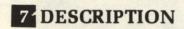
Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Prominently located on Main Street, Fort Worth's primary inner-city commercial thoroughfare, the Hotel Texas provides the city with an ecclectic arrangement of styles, motifs,
and ornamentations. Although the hotel has undergone many renovation programs since its
construction in 1920, it retains the character established in the sensitive blending of
stylistic references and contributes significantly in function and aesthetics to Main
Street and Fort Worth. In 1919 the Citizens Hotel Company, a group composed of outstanding city leaders, engaged Sanguinet and Staats, Architects, of Fort Worth, and Mavran,
Russell, and Clowell, Associate Architects, St. Louis, Missouri, to design a hotel which
they hoped would become the finest hotel in the south. Construction began on the fourteen story, free-standing, rectangular structure which occupies one city block, with the
lobby/entrance facade oriented south on Eight Street and the remaining facades bounded
on the north by Seventh Street, east by Commerce Street, and the west by Main Street.

The red brick structure accented with white terra cotta trim emulates the Chicago School in an arrangement of base, shaft, and cornice. Renaissance and Georgian features are denoted in the ornamental terra cotta. The base of the structure relates to pedestrian and motor traffic with a variety of door and window openings, expressive of the spatial arrangements within. The two-story base area may in turn be broken down into three distinct components: base, shaft and architrave. The primary or Eighth Street facade features a base which supports sixteen pilasters grouped in singles and pairs that, in turn support the architrave located at the third floor level. Protruding slightly, the brick pilasters with terra cotta capitals divide the shaft area into ten bays. The eight central bays, defined on either side by pilasters, are pierced with arched openings that span two floors. The openings are accentuated with terra cotta molding and three-dimensional, scroll keystones. Originally, seven of the openings were filled with 20/20 double hung sashes, encased in stationary sidelights, and topped with pivoting arched windows. One of the innermost openings provides an entrance to the lobby. Centered above each arched opening are rectangular terra cotta insets with three-dimensional garland swags. At either end of the facade is a bay defined by a single pilaster and the corners of the structure. These bays were originally pierced with simple 12/12 double hung windows on the first level and more elaborate 8/8 double hung windows on the second level. The second level windows are heavily ornamented with molding and a Georgian broken-scroll pediment. The Georgian unit is supported by a large bracket-supported sill decorated with Renaissance motifs. The prominent architrave is executed in terra cotta and features classical triglyphs interspersed with alternate classical medallions and images of a Texas Longhorn steer draped with yucca garlands.

Rising from the architrave is the shaft area of the structure, which encompasses the third through thirteenth floors. The unadorned brick facade is pierced at regular intervals on each floor with double hung,8/8 windows. The windows are faced with wood and rest on simple terra cotta sills. The windows on either end of the third floor are accentuated with terra cotta molding. Directly above the cornice protrusion is a course of terra cotta tiles; this course is repeated above the third floor windows, further delineated with a header course of bricks.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The fenestration of the fourteenth floor departs radically from the regimented pattern established in the shaft. The twenty-four "inner windows" are clustered in groups of three and set on a continuous, exaggerated sill of terra cotta. These grouped windows consist of 9/9/6 triple hung sashes installed in arched reveals and topped with a stylized shell motif of terra cotta. The arched openings accentuated with molding, spring from wreathed columns and unadorned pilasters, both topped with Corinthian capitals. The window clusters are separated with rectangular terra cotta units displaying Grecian urn forms. This horizontal row of windows is underscored by the sill, which protrudes to provide a shallow balcony enclosed in simple metal railing. The sill/balcony protrusion incorporates a continuous concave support. This support emulates Gothic motifs with tre-foil type designs revealed within pointed arches. Centered above each rectangular urn unit is a smaller detatched, rectangular, decorative terra cotta plaque applied to the brick. These terra cotta applictions feature simple cartouche forms. The windows at either end of the top floor are differentiated both physically and stylistically. Separated from the clustered row by an expanse of brickwork, these 12/8 double hung windows feature heavy sills, molding, and broken scroll pediments. The pediments are broken with ornate cartouches and the sill repeats the overall height and and Gothic design of the continuous sill. However, these sills depart from the continuous one in the fact that they do not serve as balconies and therefore are not enclosed in a balustrade, but are composed of terra cotta adorned with classial motifs. The top of the building is delineated with a prominent terra cotta entablature of substantial height and decoration. This entablature is composed of a simple architrave, slightly projecting frieze, and crowning cornice. The frieze is pierced with convex roundels separated by protruding urn forms. The entablature steps out with a course of dentils and an unadorned course on which the cornice rests. The cornice is composed of cut-out anthemion forms silhouetted against the sky.

