

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received **JAN 27 1984**
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bryce Building

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 909 Throckmorton Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Worth

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Ambrose

street & number 407 Eastwood Drive

city, town Fort Worth

N/A vicinity of

state Texas 76107

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tarrant County Courthouse

street & number 100 Weatherford 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 of Tarrant County
 depository for survey records (2) Texas Historical Commission
 (1) Fort Worth
 city, town (2) 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William J. Bryce Building is a five-sided, two-story masonry structure located in the center of Fort Worth's business district. Designed in a simplified Renaissance Revival manner, the building fills its irregular lot. Although the building's interior was damaged by fire in late 1982, restoration is already underway.

The William J. Bryce Building at 909 Throckmorton Street in downtown Fort Worth is a simply detailed, two-story masonry structure designed in the Renaissance Revival style. The curious form of the building follows the property line of the small, five-sided lot on which the building was constructed. The principal street facade is technically only one bay wide, with broad brick piers flanking this front elevation. The main entrance is located on the first floor front and has a balcony set above it. Access onto the balcony is provided by three full-length windows set into a single, large opening. The balcony features a simply detailed, wrought-iron railing, and the brick piers have cast-stone capitals whose only ornament is a single block with guttae. The frieze above the pier capitals contains a recessed panel with the words "Bryce Building" carved into it. The building's cast-stone cornice projects above the frieze, and the fasciae of the cornice are paneled. The building is capped by a simple parapet with a cast-stone cap.

Running off at an obtuse angle from the street facade is the south wall of the building, which is divided into three bays by brick piers. The three first-floor windows are comprised of double-hung sashes and a glazed transom, while the upper-floor windows are identical but lack transoms. The frieze, cornice, and parapet noted on the street facade continue along this elevation. The short, southeast side of the building extends for approximately nine feet before turning a right angle to the northwest to form the alley elevation.

The easternmost corner of the ground floor at this point is clipped back, with corbeling supporting the corner of the second floor (photo 4). While unusual in treatment, this masonry work appears to be original. The ornamental entablature terminates at this point, and does not turn onto either the alley elevation, which faces northeast, or onto the northwest elevation. A metal staircase on this north elevation provides the only access to the second floor. Given the small size of the building, an interior stair was not included. The first floor was divided into five offices, with Bryce's own office situated in the eastern corner of the building with a private entrance. The second floor of the structure was leased out to various tenants.

The building has undergone minimal alterations to its exterior since construction, although the interior has suffered from a recent fire. The owners have begun restoration work on the structure, and plan to replace interior millwork to match the original finish.

Unfortunately, the original business neighborhood of brick and stone buildings (photo 1) which once surrounded the Bryce Building has given way to concrete parking structures and recent commercial buildings which are entirely out of harmony with the Bryce structure.

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 1910

Builder/Architect William J. Bryce, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bryce Building is closely connected with the professional career of its namesake, William J. Bryce. Bryce was a prominent figure in Fort Worth, establishing himself as a contractor and later as a political leader. He served the city as mayor from 1927 until 1933. He maintained personal offices on the first floor of the structure, and leased out the second floor to a number of local groups and organizations.

William J. Bryce, the builder and chief tenant of the small office building that bears his name, was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, on February 14, 1861. Bryce's father was a masonry contractor who, in 1869, immigrated with his family to Canada. William J. Bryce moved to the United States in 1881, and settled in Fort Worth in 1883. In 1887 he married Catherine Roberts, a native of Wales. After a decade of residence in the city, Bryce had become established as a successful builder, and erected a substantial residence from designs prepared by the city's most noted architect, Marshall Sanguinet, partner in the firm of Sanguinet and Staats. This house, called Fairview, is also being nominated to the National Register.

In 1907, the Bryce Building Company was founded, with its offices located in the Bryce Building after its completion in 1910. Among the many major buildings in Fort Worth constructed by Bryce's firm are the Armour Packing Plant, located in the Stockyard Historic District, the Texas Brewery, and the Burris Grain Mill and Elevator.

