

2022

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Historic District other names/site number Masonic Home and School of Texas

2. Location

Roughly bounded by E. Berry, Mitchell, Vaughn, street & number Wichita, and Glen Garden Drive city, town Fort Worth state Texas code TX county Tarrant code 439 zip code 76105

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/district/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places...

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 1/28/92

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Institutional Housing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Institutional Housing

Education/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

Limestone

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Historic District encompasses 206 acres with a complex of 26 1- and 2-story buildings and structures concentrated on the eastern half. Bounded by Mitchell Boulevard, Glen Garden Drive, and Vaughn, Wichita and East Berry Streets in southeast Fort Worth, the district includes 13 Contributing and 13 Noncontributing resources. All Contributing resources were constructed between 1910-1941 with the principal ones in a Late Gothic Revival style arranged around a large quadrangle dominated by a great lawn.

The 206-acre Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Historic District is a largely undeveloped area in southeast Fort Worth surrounded by modest single-family dwellings in subdivisions platted since the 1920s. It is bounded by Mitchell Boulevard on the west, East Berry Street on the north, Vaughn and Wichita Streets on the east, and Glen Garden Drive on the south. An elementary school and grounds on the western boundary cuts into the generally rectangular-shaped district and removes approximately six acres. The district is two blocks southwest of the Poly Freeway.

The highest elevation of the district is at the northeast corner with a large plain of roughly 50 acres that remains level and then rolls gently toward the southwest behind the principal buildings. Random groves of deciduous trees and native grasses complete the setting of the district.

On the eastern half of the district, a complex of 26 buildings and structures is clustered into two parts. The upper part consists of 12 buildings and two structures; the lower of 12 buildings. Entry to the complex is principally through gates near the northeast corner along East Berry Street; secondary entrances are along Wichita Street at Commanche and Eastland Streets. A paved 2-lane central road turns east at the entrance gates, continues for approximately 500 feet, then turns at a 90 degree angle south and continues toward the Administration Building. Through this section, the road is flanked by deciduous trees and the lawn is highlighted with plantings in what appears to be a formal landscaping plan. The road breaks into a "Y" approximately 500 feet north of the Administration Building and connects on the east to a secondary entrance and on the west to an

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internal road. This internal road connects to a larger vehicular circulation network on the south and to the original entry road beginning approximately 200 feet from the entry gates on the north. A pedestrian circulation system is intertwined over the campus in a largely informal manner with sidewalks and delineated paths.

The historic buildings of the complex are focused on the central road leading into the area. This road is the backbone of the campus as planned by Wiley G. Clarkson in the early 1920s and establishes the Administration Building as the focal point. It also serves as the central planning element for organizing the upper campus buildings: administration building, chapel, dormitories, print shop, elementary school, and dining hall. These buildings are among the oldest on the campus and, with the exception of the chapel, date from before 1941, and are determined to be Contributing to the district. The upper campus buildings are mostly constructed of red brick with limestone details and display the Masonic emblem in a prominent place on the principal facade. The upper campus buildings largely reflect the 1920s redevelopment that replaced the first buildings on campus. Some of the pre-1920s properties, however, remain including the laundry and dairy/industrial arts building. A power plant from the early campus was demolished in 1989. Otherwise, the district is largely intact with few alterations to the buildings or campus plan. This establishes a unified campus of complementary buildings.

Lower campus buildings are to the west and southwest of these early buildings and generally were built after 1941 and are determined Noncontributing. These lower campus buildings largely continue the use of red brick, but are executed in modern designs and do not appear to follow a strict campus plan.

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Individual Building Descriptions:

1. Entrance Gates, Contributing, 1925
Architect: Wiley G. Clarkson (attributed)

Red brick stylized gate piers with wrought iron gates flank the main entrance. Each pier consists of two columns resting on a continuous limestone base. The individual columns include a brick shaft rising to a limestone cap topped with a finial; the larger column includes a decorated limestone capital. The outer pier is several feet lower and connected by a sharply rising limestone parapet.

The entrance gates introduce the use of red brick and limestone that predominates the historic district. These are considered a Contributing structure because they were built prior to 1941 and retain their integrity.