The west facade, which faces Main Street, repeats the architectural divisions and stylistic references of the main facade with slight variations in fenestration. The base of this facade is clearly defined beneath the terra cotta entablature with pedestrian openings piercing the granite veneer and brick facade. The street level features an entrance to the hotel lobby as well as entrances and storefront windows to the independent businesses that operate within the structure. The second level features nine 8/8 double hung windows. The windows at either end of the facade are identical to the second level Georgian windows of the south facade. The seven remaining windows are accentuated with two alternating treatments; a heavy terra cotta lintel, and a lintel topped with a broken scroll pediment. The entablature is a continuation of the south facade entablature. The architectural and decorative detailing of the west facade shaft is identical to the detailing of the south facade shaft. The south facade cornice is carried around to the west facade. However, the sequential cadence of the fourteenth windows varies from that of the south facade, due to the difference of overall facade width. The end windows repeat the Beaux Arts classicism of heavy, sill-supported windows topped with broken scroll cartouches.

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The east facade replicates the structural and decorative detailing of the west facade.

The north or "rear" facade is treated in a nondecorative fashion. The facade is broken into three bays with the central bay recessed. None of the decorative features or "Chicago School" divisions of the south, east, or west facades are repeated on the north facade. The two projecting bays are pierced with a centered, vertical row of 6/6 double hung windows. The inner walls of these bays as well as the north wall of the recessed bay are highlighted with 6/6 windows grouped in pairs. The windows are trimmed with wooden members and rest on simple terra cotta sills. A brick-enclosed, cantilevered service hallway spans the recessed bay at the fourteenth floor level. This projection is supported by simple structural brackets and is pierced with six windows and an emergency door opening. Visible only from the north side of the structure is a fifteenth floor and a penthouse space which house the service and mechanical equipment of the structure.

Since its completion, the Hotel Texas has undergone several changes initiated by both the original and subsequent owners of the building. The base area has been altered several times to meet the demands of retail tenants. Today the cut stone base is faced with a smooth, slab stone veneer. Several original windows have been replaced or partially altered with fixed glass. Modern signs and awnings cut across the verticality achieved with the pilasters and two-story, arched windows. In the shaft and cornice areas the original bronze window screens have been removed. At the time of construction visibility of the north facade was obstructed by the Worth Building, a five story Romanesque commercial structure. By 1948 the Worth Building had been destroyed by fire, exposing the stark north facade of the hotel. In 1961 a "grand ballroom" wing was added to the north side of the hotel. This four story addition, which is contemporary in design , features windows and doors on the pedestrian level with solid bricked walls on the remaining levels. The addition is faced with dark and light bricks set in alternating vertical sections. In 1967 a 230 room annex was constructed on the block east of the original structure. An enclosed overhead walkway connects the east side of the second floor of the hotel with the annex. The annex is to be excluded from the nomination.

The hotel has recently been sold and the new owners have initiated a program to renovate the hotel to house the Fort Worth Hyatt Regency Hotel. The plans call for the restoration and preservation of significant interior and exterior architectural features, functional adaptations of existing spaces, and modernization of electrical and mechanical systems. In order to take advantage of tax benefits, the new owners are requesting that the ballroom addition be included in the nomination. Plans are made to renovate the facades of the ballroom wing to increase their compatibility with the original structure.

PERIOD	Al	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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SPECIFIC DATES

1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Sanguinet and Staats, Architects

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Conceived by a group of prominent citizens, the Hotel Texas remains an integral element of Fort Worth's skyline, representative of the skyscraper era that flourished in Fort Worth during the early years of the oil boom. Rising fourteen stories above the city, the hotel is an aesthetically pleasing blend of architectural styles, skillfully combined in an adapted Chicago School format. Until recently it served both tourists and citizens alike in professional and social capacities.

