

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JUN 30 1980

date entered SEP 8 1980

**1. Name**

historic Ximenes Chapel

and/or common The Chapel of the Miracles

**2. Location**

street &amp; number 113 Ruiz Street

not for publication

city, town San Antonio

vicinity of

congressional district

20th

state Texas, 78207

code 048

county

code 029

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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**

Heirs of Mrs. Candelaria Ximenez de Rodriguez  
name c/o Mrs. Isabel Rodriguez Elizondo

street &amp; number 836 Rivas Street

city, town San Antonio

vicinity of

state Texas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street &amp; number

city, town San Antonio

state Texas 78205

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 8/22/79

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin, Texas

state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>		<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered			
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The chapel is built of stone and measures approximately 26 feet by 16 feet. It boasts a square tower over the double-doored entrance which faces west. The roof is gabled and of tin and a single gothic window is set into each side wall of the little structure. (A cursory examination shows where these gothic windows were set into the original rectangular openings.)

Atop the tower, a stone cross bears the inscription in Spanish: "This chapel was made (sic) the 9th of May of 1813."

The walls are plastered and white-washed, inside and out, as is the curved ceiling whose design suggests barrel vaulting. The floor is tiled and a small restroom is attached to the north wall of the building.

The chapel is furnished with crude benches and prie-dieus, two small side altars and a larger, stepped altar which is set into the rear wall. A Spanish Colonial crucifix, 58 inches high, hangs above this altar, the Christ dominating the interior of the shrine. There are numerous other statues of saints but only one of these, that of Our Lady of Sorrows, is from the same period as the crucifix.

A photograph from the San Antonio Daily Express, dated 28 April 1907, shows a closer approximation of how the original chapel appeared. The accompanying article states that the chapel had recently been repaired but no additions or remodeling is mentioned. The article mentions patching cracks, new interior woodwork, and paint and white-wash.

The structure shown in the 1907 photograph is a simple single gabled building with a large entrance and a cross at the apex of the gable, over the doorway.

The details of the facade are difficult to decipher in the old newspaper and not all the words in the article can be clearly read. The author, Charles Merritt Barnes, writes however: "The chapel has a broad portal. Above this is painted a pair of outstretched wings and the cross is above them."

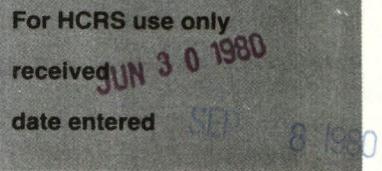
Except for the obvious addition of the tower, the chapel seems much the same as it appears in the 1907 photograph. In the article Barnes mentions the "very dilapidated condition" of the chapel and "visible evidence of the carking teeth of time" before the above mentioned repairs in 1907, and that this chapel had been the property of Don Juan Jimenez, so we can conclude that the structure was the original one. He was considerably off in the date of Don Juan's death, confusing it with that of the son's, Wenceslado, but this can be attributed to Barnes's possible difficulty with the Spanish language. He states that the family members he interviewed could not speak English.

The tower, gothic windows, restroom and possibly the tile floor are products of a 1946 renovation project. The original floor was wooden but it is uncertain when the tile was installed.

The 1813 date on the cross has led to a great deal of conjecture. The property in question was sold to Juan Ximenez on 10 February 1852 by Sam S. Smith, who had bought it from the City of San Antonio less than five months earlier, in September, 1851. Until that time, the tract was part of the original Spanish Royal Grant to the city and had never been disposed of, either through sales or grants.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet      Description      Item number      7      Page      1

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Conceivably, Don Juan or other member of the Ximenez family had an earlier chapel elsewhere, or in the same vicinity, if they were squatters, and the cross was salvaged when the first chapel was demolished. The cross presently on the chapel does not seem to be the same one in the 1907 photograph but in his article, Barnes mentions that the cross then on the edifice had a similar inscription as this newer one, and the date, 9 May 1813.

## 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"/>	<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/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				

Specific dates mid 1800s      Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The small chapel at 113 Ruiz Street is all that remains of the original homestead of Juan Ximenez, a soldier in the Texas Army and an active participant in the battle that is known as the "Storming of Bexar" in December 1835. It dates to that era in Texas history when it was common for a family to set aside an area for the purpose of praying or honoring the family saints and is the only known chapel of this type to remain. Housing a Spanish-Colonial crucifix named "El Senor" credited with many wonders, the Chapel of the Miracles is an important element of San Antonio's Mexican-American culture.

The Ximenez Chapel is perhaps the sole remaining example in San Antonio of a chapel found in a building detached from the main residence. In some cases a room in the house was used as a chapel, as in the structure which today is popularly referred to as "The Spanish Governor's Palace". In Mexico, and other counties colonized by Spain, one can still find private chapels, many erected as separate buildings. Several of these date back to the earliest colonial periods and many were built in this century, and indeed, in this decade.

Socio-cultural aspects aside, the chapel has historical significance because of Juan Ximenez, the original owner, and his contribution to the Texas War of Independence.

