

**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street & number 113 Ruiz Street not for publication

city, town San Antonio vicinity of congressional district 20th

state Texas, 78207 code 048 county Bexar 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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

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

street & 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 & number

city, town San Antonio state Texas 78205

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 8/22/79 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin, Texas state

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 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 altara 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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8 1980

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7

Page 1

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"/> 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 retableos 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

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name San Antonio, West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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5	4	8	1	5	2
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3	2	5	6	0	2	2
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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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

Legal Professional Building

512/220-2657

street & number 200 Main Plaza, Suite 200; 6211 Manor Rd. #115

telephone

512/928-2571

city or town San Antonio, Texas 78205; Austin

state Texas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national

 state

 X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 9, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 9.8.80

Attest: Patrick Andrews

date 9/2/80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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8 1980

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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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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 4Maps 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 Anderson
9/2/80*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered SEP 8 1980

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Re-submit _____



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



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 3 0 1980

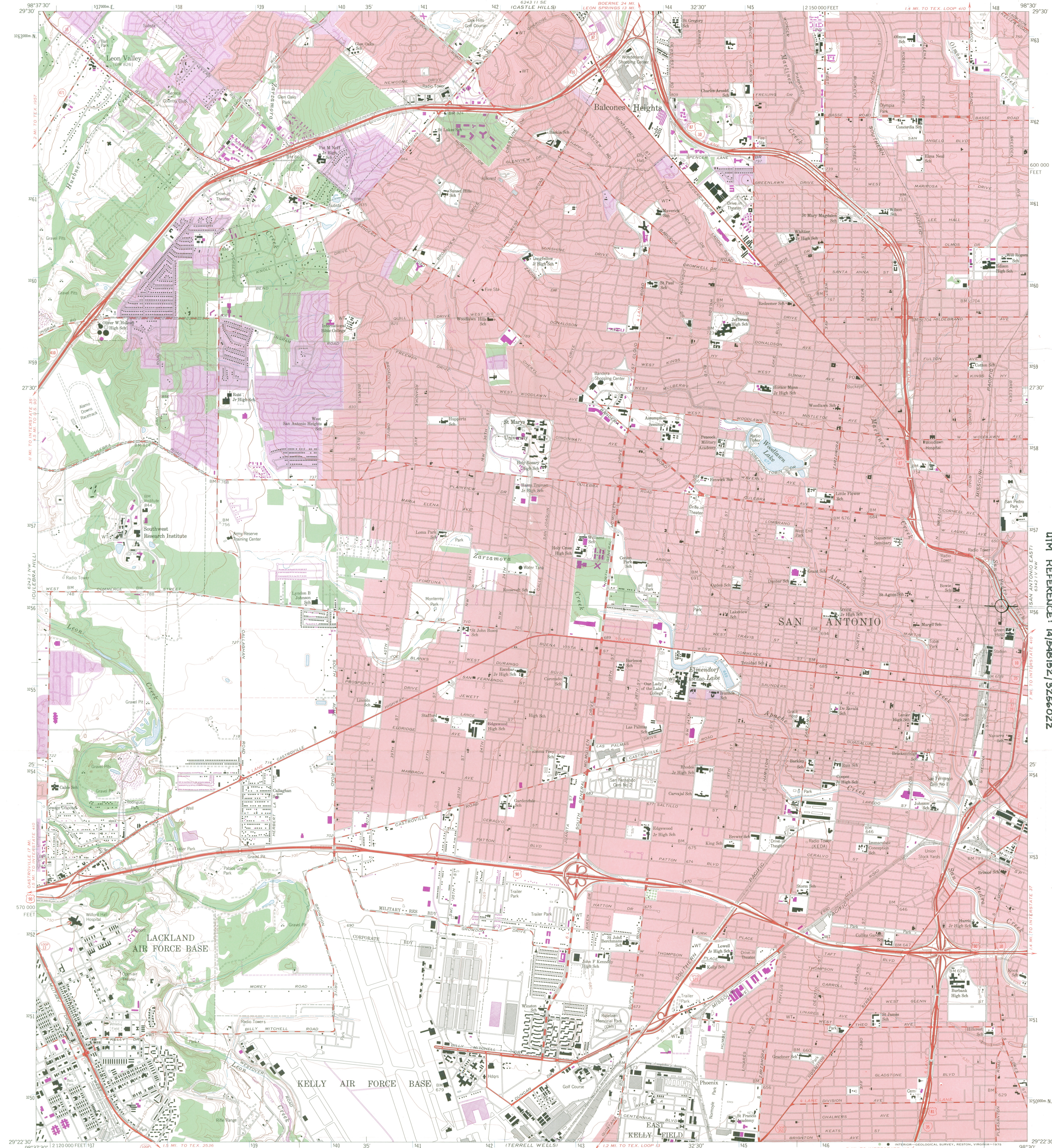
SEP 8 1980



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

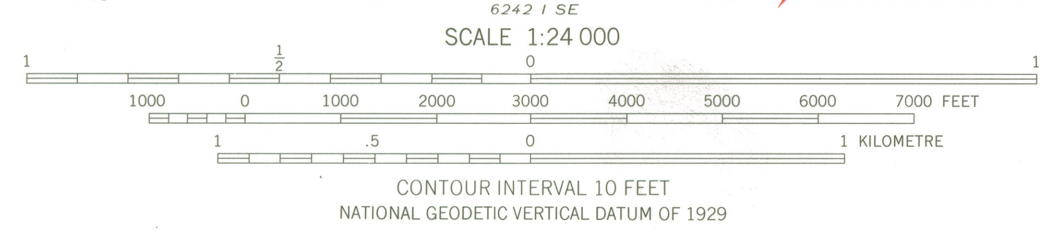
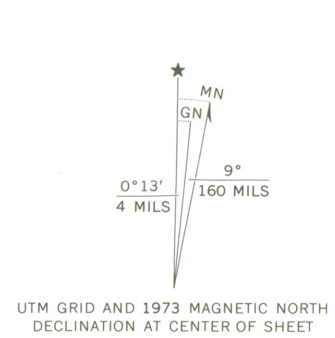
JUN 3 0 1980

SEP 8 1980



XIMENES CHAPEL
113 RUIZ STREET
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14SAB012/3256022

Mapped 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



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



2998-244 SAN ANTONIO WEST, TEX.
N2922.5-W9830.7/5

2998-244



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered

SEP 8 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
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
Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
Honorable Charles Wilson
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
Honorable Sam B. Hall, 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/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. SHPO

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 Andrews