

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 14 1985  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church

and/or common Prospect Hill Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number 1601 Buena Vista

N/A not for publication

city, town San Antonio N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Bexar code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Apartments

4. Owner of Property

name Prospect Hill Joint Venture

street & number 411 Sixth Street

city, town San Antonio N/A vicinity of state Texas 78215

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number

city, town San Antonio state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) San Antonio Historic Landmark  
title (2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
(1) 1978  
date (2) 1985  federal (2) state  county (1) local

depository for survey records (1) San Antonio Preservation Office  
(2) Texas Historical Commission

city, town (1) San Antonio (2) Austin state Texas

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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 N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Prominently sited on Buena Vista, a major arterial street through San Antonio, the Prospect Hill Baptist Church is the largest ecclesiastical structure in the neighborhood and dominates its once prosperous late-Victorian environment. The church was designed by Arkansas architect Henry J. Harker and built in 1911 by San Antonio contractor Arthur A. Evins. Stylistically it represents a sophisticated marriage between Beaux Arts forms and a Classically inspired decorative vocabulary that was rarely used with such elegance in San Antonio. The exterior of the church has been restored; the dome, which was destroyed by fire, is being reconstructed, and the interior has been adapted for use as apartments for the elderly. Although the surrounding historic neighborhood is still largely residential, Buena Vista street is a mixed commercial/residential arterial.

Built in 1911, the monumentally proportioned and Beaux Arts-influenced Prospect Hill Baptist Church is a raised, two-story, rectangular structure with load-bearing walls of buff-colored brick. Through scale and siting at the corner of Buena Vista and South San Jacinto streets, the church dwarfs most other buildings in the neighborhood. It is located in the near West End, a late-Victorian neighborhood originally called Prospect Hill. The building occupies three lots on a gentle hill rising west from Alazan Creek, which divides Prospect Hill from the city's central district. Oriented along an east-west axis, the structure faces east towards the heart of the city.

Unlike most Baptist churches, the sanctuary and educational wing were designed and built at the same time. The structure exhibits two primary elevations with the main (east) facade fronting South San Jacinto and the secondary facade facing Buena Vista. Access to each is gained via two limestone and brick staircases located at the corners of each elevation and ascending eight feet above grade to double-door entrances.

Twins in most respects, the primary facades are three-part compositions divided by projecting pilasters into a dominant central bay and flanking side bays. The central bays are each marked by an expansive two-story, round-arch window with upper and lower banks of five windows each. These compound-arch openings originally carried stained glass and marked the interior location of the main auditorium. The outer bays of each facade are pierced by matching stilted-arch doors above which hang single oculi.

The full-height pilasters of the primary facades contribute to the monumentality of the structure and carry the eye aloft to a high parapet. The parapet rises to a crest above each central bay and exhibits an open Bible carved in low relief. The parapet is further animated with a succession of cornice lines executed in stone which form distinct shadow lines and abstractly recall a Classical entablature. A low saucer dome with lantern rising gently above the high parapet crowns the building.

The education wing is attached to the west of the main building and exhibits a slightly different articulation of features from that of the main and secondary church facades. Projecting forward from the south elevation some 2.5 feet, the annex is also divided into a three-part composition via full-height pilasters which rise

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above the parapet. Five windows pierce the wall at basement, ground and upper levels: three in the central bays and one each in the side bays. The windows are flat arched at basement and ground levels, round arched with label stops at the upper level, and recall a Richardsonian motif. The high parapet is repeated on the education wing and exhibits the same suggestion of a Classical entablature. Its central section is ornamented by a cornice with geometric carving.

The west elevation of the annex repeats the form and detail of the south annex facade, but presents a wider dimension, thus allowing for an additional two for a total of seven windows in each of three rows. Projecting pilasters divide this facade into central and side bays.

The north elevation lacks the pilasters of the other facade, and is defined by three rows of 10 windows each. The raised parapet with stone crest and open Bible occur again here, as does a segmentally arched entrance with oculus above, located at the northeast corner.

When the church was completed in 1911, a South Texas Baptist publication editorially referred to it as "the best arranged workshop seen in the state." A photograph of the church interior accompanying that article lends substance to this enthusiastic endorsement. Based on the Akron Plan, Harker's design for the interior featured large main and secondary auditoriums separated by a moveable partition, concentric rows of curved pews, an elaborate baptistery, a dome with spandrels painted with foliate designs, 18 classrooms, and a basement.

In 1973, when the building was serving as a community center, a fire occurred on the second floor of the education annex and caused extensive damage to non-load-bearing parts of the interior. In 1980, a second fire damaged the main auditorium, causing the dome to collapse and destroying the interior finishes. The exterior of the building was not damaged during the fire but, before 1983, was in a deteriorated condition caused by neglect.

Exterior restoration began in July 1983. It has included cleaning and repointing the masonry, filling the units of the arched windows of the primary facades with new wooden-casement windows set into original wooden frames, removing and cleaning the original leaderheads, and reconstructing the dome.

The interior has been converted into apartments for qualifying low-income elderly residents. The exterior restoration and interior adaptation are complete, while reconstruction of the dome is underway.