In addition to the design and construction of Fairview, Bryce and Sanguinet were involved with the Knights of Pythias Hall and the Exchange Building. This level of collaboration suggests that Sanguinet may also have been involved in the design of the Bryce Building, although there is no documentation that has been located that would prove such a claim. Bryce's business career was to expand beyond the realm of contracting. He would also serve as president of such diverse interests as the Denton Press Brick Company, the Fort Worth Battery Company, and Mount Olivet Cemetery. He was also on the board of the Fort Worth State Bank, and was a director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Bryce's political career began in 1924, when he became a member of the commission charged with drafting a new city charter that would initiate the council-manager form of government. On April 7, 1925, Bryce was elected as a member of the first city council to be seated under the new charter. Two years later he was elected mayor, a position he held until his wife's failing health caused his resignation in 1933.

While Bryce ran his business interests from the ground floor of the building, the upper story was leased out to a variety of tenants. The Order of Aztecs, a local fraternal organization, occupied the second floor until 1914. Subsequent tenants included the Tarrant County Democratic Party organization, presumably linked with Bryce and his political career, and the Fort Worth Real Estate Board. Bryce retained ownership

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

of the building until his death in 1944, and the property was then acquired by C.B. Grafa, a business associate of Bryce. The present owners purchased the property in March of 1983, the structure being vacated by the last tenant, the Hamburg House restaurant, following a fire in late 1982. The current owners have begun the process of renovating the structure, which is now surrounded by massive structures that are indicative of the commercial growth of the downtown area in recent years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Walton City, Tex.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	5	6	4	4	0	3	6	2	4	7	3	0
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 Part of Lot 8, Block 8 of the Hirschfield Addition to the City of Fort Worth, described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the West line of a 10.0 foot alley, being 100.0 feet South

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 Mrs. Joseph D. Ambrose (and John D. Ferguson)

organization date August 19, 1983

street & number 407 Eastwood Drive telephone (817) 624-8936

city or town Fort Worth state Texas 76107

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 *Curtis Powell*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 18 Jan. 1984

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

Entered in the National Register

Alvinus Byrd date 2/23/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Publications

Fort Worth City Directory. Volumes for 1892 to present.

A History of Texas Together with a Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties.
Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1895.

Hoffmeyer, Michael C. Fort Worth Architecture: A History and Guide, 1873-1933.
M.A. thesis, University of Texas at Arlington, 1980.

Makers of Fort Worth. Fort Worth Newspaper Artists Association, 1914.

Morrison, Andrew (ed.). The City of Fort Worth and the State of Texas. St. Louis:
George W. Englehard, 1890.

Paddock, Capt. B.B. (ed.). History of Texas, Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest Edition,
vols. I and III, 1922.

Texas Writer's Project. Research Data: Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Texas. 1936-1941.

Documents

Mimeographed Documents on William J. Bryce, on file with Acme Brick Company; Fort Worth.

Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Architectural Survey, October 1981.

"Some Works from the Office of Sanguinet and Staats." Published by the firm of Sanguinet
and Staats, Fort Worth, 1896.

Fort Worth Star Telegram, "Who's Who on Commission," by May Biddison Benson, June 28, 1925.

Interviews by Irvin Clayton and Betty Ambrose with:

Bennett, Walter, Jr., grandson of founder of Acme Brick Company.

Bondurant, Miles, Fort Worth.

Guthrie, Jack Bryce, 1983.

Sa
Saxe, Mrs. Serge, nee Westbrook.

Shanafelt, Beverly, daughter of C.B. Grafa, 1983.

Sherrill, O.B.

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Item number 10

Page 1

30 degrees-00 minutes East from the point of intersection of said alley and the Southerly line of Eighth Street; said point being the most Northerly corner of a building;

Thence South 60 degrees-00 West, 17.0 feet to iron pin for corner;

Thence South 30 degrees-00 minutes East, 1.0 foot to iron pin for corner;

Thence South 60 degrees-00 minutes West, 33.0 feet to iron pin for corner in the right of way of an alley;

Thence South 30 degrees-00 minutes East, 16.5 feet to iron pin for corner in the North line of a 10.0 foot alley;

Thence East along said alley, 34.1 feet to iron pin for corner;

Thence North 60 degrees-00 minutes East, along said alley 20.3 feet to iron pin for corner in the Southwest line of another 10.0 foot alley;

Thence North 30 degrees-00 minutes West, along said alley, 34.0 feet to the point of beginning and being the same tract of land conveyed to C.B. Grafa by deed from Ft. Worth National Bank, trustee of the estate of Wm. Bryce, deceased, by deed dated 1-25-45, as recorded 1-27-45 in volume 1687, Page 374, Deed Records, of Tarrant County, Texas.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bryce Building
Tarrant County
TEXAS

