

United States Department of the Interior
National Park 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 NPS use only

received DEC 19 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Blackstone Hotel

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 601 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Worth

N/A vicinity of

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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"/> N/A 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Blackstone Hotel Partners, Ltd., Frank G. Baldwin & David J. Hurley, General Partners

street & number 2601 Ocean Park Boulevard, Suite 100

city, town Santa Monica

N/A vicinity of

state California 90405

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tarrant County Courthouse

street & number 100 North Houston Street

city, town Fort Worth

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey
title (2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no
(1) 1982
date (2) 1983 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local
(1) Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County
depository for survey records (2) Texas Historical Commission
city, town (1) Fort Worth
(2) 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

The Blackstone Hotel is a 22-story reinforced-concrete structure whose exterior is faced with tawny brick and ornamental terra-cotta work. The hotel features a setback upperlevel with terraces, which provides some outstanding views of the city. Slender brick piers, which divide the structure's facade into bays, are capped by ornate terra-cotta finials. While not strictly Art Moderne or Art Deco in its design, the Blackstone reflects the popularity of these styles in its massing and details.

Located at 601 Main Street in downtown Fort Worth, the Blackstone Hotel is a 22-story structure with a reinforced concrete frame clad in tawny brick with terra-cotta details. Sited on the corner of Main and East 5th, the hotel has two street elevations. The ground-level facades are faced with Minnesota granite punctuated by large shopfront windows and the two entrances for the hotel. The second-floor fronts feature large double-window bays which are enframed in ornamental terra-cotta work. The lower terra-cotta panels are meant to be read as a balustrade, although there is no balcony behind them. The vertical panels of the second floor are also highly detailed, with paired griffins and dolphins set within stylized foliage, the entire ensemble capped by an eagle with outstretched wings. The second floor is separated from the upper stories by a thin terra-cotta belt course.

At the third-floor level, and continuing up to the 15th floor on the East 5th elevation, and to the 20th floor on the Main Street elevation, the facade is divided by vertical brick piers. The Main Street front is divided into nine bays, while the East 5th Street facade is divided into seven bays, one of which contains three banks of windows. With the exception of a few openings, the windows of the hotel retain their original, double-hung, wooden sashes. Some of the windows of the uppermost floors have been replaced with metal sash, and approximately 25 percent of the windows on the structure's rear, or northeast, face have also been fitted with metal sash.

The setback massing of the hotel begins at the 14th floor with a setback on the rear of that floor on the east 5th elevation. The mass of the upper levels is again setback at the 15th, 18th, and 20th floors. Each of these symmetrically planned setbacks provides an open terrace whose balustrade is formed by a crest of ornamental terra-cotta highlighted by the massive finials capping the vertical piers of the lower stages. These finials are faced with stylized leafage that supports four rather abstract pineapples. A covered loggia at the Main Street front of the 20th floor is set beneath a large U-shaped terrace above. The small interior spaces contained within the last two stories of the building were clearly not intended as guest space, and serve merely as the crown of the structure.

In 1952-53, when the Blackstone was a part of the Hilton Hotel chain, several alterations and additions were made to the building. To the south of the original hotel, on Main Street, a five-story annex was constructed to provide large meeting rooms and a ballroom. The ground floor of this annex is not attached to the main building via hall ways. Rather, internal connections between the original hotel and the annex are located on the second, third, and fourth floors.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The exterior of the annex is essentially a blank wall with no openings above the ground floor. A swimming pool is located on the rooftop of the annex. The Hilton chain was also responsible for remodeling the hotel's interior. The original, double-height lobby was cut down by the addition of a mezzanine level, although the original plaster ceiling survives intact. On the upper portions of the tower, once-open loggias were filled in with windows. Located at the 15th and 18th stories, these former open spaces could be easily returned to their original character, as the window installation did not result in the loss of any original fabric.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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	1929	Builder/Architect	Mauran, Russell, & Crowell
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in the heart of the Fort Worth business district, the Blackstone Hotel is perhaps the tallest pre-World War II structure in the city, its verticality emphasized by the setback of its upper floors. Designed by the prominent St. Louis architectural firm of Mauran, Russell, & Crowell, the hotel has played host to all the presidents from Hoover to Nixon, as well as many notable figures from the world of entertainment.

The Blackstone Hotel was constructed in 1929, at the end of one of the most prosperous decades in the history of Fort Worth. The hotel was built for the wealthy cattleman C.A. "Gus" O'Keefe, and was given the Blackstone name following O'Keefe's visit to the hotel of that name in Chicago. The structure contains over 300 rooms, including several special suites on the upper floors, some of which once featured private terraces overlooking the city. The setback massing of the hotel reflects the popularity of the Art Moderne and Art Deco styles, as well as the general use of setbacks on all high-rise buildings in New York City after 1923, when that city's zoning code required a reduction in the massing of tall buildings.

