

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

3/29/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number all

Page 7

County Galveston USGS Quad 2994/231 Survey site no. 7  
City Galveston UTM's 325870/3242480  
Name Rosenberg Library Date: factual 1902-04; 1971 Est.  
Address 2310 Sealy St. Architect/Builder William S. Eames & Thomas C. \*  
Young/St. Louis Contractor Harry Devlin  
Owner City of Galveston Style/Type Second Renaissance Revival  
ATTN: John Hyatt Original use public library  
Address 2310 Sealy Present use public library  
Galveston 77550 Present condition excellent  
Block/Lot 263/8-14. Less than 1 acre  
Description Multistory rusticated brick and stone structure; modified I-shape with low-pitched tiled, hipped roof; wide cornice and frieze; 3 bays on 23rd St. or main entrance facade; primary openings are 2-story arches with pediment and complete entablature; open book carved in each pediment; arched transom with carved spandrels; entrance on south or Ave. I side opens onto balustraded landing. "Rosenberg Library 1902" carved in frieze on 23rd St. side. Decorative panels carved with names of authors flank primary openings. Statue of Henry Rosenberg in center of 23rd St. side. Later addition is light-stone rectangular structure with low-pitched, hipped roof; plain, smooth surface; entrance placed at connection point of original building and addition. This later addition is not a contributing element of the nomination.

Significance Rosenberg Library has served as the Galveston public library since its dedication on June 22, 1904. Henry Rosenberg, the Swiss-born banker and merchant, gave the funds for what was the first major public library in Texas. Architects were William S. Eames and Thomas C. Young of St. Louis, also architects of the San Francisco U.S. Customs House. In May 1901, the Directors of the Rosenberg Library Association purchased the site; the cornerstone was laid on October 18, 1902. On August 22, 1971, the Moody Memorial Wing was dedicated. As a public institution, the library is of major importance in Galveston. Architecturally, the original building is unique among early Galveston buildings and is the most intact public building representing the early twentieth century. The archival collection of the library is of importance locally and state-wide.

Relationship to site: Moved date or Original site X Describe Fills half of block; surrounded by mixed uses, most on sizeable tracts (churches, Ashton Villa, etc.)  
Bibliography HABS Survey Form (1966); Informant   
Galveston Daily News, 6/21/1974; library Recorder Ellen Beasley  
subject files. Date Nov. 1982

Continuations: \* Architect/Builder - Thomas M. Price, architect of wing.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rosenberg Library (Central Business  
District MRA)  
Galveston County  
TEXAS

Working No. MAR 29 1984  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 4/26/84 - 5/13/84  
Action: ACCEPT  
RETURN 5/2/84  
REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated  
☐ good ☐ ruins  
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

## X 10. Geographical Data

X Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_ *please provide acreage*  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM 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 *Melvin Byers* Date *5/2/84* Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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3/29/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 3

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Central Business District Multiple Resource Area  
State Galveston County, TEXAS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Marschner Building

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 8/14/84

Attest

12. Model Laundry

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grovum 8/14/84

Attest

13. Moser House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 8/14/84

Attest

14. Pix Building

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 8/14/84

Attest

15. Robinson Building

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 8/14/84

Attest

16. Rosenberg Library

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 8/14/84

Attest

17. Scottish Rite Cathedral

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grovum 8/14/84

Attest

18. Shaw, M. W., Building

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 8/14/84

Attest

19. Star Drug Store

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 8/14/84

Attest

20. Texas Building

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 8/14/84

Attest



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rosenberg Library (Central  
Business District MRA)  
Galveston County  
TEXAS

Working No. 3137/84  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85  
Date Due: 8/19/84  
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 8-14-84  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- ☒ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

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

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

Check one

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

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title      date

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## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet*







Galveston Central Business District  
Multiple Resource Nomination  
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

Photo by Ellen Beasley, April 1983; neg. on file  
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Site No. 7, Rosenberg Library, 823 23rd Street,  
looking west

Photo 14 of 32



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000842