

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 SEP 10 1980

date entered NOV 12 1980

1. Name

historic Burk Burnett Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 500-502 Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Fort Worth _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 12

state Texas _____ code 048 _____ county Tarrant _____ code 439

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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

name Bass Brothers Enterprise

street & number Ft. Worth National Bank Building

city, town Fort Worth _____ vicinity of _____ state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tarrant County Courthouse

street & number Weatherford Street

city, town Fort Worth _____ state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date March, 1978 _____ 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

The Burk Burnett Building at 500 Main Street in Fort Worth was completed in 1914 for the headquarters of the State National Bank. By May of the following year, the bank had failed and one of Texas' leading citizens, Burk Burnett, had bought the property and affixed his name to the front.

A promotional brochure boasted that "No money has been wasted in useless ornamentation or heavy stucco work, but the design is massive and simple." It was a hit with the community. No doubt several citizens climbed the iron staircase on the flat tar and gravel roof to the observation deck on top of the water supply tank a dizzy 175 feet above the sidewalk.

When the 12 story plus basement building was completed it represented the best of early twentieth century architecture and engineering. Four huge Corinthian columns of polished granite supporting a dentilled and fretted cornice graced the entrance, also of polished granite and terra cotta. The upper floors were of red brick; a string course of cream colored terra cotta separated each floor except for the two top most stories which comprised an elaborate final cornice. These were faced with ornately cast terra cotta. Among the detail motifs there were egg and dart moldings, dentils, garlands, bulls eyes, anthemions, and fasces employed as pilasters.

Inside, the lobby was finished in marble with a gilded ceiling. All the corridors were floored in tile and wainscoted in marble, as were the restrooms. The floors in the offices were absolutely fireproof-cement painted with enamel cement floor paint. Only the doors, casings and moldings were of wood: the hardware, heavy brass with the initials SNB in the center. Every office was equipped with a lavatory-some even had a coat closet. All offices, however, were equipped with electric lights, gas and electric plugs, telephone service, and there was a mail chute on each floor. These conveniences were considered the height of modernity at the time.

Other elements of the Burk Burnett Building are very simple. On the north facade, the fenestration is divided into 4 bays of 3 unadorned 1/1 sash windows. The east and west facades are of 3 bays of paired openings. A fire escape and chimney stack have been added to the west wall. To the rear (south) the windows are 2/2 and occur singly. The string courses and suggestions of the cornices are the only details on this elevation. A 20' stone foundation supports the steel framed structure.

The exterior of the building remained unchanged for many years, until in May 1953, Preston M. Geren, architect, secured approval to remodel the entrance detail at the lobby and ground floors. Much of the rich terra cotta and granite was torn away and aluminum and glass fronts installed. Several aluminum awnings for sun protection were also attached apparently to random windows.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

A restaurant occupied the ground floor; necessary accommodations were made. Signs advertising various tenants were attached to the facade. The building experienced a rapid decline as the center of commerce shifted from Main Street to Seventh Street. However, with its purchase by the present owners its future improved. Bass Brothers Enterprises is rehabilitating the Burk Burnett for use as leased office space. Not evident in the photographs is a new elevator tower built along the south wall. Unfortunately, this addition required the partial demolition of the older building that appears in the photo. Architects for the rehabilitation are Geren and Associates.

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 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 checked="" 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 1914

Builder/Architect Sanguinet and Staats, Architects
Buchanan & Gilder, Contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Once a center of finance and commerce, the Burk Burnett Building belonged to one of Texas' leading citizens, an energetic and innovative cattleman/banker. It is a handsome example of Neo-Classical detail applied to a tripartite Commercial style building, and was designed by one of the state's leading firms. The architectural and engineering features Sanguinet and Staats incorporated increased the Burk Burnett's prestige, already considerable since it was the tallest building in the city at the time.

The State National Bank, with E.E. Baldrige as President, secured the architectural firm of Sanguinet and Staats to design a headquarters for its banking operations. With Buchanan and Gilder as contractors, the building was completed in 1914.