The hotel was designed by the noted St. Louis architectural firm of Mauran, Russell, & Crowell. Before 1910 the company was known as Mauran and Russell, and was responsible for the design of the Rice Hotel in Houston, built 1910–1911, and the Galvez Hotel in Galveston, built in 1912–13. Both of these earlier hotels are listed on the National Register. Mauran, Russell, & Crowell were also responsible for the design of a number of significant structures in St. Louis, including the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and the Laclede Gas Light Company Building. The fact that the senior partners of the firm, John Lawrence Mauran and Ernest John Russell, were both elected president of the American Institute of Architects, attests to their prominence in that profession.

The Blackstone was managed initially by Wallace N. Robinson Hotels Company, which at that time was also managing the St. Anthony in San Antonio. In 1946 the hotel was taken over by H. Fuller Stevens, of Dallas, and became part of the Hilton Hotel chain in 1952. Sold by Hilton Hotels in 1962, the building is presently vacant following a declaration of bankruptcy by the owners in 1982.

The hotel evidently was considered the finest in the city upon its completion, and it hosted every president from Herbert Hoover to Richard Nixon. The city's first radio station, WBAP, was established in the hotel and occupied the 21st floor in the mid-1930s. The Blackstone stands in the center of Fort Worth's rapidly growing downtown business district, though long since surpassed as the tallest building in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hansen, Harry (ed.). Texas, A Guide to the Lone Star State. American Guide Series (orig. Federal Writers' Program, WPA, 1940). New York: Hastings House, 1969.
Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 1928-1983.
Schilder, Eugene L. We Believe in Fort Worth Book: Where the West Begins. Fort Worth: Monitor, 1929.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Haltom City, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4
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6	5	6	4	6	0
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3	6	2	5	0	2	0
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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

Lots 1-8, inclusive, block number 96. See also attached city map, Exhibit A.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger L. Yandell, P.E., Carlton E. DeWolff, and Basil T. Elmer, Jr.

organization Tri-Tech Design/Build Group

date August, 1983

street & number 2805 Fort Worth National Bank Building telephone (817) 335-3000

city or town Fort Worth

state Texas 76102

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/12/83

For NPS use only

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

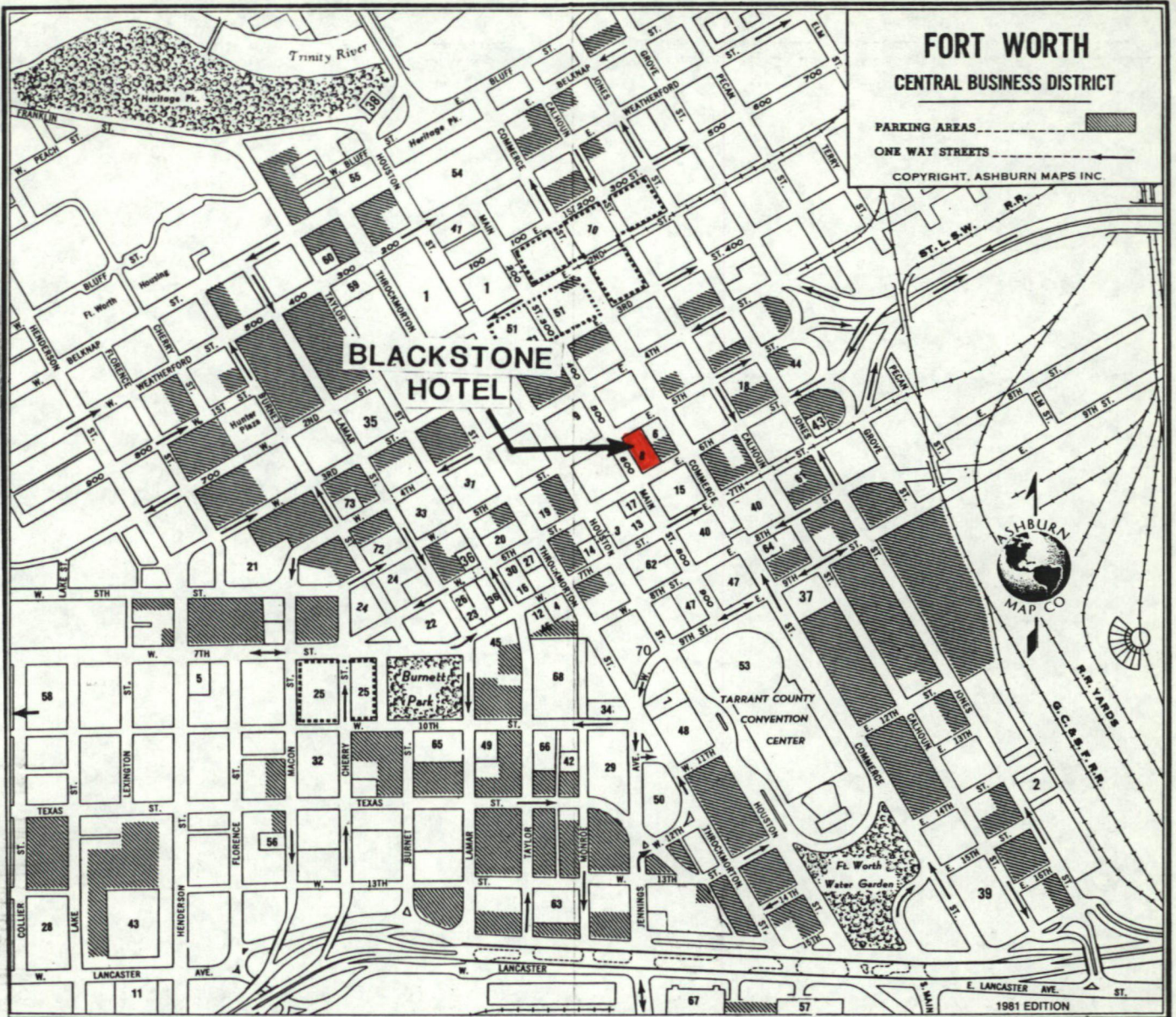
Beth Carson
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/2/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