2. Masonic Home and School Sign, Noncontributing, c. 1970

Low rectangular sign with red brick end piers connected by a continuous limestone cap and base. Square limestone panels infill between the piers with the name of the facility denoted in gold letters.

3. Primary School, Contributing, 1929

1-story, red brick building in a T-plan faces west onto the central lawn. The principal facade includes double wooden doors in a recessed central entryway under a limestone arch. Two sets of five 9/9 windows flank the entryway. Slightly projecting end sections complete the facade. A gable-roofed gymnasium rises behind the horizontal classroom section completing the T shape. The Masonic emblem is encased in limestone on the cornice above the entryway.

This building reflects the Gothic Revival style and design in red brick that unifies the campus. It retains its original features and is the last major building constructed during the 1920s building period. The School is considered to be Contributing to the district.

4. Print Shop, Contributing, 1925

1-story, red brick building in rectangular plan faces west onto the central lawn. The principal facade contains a slightly projecting central entryway with recessed doors, limestone surround, and arched opening. A limestone stoop extends from the entryway. Sets of four 9/9 windows flank the entry.

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A limestone parapet and quoins complete the decoration on the building. Above the entryway, the Masonic emblem is featured in a limestone carving.

The Print Shop repeats the use of red brick and the Gothic Revival style. It remains virtually unaltered and represents the development of the 1920s campus. These factors make it Contributing.

5. Chapel, Noncontributing, 1959

Lofty 1-story building in Gothic Revival style faces west onto the central lawn.

6. Administration Building

Administration Building, Contributing, 1925

Architect: Wiley G. Clarkson

Builder: James T. Taylor

2-story, 5-part red brick building with raised basement of rough limestone faces north. The center part consists of a slightly projecting truncated tower with a covered entryway, denoted by a Gothic arch, rising through an interplay of red brick and limestone details to four stepped buttresses and a decorative limestone parapet defined by a mixture of finials and trefoil ornaments.

The Masonic emblem is interwoven in the parapet treatment. Limestone quoins, beltcourse, and parapet capping integrate the ornamentation with the overall design of the building.

Double hardwood doors with leaded glass displaying the Masonic emblem complete the building. All windows are 4/4 and 6/6 double hung.

This building is the dominate element of the campus plan and represents in materials and architectural style the post 1920s buildings. This building establishes the overall architectural setting of the district. Because it was the first building constructed in the 1920s and retains a high degree of integrity, it is Contributing to the district.

7. Dairy/Industrial Arts Building, Contributing, 1915

1-story gable roofed building covered with rough stucco immediately south of the Administration Building. Ball finials at the center and corners adorn the raised gable end parapets. A square panel containing the Masonic emblem is centered in the upper gable end. All windows are multi-light metal sashes.

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The Dairy/Industrial Arts building is one of the few remaining buildings from the pre-1920s campus development and therefore reflects a turn-of-the-century Victorian influence. Its high level of integrity and association with the early campus make it Contributing.

8. Superintendent's House, Contributing, 1925
Architect: Wiley G. Clarkson

2-story, 5-bay red and black brick building faces east. The principal facade is highlighted by a recessed entry flanked by deeply inset windows surrounded by limestone. The limestone treatment continues on the second story surrounding two 1/1 single windows and to the cornice where it meets the limestone beltcourse and crenelated parapet. Side wings project from the main block with the 1st story open under limestone arches. Limestone quoins complete the building. All windows were replaced in the early 1980s.

The Superintendent's House repeats the use of red brick and the Gothic Revival style. It remains virtually unaltered, except windows, and represents the development of the 1920s campus. These factors make it Contributing.

9. Senior Girls Dormitory, Contributing, 1922
Architect: Herbert M. Greene

2-story, L-shaped red and black brick building faces east onto the central lawn. The principal facade is dominated by a recessed entrance with double wooden doors beneath a limestone arched entryway. The entry rises to a crenelated parapet and encases two 8/1 windows with limestone surrounds. The Masonic emblem is incorporated into the cornice decoration. Pairs and sets of three 9/1 windows, limestone quoins and beltcourse complete the building. All windows were replaced in the early 1980s.