Towering 12 stories into the sky, it was the tallest and most modern building in town. Its safety was advertised in a promotional brochure assuring prospective tenants that the steel frame was set in solid rock at depths of more than 20 feet and that special attention was given to wind bracing. The building could stand "a hurricane load". No matter how tall, the reader was assured, the structure would not sway and vibrate. It was also pronounced "absolutely fire proof," but just to be on the safe side, the building was equipped with stand pipe and hose connections on each floor, ready to take care of any slight fire that might occur.

There was also a "complete power plant with boilers, a refrigeration plant for the circulation of ice water to drinking fountains on all floors, vacuum cleaning machinery, ventilating equipment, and an artesian well." The house tank^{for} water was located above the roof and was enclosed by a brick pent-house, the top of which was used for an observation tower - "175 Feet above the sidewalk." Two "gearless traction type" elevators were installed and expected to run at "a speed of approximately 600 feet per minute" on a schedule, thus insuring the tenant with the best service. The writer concluded by saying that "no office building has ever been built, even in New York City, including better equipment."

The State National Bank occupied the first floor and mezzanine, and the rest of the building was leased to a variety of tenants. The Bank's base was less secure than the stone foundation, regardless of outward appearances. Before the close of the year, State National was in trouble. In March 1915, Samuel Burk Burnett, one of Texas' leading citizens and Fort Worth's favorite son, bought the building swearing to the news media that only money, no cattle, was involved in the transaction.

Burnett promptly changed the name of the building to the Burk Burnett Building, and quickly installed another bank as a ground floor tenant. For years one bank or another headquartered in the building and the tenant directory listed a variety of other business interests. During the 1920's oil boom, for instance, the Burk Burnett Building was overrun with newly wealthy oil men looking for the luxurious office space.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Fort Worth was proud of the property and equally proud of Burnett. Born in Bates County, Missouri, January 1, 1849, he came to Texas as a boy. As a cowboy in 1866 he hired out to a cattle outfit driving over the Chisholm Trail. Soon he took his father's cattle north to Indian Territory and fought both Indians and outlaws. In 1874, he set a new precedent among Texas cattlemen. He bought a herd of all steer cattle and was extremely successful in preparing them for market. Burnett also worked to up-grade the Texas Longhorn breed.

Quanah Parker, the great Comanche chief, was a close associate of Burnett's and through this friendship Burnett was able to secure the lease of 300,000 acres of land in southwestern Oklahoma to run cattle. He was also one of the founders of the Texas Cattle Raisers Association. At the turn of the century he bought the huge 6666 Ranch in Denton County, named according to legend to honor a winning poker hand Burnett once held. It soon became a model of efficiency and the home of one of the greatest herds of thoroughbred Herefords in the world. In 1905, Burnett hosted a wolf hunt for Theodore Roosevelt. The incident is credited with changing the name of Nestorville in Wichita County to Burkburnett.

Perhaps Burnett was a cowboy at heart, but he was a banker as well. He affiliated with the First National Bank of Fort Worth, besides several industrial and banking companies in Texas and Oklahoma.

Burnett married twice, first to Ruth Lloyd in 1871, and again in 1892 to Mrs. Claude Barradal, daughter of J.R. Couts. When Burnett died in the 1920's it was this wife, Mary Couts Burnett who eventually inherited the Burk Burnett Building.

The present owner is Bass Brothers Enterprises, a concern interested in restoring the property to its original purpose. Significant to the business community and architectural tapestry of Fort Worth when it was built, it can still hold an important place in the high-rise office market.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Books: Paddock, B. B. History of Texas, Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest Edition. New York, 1922.

Newspapers: Fort Worth Record, Jan., Feb., 1914; May, 1915.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Haltom City, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	5	6	3	6	0	3	6	2	5	0	6	7
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 5, Block 84 of the Old Town Addition, City of Fort Worth

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 Mary R. Rogers; Lissa Anderson, Director of Survey and Nominations

organization C.W. Rogers Company Inc., Texas Hist. Commission date

street & number P.O. Box 17285; P.O. Box 12276 telephone 817/732-6676; 512/475-3094

city or town Fort Worth; Austin state Texas 76102; 78711

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 15, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

Beth Grovena
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/12/80

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Pamphlets:

Promotional brochure, files of Charles W. Rogers,
309 West Seventh Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Records:

Tarrant County Deeds Records. Vols. 453 page 448;
1263 page 47.