Working No. JAN 27 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 2/23/84 - 3/12/84
Action: ACCEPT 2/23/84
 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 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
- 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 _____ 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

San Diego County
Historical Resources
Form 100-1
1988

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 _____

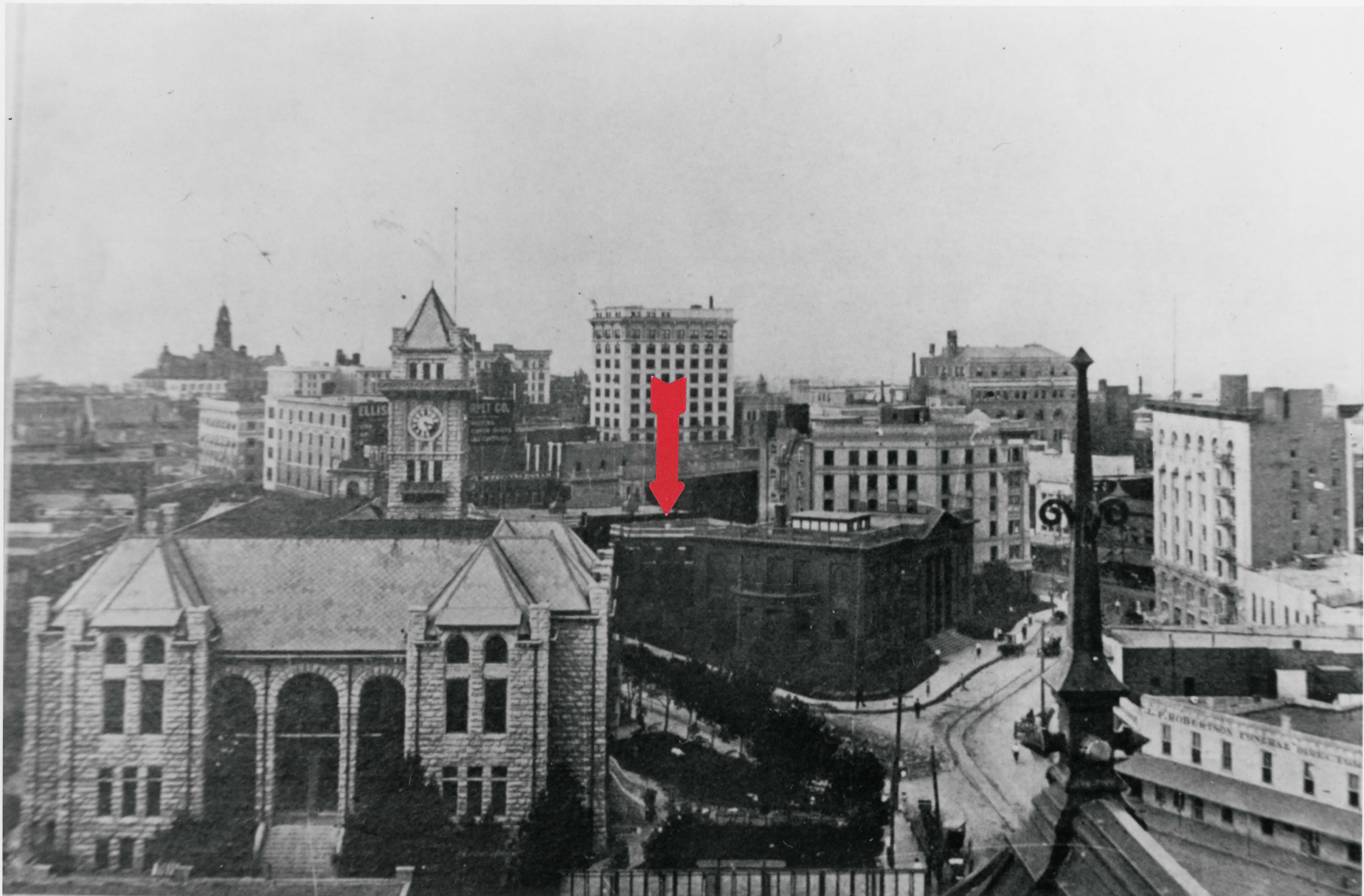
date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Bryce Building
909 Throckmorton Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: by Fort Worth Record staff photographer,
1911, location of negative unknown.

