

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 APR 28 1980

date entered JUL 4 1980

1. Name

historic Meerscheidt, Otto House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 322 Adams St, _____ not for publication

city, town San Antonio _____ vicinity of congressional district 21

state Texas code 048 county Bexar code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Elwyn and Doris Spencer

street & number 322 Adams

city, town San Antonio _____ vicinity of state Texas 78204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number Main Plaza

city, town San Antonio _____ vicinity of state Texas 78204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin _____ vicinity of 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Otto Meerscheidt House, built ca. 1903, is one of the most impressive monumental Classical Greek Revival residences in San Antonio. While the structure embodies most of the characteristic elements and details of this popular style, particularly noteworthy features, such as the hipped dormers and the central projecting bay of the west facade, enhance its stately appearance. Constructed in one of the earliest suburbs of San Antonio, the Meerscheidt House reflects the early expansion of this city which was promoted by the owner, a major figure in San Antonio's banking industry and early commercial growth.

The essentially symmetrical plan of this 2-story rectangular structure is broken only by a slightly chamfered bay extension on the south side. The walls are of brick veneer construction, while the perimeter foundation, interior piers, and partial basement walls are all of poured in place concrete. The west facade, which faces the street, displays a 2-story gallery framed between raised brick quoins at the northwest and southwest corners.

Located at the center of the double portico is a semicircular projecting bay which is the focal point of the structure. On either side of this boldly extended bay, the gallery continues the length of the house and is defined by six 2-story fluted wood columns and two identical wall pilasters. Terracotta Corinthian capitals crown the columns which rest on Attic style bases with plinths, and support the heavy entablature of the second floor roof. A turned wood balustrade and entablature with a dentiled cornice separate the two floors of the gallery and extend around the central projecting bay. The second story projecting cornice with delicately carved scroll-like modillions and dentils, extends around the roof line to the rear of the house. A two-story wood frame sleeping porch, constructed in the classical tradition, is located at the rear of the structure on the east side. This closed rear porch, whose floors are separated by a projecting cornice and carved wooden pilasters at each level, contains three doors with transoms.

Fenestration of the structure is symmetrical and consists of casement and 4/4 double hung sash type windows on the rear east porch, and single double hung windows appearing as single units on the north and south side, and in groups of three on the west facade. First floor windows are accentuated with smooth stone lintels and raised keystones, while those on the second level display only stone sills. Separating the two levels of windows on the north and south sides of the structure is a flat brick stringcourse. Stain leaded glass side lights and a single fan light frame the main entrance door on the west, which is crowned with a brick elliptical archivolt trim. Piercing the structure's high pitched roof are two exterior end wall chimneys and three gabled and hipped dormers with classical details on the north, west, and south sides. On the gabled end of the dormer roofs a pediment is formed with triple window arrangements and a cornice with dentils and modillions, which extends around the dormer along the roofline.

The interior of the first floor is largely intact and its classical detailing is as splendid as the craftsmanship on the exterior. Original delicately carved cornices, window architrave trim, and beams of the coffered ceilings in varnished oak decorate the rooms with white plaster walls. The wood partition which divides the main entrance

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

hall from the stair hall is composed of carved classical columns, arches, and paneling. The staircase, also of varnished oak, has been altered past the seventh step. The remaining woodwork in the house, including the carved pilasters, Corinthian capitals, and Greek mouldings of the dining room cabinet and the fluted columns of the mantled fireplace, is ornate and finely executed. Brass and bronze door and window hardware and the original light fixtures in all the main rooms are of exceptional quality. These fixtures are executed in a variety of materials, including brass, bronze, German silver, and stained glass.

Major alterations to the 1903 residence have been confined to the second floor which was renovated to accomodate a large single meeting hall for the Masonic Lodge, a fraternal organization which purchased the house after the death of Otto Meerscheidt in 1939. A steel fire escape was also added on the south side at this time. Although the appearance of the second floor interior has been modified, the architectural integrity of the structure remains virtually intact. Future plans for the structure include partial restoration of the interior and exterior by the owner, who has resided here since the purchase of the property from the Masonic Lodge in September, 1978. Although most of the exterior brick is in good condition, much of the woodwork, including the first floor porch and details of the entablature, is in need of repair. A small, simple rectangular servants' quarters with a corrugated tin roof is the only outbuilding on the property. It is contemporary with and situated directly behind the main structure, and is also in need of repair.

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 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 ca. 1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Otto Meerscheidt House, with its delicately carved woodwork and dominant monumental 2-story facade portico, is a fine example of early 20th century Classical Greek Revival architecture in San Antonio. Considering the proliferation of early 20th century Neo-Classical houses in San Antonio, this structure remains as one of the most stately and well-proportioned of this type. Reportedly designed by Meerscheidt's wife, Nettie, the house reveals a designer's hand that carefully handled the detail and proportions with sublime elegance. The near original condition of the structure's exterior and first floor interior is an excellent representation, not only of an historic era, but an influential businessman important to the overall historic and social fabric of San Antonio.

