

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 12 1984

date entered JAN 24 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number a11

Page 26

(Central Business District MRA)

✓ County Galveston USGS Quad 2994/231 Survey site no. 23
 ✓ City Galveston UTMs 326930/3243800 (Zone 15)
 ✓ Name Merimax Building Date: factual 1895-96 Est. _____
 ✓ Address 521-22nd Street Architect/Builder Alfred Muller
 Contractor _____
 Owner Brenda A. Donaloio & William D. George Style/Type Romanesque Revival/Commercial
 Original use Telephone exchange
 Address 2104 Strand - #3C Present use Commercial office
Galveston, 77550 Present condition Under rehabilitation, good.

Block/Lot 442/lots 8 and East 1/2 of lot 9 (see attached survey) less than one acre
 Description 4-story stuccoed masonry commercial structure; rectangular with flat roof; first floor features recessed entrances and wood-frame shop-front windows with transoms. Principal entrance on 22nd Street defined by stuccoed round arch. Upper floors divided into bays by stucco pilasters; windows set in groups of three 1/1 sash units. Third-floor window bays framed by broad round arches. The 22nd Street entrance bay rises above the building's cornice line to emphasize the primary entrance. Entry bay framed by half-round pilasters on upper stories. Building originally finished in brick, stuccoed over in the 20th century with loss of some details. Rehabilitation plans call for reinstallation of these missing elements, with the recessed panels of the original cornice being fabricated in fibreglass.

Significance Built by, and used as, Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company building from 1896 until 1938. Referred to as the "Telephone Building" for many years. Architect Alfred Muller was a major architect in Galveston; this is his sole surviving commercial building there. Claimed to be the "finest telephone building in the west." Listed by its present name, Merimax Professional Building, for first time in 1947 directory. Galveston was the home of the first telephone exchange in Texas. By 1896, there were approximately 500 telephones in Galveston. Prominent site with relationship to mall and 22nd Street.

Relationship to site: Moved ___ date ___ or Original site X Describe Site forms the southeast corner of the block

Bibliography Galveston Daily News Informant _____
9/1/1895; 8/21/1979. City Directories Recorder Ellen Beasley (Brenda A. Donaloio)
 Date 1982 (1984)

Lucretia J. [Signature]
 State Historic Preservation Officer

21 Nov. 1984
 Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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received 3/29/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 3

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

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

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Texas Heroes Monument

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Groover 8/14/84

Attest

22. U.S. National Bank

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Sharon Byers 8/14/84

Attest

23. Merimax Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Groover 1/24/85

Attest

24.

Keeper

Attest

25.

Keeper

Attest

26.

Keeper

Attest

27.

Keeper

Attest

28.

Keeper

Attest

29.

Keeper

Attest

30.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Merimax Building (Central Business District
MRA)
Galveston County
TEXAS

Working No. DEC 12 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86
Date Due: 1/11/85 - 1/26/85
Action: ACCEPT 1-24-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

The building is illustrated as a contributing structure to the period of significance for the MRA. It was designed by a prominent architect of the period and retains its office building appearance as representative of the era.

Recom./Criteria Accept
Reviewer Schlager
Discipline Architectural Historian
Date 1/7/84
_____ 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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

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

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: _____



KE OF
HING

Merimax Building
521 22nd St., Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

Photo ca. 1900, original in possession of
Rosenberg Library, Galveston

Southeast corner of building, looking northwest

photo 1 of 4

Building
W.D. George
THC-952-53-52



Merimax Building
Merimax Building

521 22nd St., Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

Photo by Brenda Donaloio, August 1984, neg.
with Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Southeast corner of building, looking northwest

photo 2 of 4



Merimax Building

521 22nd St., Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

Photo by Brenda Donaloio, August 1984, neg.
with Texas Historical Commission, Austin

