hotel Blessing (E elevation)
Blessing, Texas
November 1978

Pale grey, white trim, blue-black screen frames.



#80f11

FEB 1 1979

JAN 22 1979

JAN 22 1979
Pierce Blessing
Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#80f11

Hotel Blessing
Matagorda Co, TX

Originally standard white tablecloth,
cloth napkin service in dining room.
Hotel Blessing has now for years let
patrons dish their food from stones in
the kitchen; they protest change but
we need to conform to law and afford
them table in DR

BLESSING'S FOUNDER,
JONATHAN E. PIERCE
SAYS:



HELP! To -

RESTORE HOTEL BLESSING

BY TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS TO THE BLESSING HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

DECORATE A ROOM.

PAYE A PARKING SPACE

AIR CONDITION A ROOM

ADD A BATH ROOM

ADD A LIGHT FIXTURE

GIVE PORTRAIT OF EARLY SETTLER (FRAMED)

HELP INSULATE ATTIC OR FIRST FLOOR

GIVE PIECE OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

GIVE LONGHORN STEER HEAD

P.O. Box 517

BLESSING, TEXAS

77419

PHONE:

(512) 588-6332

"BE A FRIEND OF THE
HOTEL BLESSING"



#9 of 11

FEB 1 1979 JAN 22 1979

Piercer Blessing
Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Hotel Blessing^D
Matagorda Co TX

Grandfather Jonathan would never have asked for help, but we do. Helpful donations have come in, but main outlay has been ours.