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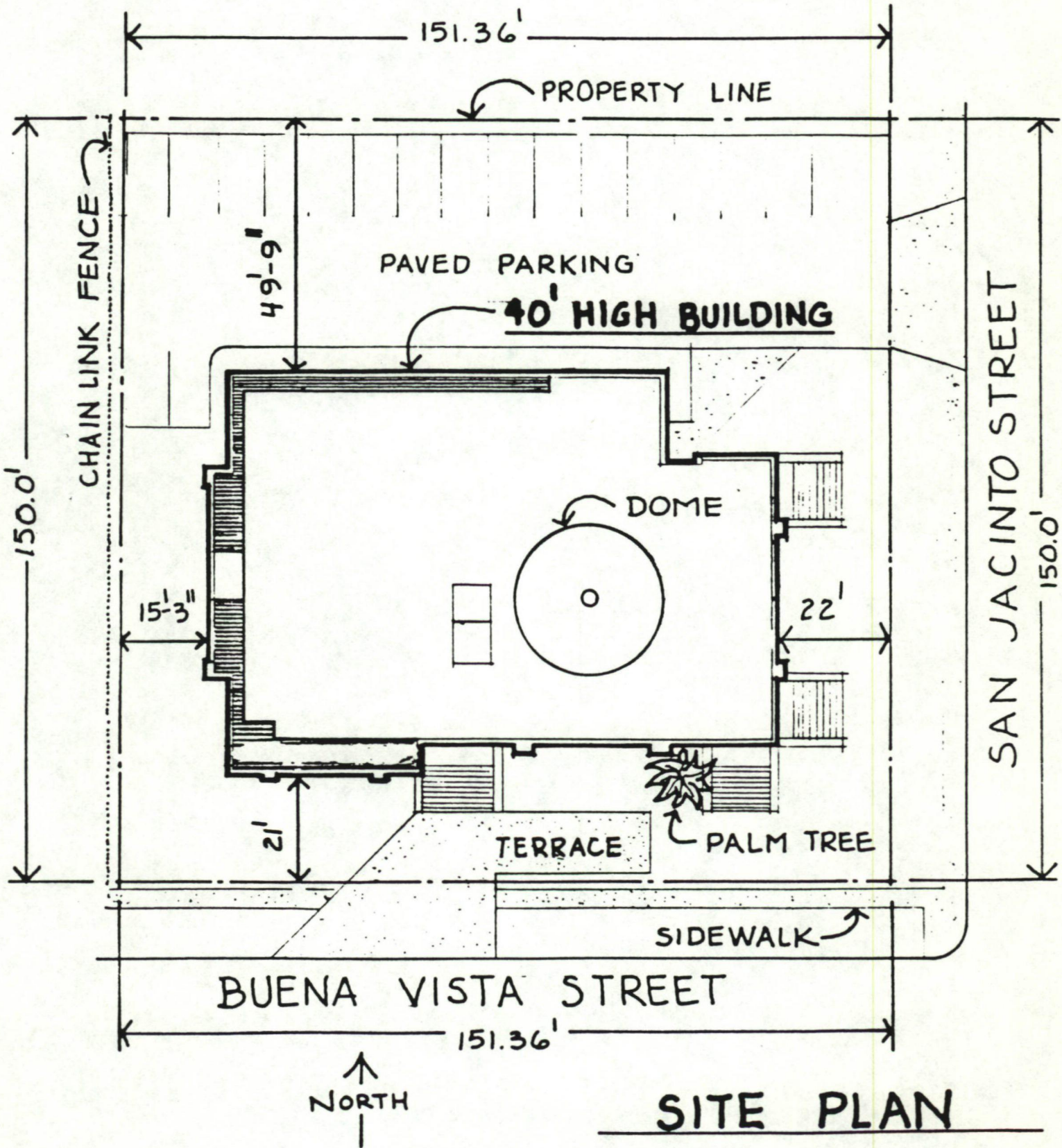
8/14/85

date entered

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## 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 checked="" 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 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 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 1911

Builder/Architect

Arthur A. Evins  
Henry J. Harker

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Among the earliest Baptist missions established in San Antonio, the Prospect Hill Baptist Church is the second-oldest permanent Baptist structure in the city. When it was built in 1911, it was the largest and one of the most prestigious Baptist churches in San Antonio. Today it is still among the most pretentious examples of Baptist architecture in that city dating from the period 1861-1925. Prospect Hill was built under the pastorship of T. V. Neal, a Baptist teacher and preacher prominent in Texas and Southern Baptist circles during the early decades of this century. The scale of the church, its ecclesiastical service to the area for five decades, followed by its neighborhood service as a community center, have together made the building a social as well as a visual landmark.

The Baptists were slow to gain a foothold in San Antonio, in part due to the Catholic preference of its dominant Hispanic population during the 19th century. Although the First Baptist Church was established in 1861, it remained the only Baptist congregation in the city for almost thirty years.

By the late 1880s the climate for Baptist missionary work had changed. Between the years 1888 and 1891, one African, one Mexican and the first four Anglo Baptist missions are known to have been established, the latter by the First Baptist Church. One of these was the Prospect Hill Baptist Church, organized on September 10, 1891, in the developing neighborhood of Prospect Hill just west of the city.

Prospering Prospect Hill was an excellent location for the growth-conscious Baptists. The frequency of late Victorian frame dwellings in Prospect Hill today indicates that by the turn of the century, residential development was progressing strongly. Early members of the church, such as San Antonio notable Herbert Kokernot, a prominent cattleman, indicate an upper-middle-class congregation, while the professions of other members of the church living nearby indicate a similar socio-economic stratum for the area.

The earliest Prospect Hill church services were held in a frame dwelling located on West Commerce Street. In February of 1898, church trustees purchased two lots from August Forcke on Buena Vista and South San Jacinto streets. In January 1906, one more adjacent lot was acquired to comprise a quarter of a city block. The first Prospect Hill church building was a one-story, frame structure in a Greek-cross plan with tower and Gothic-arch windows. It was present on the Buena Vista property by 1904, and was moved when construction began on the new sanctuary in January of 1911.