The Senior Girls Dormitory continues the unifying architectural features of the district with its use of red brick and Gothic Revival style. Its retention of original architectural features, except windows, and 1920s date of construction make the property Contributing.

10. Junior Girls Dormitory, Contributing, 1924
Architect: Herbert M. Greene

2-story red and black brick building with raised basement designed in an H-shape faces east onto the central lawn. Twin porticos with arched limestone entryways dominate the intersection of the side

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wings with the main block. Paired and single 9/1 windows are uniformly arranged on all facades of the building. A crenelated parapet, limestone quoins and beltcourses highlight the building. The Masonic emblem is incorporated into the cornice of the roof and porticos.

This building continues the unifying architectural features of the district with its use of red brick and Gothic Revival style. Its retention of original architectural features and 1920s date of construction make the property Contributing.

11. Dining Hall, Contributing, 1924
Architect: Wiley G. Clarkson

1-story, 5-part red brick building faces east onto the central lawn. The center part projects several feet with two arched entryways on either end separated by a group of three 6/6 windows each with a multi-light transom. Four sets of paired 6/6 windows and transoms separate the center part from the projecting first and fifth parts. Each end section contains a pair of 6/6 windows with transoms. A double limestone beltcourse and crenelated parapet complete the facade decoration.

The Dining Hall reflects the consistency of the campus plan using red brick and limestone in the Gothic Revival style. Its high degree of integrity and pre-1941 construction date make it Contributing.

12. Laundry, Contributing, 1910

1-story, rectangular plan brick (painted) building with stepped gable ends. Double wooden and screen doors are on the gable ends while 6/6 wooden windows with segmental arches punctuate the gable ends and sides.

The Laundry is the oldest extant building and therefore reflects the earlier Victorian influence in its design. It is largely unaltered and represents the early development of the campus. Therefore, it is recognized as a Contributing element in the district.

13. Maintenance Garage, Contributing, c. 1930

1-story concrete block garage with metal roof and four sets of double doors faces east. The building serves basic utilitarian needs of the facility as it has done since construction.

The garage is a simple, functional building that retains its integrity and is essential in the support of the facility. For these reasons, it is determined Contributing.

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14. Museum, Contributing, c. 1920

1-story red brick building consisting of a single square block with projecting flat canopy supported by brick piers faces east. The building has been used as a residence for the school's cook and an athletic locker room.

The museum continues the use of red brick and, although of small scale and absent architectural details, is considered Contributing.

15. Senior Boys Dormitory, Contributing, 1927
Architect: Wiley G. Clarkson

2-story, 5-part red and black brick building with raised basement faces east. A well-articulated entryway of limestone details dominates the center part and is approached across a raised and uncovered terrace. 8/8 and 6/6 windows are symmetrically arranged on the building and replaced the original windows in the 1970s. The interior was renovated in 1979. The Masonic emblem in limestone is centered on the cornice above the entryway.

This building continues the use of red brick and limestone in its construction and therefore maintains the architectural unity of the district. Its high degree of integrity and 1920s construction date make it a Contributing resource in the district.

16. High School, Noncontributing, 1962

1- and 2-story red brick school building in irregular plan.

17. Gymnasium, Noncontributing, 1976

Lofty, 1-story red brick building with large gable roof.

18. Infirmery, Noncontributing, 1961

1-story red brick building with flat roof.

19. Preschool Residence and School, Noncontributing, 1963

1-story modern building of white concrete piers connected by pebble-dash panels.

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20-25. Cottages Nos.1-6, Noncontributing, 1970-75

1-story brick cottages in a mix of contemporary residential designs.

26. "Sub", Noncontributing, 1970

1-story red brick building with flat roof.

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MASONIC WIDOWS AND ORPHANS HOME HISTORIC DISTRICT



Map not to scale

1. Entrance Gates
2. Masonic Home and School Sign
3. Primary School
4. Print Shop
5. Chapel
6. Administration Building
7. Dairy/Industrial Arts Building
8. Superintendent's House
9. Senior Girls Dormitory
10. Junior Girls Dormitory
11. Dining Hall
12. Laundry
13. Maintenance Garage
14. Museum
15. Senior Boys Dormitory
16. High School
17. Gymnasium
18. Infirmary
19. Preschool Residence and School
- 20-25. Cottages Nos. 1-6
26. "Sub"

- CONTRIBUTING
- NONCONTRIBUTING
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

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PHOTOGRAPH INVENTORY

Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photographers: Woody Minor, Brad Taylor

Date: October 4-5, 1984 and September 24, 1990

Original Negatives on file at the Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, 1303 Foch Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76107; and City of Fort Worth, Planning Department, 1000 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102.