Fort Worth business district, camera facing north.

Photo 1 of 5



Bryce Building
909 Throckmorton Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: By J. D. Ambrose, III, July 1983; nog. on
file with owner

West and south elevation, camera facing east.

Photo 2 of 5

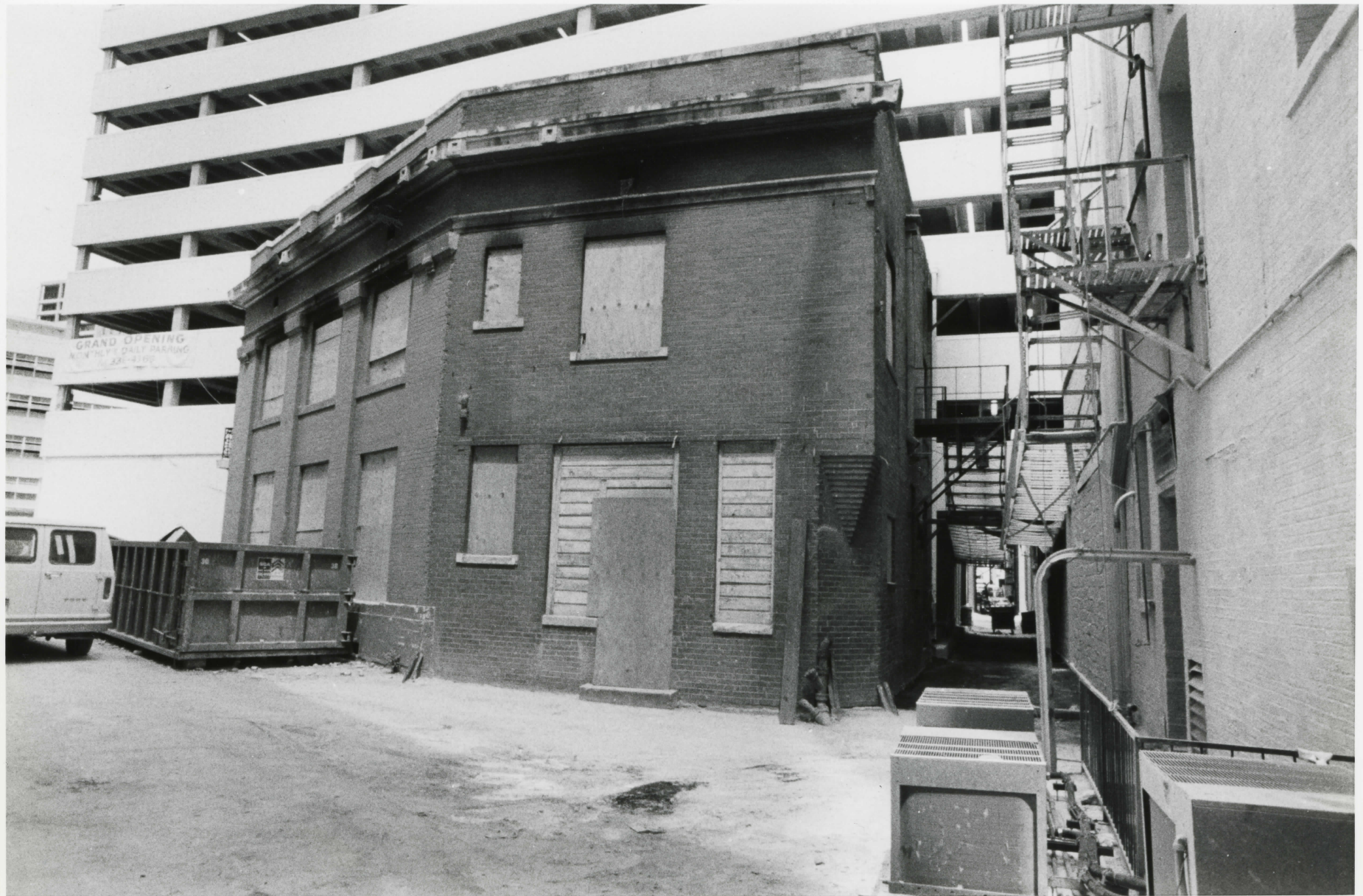


Bryce Building
909 Throckmorton Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: by staff photographer for Tarrant County
Historic Preservation Council, October 1981;
neg. on file with Historic Preservation
Council CBD #157.