The Building Committee for the new church was composed of 25 congregation members including the pastor. Active among that group was Will W. Sloan, who had established a successful undertaking business in the city and for years was active in local Baptist mission work, donating land and helping to organize missions. Other prominent committee

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members were J. P. Ward, president of Gebhardt Chili Powder Company, J. E. Wells, a lawyer and founder of a leading abstract and title company in San Antonio, and A. I. Worley, who later served as Chairman of the Construction Committee.

Thomas Valentine Neal, pastor of the Prospect Hill church, served as chairman of the Building Committee. Neal became pastor of the church in 1907. Born in Georgia in 1879, and ordained in 1897, he took his first degree in 1902 from Howard Payne College. He then studied for a year at Southern Seminary before embarking on the Prospect Hill pastorate. Neal served the church for nine years until 1916.

During his pastorate, Neal exhibited the administrative and organizational gifts that marked the entirety of his lengthy and prominent career. Under his leadership, the church congregation almost trebled. With his congregation, Neal established at least one and possibly two missions. As chairman of the Building Committee, Neal steered the congregation through much of the building campaign for the new meetinghouse. He was simultaneously active in local Baptist politics, holding executive offices in the San Antonio Baptist Association and serving as President of the City Mission Board in 1916-1918. Neal's formula at Prospect Hill--that of pastoring a large growth-conscious congregation while simultaneously participating in other Baptist causes--was one that earned him prominence within Southern Baptist circles.

In 1908, the church Building Committee solicited designs for a new meetinghouse to accommodate its 300-strong membership, then the second-largest Baptist congregation in the city. Among plans submitted were those of Henry J. Harker from Little Rock, Arkansas. A practicing architect in Little Rock between 1907 and 1916, Harker is known to have designed the Episcopal church which stands today in Helena, Arkansas, built circa 1914-1916. Harker submitted plans to the Prospect Hill Building Committee for an imposing two-story Beaux Arts structure with monumental proportions, a dome, and rich use of Classical ornament on the two primary facades. The Building Committee selected his plans over others because of its economical treatment of halls and vestibules, and emphasis on auditorium and Sunday School spaces. On July 11, 1909, the congregation approved a generous budget of approximately \$30,000, and Harker's concept for the sanctuary. The congregation approved the plans in December of that same year. In January of 1910, a call for donations resulted in \$20,000 in subscriptions and \$10,000 in pledges, and the building's future was assured. Groundbreaking occurred on January 2, 1911. Arthur A. Evins of San Antonio served as general contractor for the new church, whose cornerstone was set Friday, March 18, 1911. The church was completed in August and was dedicated September 10, 1911, 20 years from the date the Prospect Hill Baptist Mission was organized.

The major elements of Harker's Beaux Arts design, known from a perspective drawing published in the San Antonio Express on July 12, 1909, appear in the completed building. Those elements include shape, layout, massing, scale, overall dimensions, corner entrances and the use of a dome. Yet the completed building also demonstrates modification in exterior detailing from Harker's design. These changes, along with later attributions to two other San Antonio architects, require an examination of the question of authorship.

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In the late 1920s The New Encyclopedia of Texas identified Beverly W. Spillman, Sr., as the architect. In the late 1970s, when the building was being considered for local historic zoning, Harvey Page, another San Antonio architect, was cited as the possible architect. No corroborative evidence could be found to support the latter suggestion, but the Spillman attribution has greater plausibility because of a variety of historical connections between him, the church, and the building contractor. Not only was Spillman trained in ecclesiastical design in F. Gaenslen's architectural firm, he was a Baptist who attended Prospect Hill Church. He also lived in the neighborhood and knew the contractor for the building. These circumstances demonstrate that Spillman was known to the Prospect Hill Baptists and available for the work, but they fall short of convincingly proving that he contributed to the design of the building.

The more likely candidate for architect, in addition to Henry Harker, is Arthur A. Evins. Like Harker, Evins was from Arkansas, having moved to San Antonio about 1906. Between the years 1907 and 1915 he variously listed his profession in city directories as Architect, Superintendent, Civil Engineer, and General Contractor. He worked for Gaenslen as superintendent in 1908 where he no doubt knew Beverly Spillman who was employed there simultaneously. Although the incomplete church minutes never identify Evins as architect, only contractor, an article published in the South Texas Baptist upon completion of the building and written by a prominent member of the congregation identifies Evins as both architect and contractor.

Thus it is more likely that Evins, not Spillman, supplied the alterations to Harker's design, using the major elements of the prize-winning design but reworking the exterior detailing and materials. It is not known why Harker's design was not carried through to completion. There is some indication, however, that the project experienced financial difficulties, and this may explain the changes in exterior materials (from stone to brick) and in detailing to reduce costs.

The significance of the Harker contribution to Prospect Hill is that it and two other large buildings in Arkansas are his only known works, and they demonstrate advanced design ability. The significance of the Evins contribution is that Evins died in 1914, at a young age, and his work at Prospect Hill is his only known commission.

Pastor Neal's vigorous service to the Prospect Hill Baptist Church reinforced its natural advantage of location in an affluent neighborhood. Throughout the teens it continued its strong growth and held a position of prominence within Baptist San Antonio, continuing to serve Baptists until the 1960s. A change in the ethnic population in the area, beginning in the 1920s, was followed later by an economic decline; the two combined eventually to affect Prospect Hill's future. As a result, a small congregation of older people voted to disband in 1965. For the next several years, the building served two functions: a church for a small group of Baptists, and as a community center for the largely Mexican-American population. In this latter role the structure sheltered a drug rehabilitation program, kindergarten classes, and a medical clinic.