CITY MAP
EXHIBIT A

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Blackstone Hotel
Tarrant County
TEXAS

DEC 19 1983

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85

Date Due: 1/19/84 - 2/2/84

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/2/84

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: At one time the tallest building in Ft. Worth, the Blackstone Hotel was considered the finest in the city, was the site of Ft. Worth's first radio station and was home to American Presidents among other notables. It was designed by a prominent St. Louis law firm featured Art Deco elements and, in emulation of New York, set back upper floor construction. It is significant at the local level as an outstanding, imposing structure.

Recom./Criteria Accept A, C

Reviewer John

Discipline Arch Hist

Date 12/6/83

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

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
☒ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ 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 1929

Builder/Architect

Mauran, Russell & Crowell

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

More information would be helpful on the other Ft. Worth building produced by Mauran, Russell and Crowell, were they stylistically similar, and what distinguished the Blackstone Hotel from among them. Is the architectural set back and Art Deco embellishment unique to this hotel within Ft. Worth?

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ☒

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

Marjorie Jefferson 202-343-9514

Signed

Date

Phone:

W. H. Robinson



Blackstone Hotel

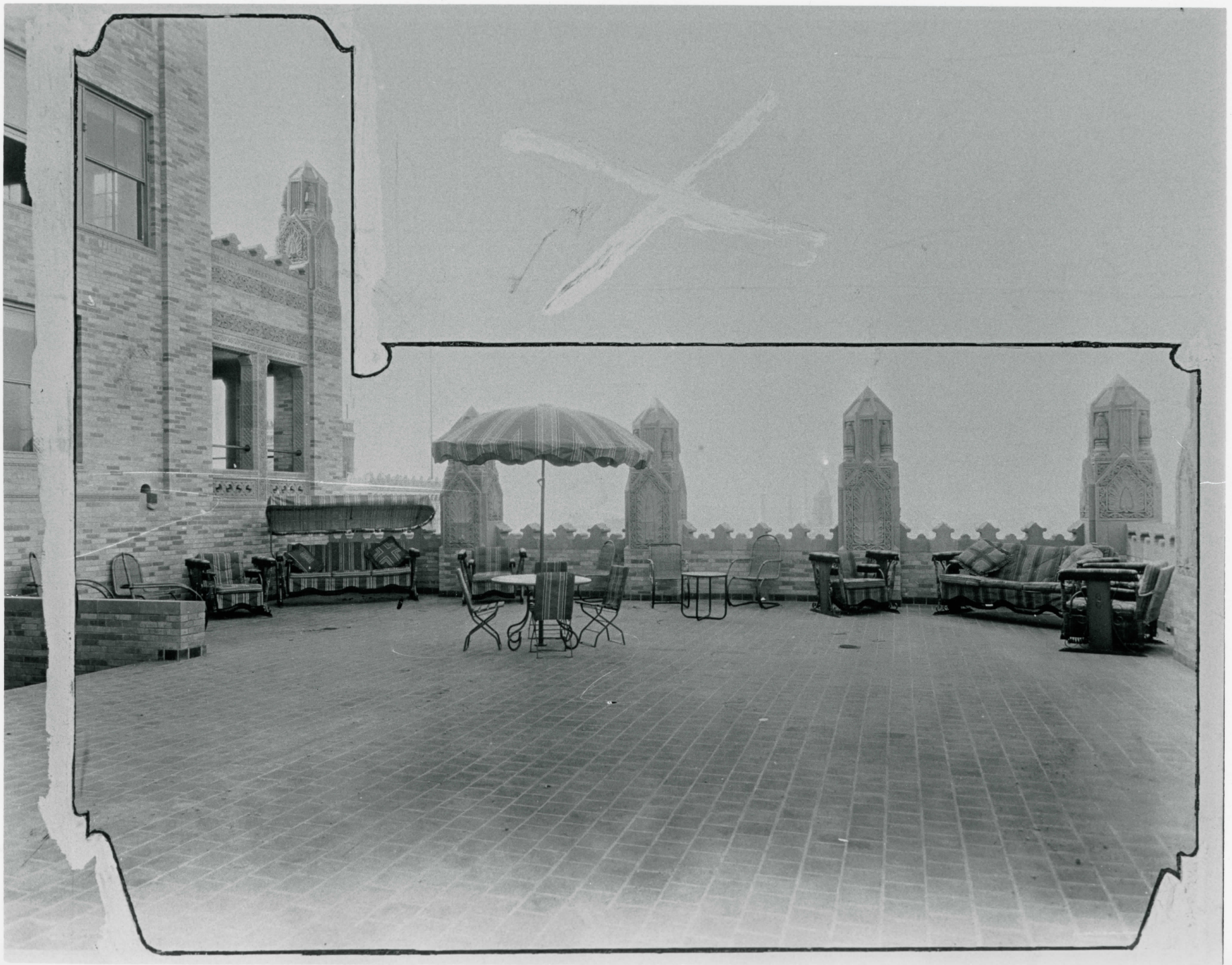
8011 10-6-27

Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: October 1929, photographer unknown, from
archives of Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Main Street and 5th Street elevations, looking
east.~~east~~

Photo 1 of 10.



Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: October 1929, photographer unknown, from
archives of Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Fourteenth floor rooftop terrace.

Photo 2 of 10



Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: by W.D. Smith, Inc., 1938; neg. on file