PHOTOGRAPH 1 - Entrance Gates, Site No. 1, Camera facing southwest.

PHOTOGRAPH 2 - The Great Lawn, Camera facing south.

PHOTOGRAPH 3 - Primary School, Site No. 3, Camera facing east.

PHOTOGRAPH 4 - Print Shop, Site No. 4, Camera facing northeast.

PHOTOGRAPH 5 - Chapel and Administration Building, Sites Nos. 5 and 6, Camera facing southeast.

PHOTOGRAPH 6 - Chapel, Site No. 5, Camera facing east.

PHOTOGRAPH 7 - Administration Building, Site No. 6, Camera facing south.

PHOTOGRAPH 8 - Senior Girls Dormitory, Site No. 9, Camera facing southwest.

PHOTOGRAPH 9 - Dining Hall, Site No. 11, Camera facing northwest.

PHOTOGRAPH 10 - Great Lawn, Camera facing southwest.

PHOTOGRAPH 11 - Superintendent's House, Site No. 8, Camera facing west.

PHOTOGRAPH 12 - Senior Girls Dormitory, Site No. 9, Camera facing west.

PHOTOGRAPH 13 - Junior Girls Dormitory, Site No. 10, Camera facing west.

PHOTOGRAPH 14 - Dining Hall, Site No. 11, Camera facing northwest.

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PHOTOGRAPH 15 - Laundry, Site No. 12, Camera facing north.

PHOTOGRAPH 16 - Senior Boys Dormitory, Site No. 15, Camera facing west.

PHOTOGRAPH 17 - Dairy/Industrial Arts Building, Site No. 7, Camera facing south.

PHOTOGRAPH 18 - View of upper campus from lower campus, Camera facing east.

PHOTOGRAPH 19 - High School, Site No. 16, Camera facing north.

PHOTOGRAPH 20 - Gymnasium, Site No. 17, Camera facing west.

PHOTOGRAPH 21 - "Sub", Site No. 26, Camera facing west.

PHOTOGRAPH 22 - Cottage, Site No. 22, Camera facing east.

PHOTOGRAPH 23 - Cottage, Site No. 20, Camera facing north.

PHOTOGRAPH 24 - Cottage, Site No. 23, Camera facing southwest.

PHOTOGRAPH 25 - Cottage, Site No. 24, Camera facing southwest.

PHOTOGRAPH 26 - View of undeveloped acreage, Camera facing northwest.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1910-1941
1910-1941

Significant Dates

N/A
1910

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clarkson, Wiley G.
Greene, Herbert M.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Historic District is a largely intact eleemosynary facility similar to many that developed during the Progressive Era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is nominated under Criterion A in the area of social history as a representation of facilities built and operated by fraternal organizations for the care of orphans and widows of its members. The property is eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a largely unaltered collection of institutional buildings and structures of eleemosynary facilities containing two buildings from the first phase of development (1899-1920) and the remaining from the second phase of development (1920-1941). The post 1941 buildings reflect the shift in the philosophical and psychological thought for child welfare and social services. Many of these practices continue to the present.

Beginnings of the Home, 1845-1898

Free Masons in Texas long acknowledged a responsibility to care for the children of their indigent members. A resolution of 1845 passed by the Grand Lodge of Texas recommended that subordinate lodges set aside part of their funds for relief to orphans (Dillard, p. 7). This practice of local care for orphans depended on the availability of the lodge's financial resources, which fluctuated depending on membership and the personal resources of its members.