Property

Burnett, Burk, Building

DUE 11/10/80

State

Tx, Tarrant

Working Number

9/10/80/2284

80004151

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 6

Maps

Although Burnett has been shown to have been a significant historical figure in TX, the mere fact that he owned this building does not make it eligible for association of him, especially as he is significant as a settler, not a banker. True, he ~~was~~ earned him enough \$ to be a banker too, but his significance as a

HISTORIAN

accept
Governor
11/10/80

banker has not been discussed. And the context of other properties associated w/ him has not been given. However, the building is acceptable architecturally as the tallest and smart modern building of its time, notable both for its fine ~~architectural~~ stylistic features and modern engineering techniques.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered NOV 12 1980

Federal Register Entry 2-2-82

Re-submit



THE NEW STATE NATIONAL
BANK'S OFFICE BUILDING
FINE PRICES
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE
JACKSON BACKUS & CO. CONTRACTORS

FILES SCOTT
AUTO CO.
FIRST CLASS
LUMBER
& BRICKS
AND ALL KINDS
OF BUILDING
MATERIALS

DRUG S

10/29/13

copy original construction photo

Burk Burnett Building
500-502 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Copy of c.1913 photo by W.D. Smith Inc.
Commercial Photography, Fort Worth. Negative
property of W.D. Smith.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 1 of 6. SEP 10 1980

PHOTO COPY
W.D. SMITH, INC. COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
2900 Photo Ave. - 817/732-4448
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

79-120-7

Burk Burnett Building
500-502 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Photo by W.D. Smith Inc. Commercial Photography,
Fort Worth. Negative property of W.D. Smith.
1979.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 2 of 6.

SEP 10 1980

East and North exposure
Main Street and fourth

W.D. SMITH, INC. COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
2900 Photo Ave. - 817/732-4448
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107
FOR DUPLICATE PRINTS

ORDER FILE NO. 79-120-4



Burk Burnett Building
500-502 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Photo by W.D. Smith Inc. Commercial Photography,
Fort Worth, 1979. Negative property of
W.D. Smith.

North facade, camera facing south.

Photo 3 of 6.

SEP 10 1980

North exposure
Fourth Street

W.D. SMITH, INC. COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
2900 Photo Ave. - 817/732-4448
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107
FOR DUPLICATE PRINTS

ORDER FILE NO. 79-120-5



Burk Burnett Building
500-502 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

NOV 12 1980

Photo by W.D. Smith, Inc. Commercial Photography
1979. Negative property of W.D. Smith.

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.

Photo 4 of 6.

SEP 10 1980

South exposure

W.D. SMITH, INC. COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
2900 Photo Ave. - 817/732-4448
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107
FOR DUPLICATE PRINTS

ORDER FILE NO. 79-120-1

BURK BURNETT BUILDING

NEW WORTH
RESTAURANT

East Exposure - Main Street

Burk Burnett Building
500-502 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo by W.D. Smith Inc. Commercial Photography,
Fort Worth, 1979. Negative property of
W.D. Smith.

Detail of east facade.