with same, 2900 Photo Ave., Fort Worth.

Main Street and 5th Street elevations, looking
north-northeast

Photo 3 of 10

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

ORDER FILE NO. 42-135-2

Photo Taken 1938



Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo by W.D. Smith, Inc., 1951; neg. on file
with same, 2900 Photo Ave., Fort Worth.

View of hotel's south elevation and original
two story adjoining building, looking north.

Photo 4 of 10.

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

ORDER FILE NO. 51-12-315



Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo by W.D. Smith, Inc., 1981; neg. on file
with same, 2900 Photo Ave., Fort Worth.

Aerial view of hotel, looking southwest.

Photo 5 of 10

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

ORDER FILE NO.

81-1-117



Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo by W.D. Smith, Inc., August 1983; neg. on file
with same, 2900 Photo Ave., Fort Worth.

View of hotel from roof of Burk Burnett Building,
looking east.

Photo 6 of 10.

W.D. SMITH, INC. COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
2900 Photo Ave.-817/732-4448
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107
FOR DUPLICATE PRINTS
ORDER FILE NO. 83-283-3



Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo by W.D. Smith, Inc., August 1983; neg. on file
with same, 2900 Photo Ave., Fort Worth.

Detail of Main and 5th elevations, from roof of
Burk Burnett Building, looking east.

Photo 7 of 10.

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

ORDER FILE NO. 83-283-5



Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo by W.D. Smith, Inc., August 1983; neg. on
file with same, 2900 Photo Ave., Fort Worth.

View of ground-level facades, looking east.

Photo 8 of 10.

ORDER FILE NO.

83-283-7

W.D. SMITH, INC. COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
2900 Photo Ave.-817/32-4448
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107
FOR DUPLICATE PRINTS

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Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo by W.D. Smith, Inc., August 1983; neg. on
file with same, 2900 Photo Ave., Fort Worth.

Terra-cotta detail, Main Street entrance, looking
southeast.

Photo 9 of 10.

ORDER FILE NO.