By 1856 the Grand Lodge recognized the need for more reliable funding and in a new constitution included a "Permanent Fund for Charity and Education" for "educating the indigent children and relieving the wants of the widows and orphans of Master Masons." Under the new system, local lodges still selected their recipients but reserves from the Permanent Fund were dispersed to lodges for distribution (Dillard, p. 8).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 9-1.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:
Texas Historical Comm., Austin, TX
Historic Preservation Council of Tarrant County, Ft. Worth, TX

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 206 acres

UTM References

A 14 240000 3897960
Zone Easting Northing
C 14 239940 3896360

B 14 240640 3897940
Zone Easting Northing
D 14 240640 3896340

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet 10-1.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet 10-1.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Dwayne Jones (w/ assistance from Judi Cole, City of Ft. Worth)
organization Texas Historical Commission date July, 1991; December, 1991
street & number P.O. Box 12276 telephone 512/463-6094
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The revenues in the Permanent Fund grew substantially and exceeded expenditures over the next 25 years. In 1885 the Grand Lodge proposed a resolution to use the surplus and set up a committee to research and prepare a plan for the establishment of a Masonic Widows and Orphans Home. The following year another resolution called for the development of a board of directors to oversee a home and to accumulate funds toward its erection.

The rapid Permanent Fund accumulation of the mid 19th century slowed so that by 1888 only \$40,000 of an estimated \$100,000 needed for a facility was available. In response during the same year, a group of citizens from Independence in central Texas offered the five remaining buildings and approximately 34 acres from the former Baylor University location for the new facility (Dillard, p.12-13). This offer was declined. Instead the Board of Directors sought to increase the fund in 1892 by asking each lodge to add \$10 to its annual contribution and an additional \$100 from voluntary contributions. Fund raising continued to trouble the Board of Directors, but in 1894 they agreed to proceed with the plan for selecting a location for the home. The request for a site called for a tract of land not less than 200 acres "suitable for agriculture and conveniently located near some city or large town, with a good supply of wood and water." In addition, the Board asked that a donation of money sufficient to erect buildings and make improvements should follow land acquisition (Dillard, p. 14).

Six communities responded to the request for a site. All were rejected, and the Board again solicited proposals. In 1896 eleven communities responded. Among them were: Corsicana with 170 acres close to the State Orphanage and the Odd Fellows Orphans Home; 200 acres nine miles from Houston; and 300 acres near Texas A&M College in the Bryan-College Station area. The Directors used the following criteria to select a site: healthfulness of the location and abundance of water with drainage; climate and adaptability of the soil for raising agricultural products; and nearness to a large town or city with facilities for learning mechanical trades.(Dillard, p. 15) From the eleven applicants, North Galveston emerged as the most favorable site. The ensuing discussion, however, did not yield a consensus, so the decision was postponed until 1897. In the meantime new proposals arrived including one from Fort Worth Lodge No. 148. After two ballots during the annual assembly, this site was selected as the most suitable for the new facility.

The selected offer consisted of 200 acres, \$5,000 in cash, and building materials. Following the selection of Fort Worth, the Board visited the proposed site in February of 1898 and reported that it was inferior because of the poor quality of the land, its unfavorable location in Fort Worth, and the possibility of an unclear title to the land. In July 1898 the site was formally rejected and another 200-acre site was offered by Fort Worth. This location was accepted with an additional 12.8 acres purchased by the Board to give access to public roads on two sides of the tract. Plans and specifications were prepared by Brother S. B. Haggart of Fort Worth and accepted by the Grand

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Lodge. On September 10, 1898, a contract was let for the construction of the main building of the home to the Fort Worth Construction Company for a price of \$17,727. Another contract was let for drilling an artesian well.

Establishment of the Home, 1899-1941

The cornerstone for the main building was placed on June 7, 1899, with the school formally opening on October 6, 1899. Only one building was complete. (Dillard, pp. 18-21) In spite of the minimal facilities, applications for admission to the home began to arrive almost immediately with 89 children and 22 widows seeking assistance. The first building was limited and offered no space for widows and only one bathroom for the entire home. In 1900, however, a new 2-story brick building was erected to house widows and 80 additional children. The widows were moved in 1903 to a new 2-story frame building exclusively for them, and again in 1911, to the Home for Aged Masons, a new facility in Arlington.