East facade, looking southwest

photo 3 of 4

Galveston Tx
East elevation



Merimax Building

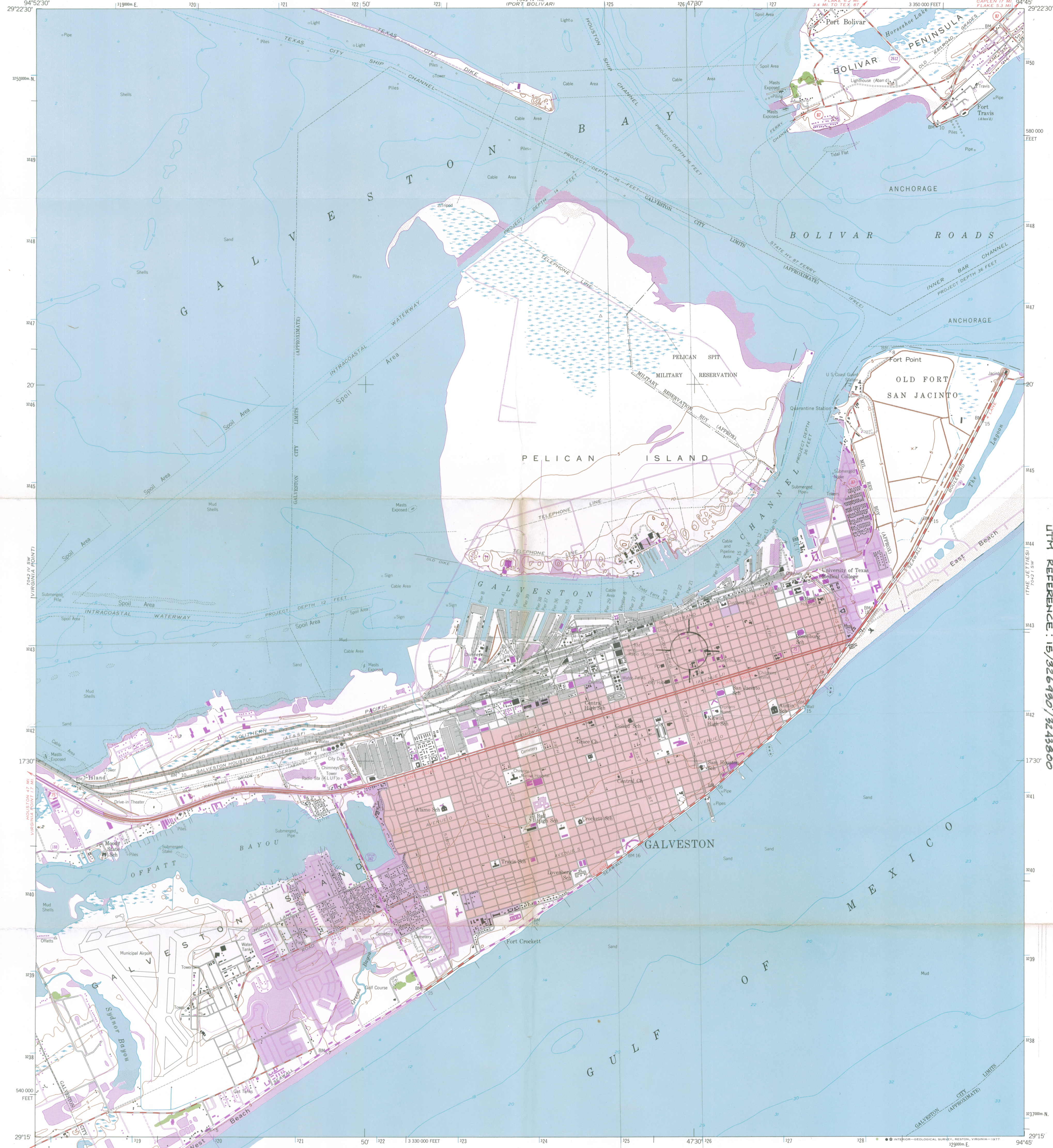
521 22nd St., Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

Photo by Brenda Donaloio, August 1984, neg.
with Texas Historical Commission, Austin

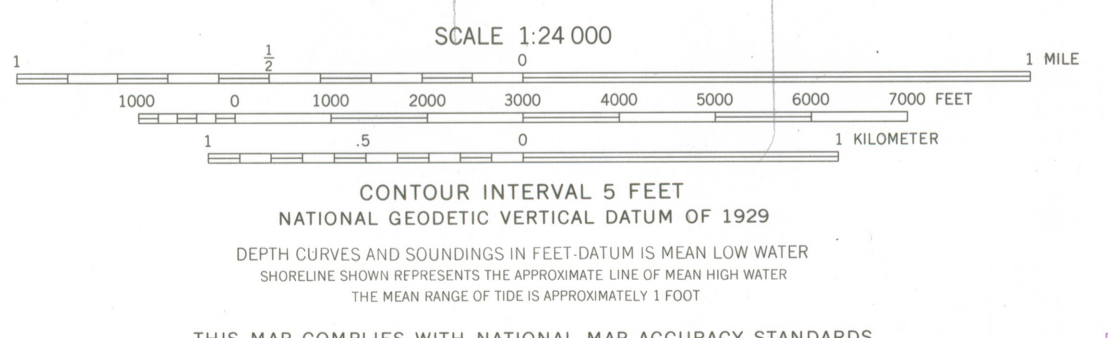
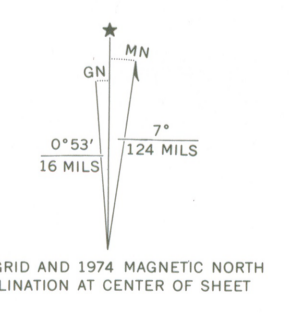
South facade of building, looking north

photo 4 of 4

*Merimax Building
521-22nd St.
Galveston, Tx
south elevation*



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by NOS/NOAA, USCE and TVA
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
and by planetable surveys 1943. Revised by photogrammetric
methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954
and 1282 (1953)
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 520,886
and 1282 (1953)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
south central zone
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown



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



QUADRANGLE LOCATION
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
from photographs taken 1969 and 1974.
This information not field checked.
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

GALVESTON, TEX.
N2915-W9445/7.5
1954
PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1974
AMS 7042 IV SE-SERIES W882

MERIMAX BUILDING
521 22ND STREET
GALVESTON, GALVESTON CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/326990/3243800

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 475-3092

November 19, 1984

TO: Amy Schlagel, National Park Service

FROM: John Ferguson, Texas Historical Commission

RE: Addition of the Merimax Building to the Historic Resources of Galveston
Central Business District/Downtown Multiple Resource nomination

Enclosed is the first addition to be proposed to the above multiple resource nomination, which was listed on August 14, 1984. The Merimax Building, located at 521-527 22nd Street, was cited in the text of the nomination by Ellen Beasley as a property which had the potential for nomination, pending correct rehabilitation. This work has been reviewed and approved by our office as well as the National Park Service Regional Office in Denver. If there are any questions concerning this property, please feel free to contact me at 512-475-3094.

Rec'd.
NOV 30 1984