83-283-7

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



Blackstone Hotel
601 Main Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

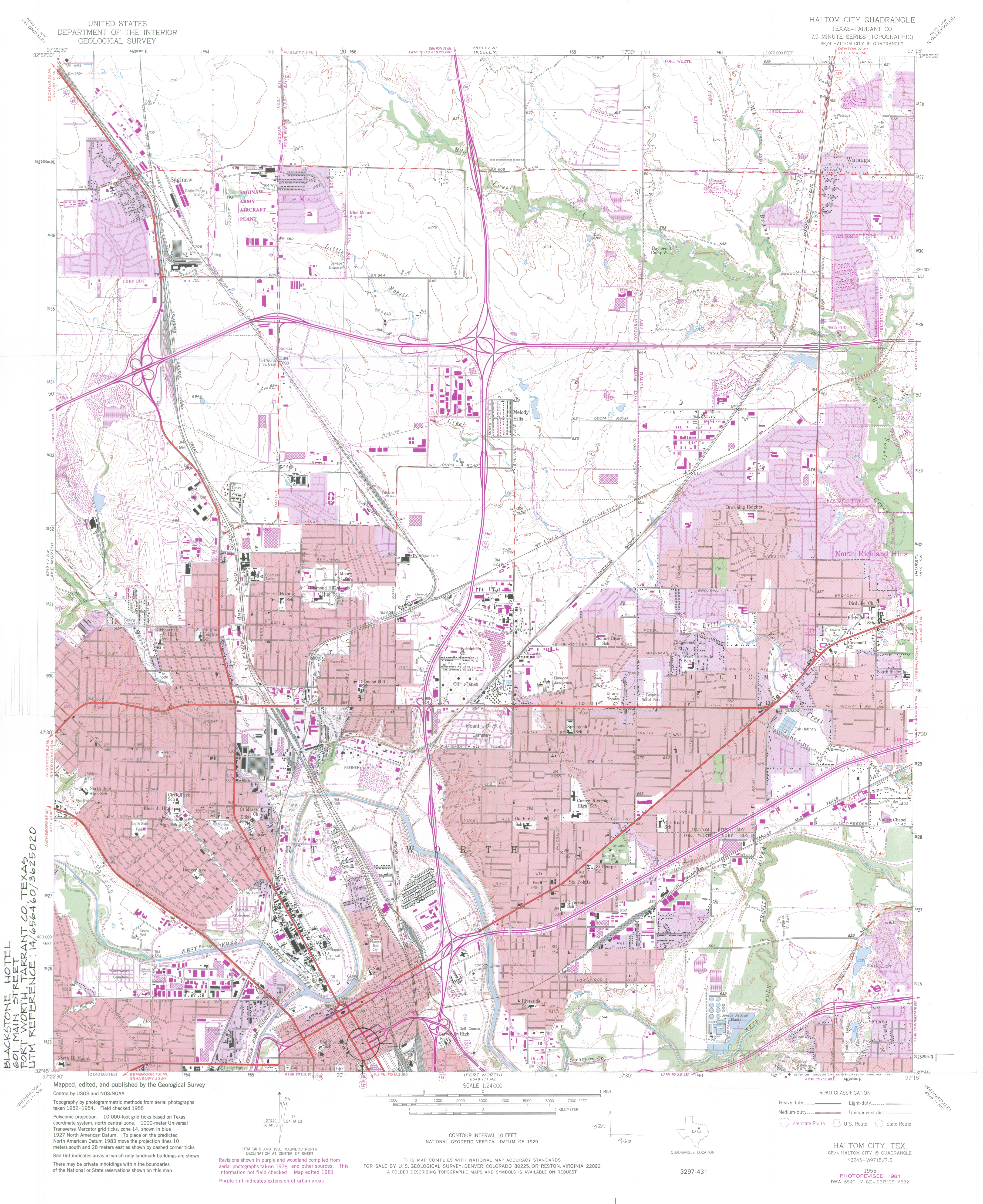
Photo by W.D. Smith, Inc., August 1983; neg. on
file with same, 2900 Photo Ave., Fort Worth.

View of hotel from roof of Continental National
Mini Bank Building, looking north.

Photo 10 of 10.

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

ORDER FILE NO. 83-283-8



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HALTOM CITY QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-TARRANT CO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 HALTOM CITY 15' QUADRANGLE

BLACKSTONE HOTEL
601 MAIN STREET
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/656460/3625020

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952-1954. Field checked 1955

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Texas coordinate system, north central zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 10 meters south and 28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 0 5 10 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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 1981
DMA 6549 IV SE-SERIES V882