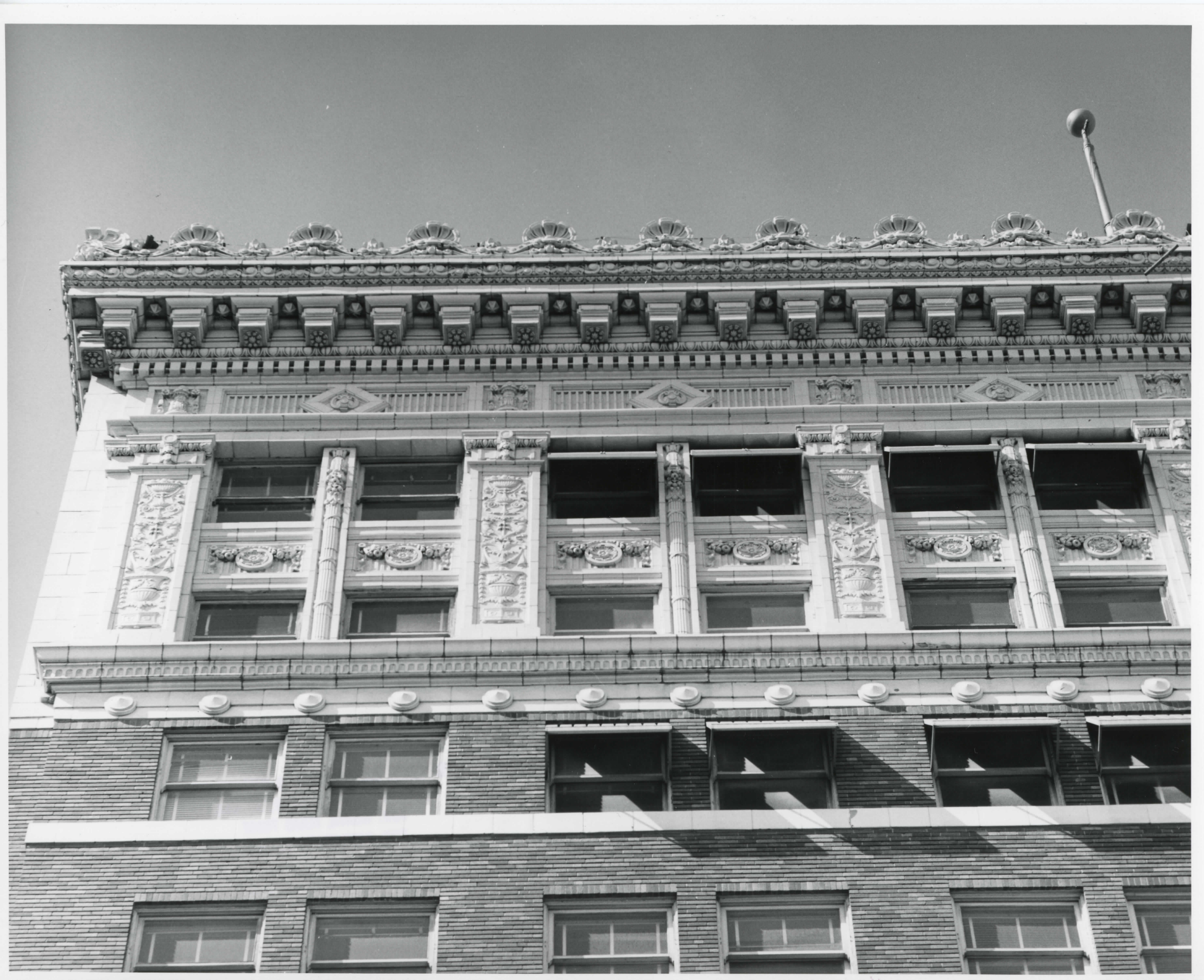
Photo 5 of .6.

SEP 10 1980

NOV 12 1980

W.D. SMITH, INC. COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
2900 Photo Ave. - 817/732-4448
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107
FOR DUPLICATE PRINTS

ORDER FILE NO. 79-120-2



Terra cotta cap

Burk Burnett Building
500-502 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo by W.D. Smith Inc. Commercial Photography,
Fort Worth, 1979. Negative property of
W.D. Smith.

Detail of cornice on east facade.