From the early days of Fort Worth Main Street has played a prominent role in both the commercial and social activities of the city, reflecting the personality of the city in its architecture. Following the 1853 deactivation of the Army post for which Fort Worth was named, area residents laid out what was to become the city's major north/south axes, terminated on the north by the Trinity River. At this time the northern end of Main Street was kept vacant for use during market days. From approximately 1850 to 1879 Main Street was the only street lined with structures, and during the early part of this period, the market area was redesignated as the site for the Tarrant County Courthouse. During the latter half of the 19th century Fort Worth emerged as a cattle empire. The establishment of the Fort Worth Stockyards provided the facilities for large-scale cattle operations. Enhancing this development was the advent of the railroads which reached Fort Worth in 1876. By the 1880's the city was linked to most parts of the country by five major railroads, and in the 1890's, Fort Worth emerged as the largest rail center in Texas. During this decade large meat packing houses were constructed, adding a boost to the thriving Fort Worth economy. During this period of prosperity downtown businesses flourished as well. In 1876 the Texas and Pacific railroad, the first to reach the city, located its terminal on the south end of Main Street. Defined on the north by the courthouse and the south by the terminal, a nine block section acquired new prominence. In 1876 the street was paved with gravel and lumber. Subsequent improvements to this area included macadamization of the street surface, installation of a municipal water and sewage system, installation of electric lights, and conversion from mule-driven to electric street cars. The expanding commercial base created a need for overnight accomodations and impressive hotels such as the Worth, Metropolitan, and El Paso were erected along Main Street. At the turn of the century the street was paved with red Thurber vitrified The building activities continued into the 20th century and were encouraged in 1913 when the city lifted height restrictions of buildings, bringing the "skyscraper age" to Fort Worth. Commercial activity was spurred by the continuing growth of the cattle industry as well as the discovery of oil west of Fort Worth.

Fort Worth soon became a center for oil-related activities and the growth in the economy and population reflected this. The need for accommodations to support this increased activity was constant. In 1919 a group of prominent city leaders met to discuss the

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possibility of a new hotel, one that was reflective of the community. The Citizens Hotel Company was organized to build what its leaders hoped would become "the finest hotel in the south." The group selected the site of the Worth Hotel as the site of the proposed Hotel Texas. The Worth was demolished in 1919 and in 1920 construction began on the new hotel which was designed by Fort Worth architects Sanguinet and Staats, and Mavran, Russell, and Clowell, St. Louis, Missouri, Associate Architects. The style they employed drew upon Georgian and Renaissance detailing on a Chicago School format, an unusual but successful combination of styles enjoying intense popularity at this time. Intended to be "purely a Texas home," the hotel was managed by the San Antoniobased Baker Hotel Company, under the direction of T.B. Baker. On September 30, 1921, the hotel celebrated its grand opening, and during the first year of operation, experienced the kind of initial success the Citizens Hotel Company had anticipated. During the first year, the hotel hosted 195,166 guests and over 100 conventions. For the remainder of the decade the hotel operated a successful and efficient property. However, the Great Depression had an adverse effect on both the appearance and financial stability of the hotel. In 1935 the Citizens Hotel Company filed suit to obtain management of the hotel, claiming that T.B. Baker had mismanaged hotel funds and that the structure and its furnishings were in disrepair. In 1936, Baker was declared bankrupt and the National Hotel Company was retained to manage the property. Under new management, the hotel underwent a renovation program which included the addition of air conditioning and the replacement of interior furnishings.

In 1946 parties outside of Texas expressed an interest in purchasing the hotel. Determined to keep the hotel under the control of local businessmen, Amon Carter and Sid Richardson, two of Fort Worth's civic leaders, purchased 80% of the Citizens Hotel Company. The hotel functioned throughout the 1950's and 1960's with additional renovations occurring at various intervals. It's prominence was boosted by the construction of the Tarrant County Convention Center, one block south on Main Street. On November 21, 1963, the late President John F. Kennedy spent his last night in the hotel before the ill-fated trip to Dallas the following day.