Otto Meerscheidt, who was a dominant figure in San Antonio's banking history, was born on January 21, 1871, near Round Top, Texas, to Arthur and Amanda Karoline von Rosenberg Meerscheidt. The noble lineage of his family can be traced back to Otto von Rosenberg who came from Sweden to Kurland in 1500. Otto, who was the twelfth in a family of thirteen, grew up in La Grange. He later followed his brothers to San Antonio, where he enrolled in Alamo Business College.

With the founding of the Alamo National Bank in San Antonio in 1891, Meerscheidt began his business career as a teller. In 1919 he became the bank's president and left in 1933 to manage the regional office of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. He also helped implement the San Antonio Clearing House Association and the Federal Reserve for San Antonio. Otto was a shrewd, incisive man, and was also considered a magnificent practical joker. He was, however, compassionate and helpful to the unfortunate who needed loan money. He headed a bank staff for twenty years that was fiercely loyal to him and one of the most cohesive and efficient teams in the bank's history.

Otto Meerscheidt and his family continued to occupy the house on Adams St. until his death in 1939. The Masonic Lodge, which purchased the property at this time and renovated the second floor to accommodate a large meeting hall, maintained this structure as their headquarters for nearly forty years. In September of 1978 the present owners and current residents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Spencer, purchased the house from the Masonic Lodge and have recently made plans for its partial restoration.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alamo National Bank Archives

Ben Head, M.A. Thesis on the history of the Alamo National Bank. (Southwest Texas State University)

10. Geographical Data UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 0.45 ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 Quadrangle name San Antonio East

UMT References

<p>A <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>9</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>0</td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>0</td></tr></table></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Zone Easting Northing</p> <p>C <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p> <p>E <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p> <p>G <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p>	1	4	5	4	9	4	4	0	3	2	5	3	1	6	0																																														<p>B <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Zone Easting Northing</p> <p>D <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p> <p>F <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p> <p>H <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p>																																												
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The structure is located on lot A-18, Block 946, and is bounded on the west by Adams St., the south by Block 2879, the east by city easement, and on the north by Lot 17, Block 946.

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 Barbara C. Nagel, Research Assistant
Steven Land Tillotson, DeLara-Almond Architects, San Antonio

organization Texas Historical Commission date April 3, 1980

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:

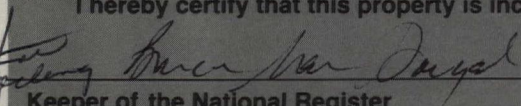
national state local



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 April 4, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
 Keeper of the National Register	date <u>7/9/80</u>
Attest: <u>Beth G. Soenen</u>	date <u>7/1/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

Property Meerachardt, Otto, House

State Tx - Bexar

Working Number 4-28-80.1261

Ref # 60004488

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 5

Maps 1

One of the city's best examples of turn-of-the-century Classical Revival residences. Built in one of the earliest San Antonio's first suburbs, it also reflects the city's an early expansion period which was promoted by the owner, a leading banker.

HISTORIAN

*accept
Grosvena
7/1/80*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*accept
Grosvena
7/1/80*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JUL 4 1980

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____



Meerscheidt, Otto, House
322 Adams St.
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

JUL 4 1980

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1979.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

West facade, camera facing east.

Photo 1 of 5.

APR 28 1980



JUL 4 1980

Heerscheidt, Otto, House
322 Adams St.
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1979.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.

Photo 2 of 5.

APR 28 1980



Heerscheidt, Otto, House
322 Adams St.
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

JUL 4 1980

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1979.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 5.

APR 28 1980



Meerscheidt, Otto, House
322 Adams Street
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

JUL 4 1980

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1979.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.

Photo 4 of 5.

APR 28 1980



JUL 4 1980

Meerscheidt, Otto, House
322 Adams St.
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1979.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Detail of west facade.

Photo 5 of 5.