Applications for admission to the orphanage continued to grow over the first year so that by December 1900 no more residents could be housed in the existing facility. The Galveston hurricane of September 1900 placed an unexpected demand on the endowment fund thereby requiring an additional assessment from each member in order to maintain the facility. The 1900 storm also challenged a restriction on admissions that had limited the residency of children only to orphans. The turning point occurred when a member died during the storm leaving an impecunious wife and nine children. The Grand Lodge directed that his children be accepted into the home thereby reversing the original dictum. Later, the constitution was changed to admit "needy children and grandchildren of Masons in Texas." (Dillard, pp. 23-24)

In addition to daily care of the residents, the Home was to provide an education for the children. Initial efforts were merely to prepare the residents to support themselves, therefore the emphasis in campus instruction was on vocational training. For male residents, this included manual training (woodworking, drafting, mechanical skills), printing, and general farm work; for female residents, shorthand, typing, bookkeeping as well as cooking, sewing, and housekeeping. The early educational efforts focused on grades 1-8 and operated as a private school. After 1913, the Home became an independent school district and expanded to provide 12 grades of schooling. The independent school district system continues today.

The Home and school attempted to provide a well-rounded environment for the residents. Athletic and music programs were prominent extracurricular activities. Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls also were active groups on the campus. In general, administrators of the Home worked to develop a proper dormitory life and education for the residents. The concept of "Cottage type

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dormitories" was instituted as early as 1917 to offer a supportive home life. New techniques in institutional residential care continued to be introduced. These developments and the growing number of residents led to demands for a larger and modified campus. By 1920, these factors necessitated a larger, more modern campus and facilities.

Physical Development of the Campus, 1920-1941

The earliest physical development on the campus followed no master plan. Buildings were constructed as the need arose and money permitted. Most construction, however, was concentrated in the northeast section on the most level section of the 212-acre site. The remaining land, approximately 150 acres, was used for agricultural pursuits to provide food for the residents and training for the male residents.

The Home originally was self-sustaining in most aspects. It provided its own water and basic infrastructure needs. In 1913, the city extended services to the Home including gas, water, electricity and a sewage plant. In 1937 the city became the sole source of water for the Home.

In the early 1920s, Wiley G. Clarkson, architect from Fort Worth, developed the first master plan for the campus. His prior design experience included the Masonic Temple of Fort Worth and various school buildings for the Fort Worth Independent School District including Arlington Heights High School, Lily B. Clayton Elementary School, and Alice E. Carlson Elementary School. Clarkson's work included many of the most significant properties on the Masonic campus and, although no copy of the master plan has been located to this point, he is credited with planning the circulation system and landscaping.

Clarkson's plan followed, in concept, that of most other institutional design. Its grouping of buildings around a large quadrangle or yard is typical of Gothic designs found in planning for an academic campus or an institution, hence Institutional Gothic. Such Gothic designs often resulted in groupings of buildings connected by a combination of arched walkways or loggia thereby creating enclosed courts and a sense of community. The architectural style of the buildings at the Home reflects this influence, but allows for detached buildings to suggest the connected relationship of the properties and the institution. This physical development is similar to many other institutions, i.e. orphanages, colleges, universities, etc., of the period in Texas and across the United States.

Herbert M. Greene of Dallas also provided architectural designs for the Home. His other works included the Scottish Rite Cathedral of El Paso, Scottish Rite Temple of Dallas (NR, 1980), Textile and Fine Arts Building at Fair Park in Dallas (part of NHL, 1986), and several buildings at the University of Texas at Austin.

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By 1941, the administrators of the Home temporarily halted the development of the campus on the eve of World War II. In 1946, educational reforms were introduced in the curriculum and a chapel was recommended. (Dillard, p. 36) This resulted in new campus development that departed from the pre-World War II plan in location and architectural style. Buildings, excluding the chapel, began to be erected below the upper level grounds. This direction continues to the present and the buildings mostly reflect modern architectural influences. With the exception of approximately six acres sold to the Fort Worth Independent School District in 1952, the original 212 acres are intact and reflect the philosophical and educational development that occurred over the century in institutional child welfare and social services.