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In 1973 a fire damaged the education wing of the church. The agency sponsoring the community center withdrew its support, and the center closed. The small Prospect Hill Baptist Church congregation, still functioning today, moved its services to a nearby residential structure. About this time, the stained-glass windows of the church were sold. In 1975, the San Antonio Baptist Association sold the land and building to Francis Furey, Archbishop of San Antonio.

For the next several years the building stood vacant and vulnerable to vandalism while various civic organizations, including the San Antonio Conservation Society and the Mexican-American Unity Council, considered it for adaptive use. The Breig Partnership purchased the building in 1978, the same year it was designated a City of San Antonio Historic Landmark on the grounds of architecture, age and community significance. In 1980, after a second fire destroyed the dome and significant parts of the interior, the owners were granted permission by the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office to gut the building. Restoration of its exterior and conversion to apartments have now been completed. The dome is currently being reconstructed.

It is useful to place Prospect Hill within its historic context of San Antonio Baptist architecture. Between 1861 and 1925, the period defining the first half of Baptist activities in the city, at least 21 organized Baptist churches existed in San Antonio. However, only a handful of these became wealthy enough to build large, permanent meetinghouses like Prospect Hill. Of those that did, some of the resulting structures have given way to demolition caused by the Baptist need for larger workshops. Demolition of the 1890s Alamo Baptist Church and the 1905 second sanctuary of First Baptist Church, in particular, have strengthened Prospect Hill's relative position within surviving historic, Baptist architecture in San Antonio. Not only was Prospect Hill Baptist Church the largest and one of the most architecturally impressive Baptist churches in the city when built in 1911, today it is the second-oldest permanent Baptist church and is still, despite its losses, among the most architecturally prominent structures from the period 1861-1925.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

A Baptist Century Around the Alamo, 1858-1958, San Antonio Baptist Association, 1958.  
Perry Printing Co., San Antonio. Barker Texas History Center, Austin.

(see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name San Antonio West, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	4	5	4	7	9	8	0	3	2	5	5	1	2	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

The East 48.64 feet of Lot 10, all of Lots 11 and 12, Block 3, NCB 2312, situated within the corporate limits of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County

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 Julie Strong (with John C. Ferguson, THC)

organization date June 1985

street & number 4105 Duval telephone (512) 454-0145

city or town Austin state Texas 78751

## 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 J. Jernell*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 25 July 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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date entered

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San Antonio Express issues: July 12, 1909; August 2, 1909; January 24, 1910; Jan. 2, 1911; March 20, 1911; September 11, 1911; Barker Texas History Center, Austin.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1904, 1912. Barker Texas History Center, Austin.

Deed Records, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio.

Prospect Hill Baptist Church Nomination, 1982. Mike Garcia, On file, Nominations Department, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

South Texas Baptist, "Prospect Hill Baptist Church," October 5, 1911, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Archives, Fort Worth.

Prospect Hill Baptist Church Minutes, various dates 1909-1911. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Archives, Fort Worth.

Interviews:

With L. Farley, former member Prospect Hill Baptist Church Congregation, by Strong, May 15, 1984, about church interior and history. San Antonio.

With J. Wallace, by Strong, about early San Antonio Baptists and First Baptist Church history, April 23, 1984. San Antonio.

With W. Stiles, Arkansas History Commission, by Strong, May 18, 1984, about Henry J. Harker. Telephone interview.

With Andrew Spillman, by Strong, May 22, 1984, about Beverly W. Spillman and his work. Telephone interview.

With Ben Rogers, Archivist, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, with Strong, June 22, July 7, August 10, about Prospect Hill Baptist Church, early Baptists in San Antonio and Texas. Telephone interview.

Davis, E.A. and E.H. Grobe, The New Encyclopedia of Texas, Dallas, Texas: Texas Development Bureau, (n.d.), Vol. IV. Barker Texas History Center, Austin

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
Bexar County  
TEXAS

Working No. AUG 14 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date:  
Date Due: 9/12/85 - 9/28/85  
Action: RETURN 9-17-85  
ACCEPT  
REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments: Church has been seriously damaged by fire which destroyed interior and roofing, including original dome. Panes to fire windows, including stained glass ones, had been removed and building's exterior was in deteriorated condition. Church has been rehabilitated into apartments for elderly - which occupy the interior space. All that remains of the original design and material are the exterior masonry walls and fenestration openings. The dome has been reconstructed. The significance of church is unclear, making an evaluation of integrity impossible without additional information.

Recom./Criteria Return  
Reviewer LMcCulland  
Discipline Arch Hist  
Date 9/18/85  
 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	impossible without additional information.

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"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

X 8. Significance

Please correct Area of Significance checked

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

The explanation of significance in religion has not been justified the historic importance of the church as an exception to the criteria (religious structure). Furthermore, the loss of interior space, design and details, due to the fire and reuse as apts, has effected the integrity of the church and its ability to convey any historic associations under criteria A or B. Significance, if any due to the property's loss of historic material and design, must be based on the architectural merit of the surviving design, workmanship, and detail under criterion C. The statement of significance does not adequately assess the building's architectural merit. It states that "today it is among the most pretentious examples of Baptist architecture in San Antonio dating from 1861-1925. It (see continuation sheet)

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 LINDA McCLELLAND

Signed Linda McClelland Date Sept. 17, 1985 Phone: 202-343-9536

Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
San Antonio, Texas

Continuation Sheet/ Statement of Significance

provides, however, no data substantiating this claim. The form provides no contextual discussion showing that Baptist architecture is a significant property type distinctive from other religious architecture of the period in San Antonio or elsewhere, and that the Prospect Hill church is a particularly good or representative example despite the loss of so much of its architectural design and fabric.

