

**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 MAY 18 1982
date entered JUN 17 1982

1. Name

historic Brown-Dorsey House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 213 North Weatherford

N/A not for publication

city, town Midland

N/A vicinity of

congressional district 19

state Texas

code 048

county Midland

code 329

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

N/A in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☐ yes: restricted
☒ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☒ museum
☐ park
☐ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Midland County Historical Society

street & number 2102 Community Lane

city, town Midland

vicinity of

state Texas 79701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Midland County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Midland

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin

state Texas

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1899, the Brown-Dorsey House is located on its original site at 213 North Weatherford Street in downtown Midland. The two story wood frame structure typifies moderate Late Victorian era residential architecture with its asymmetrical plan, multi-gabled roof, fanciful exterior and interior wood trim, and textural variety displayed in its construction materials. It is perhaps the only Eastlake cottage left in the city.

Most notable of the architectural details is the intricately jig-sawn and turned woodwork of the bargeboards and brackets. The second story gables on the south, west, and east elevations contain a bargeboard with radiating spindles surrounded by jig-sawn detail. The south porch gable over the entrance has a bargeboard that is primarily a combination of jig-sawn cuts. Similarly detailed brackets are on the porch and combined with pendants beneath the overhanging corners of the second story bays. Other decorative elements are the turned porch columns, shingled gable ends and dormer, diagonally cornered bay on the first story, and an art glass round arched window on the west elevation in the entry hall. The remaining windows are typically one over one wood sash (though the second story windows were replaced with smaller paired units of the same type), and originally had operable shutters. A decorative drip moulding tops the window facing. Serving as the entrance is a single oak paneled and glazed door with transom above.

The clapboard siding is defined with chamfered and capped corner trim simulating an engaged corner post. A horizontal trim divides the first story from the second and repeats between the second and shingled gable above. An early color scheme of at least four hues distinguished the various architectural elements more than the present two color application.

Interior detailing of the Brown-Dorsey House is much as it was originally with 11 foot ceilings, pine floors, decorative oak mouldings, three carved oak and tile mantles, and brass hardware. Four rooms, an entry, a pantry, and an added bath and bedroom where a rear porch had been constitute the downstairs plan. The second story includes three bedrooms opening to a central hall.

Within the brick foundation wall and below the kitchen of the house is a wine cellar with brick lined walls and dirt floor, an unusual feature in the region. An arbor has been reconstructed just west of the house as a reminder of Mr. Brown's private wine production.

The Brown-Dorsey House essentially retains its Victorian character. Alterations that have occurred are generally minor and include the removal of the chimney and replacement of the porch ballusters. The shutters have been removed, and the architectural decoration has suffered the loss of a few pendants and small portions of other details. The rear bedroom/bath addition is sheathed with asbestos siding, the roofing has been changed from wood shingles to composition, and burglar bars have been added to the windows. Single windows in the second floor gables were changed to double windows apparently at an early date, but these retain the 1/1 configuration and the architraves of the originals.

The Brown-Dorsey House is located in downtown Midland in an area now almost exclusively commercial. No outbuildings are known to have been associated with the property historically; a replica of the historic grape arbor, however, is located just south of the house.

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1899

Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brown-Dorsey House is Midland's oldest extant residential structure and only known survivor of Victorian residential architecture in the city. Finely detailed with ornamental jig-sawn and turned trim, the house is a good example of Victorian craftsmanship expressed in a modest dwelling. Original owner, Z. Taylor Brown was a prominent businessman in Midland who left his mark with several downtown business houses. As a progressive rancher, Brown neutralized the region's anti-fencing controversy by stringing the first fences in the area.

Brown and his wife, Sara Mulholland Brown came to Midland in 1884 driving 1000 sheep from Navarro County in north central Texas. He had migrated to Texas from his native Illinois in 1877 where he received law and engineering degrees from Blackburn University. His initial ranching endeavor was not totally successful and he sold his herd to enter the mercantile business in 1890. Brown is thought to have been the first rancher to fence land in Midland County, though his fenced land reverted to the Federal Government when he could not pay for it. After four years as a successful businessman, Brown sold his share of the business and bought a 76 section ranch southwest of Midland. He re-entered the mercantile business with H.M. Garrett in 1905 and built five business houses in downtown Midland.