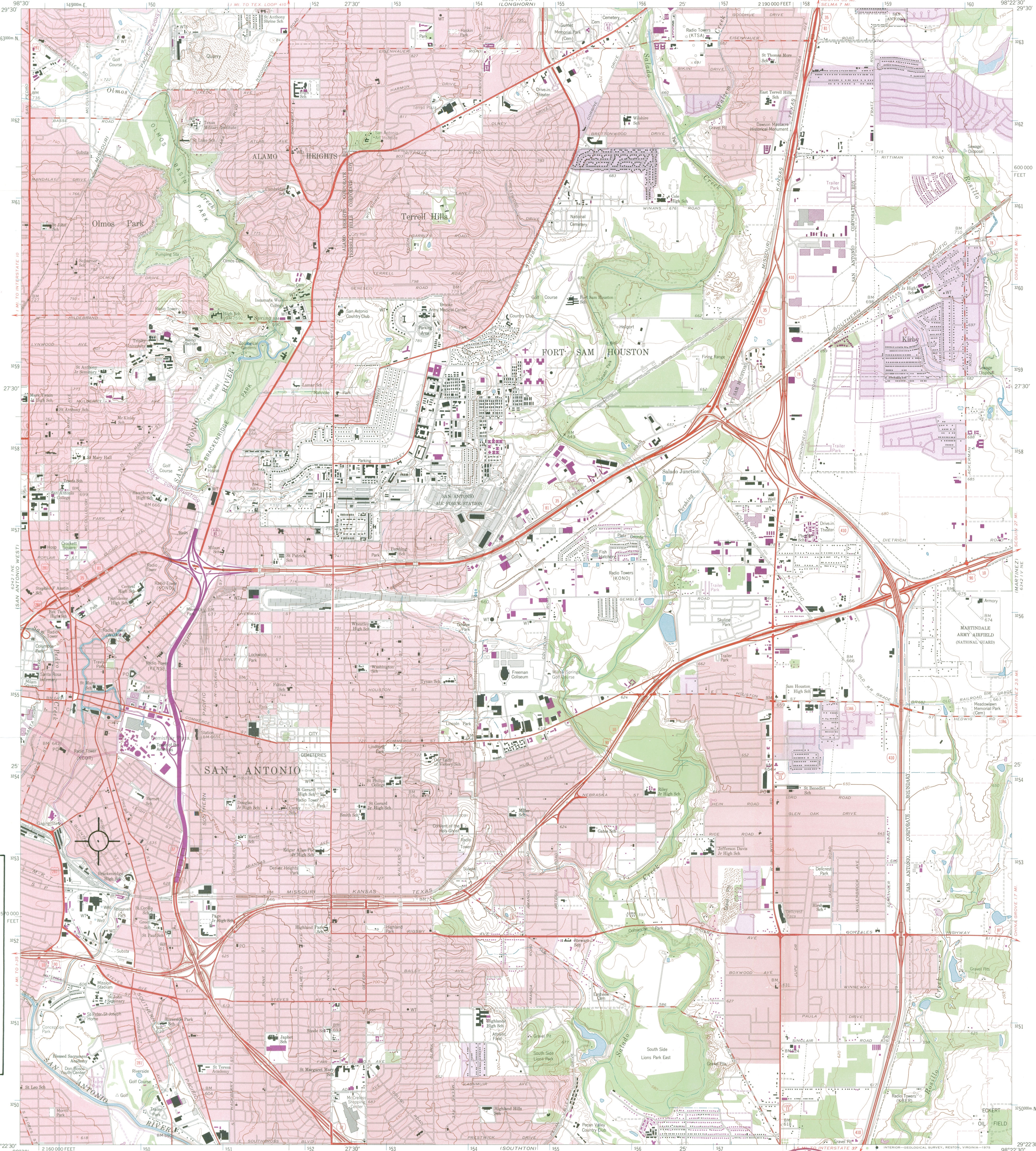
APR 28 1980

6242 I V SE
(CASTLE HILLS)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

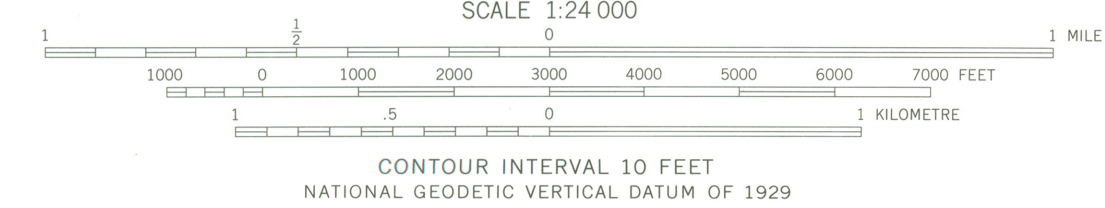
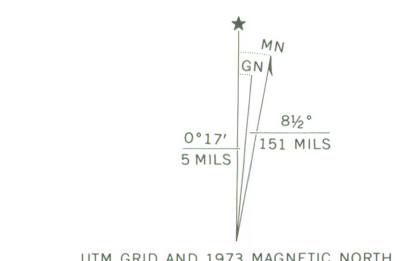
SAN ANTONIO EAST QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-BEXAR CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES TOPOGRAPHIC

6242 I V SE
(SCHERTZ)



MEERSCHIEDT, OTTO, HOUSE
322 ADAMS STREET
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE:
14/549440/3253160

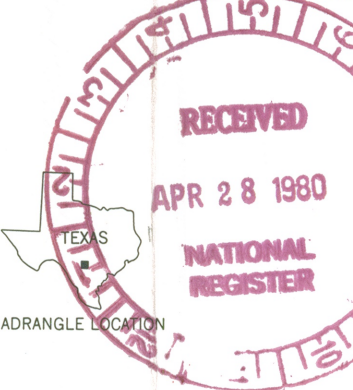
Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Field annotated 1953. Revised by Geological Survey
from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967.
Polyconic 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



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



JUL 4 1980
2998-133

SAN ANTONIO EAST, TEX.
N2922.5-W9822.5/7.5

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 6342 IV NW-SERIES V882

6242 I V SE
(EIMENDORF)

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JUL 4 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Meerscheidt, Otto, House Busch Building	San Antonio Bexar County Dallas Dallas County

Also Notified

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
Honorable Thomas G. Loeffler
Honorable James A. Mattox

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

7/22/80

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