Because the current building contains only the original masonry walls and their exterior articulation, architectural significance must be based on the styling, design, or workmanship of these features. Because the theme of Baptist architecture is limited in its scope and the church, due to its loss of interior, may lack many of its distinguishing features identifying it as an example of the theme, the context for evaluation should be extended more generally to architecture reflecting Beaux Arts Classicism, central-plan design, or general time period in San Antonio.

Statement of significance should be expanded to:

- o identify the building's remaining significant architectural features
- o assess the stylistic quality, workmanship, and significance of these features and the building's current overall design in relationship to the historic development of church architecture and/or Beaux Arts design in San Antonio.
- o evaluate the overall integrity of the Prospect Hill Church in relationship to other surviving local examples of period architecture, including Beaux Arts or centrally planned religious architecture,
- o explain how the church, despite the loss of original roofing, windows, and interior space, floorplan, and detailing, represents a significant style, type, or design of architecture, and as such remains one of the city's prime examples.

## Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church

I would be inclined to say that this is a very well done nomination. They have done a very good job of addressing all the points raised on the return sheet. The big question is one of integrity. A couple of fires have severely altered the church, although the external appearance clearly reads as that of a historic church. Particularly in light of the case made under item #8, I would consider listing this.

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SEP 18 1986

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

1. Name

historic Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church

and or common Prospect Hill Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number 1601 Buena Vista

N/A not for publication

city, town San Antonio

N/A vicinity of

state Texas

code 048

county Bexar

code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Apartments

4. Owner of Property

name Prospect Hill Joint Venture

street & number 411 Sixth Street

city, town San Antonio

N/A vicinity of

state Texas 78215

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number

city, town San Antonio

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (1) San Antonio Historic Landmark  
(2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date (1) 1978  
(2) 1985  federal (2) state  county (1) local

depository for survey records (1) San Antonio Preservation Office  
(2) Texas Historical Commission

city, town (1) San Antonio  
(2) Austin state Texas

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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>      </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		<u>      </u> N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Prominently sited on Buena Vista, a major arterial street through San Antonio, the Prospect Hill Baptist Church is the largest ecclesiastical structure in the neighborhood and dominates its once prosperous late-Victorian environment. The church was designed by Arkansas architect Henry J. Harker and built in 1911 by San Antonio contractor Arthur A. Evins. Stylistically it represents a sophisticated marriage between Beaux Arts forms and a Classically inspired decorative vocabulary that was rarely used with such elegance in San Antonio. The exterior of the church has been restored; the dome, which was destroyed by fire, has been reconstructed, and the interior has been adapted for use as apartments for the elderly. Although the surrounding historic neighborhood is still largely residential, Buena Vista Street is a mixed commercial/residential arterial.

Built in 1911, the monumentally proportioned and Beaux Arts-influenced Prospect Hill Baptist Church is a raised, two-story, rectangular structure with load-bearing walls of buff-colored brick. Through scale and siting at the corner of Buena Vista and South San Jacinto streets, the church dwarfs most other buildings in the neighborhood. It is located in the near West End, a late-Victorian neighborhood originally called Prospect Hill. The building occupies three lots on a gentle hill rising westward from Alazan Creek, which divides Prospect Hill from the city's central district. Oriented along an east-west axis, the structure faces east towards the heart of the city.

Unlike most Baptist churches, the sanctuary and educational wing were designed and built at the same time. The structure exhibits two primary elevations with the main (east) facade fronting South San Jacinto and the secondary facade facing Buena Vista. Access to each is gained via two limestone and brick staircases located at the corners of each elevation and ascending eight feet above grade to double-door entrances.

Twins in most respects, the primary facades are three-part compositions divided by projecting pilasters into a dominant central bay and flanking side bays. The central bays are each marked by an expansive two-story, round-arch window with upper and lower banks of five windows each. These compound-arch openings originally carried stained glass and marked the interior location of the main auditorium. The outer bays of each facade are pierced by matching stilted-arch doors above which hang single oculi.

The full-height pilasters of the primary facades contribute to the monumentality of the structure and carry the eye aloft to a high parapet. The parapet rises to a crest above each central bay and exhibits an open Bible carved in low relief. The parapet is further animated with a succession of cornice lines executed in stone which form distinct shadow lines and abstractly recall a Classical entablature. A low saucer dome (with lantern rising gently above the high parapet) crowns the building.

The education wing is attached to the west of the main building and exhibits a slightly different articulation of features from that of the main and secondary church facades. Projecting forward from the south elevation some 2.5 feet, the annex is also divided into a three-part composition via full-height pilasters which rise above the

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

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

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date entered

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

parapet. Five windows pierce the wall at basement, ground, and upper levels: three in the central bays and one each in the side bays. The windows are flat arched at basement and ground levels, round arched with label stops at the upper level, and recall a Richardsonian motif. The high parapet is repeated on the education wing and exhibits the same suggestion of a Classical entablature. Its central section is ornamented by a cornice with geometric carving.