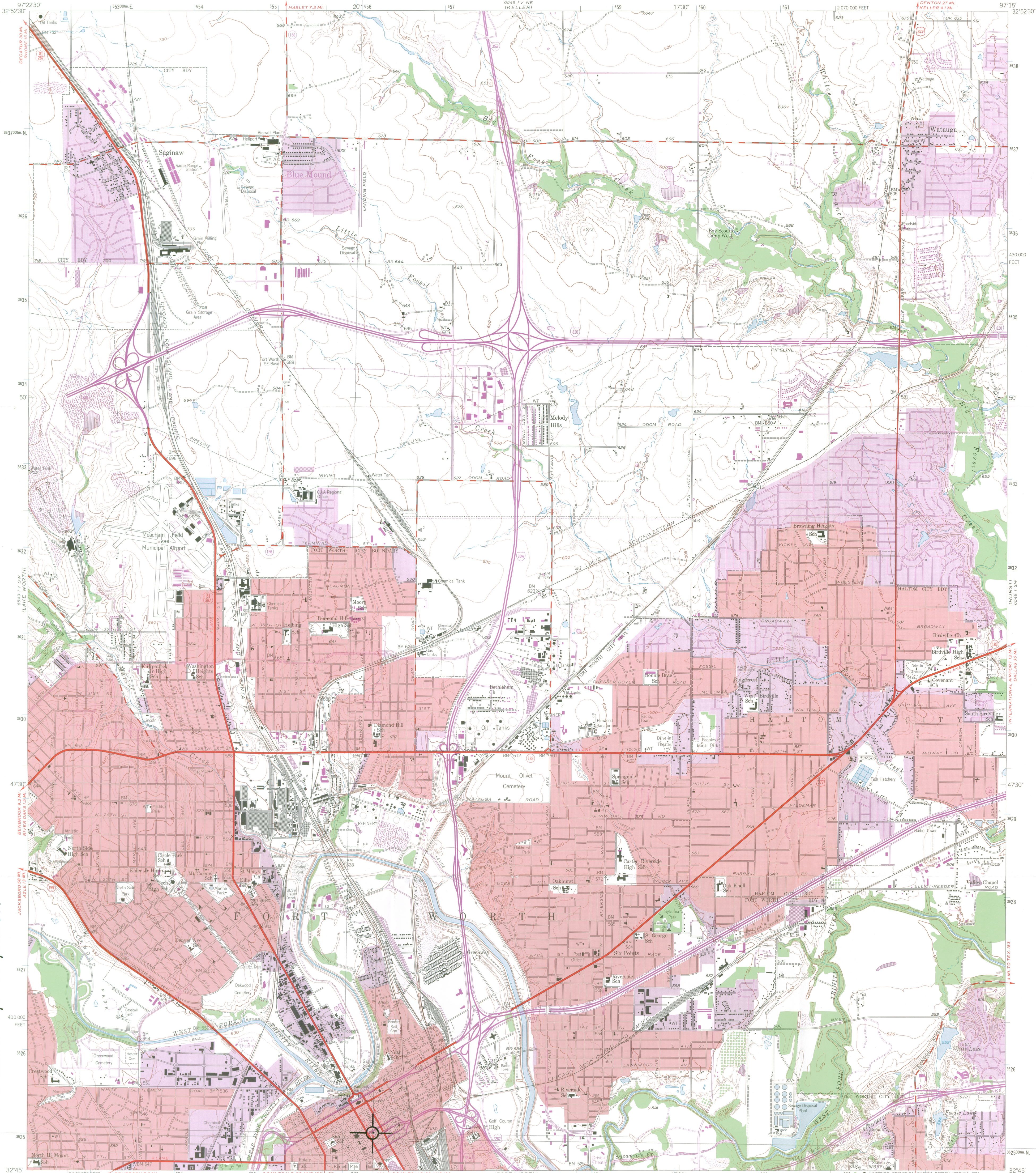
Photo 6 of 6.

SEP 10 1980

NOV 12 1980

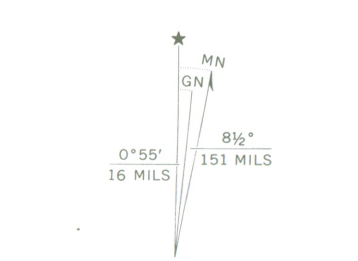
W.D. SMITH, INC. COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
2900 Photo Ave. - 817/732-4448
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107
FOR DUPLICATE PRINTS

ORDER FILE NO. 79-120-3



BURK BURNETT BUILDING
500-502 MAIN STREET
FORT WORTH, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14J060360/3625067

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1952-1954. Field check 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system
north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1968 and 1972. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

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

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



HALTOM CITY, TEX.
SE/4 HALTOM CITY 15' QUADRANGLE
N3245-W9715/7.5
1955
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1972
AMS 6549 IV SE-SERIES V882
NOV 12 1980

3297-431

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered

NOV 12 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Burnett, Burk, Building	Fort Worth Tarrant County
Austin County Jail	Bellville Austin County
Milroy, John, House	Houston Harris County

Also Notified

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
Honorable James C. Wright, Jr.
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle
Honorable Mickey Leland

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historic Commission
Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR

Byers/lbg 11/19/80
for further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.