Orphanages in Texas

This district encompasses one of the few remaining eleemosynary properties of fraternal organizations in Texas. Some of the major institutions reflect, as does the Masonic one, the development of new facilities in the 1920s in response to an increasing number of residents. This trend continued into the 1930s, but began to drop after the Depression. The development in the 1920s made the Gothic Revival style a popular one on institutional and academic campuses. A number of orphanages developed from the 19th century. The first in Texas is generally thought to be the Western Texas Orphan Asylum (sic) set up in New Braunfels (New-Wied) around 1845. Other orphanages still in operation include:

Religious Affiliation:

Buckner Orphan's Home (1879)(Dallas)
Southwestern Presbyterian Home and School for Orphans (1905)(Itasca)
Methodist Orphan's Home (1890)(Waco)
Baptist Children's Home (no date)(Round Rock)

Fraternal Organization Affiliation:

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Orphan's Home (1885-1886)(Corsicana)
Knights of Pythias Orphan's Home (1905-06)(Weatherford)

Government Affiliation:

State Orphanage (1889)(Corsicana)

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Of the preceding institutions, only Buckner Orphan's Home in Dallas retains a high degree of integrity as a collection of buildings in a formal campus plan. Individual buildings of the Odd Fellows Home and State Home retain integrity as well.

The recognition of the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Historic District is significant in recognizing the role of the charitable institution in our society over the last century. The future of these properties is questionable because of the declining numbers of orphans desiring admission and therefore the potential of making these large tracts of land near cities desirable for intensive development.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Dillard, Robert L., Jr., History of Masonic Home and School of Texas, printed by the Masonic Home and School, 1973.

Jones, W. Dwayne. "Texas Orphanages," unpublished manuscript, 1990.

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Works Progress Administration Writers Project, The Federal Writers Project, unpublished typed manuscript on file at the Fort Worth Public Library, 1941.

Interviews:

Dr. James H. Stewart, Jr., Superintendent, Masonic Home and School of Texas, 1990.

Lila Stillson, Archivist, University of Texas Architectural Archives, 1990.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district include all of the original 212 acres granted and purchased for the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home except for approximately six acres sold in 1952.

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of East Berry Street and Mitchell Boulevard continues east to the intersection of Vaughn Street, then southeast to the intersection of Wichita Street, southwest to the intersection of Glen Garden Drive North, west to the intersection of Mitchell Boulevard, then north to intersection of Rattkin Road and Mitchell, east along property lines approximately 1000 feet, north along property lines approximately 2000 feet, west to intersection of Mitchell, then north to the beginning point.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Tarrant

DATE RECEIVED: 12/20/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/31/91
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/16/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/03/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91002022

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/28/92 DATE Entered in the National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed Date



ENTRANCE GATES - MASONIC HOME H.P.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 1 OF 26