West and south elevations, camera facing east.

Photo 3 of 5

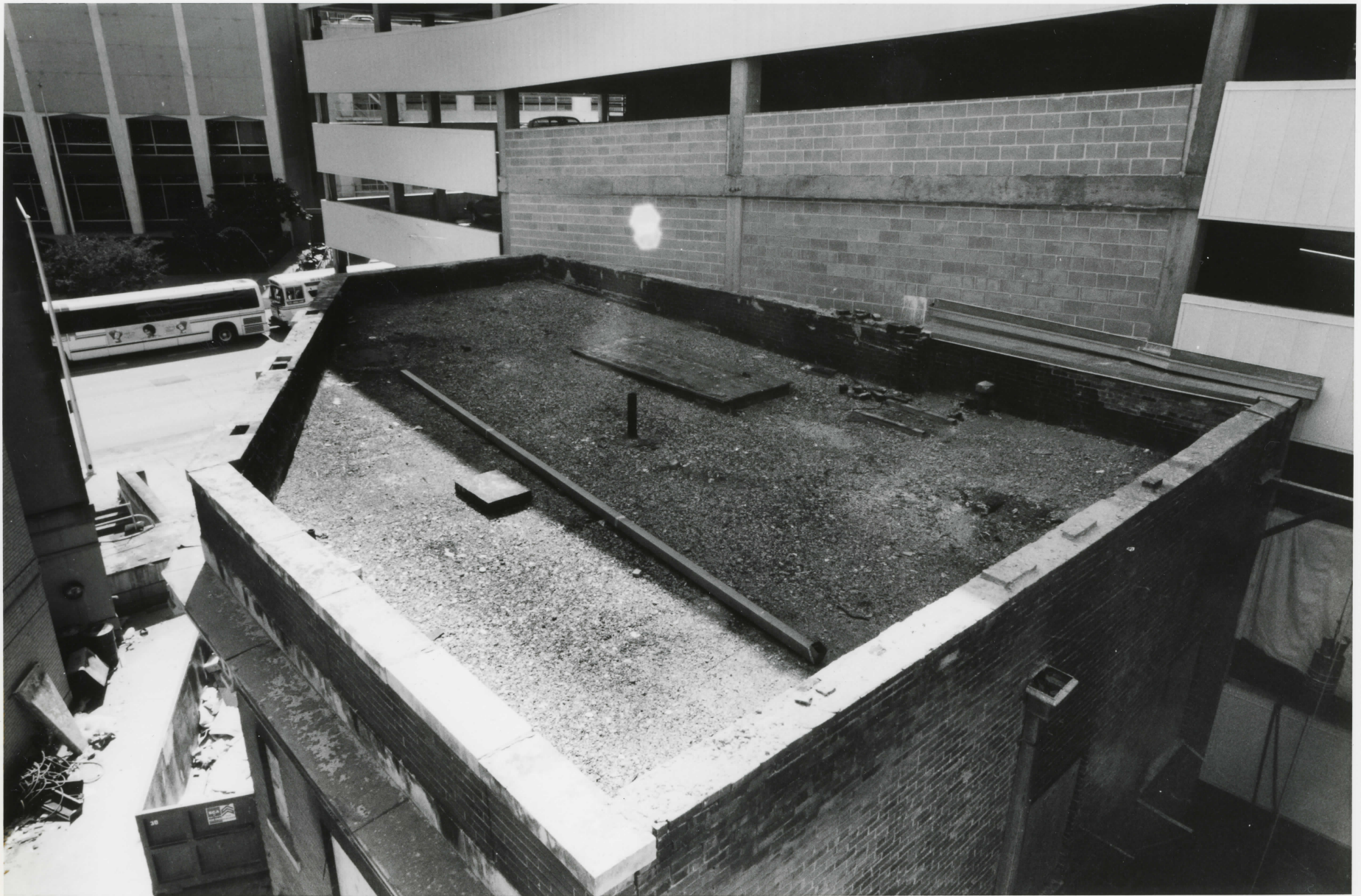


Bryce Building
909 Throckmorton
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: by J.D. Ambrose, III, July 1983; neg. on
file with owner.

South and southeast elevations, camera facing
northwest.