Don Juan was a member in the "Company of Mounted Men" commanded by Captain Juan N. Seguin. These volunteers were with Ben Milam at the battle for Bexar which took place between the 5th day of December and the morning of the 10th day of December 1835. They were under the command of General Burleson and remained throughout the hostilities, until the surrender of the Mexican forces. Don Juan is also credited with Ranger service during the war. These were the scouts, guides, and couriers, which historian Hobart Huson called "the eyes and ears of the Texas Armies". They were also detailed to escort the families of the colonists living in the surrounding ranches to places of safety. Ximenez was honorably discharged from the Texas Army on 25 October 1836 and died on 22 July 1877 at the age of sixty-seven. He is buried in San Fernando Cemetery #1. The State of Texas has placed a commemorative grave marker over his burial site. The present owners of the property are his direct descendants.

The crucifix appears to have originally come from the mission of San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) and was probably taken to the church in the Villa de San Fernando when the missions were secularized in 1793. It was probably entrusted to the Jimenez family in 1813 during the period of political rebellion (two other Colonial figures are used in the chapel as well). In spite of the tradition that the chapel itself was constructed in 1813 (the date on the cross on the tower), historical and archeological evidence point towards a construction date in the 1850's or 60's. Sherds of English imported pottery imported in quantity in the 1860's and 70's were archeologically recovered. A 1928 newspaper article described retablos showing miraculous cures or rescues, some dating "as far back as 1860". It is unfortunate that these were destroyed several years ago.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES, Austin, Texas DRT LIBRARY, The Alamo, S.A. Texas  
GENERAL LAND OFFICE, Austin, Texas SA Daily Express, April 28, 1907  
BEXAR ARCHIVES, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio, Texas  
SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL RECORDS, Catholic Archives, Chancery, S.A. Texas

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one  
Quadrangle name San Antonio, West

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	1   4	5   4   8	1   5   2	3   2   5   6	0   2   2
Zone	Easting			Northing	
C					
E					
G					

B					
Zone	Easting			Northing	
D					
F					
H					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 25, Block 97, NCB 225

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

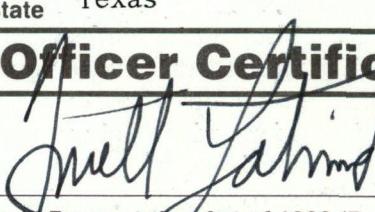
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Gloria V. Cadena; Mardith K. Schuetz		
organization	Bexar County Historical Commission	date	
street & number	Legal Professional Building 200 Main Plaza, Suite 200; 6211 Manor Rd	512/220-2657 512/928-2571	telephone #115

city or town	San Antonio, Texas	78205; Austin	state	Texas
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## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	
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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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature		
title	State Historic Preservation Officer	date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	

keeper of the national register signature		
Attest: Patrick Andrus		
chief of registration signature		

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	JUN 30 1980
SEP 8 1980	
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Today, the Chapel is important to the city's large Mexican-American population. Although originally a private chapel, and still privately owned, it is open to the public. It gathers many worshippers and supplicants whose faith in "El Senor" is undiminished.

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For HCRS use only

received *JUN 3 0 1980*date entered *SEP 8 1980*

Continuation sheet Major Bibliographic Ref. Item number 9

Page 1

"A New Approach to the Teaching of Texas History in our Schools and Colleges",  
Hobart Huson, Address to South Texas Historical Society, 8 May 1971.  
TEXANA MAGAZINE, Vol. V. Spring 1967 No 1, pp 81-84.

Property

Ximenes Chapel

State

TX, Bexar

Working Number

6.30.80.1708

Ref # 80004080

TECHNICAL

Photos 4

Maps 1

CONTROL

This chapel is significant as the only remaining example of its type in Texas (a family chapel built in a building separate from the main house) and for its association with an active participant in the war for Texas Independence, and as the scene of reported miracles, the bldg. is significant to San Antonio's Mexican-American community. Built in the mid-1800's, renovated in 1907 (tower added). Note - the wooden bldg. that appears in the photo is not included in the nomination

HISTORIAN

accept  
Patrick Andrus  
9/2/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

2.3.81

Send-back

Entered

SEP 8 1980

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Ximenes Chapel  
113 Ruiz Street  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: Carol Kennedy, 8/22/79

Negative on File at THC

Southwest Oblique, camera facing northeast

Photo # 1 of 4

JUN 30 1980

SEP 8 1980



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Ximenes Chapel  
113 Ruiz Street

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo; Carol Kennedy, 8/22/79

Negative on File at THC

Southeast Oblique, camera facing northwest

Photo # 2 of 4

JUN 30 1980

SEP 8 1980



Ximenes Chapel *Ximenes*

113 Ruiz Street

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: Carol Kennedy, 8/22/79

Negative on File at THC

Northwest Oblique, camera facing southeast

Photo # 3 of 4

JUN 30 1980

SEP 8 1980



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Ximenes Chapel  
113 Ruiz Street