The west elevation of the annex repeats the form and detail of the south annex facade, but presents a wider dimension, thus allowing for an additional two for a total of seven windows in each of three rows. Projecting pilasters divide this facade into central and side bays.

The north elevation lacks the pilasters of the other facade, and is defined by three rows of ten windows each. The raised parapet with stone crest and open Bible occur again here, as does a segmentally arched entrance with oculus above, located at the northeast corner.

When the church was completed in 1911, a South Texas Baptist publication editorially referred to it as "the best arranged workshop seen in the state." A photograph of the church interior accompanying that article lends substance to this enthusiastic endorsement. Based on the Akron Plan, Harker's design for the interior featured large main and secondary auditoriums separated by a moveable partition, concentric rows of curved pews, an elaborate baptistery, a dome with spandrels painted with foliate designs, 18 classrooms, and a basement.

In 1973, when the building was serving as a community center, a fire occurred on the second floor of the education annex and caused extensive damage to non-load-bearing parts of the interior. In 1980, a second fire damaged the main auditorium, causing the dome to collapse and destroying the interior finishes. The exterior of the building was not damaged during the fire, but even before 1983 was in a deteriorated condition caused by neglect.

Exterior restoration began in July 1983. It has included cleaning and repointing the masonry, filling the units of the arched windows of the primary facades with new wooden-casement windows set into original wooden frames, removing and cleaning the original leaderheads, and reconstructing the dome.

The interior has been converted into apartments for qualifying low-income elderly residents. The exterior restoration and interior adaptation are complete.

## 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 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** 1911

**Builder/Architect** Arthur A. Evans/Henry J. Harker

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Beaux Arts in style, the Prospect Hill Baptist Church is a monumental edifice formally planned according to early twentieth-century standards on Baptist meeting-hall design. The best example of formal Baptist Church planning conventions in San Antonio, the concepts underlying its original spatial arrangement are reflected in the exterior design which, excepting its stained-glass windows, retains its original appearance. Workmanship compares favorably with other public buildings of similar style. It is the only remaining example of a church in Beaux Arts style in San Antonio, a city with relatively few examples of this monumental mode.

After the turn of the century, a number of Baptist churches in Texas were designed according to planning standards published by the Department of Church architecture of the Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee. Radically departing from the traditional basilican plan with rows of straight pews and narrow naves, the Baptist architects developed meeting houses with wide auditoriums and curved seating focusing upon a pulpit, providing good acoustics and sight lines, attributes that were incorporated into the design of the Prospect Hill Church. This type of centralized plan, square in proportion, was reflected on the exterior by broad fronts reflecting the wide auditorium, a crowning dome indicating the centralized plan, and corner entrances providing access away from the building areas. While the corner entrances of the Prospect Hill Church appeared in published circulars on design, they are unique to churches in San Antonio, and possibly Texas.

Although the original interior has been lost, the architectural features expressing the early configurations of space are still intact. The two facades facing the streets are nearly identical, a characteristic of the centralized plan. Spanned by stilted arches, and emphasized by corner masses, the corner entrances express the departure from the axial basilican plan and the equal emphasis upon several points of access leading into the auditorium where aisles extended through the curved seating to the rostrum and the pulpit. Broad arches, which admitted natural light consistent with the emphasis placed upon good sight, express the single large interior space of meeting hall. Oeil de boeuf windows at the corners also reflect the unifying theme of dome and arches, all geometrically related to the square plan of the auditorium. Exterior proportions evidently were based upon the double square. Bas-relief sculptures of an open Bible centered in the street-side parapets symbolize the focus of the Baptist faith upon the Bible placed upon a pulpit, the focal center of the interior. These also are unique in San Antonio. All these features are preserved.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Willard B. Robinson, "Texas Baptist Church Architecture," Journal of Texas Baptist Historical Society, Vol. 5 (1985), pp. 1-31.

A Baptist Century Around the Alamo, 1858-1958, San Antonio Association, 1958. Perry Printing Co., San Antonio. Barker Texas History Center, Austin. (see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name San Antonio West, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	5	4	7	9	8	0	3	2	5	5	1	2	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

The East 48.64 feet of Lot 10, all of Lots 11 and 12, Block 3, NCB 2312, situated within the corporate limits of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

### 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 Julie Strong (with John C. Ferguson, THC); Willard B. Robinson (Section 8)

organization

date June 1985

street & number 4105 Duval

telephone (512) 454-0145

city or town Austin

state Texas 78751

## 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 J. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 28 July 1986

For NPS use only

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

*Sandra M. ...*

Keeper of the National Register

date 9/18/80

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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8/6/86

date entered

SEP 18 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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During the late nineteenth century in San Antonio, the Gothic Revival was the favored style for most churches including those of the Baptist persuasion. Early in the twentieth century, while many parishes and congregations continued to build in the Gothic, some erected Mission style and Romanesque Revival Churches. Some others including the Baptists built in Classical styles, although the Beaux Arts mode was exceptional for churches and relatively rare for other types of public buildings in San Antonio. While Classically derived style characterizes other churches in San Antonio, the Beaux style of the Prospect Hill Baptist Church is unique. Mission Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Gothic were the most common styles for public buildings.

Workmanship, which retains its integrity, compares favorably with other public buildings in San Antonio. The masonry work in particular, which remained sound after fire destroyed much of the building, retains the feeling of age associated with the historic structure--it has been cleaned and repointed. Exterior millwork has been appropriately restored.