Photo 4 of 5.

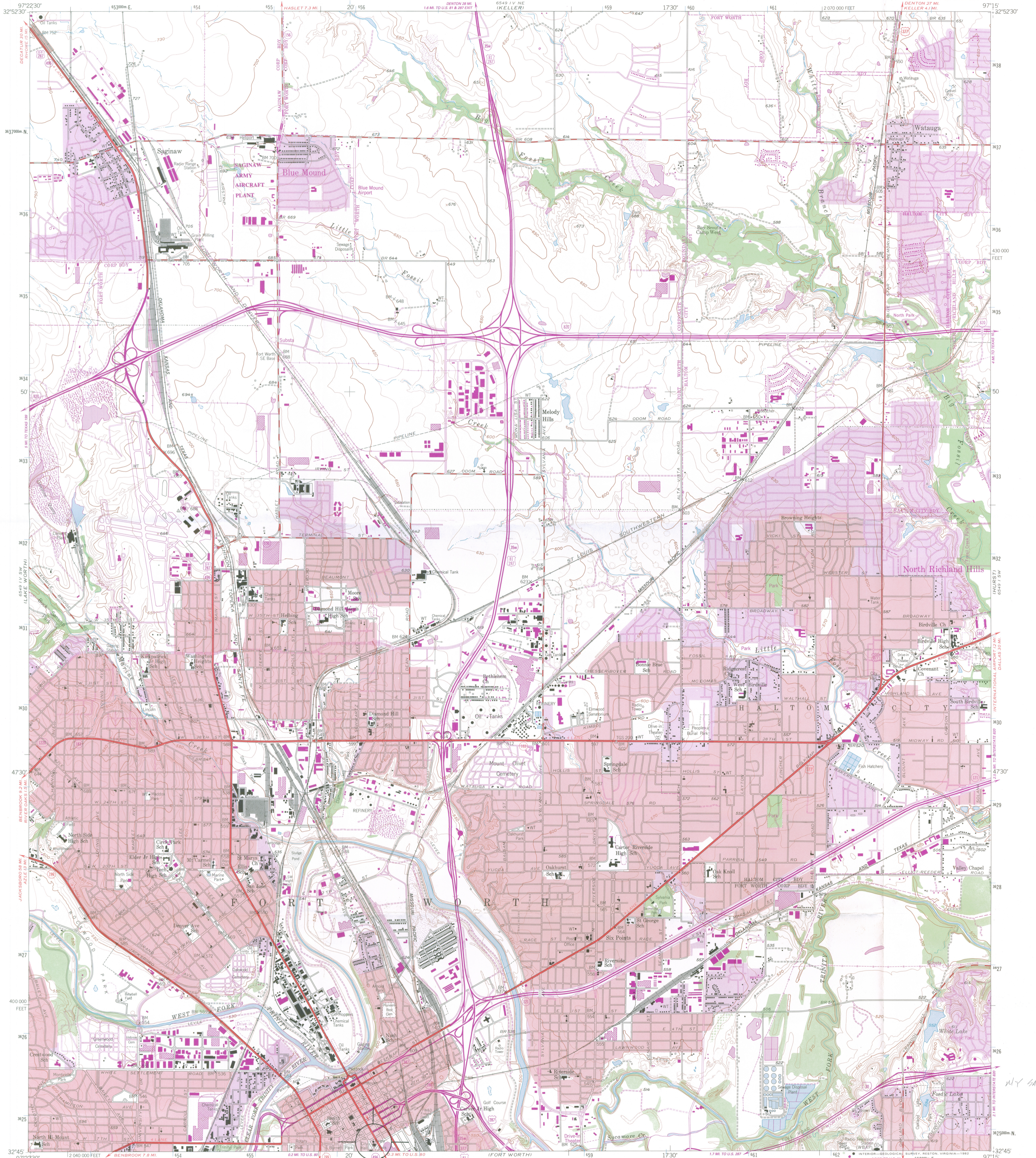


Bryce Building
909 Throckmorton Street
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo: by J.D. Ambrose, III, July 1983; neg. on
file with owner.

Roof with covered skylight opening, camera facing
west from adjacent fire escape.

Photo 5 of 5.



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

UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
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

FOR SALE E A

**BRYCE BUILDING
909 THROCKMORTON
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/656440/3624730**



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

3297-431