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: Carol Kennedy, 8/22/79

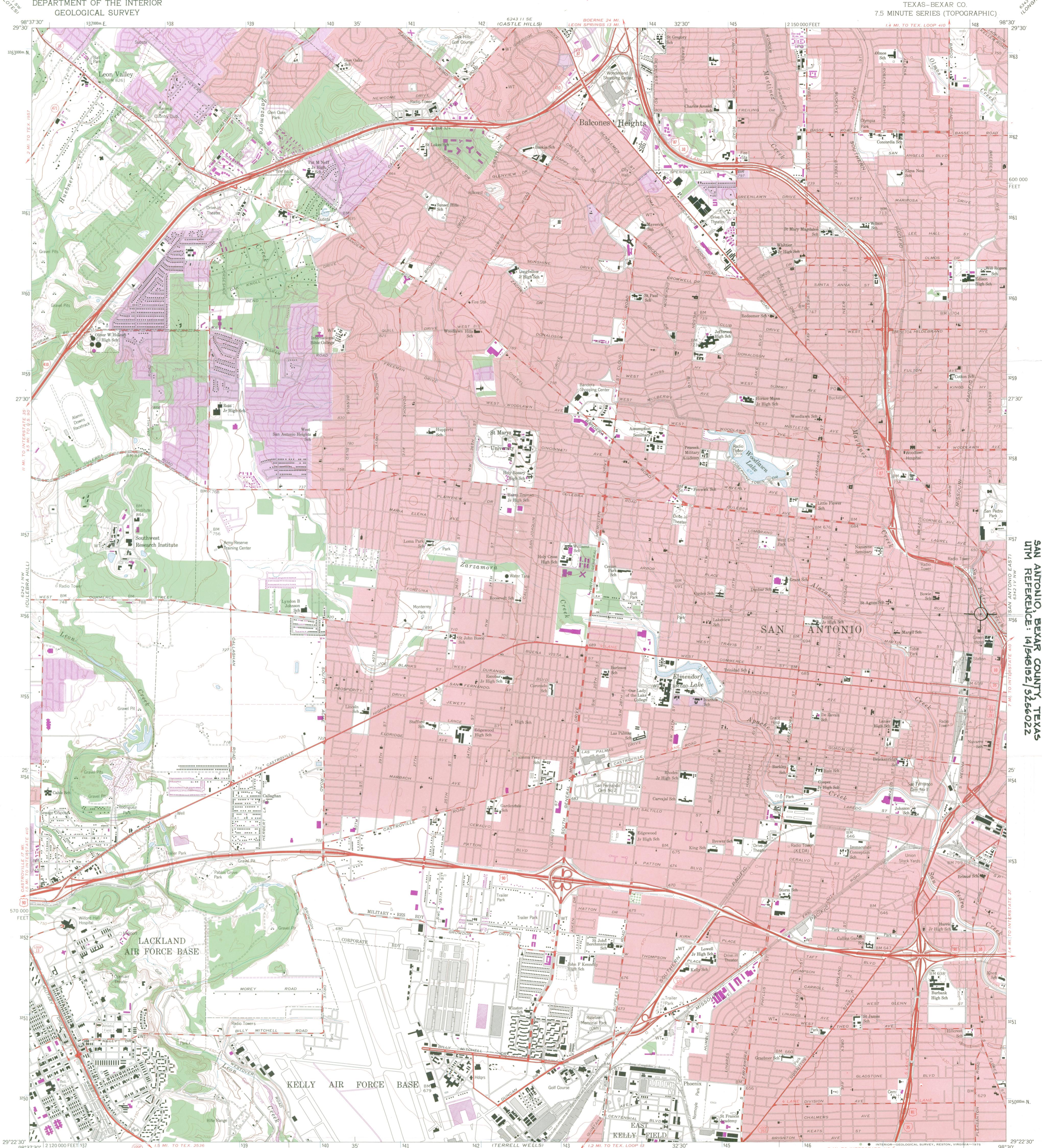
Negative on File at THC

Southwest Oblique, camera facing northeast

Photo # 4 of 4

JUN 30 1980

SEP 8 1980



XIMENES, CHAPEL  
113 RUIZ STREET  
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 14/548152/3256022

Map by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1952. Field annotated 1953. Revised by Geological Survey  
from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967

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

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 KILOMETRE

0' 13" 4 MILS 160 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1973 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 RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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2998-2

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered SE 8 1980

Name

Location

Foster House Navasota vicinity  
Grimes County

( Ximenes Chapel San Antonio  
Bexar County

Methodist Church Concord Carthage vicinity  
Panola County

Rogers-Drummond House Mount Vernon vicinity  
Franklin County

Shapira Hotel Madisonville  
Madison County

Also Notified

Honorable John G. Tower State Historic Preservation Officer  
Honorable Lloyd Bentsen Mr. Truett Latimer  
Honorable Charles Wilson Executive Director  
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez Texas State Historical  
Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr. Commission  
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

NR

Byers/mjd 9/24/80

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE 9/2/80  
TIME OF CALL  
AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Lissa Anderson

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Tx. SHPd

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Ximenes Chapel - Bexar co. Tx.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

The wooden building that appears in the photos  
is not included in the nomination - the VBD  
specifically excludes it.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patrick Anderson