In 1967 the Hotel owners gave the Hotel to the Fort Worth Chamber Development Corporation, a group of 35 civic leaders who soon announced an expansion and renovation program. A 230 room annex was added to the hotel one block east of the original structure, connected with an enclosed pedestrian bridge over Eighth Street. The Sheraton Corporation was named manager of the property and for the first time in its history, the name of the hotel was changed to the Sheraton-Fort Worth. Under management of the Sheraton Corporation, the hotel experienced architectural neglect and decay. However, the property is now owned by a dedicated group of local leaders who will restore the structure to a functional and aesthetically pleasing condition while retaining the historical character and integrity of its past. As the Fort Worth Hyatt Regency, the Hotel Texas will once again be a vital element of Main Street.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOG	RAPHICAL REFE	RENCES	is the all territories and the
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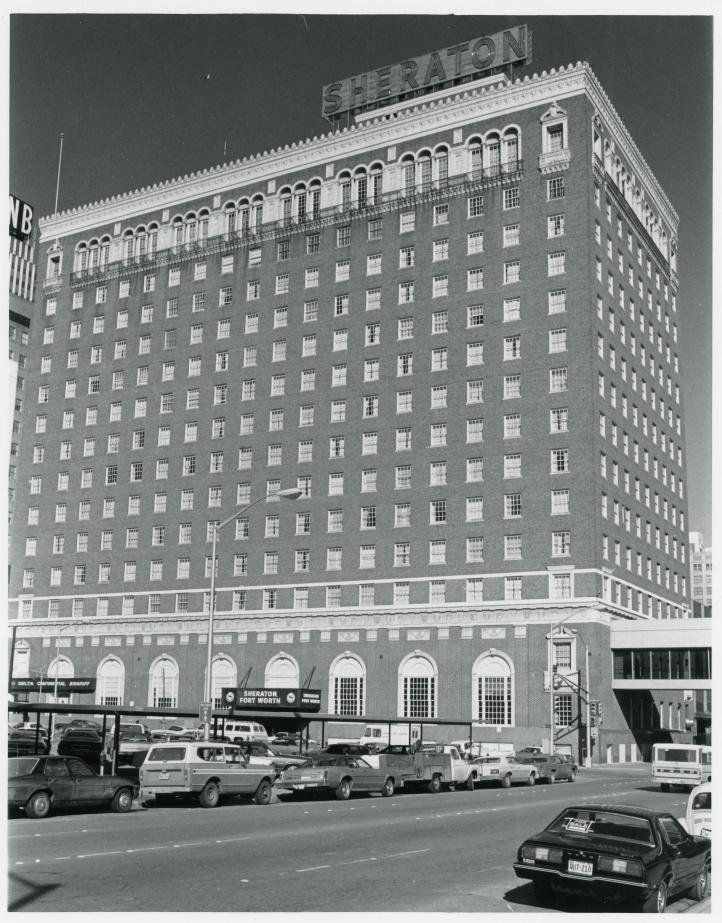
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United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conserva	tion and Recreation Service



Hotel Texas, 815 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photo Credit: Texas Historical Commission
1979
Southwest Oblique
Photo # 144

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Hotel Texas, 815 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photo Credit: Texas Historical Commission, 1979
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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Hotel Texas, 815 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photo Credit: Texas Historical Commission
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West Facade Photo # 3/4

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Hotel Texas, 815 Main Street