Abel + Ruth Pierce
November 1978
Hotel Blessing Dining Room



FEB 1 1979 JAN 22 1979

Purser Blessing
Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#100711

Matogonia Ct TA
Hotel Blessing Dining Rm.
Helen duets the clock
Nov. 1978



11 of 11

FEB 1 1979

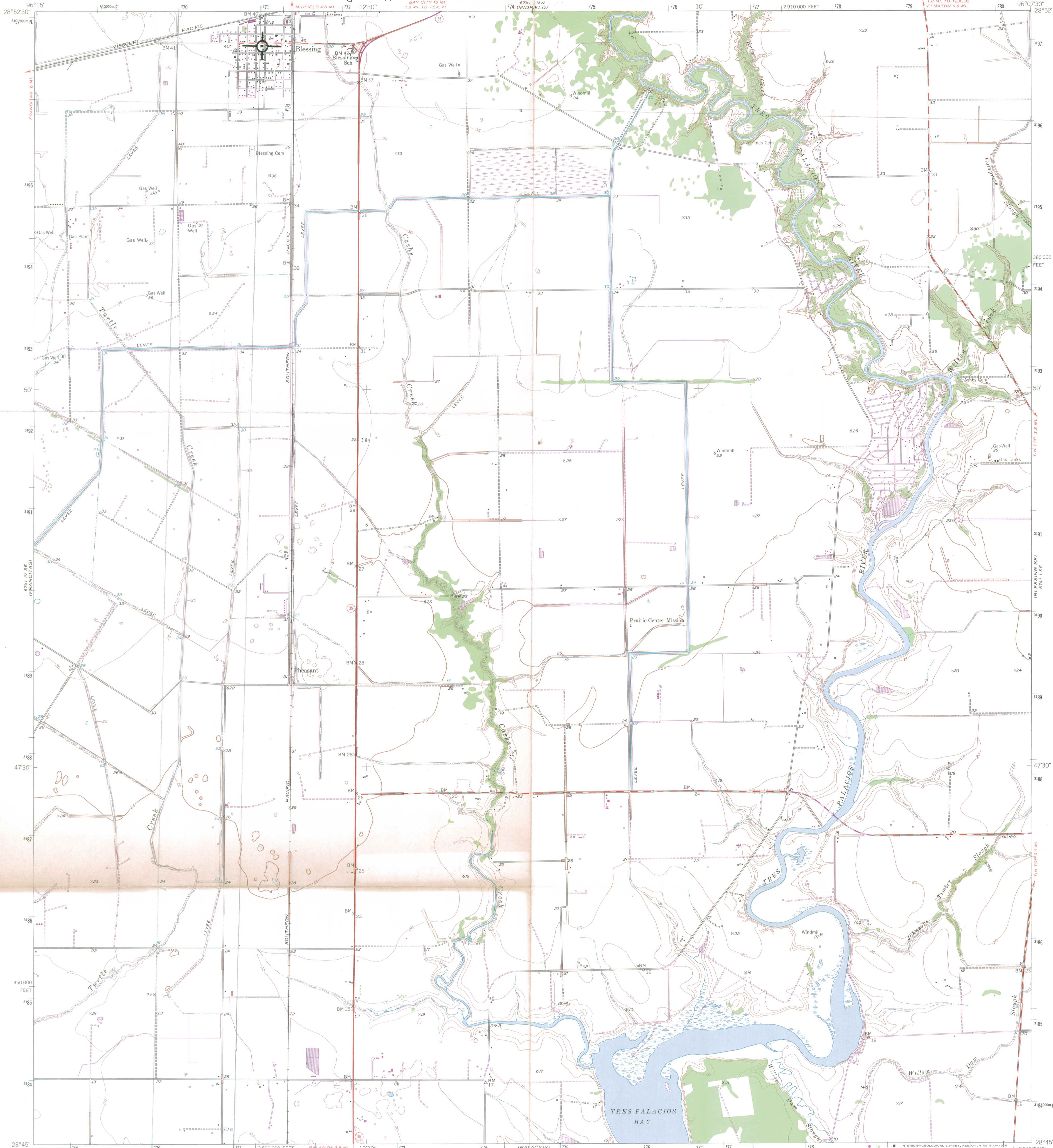
JAN 22 1979

Hotel Blessing
Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

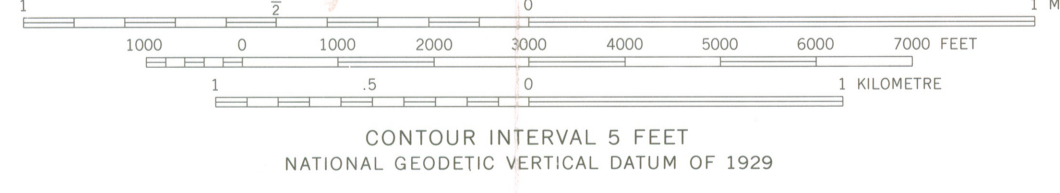
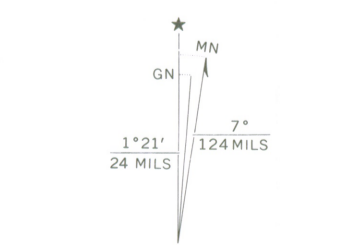
~~11~~ of 11

Matagorda COTA
Morning coffee at
Hotel Blessing



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1946-1947. Topography by plane-table surveys 1951-1952
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

RECEIVED
DEC 19 1978
NATIONAL REGISTER

BLESSING, TEX.
N 2845-W 9607.5/7.5

1952
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 6741 I SW-SERIES V882

2896-442

37

TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



P. O. BOX 12276
AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

December 19, 1978



Dear Marcella:

Enclosed is the photo I mentioned on the phone. The Hotel Blessing nomination was sent in December 12.

Just another example of what living in Texas this long can do to one.

Sincerely,

Lissa Anderson
Coordinator
National Register Nominations

LA/cm

Enclosure

Ms. Marcella Sherfy
Review Staff
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
Pension Building
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20243

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DEC 28 1978

DATE RECD _____

_____ (ATTACHED)

DATE / C. H. N. _____

INITIALS _____

STATE OF _____
COUNTY OF _____
CITY OF _____
ADDRESS _____

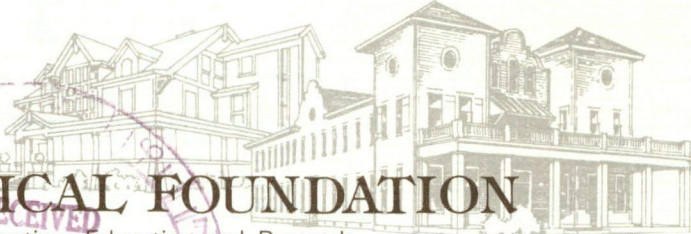
RECEIVED _____
DATE _____



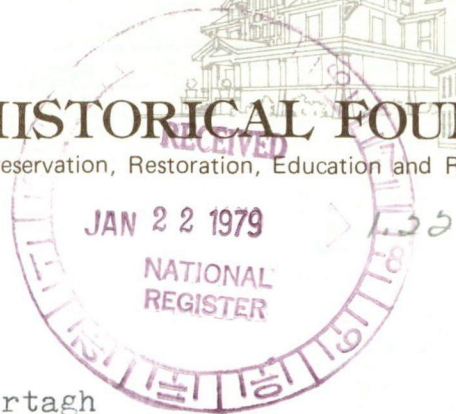
7 Photos

BLESSING HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

For Preservation, Restoration, Education and Research



Sleazy



Box 517, 512/588-6332
Blessing, Texas 77419
Jan. 15, 1979

p. 12.19.78
T.R.A. (12.28.78)

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

Re: Hotel Blessing

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

In response to your notification of December 28th that you will soon be considering whether or not Hotel Blessing should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, we send the enclosed material for your perusal and as an update to the original application. This includes seven pictures as the building now appears, and a writeup in the newspaper sent out by the South Texas Nuclear Project people.