The original house that was on the lot at 213 North Weatherford Street Brown had purchased in 1886 became too small for his family of seven, so they moved to the ranch. Brown subsequently demolished the old four room town house in 1899 and built a stylish residence for his family. Z. Taylor and Sara lived in the house until their deaths, 1930 and 1922 respectively. One of the Brown's daughters, Sarah, remained in the house with her husband Hugh B. Dorsey following the death of her parents, and eventually raised seven children there. Following Sarah Brown Dorsey's death in 1968, the Midland County Historical Society purchased the house and began the task of rehabilitating the 70 year old structure. It presently serves as a museum. While the City of Midland is a century old, virtually no other structures from its earliest days are known to have survived.

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

The Odessa News-Times- obituary, April 4, 1930

McKinley, Nancy P. "Z. Taylor Brown-Sarah Dorsey House" National Register nomination, 8 May 1980, on file Texas Historical Commission, Austin

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one
Quadrangle name Southeast Midland, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 13 776640 3543860
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is 75' by 140' that includes lot 3 and the north half of lot 4 of block 39 of the original town plat of Odessa; the lot is bounded on the east by North Weatherford Street and on the west by a 20 ft. alley.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carla Lee Fraser and Daniel Hardy, research Assistants

organization Texas Historical Commission

date July 31, 1981

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 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 24 March 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

6/17/82

for Shelous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

82064516

Property: Brown-Dorsey House
State, County: TX, Midland
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 5/18/82-1447
Fed. Reg. Date: FEB 1 1983
Date Due: 6/12/82 - 7/2/82

Action: ACCEPT 6/12/82
Entered in the RETURN _____
National Register REJECT _____

- ____ resubmission
____ nomination by person or local government
____ owner objection
____ appeal

photos _____
maps ✓

Substantive Review: _____ sample _____ request _____ appeal _____ NR decision _____

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
____ excellent	____ deteriorated	____ original site
____ good	____ ruins	____ moved date _____
____ fair	____ unexposed	
	____ unaltered	
	____ altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ____ summary paragraph
____ completeness
____ clarity
____ alterations/integrity
____ dates
____ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



BROWN-DORSEY HOUSE
213 North Weatherford
Midland, Midland County, Texas

Photographer unknown, circa 1905, negative in
Midland County Historical Society files
2102 Community Lane, Midland, Texas 79701
East elevation, camera facing west
Photo #1 of 5



BROWN-DORSEY HOUSE
213 North Weatherford
Midland, Midland County, Texas

Photo by Linda Flory Butler, October 1980 , neg. in
Texas Historical Commission files

Southeast Oblique , camera facing northwest
Photo #2 of 5



BROWN-DORSEY HOUSE
213 North Weatherford
Midland, Midland County, Texas

Photo by Linda Flory Butler, October 1980 , neg in
Texas Historical Commission files

Southwest Oblique , camera facing northeast
Photo #3 of 5



BROWN-DORSEY HOUSE
213 North Weatherford
Midland, Midland County, Texas

Photo by Linda Flory Butler, October 1980, neg. in
Texas Historical Commission files