Fort Worth , Tarrant County, Texas

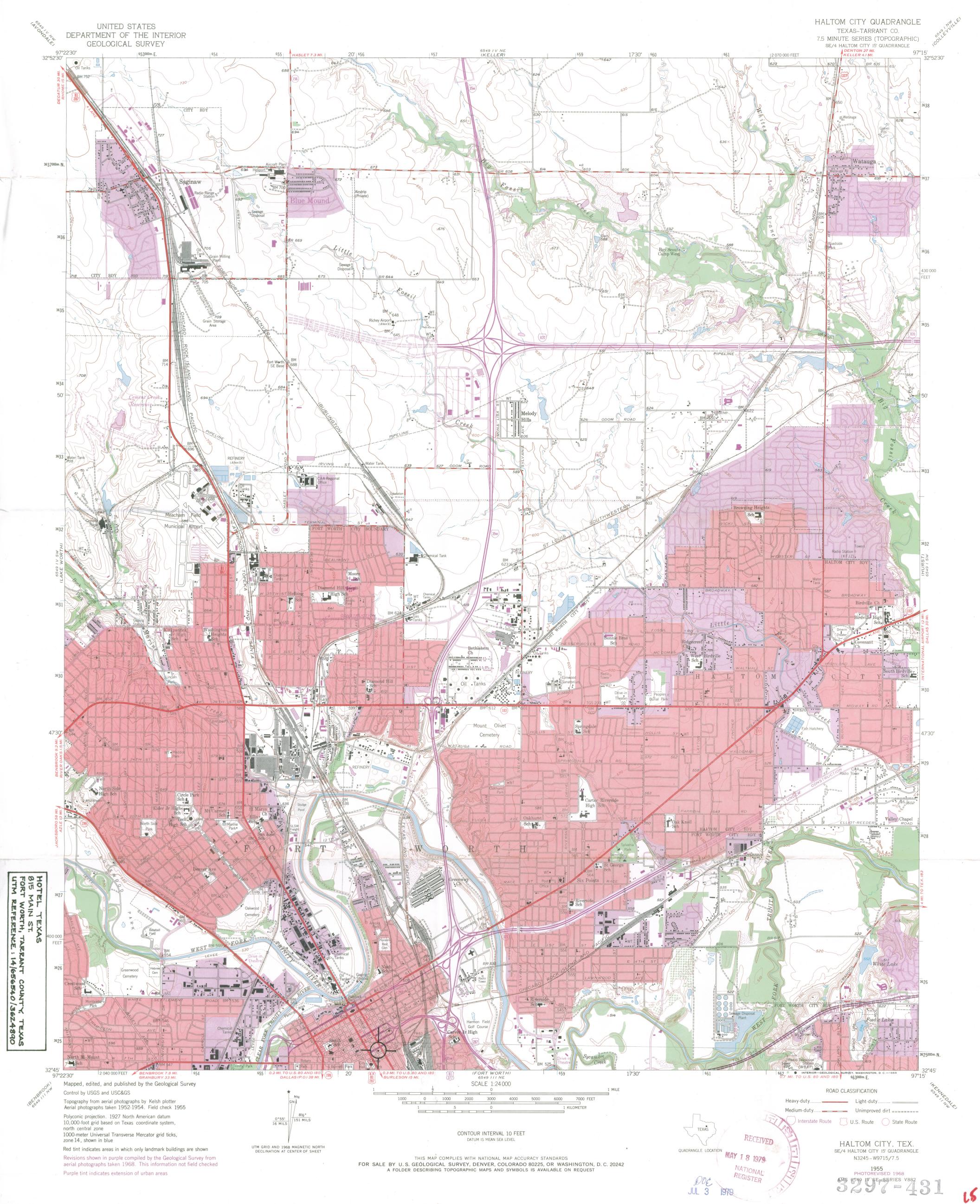
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Northwest Oblique

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FORT WORTH CHAMBER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

700 THROCKMORTON STREET • FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102 • 817/336-2491

June 4, 1979

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Washington, D. C. 20243

Attention: Dr. William J. Murtagh

Keeper of the National Register

Subject: Hotel Texas

Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

We are in receipt of your letter dated May 22, 1979, regarding the consideration of including the Hotel Texas on the National Register of Historic Places. As the current owners of record of the Hotel Texas, we totally support the nomination of the Hotel Texas to the National Register. Our attorneys, Law, Snakard, Brown & Gambill of Fort Worth, Texas, have provided a legal opinion as to the legal implications of the National Preservation Act of 1966 and the Internal Revenue Code. Thus, we are fully aware of the incentives and disincentives afforded a property listed on the National Register.

With this letter, we respectfully request your immediate action on the Hotel Texas nomination, and, therefore, waive the right to a 30-day commenting period.

Very truly yours,

FORT WORTH CHAMBER DEVELOPMENT CORP.

J. C. Pace, Jr., President

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas

Mr. Rice M. Tilley, Jr.
Law, Snakard, Brown & Gambill
Fort Worth, Texas

bcc: John Scovell

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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JUL 3 1979

Name

Location

Hotel Texas

Fort Worth Tarrant County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower Honorable James C. Wright, Jr.

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 7/9/79