We make no pretense toward elegance and wish you to base your decision upon an honest portrayal of the place. The improvements have been received with enthusiasm. In a subtropical climate such as ours, few if any early landmarks remain, and we consider it to be one.

The tax benefits are attractive, but we hope not to be a burden upon the government money-wise, and will make every effort to apply the National Trust's guidelines as we continue. We plan to open the lodging for a seminar on Texas Wildflowers on April 5th, using the town's Community House as the meeting place.

It may be that we heard you speak, Mr. Murtagh, at the Chicago Art Institute in 1969 at the National Convention of the American Institute of Architects; it was an impressive talk and this may be said to be a consequence of it. We will appreciate your consideration.

Very sincerely,

Ruth H. Pierce

brown newser



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
8.4¢ PAID
Bay City, Texas 77414
Permit No. 9

Brown & Root, Inc.
Issue No. 8, December, 1978

A Look at Progress!



After three years of construction, nearly 300,000 cubic yards of concrete has been placed for structures at the South Texas Project. In the reservoir area, nearly 21 million cubic yards of earthwork and one million cubic yards of soil cement have been placed. Major equipment has arrived on site with the generator stator and two gantry cranes installed and the Unit 1 reactor and steam generators in storage. Construction is entering a new phase in which major electrical and mechanical work is beginning.



Brownbuilders Support the United Way

South Texas Project employees and Brown & Root, Inc. jointly pledged over \$38,000 to the Matagorda County United Way Fund. This amount alone equaled half of the campaign's goal of \$76,328 for 1978. STP Brownbuilders pledged \$30,500 to the fund and Brown & Root, Inc. contributed \$7,600 (25% of the total employee contributions). The amount pledged this year was four times greater than the amount pledged last year. In the past three years, Brown & Root has been the largest employee contributor in Matagorda County. This continued support demonstrates the generosity of Brownbuilders when it comes to serving a good cause. Jim Salvitti presents Peggy Mote, Executive Director of the Matagorda County United Way, with the Brown & Root pledge card as Charles McCoy, Construction Administrative Manager and also a director for the Matagorda County United Way, adds the mercury to the thermometer.



special feature

Hotel Blessing

Back in 1859, Jonathan Edwards Pierce traveled from Little Compton, Rhode Island to join his brother on a cowboy venture in Texas. His brother wasn't your run-of-the-mill cowboy; he was Abel H. Pierce, better known as Shanghai. And anybody up on their Texas history is well aware of how the notorious Shanghai Pierce went from rags to riches shoot-em-up style. Jonathan Edwards was the quiet, friend-to-man type. It's kind of unusual that he came to Texas to be a cowboy being he didn't even like to ride horses.

After cowboying for the Grimes Ranch along the Tres Palacios, a stint in the Confederate Army and working their way up to being prominent landowners of the Rancho Grande, Shanghai and Jonathan Edwards split their holdings in 1880. Shanghai modestly christened his site "Pierce". (Pierce, Texas is located on Highway 59 between Wharton and El Campo.) It wasn't until 1903 that Colonel J.E. Pierce got around to picking a name for his little settlement. He was inspired by the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad which was a lifeline for shipping cattle to Abilene. His first choice was "Thank God" but the Postal Service wouldn't buy that. So he compromised on "Blessing".

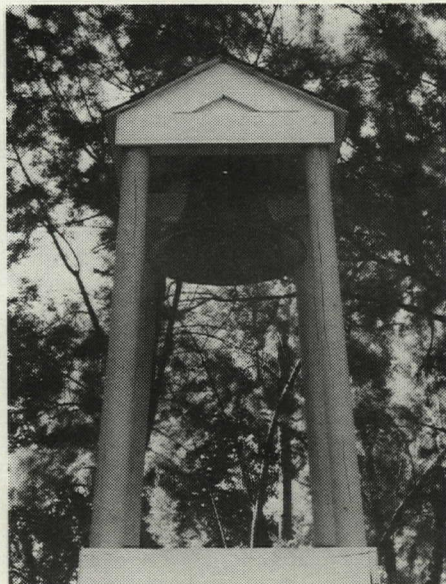
Little would have Colonel Pierce realized how appropriately he dubbed the small prairie town "Blessing". The name "Blessing" still seems to fit the bill in this day and time when customers heap their plates with plenty of home-style vittles at the Hotel Blessing Coffee Shop. "Thank God" would have even qualified as customers drift through Helen Feldhousen's kitchen doors as if they were at the Pearly Gates, saying "This is just like heaven".