STRATHMORE PARCHMENT

100% COTTON FIBER USA

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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8/6/86

date entered

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Continuation sheet

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Page 1

San Antonio Express issues: July 12, 1909; August 2, 1909; January 24, 1910; January 2, 1911; March 20, 1911; September 11, 1911; Barker Texas History Center, Austin.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1904, 1912. Barker Texas History Center, Austin.

Deed Records, Bexar County Courthouse, San Antonio.

Prospect Hill Baptist Church Nomination, 1982. Mike Garcia, On file, Nominations Department, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

South Texas Baptist, "Prospect Hill Baptist Church," October 5, 1911, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Archives, Fort Worth.

Prospect Hill Baptist Church Minutes, various dates 1909-1911. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Archives, Fort Worth.

Interviews by Julie Strong:

With L. Farley, a former member Prospect Hill Baptist Church Congregation, by Strong, May 15, 1984, about church interior and history. San Antonio.

With J. Wallace, by Strong, about early San Antonio Baptists and First Baptist Church history, April 23, 1984. San Antonio.

With W. Stiles, Arkansas History Commission, by Strong, May 18, 1984, about Henry J. Harker. Telephone interview.

With Andrew Spillman, by Strong, May 22, 1984, about Beverly W. Spillman and his work. Telephone interview.

With Ben Rogers, Archivist, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, with Strong, June 22, July 7, August 10, about Prospect Hill Baptist Church, early Baptists in San Antonio and Texas. Telephone interview.

Davis, E.A. and E.H. Grobe, The New Encyclopedia of Texas, Dallas, Texas: Texas Development Bureau, (n.d.), Vol. IV. Barker Texas History Center, Austin.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
Bexar County  
TEXAS

8-14-85  
~~AUG 6 1986~~

Substantive Review

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 9/4/86 - 9/20/86

Action:  ACCEPT 9-18-86

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments: *Additional documentation clarifies significance as prime example of Beaux Arts style in San Antonio, and explains its role in evolution of church arch. lecture - particularly in the S. Baptist Convention, integrity is still the issue - however, significant*

Recom./Criteria Accept  
 Reviewer Smithland  
 Discipline Arch. Hist  
 Date 9/18/86  
 see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status
	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"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

*styling, detail, & join are present on exterior; lost features have been restored & rehabilitated. Significance stands on the exterior integrity of existing features. Discussed w Carol Skull & Bruce Noble - all agreed to list.*

**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: \_\_\_\_\_



Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Ed Clawson; neg. with Texas  
Historical Commission

Distant southeast oblique view  
camera looking northwest

Photo 1 of 9

AUG 14 1985



Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Ed Clawson; neg. with Texas  
Historical Commission

Southeast oblique view  
camera looking northwest

Photo 2 of 9

AUG 14 1985



Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Ed Clawson; neg. with Texas  
Historical Commission

Northeast oblique view  
camera looking southwest

Photo 3 of 9

AUG 14 1985

27



Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Ed Clawson; neg. with Texas  
Historical Commission

Southwest oblique view  
camera looking northeast

Photo 4 of 9

AUG 14 1985



Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Ed Clawson; neg. with Texas  
\* Historical Commission

South facade  
camera looking north

Photo 5 of 9

AUG 14 1985



Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Ed. Clawson; neg. with Texas  
Historical Commission

East elevation  
camera looking west

Photo 6 of 9

AUG 14 1985



Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1983 by John Ferguson; neg. with Texas  
Historical Commission

East elevation  
camera looking west

Photo 7 of 9

AUG 14 1985



**FINANCING by  
TEXAS BANK**  
333-6210  
403 SO. W. W. WHITE RD. MEMPHIS, TENN.

Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1983 by John Ferguson; neg. with Texas  
Historical Commission

South elevation  
camera looking north

Photo 8 of 9

AUG 14 1983



Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1983 by John Ferguson; neg. with Texas  
Historical Commission

East elevation  
camera looking west

Photo 7 of 9

AUG 14 1985



Enlargement of color snapshot taken in 1980  
before the fire that destroyed the dome.

Prospect Hill Baptist Church  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
1601 Buena Vista, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