Northwest Oblique, camera facing southeast
Photo #4 of 5



BROWN-DORSEY HOUSE
213 North Weatherford
Midland, Midland County, Texas

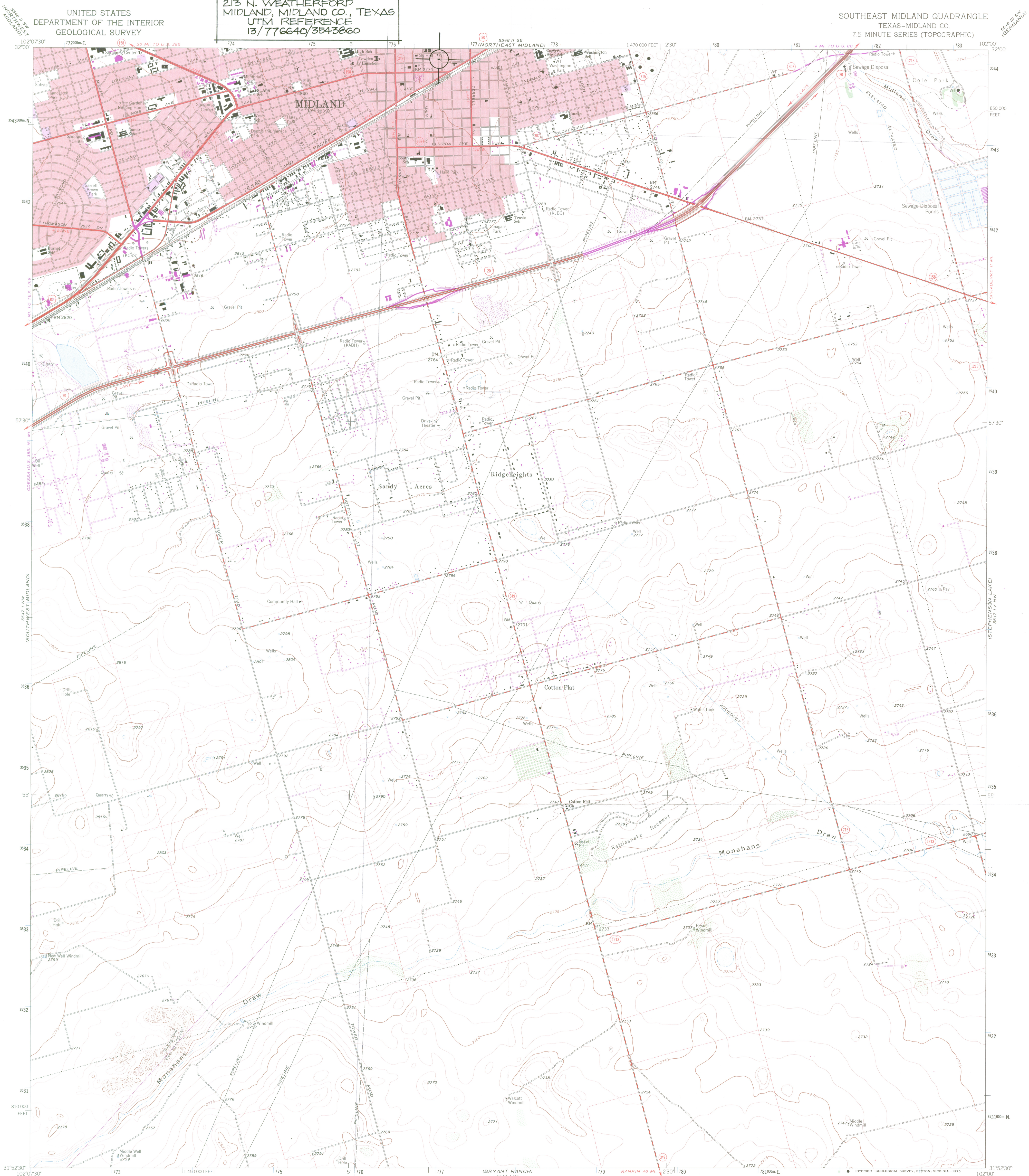
Photo by Linda Flory Butler, October 1980, neg, in
Texas Historical Commission files

Northeast Oblique, camera facing southwest
Photo #5 of 5

BROWN-DORSEY HOUSE
213 N. WEATHERFORD
MIDLAND, MIDLAND CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE
13/776640/3543860

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SOUTHEAST MIDLAND QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-MIDLAND CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1963. Topography by planimetric surveys 1965

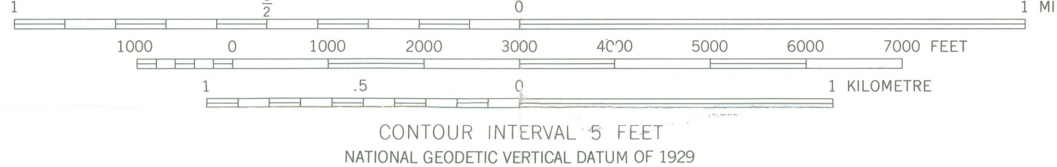
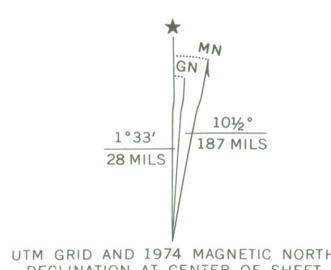
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, central zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1974. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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



3102- 444

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

SOUTHEAST MIDLAND, TEX.
N3152.5-W10200/7.5

1965
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5547 I NE-SERIES V882