There's not too many restaurants that invite you into their kitchen but at the Hotel Blessing (that's how the Pierces named it — pretty classy don't you think?), if you don't hit the kitchen, you don't eat. Samples of the standard weekly main entrees are: Sunday: turkey and dressing, roast beef. Monday: roast beef, chicken fried steak. Tuesday: fried chicken, sausage. Wednesday: meatloaf, chicken fried steak. Thursday: fried chicken, sausage. Friday: catfish, beeftips. Saturday: liver, chicken fried steak. And to pad those meat dishes are hot homemade

bread and cornbread, rice, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, and garden-fresh greenbeans, corn, turnips and mustard greens.

The Coffee Shop (which is quite an understatement for an operation like this) serves about 70 people a day. Most of these are oil field workers, road construction crews, Brown & Root hands and of course farmers (fluffy rice every day) and ranchers (that's why chicken fried steak is served so often). There's also a breakfast menu serving eggs, hotcakes and bacon. The Coffee Shop is open 6 a.m.-2 p.m. seven days a week and closed only on Christmas Day.

The hotel was built in 1906 by Colonel Pierce to accommodate land seekers and developers who were advertising the area for its tropical and potential citrus growing climate. It was closed from 1972-1978 but the Blessing Historical Foundation took charge and repaired and painted walls that hadn't seen a fresh coat of paint in 15-20 years. They added an exterior fire escape for insurance requirements and are slowly making progress from donations received. Being the hotel is considered a historical landmark (it has been nominated for the National Register of Historical Places), the foundation is trying to retain the authenticity of the hotel and make it as comfortable as possible. As more money is contributed the foundation can slowly improve the conditions of the hotel. Anyone interested in donating can contact the Blessing Historical Foundation, P.O. Box 517, Blessing, Texas 77419.



Dinner Bell — Though this bell is rarely rung (except by pranksters — especially on Halloween), it doesn't require bell tolls to bring the customers in. The bell originally belonged to the Blessing Fire Department.



Alamo de Blessing — The 25-room structure was designed from mission-style architecture. It is sided with native cypress and has withstood every hurricane since its construction in 1906. The Blessing Historical Foundation painted the building gray with white trim, thought to be its original color.



Hotel Heirs — Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Pierce Jr. look at one of the Foundation's posters in the hotel which lists items needed. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce donated the hotel and its land to the Blessing Historical Foundation and are very involved with its restoration. Mr. Pierce, grandson of J.E. Pierce, is a retired architect.



Heapin' It On — On your first visit into Helen's kitchen, your eyes are usually bigger than your appetite. It's awfully hard to resist those tempting pots and pans of home-style cooking that's just at your fingertips.



Memories and Coffee — Mrs. Dick Wheeler (center) reminisces with Mildred Neuman (left), Hotel Manager and Helen Feldhousen (right), Coffee Shop Owner, about her stay at the Hotel Blessing from 1950-1951. Mrs. Wheeler said she enjoyed the period she and her family lived at the hotel while their home was being built. The dining room the ladies are sitting in was originally the hotel's ballroom.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **TEXAS**

Date Entered **FEB 1 1979**

Name

Location

Hotel Blessing

**Blessing
Matagorda County**

Southern Pacific Depot Historic District

**San Antonio
Bexar County**

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower

Honorable Joe Wyatt

Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez

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 2/12/79

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

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Hotel Blessing
 ② OTHER NAMES:
 ③ date of entry: FEB 1 1979
 ④ county code: 321

⑤ LOCATION street & number Ave. B. city / town Blessing vicinity of state TX county Matagorda
 ⑥ NPS REGION: S Central

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 14 17 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL (if state who prepared form?)

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NAME NO ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NAME NO ⑮ ACREAGE LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION deteriorated altered original site excellent ruins unaltered moved good unexposed reconstructed unknown fair unexcavated excavated
 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 : ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS / GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY)
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25
 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