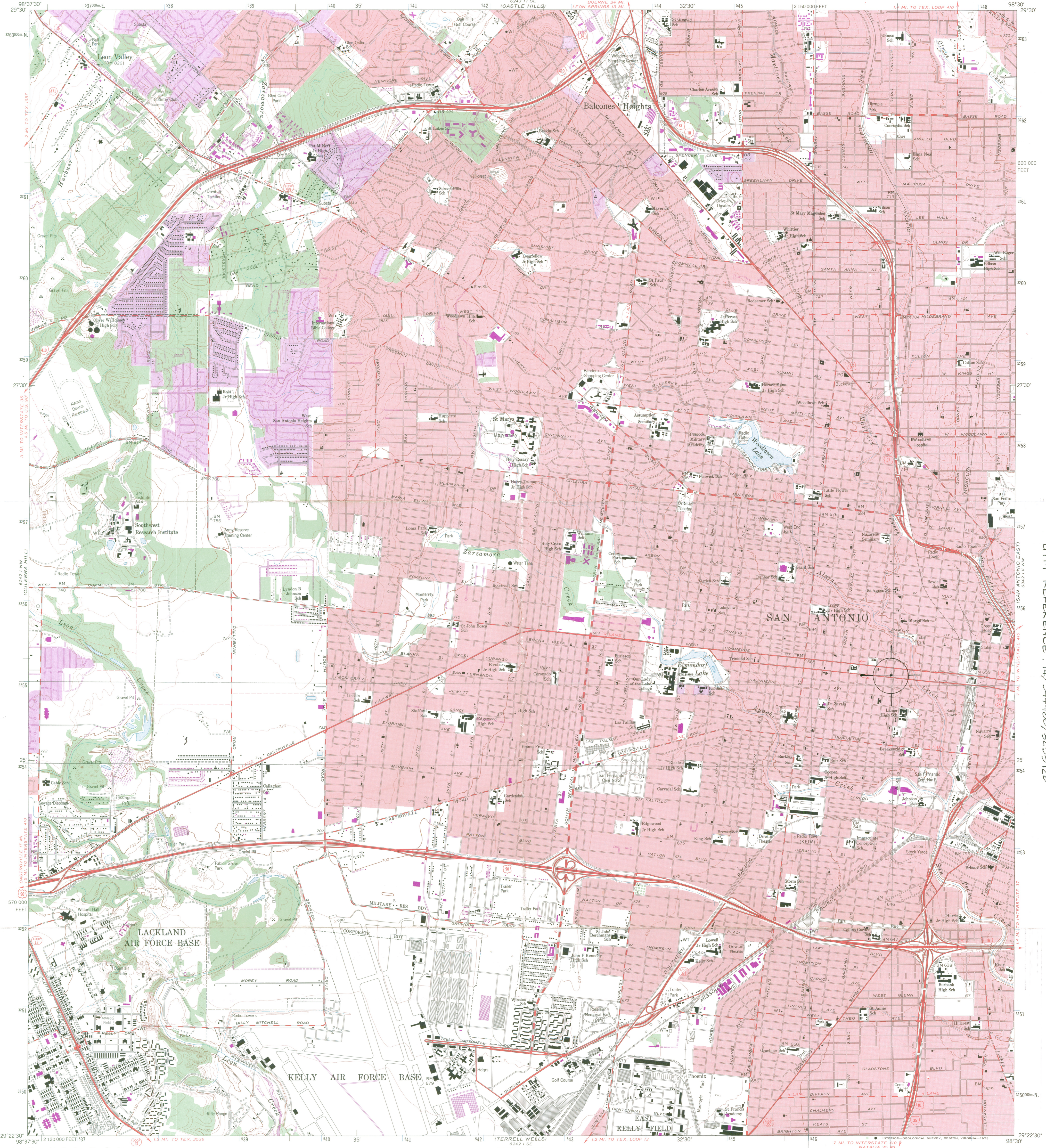
Photo 1980, unknown; neg. with Prospect Hill  
Joint Venture

before fire damage

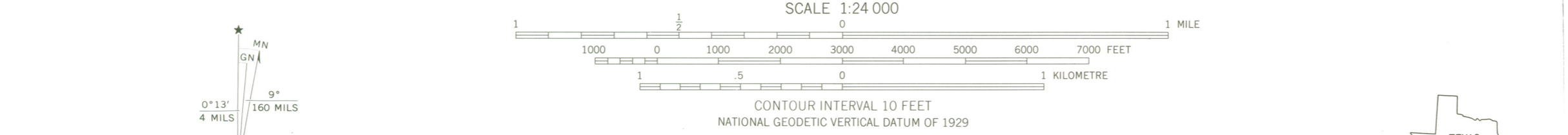
Southeast oblique  
camera looking northwest

Photo 9 of 9

AUG 14 1980



Maped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1952. Field annotated 1953. Revised by Geological Survey  
from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,  
south central zone  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 14, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines  
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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



SAN ANTONIO WEST, TEX.  
N2922.5-W9830.7/5

1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1973  
AMS 6242 1 NE-SERIES V882

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

OCT 819/2

2998-244

PROSPECT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1601 BUENA VISTA  
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 14/547480/3255120



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512) 475-3092

MEMORANDUM

TO: Linda McClelland, Architectural Historian  
National Park Service

FROM: John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian  
Texas Historical Commission

SUBJECT: Prospect Hill Missionary Baptist Church nomination

As you had requested in our earlier conversation regarding this property, I am asking that substantive review be given to this nomination. The question of the interior of the structure, which essentially no longer exists, is the principal issue of concern. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 512-475-3094.

DATE

9/5/85

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

2:30

AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

John Ferguson

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Texas Shpo.

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Prospect Hill Baptist Church

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

I told him that the nomination certainly had problems -

1) lack of concise clear statement of significance (eg. Context as "Baptist architecture") made evaluation difficult. No sign-arch features were identified.

2) Only walls remained, and their detailing. I doubted there was sufficient physical or design integrity for listing.

We would substantively review it next week till the 28th, I'd let him know the results as soon as possible.



NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

L McClelland

TITLE

A. Hist.

OFFICE

NR

9/17/85 - brought nomination to conference  
to discuss integrity and whether additional  
info. regarding architectural significance  
should be requested (even though  
integrity was weak). It was generally  
felt that some possibility existed for  
eligibility if existing architectural  
features could be found to have  
particular significance (despite loss  
of others) in context of local architecture.  
Also, it was generally agreed that  
Supton arch did not qualify as a relevant  
historic context or significant property.

9/17/85 After conference discussion and  
decision to return (discouraging one), I called  
John Ferguson to tell him our  
need for additional information  
on arch. context & significance of  
exterior design and detailing. I explained  
we saw integrity as a serious problem  
unless arch. merit of existing walls  
and design and detailing could be over-  
whelmingly demonstrated in context of  
local architecture in Beane arts styling, of  
religious ~~type~~, or central plan ~~could~~  
9/17/85 also called ~~Beane~~ to notify them  
of our decision on property  
and that copy of return sheet  
would be sent to them.