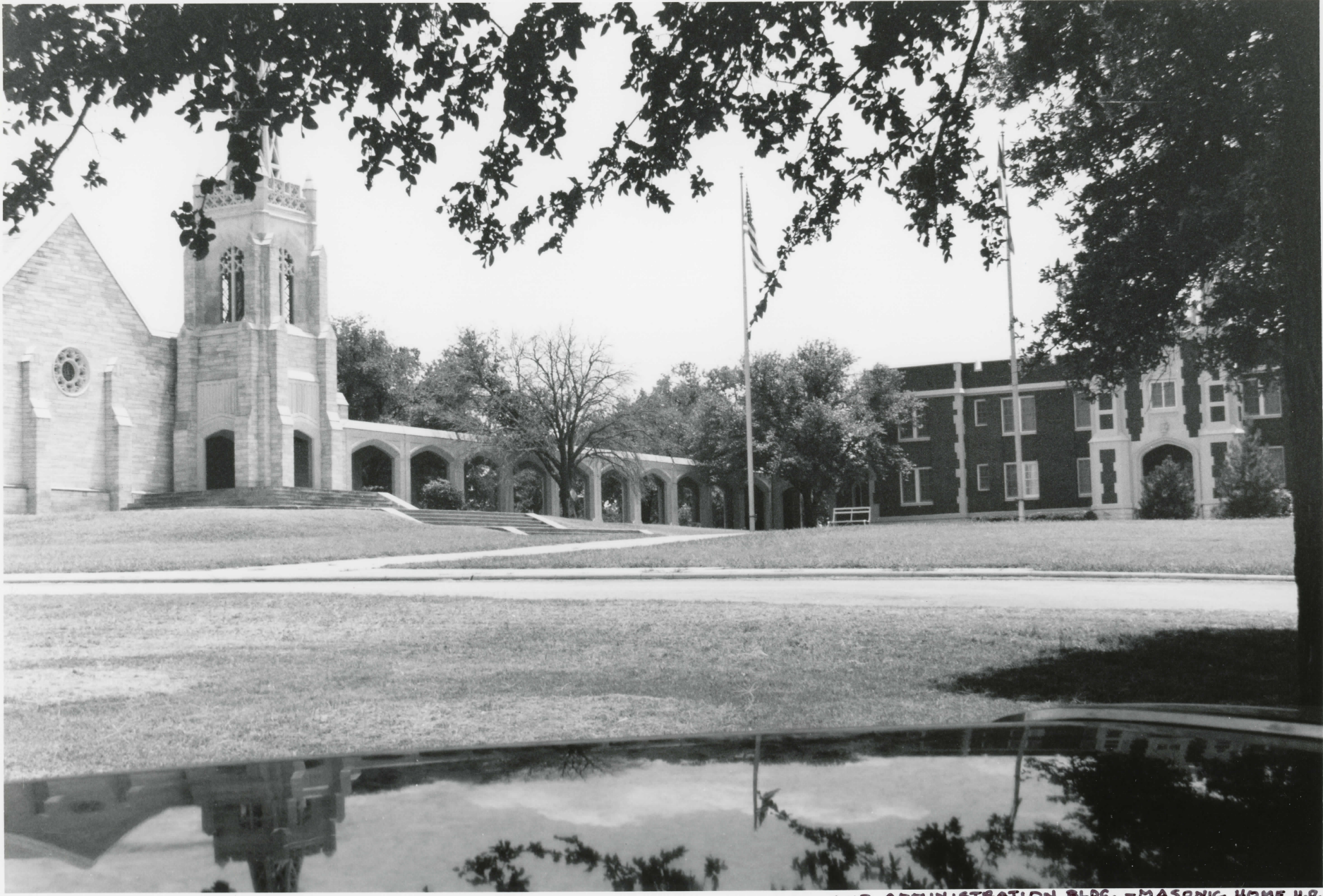
GREAT LAWN - MASONIC HOME H.Q.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 2 OF 26



PRIMARY SCHOOL - MASONIC HOME H.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 3 OF 26



PRINT SHOP - MASONIC HOME H.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 4 OF 26



CHAPEL AND ADMINISTRATION BLDG. - MASONIC HOME H.P.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 5 OF 26



CHAPEL - MASONIC HOME H.B.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 6 OF 26



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - MASONIC HOME H.O.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 7 OF 26



SENIOR GIRLS DORMITORY - MASONIC HOME B.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 8 OF 26



DINING HALL - MASONIC HOME H.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 9 OF 26



GREAT LAWN - MASONIC HOME H.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 10 OF 26



SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE-MASONIC HOMES
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 11 OF 26



SENIOR GIRLS DORMITORY - MASONIC HOME H.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 12 OF 26



JUNIOR GIRLS DORMITORY - MASONIC HOME B.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 13 OF 26



DINING HALL - MASONIC HOME H.P.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 14 OF 26



LAUNDRY - MASONIC HOME H.Q.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 15 OF 26



SENIOR BOYS DORMITORY - MASONIC HOME H.O.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 16 OF 26



DAIRY/INDUSTRIAL ARTS BLDG. - MASONIC HOME
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 17 OF 26



VIEW OF UPPER CAMPUS FROM LOWER-MASONIC HONORS
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 13 OF 26



HIGH SCHOOL - MASONIC HOME H.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 19 OF 26



GYMNASIUM - MASONIC HOME H.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO. , TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 20 OF 26



"SUB" - MASONIC HOME H.O.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 21 OF 26



COTTAGE, SITE NO. 22, - MASONIC HOME H.D.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 22 OF 26



COTTAGE, SITE NO. 20, - MASONIC HOME H.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 23 OF 26



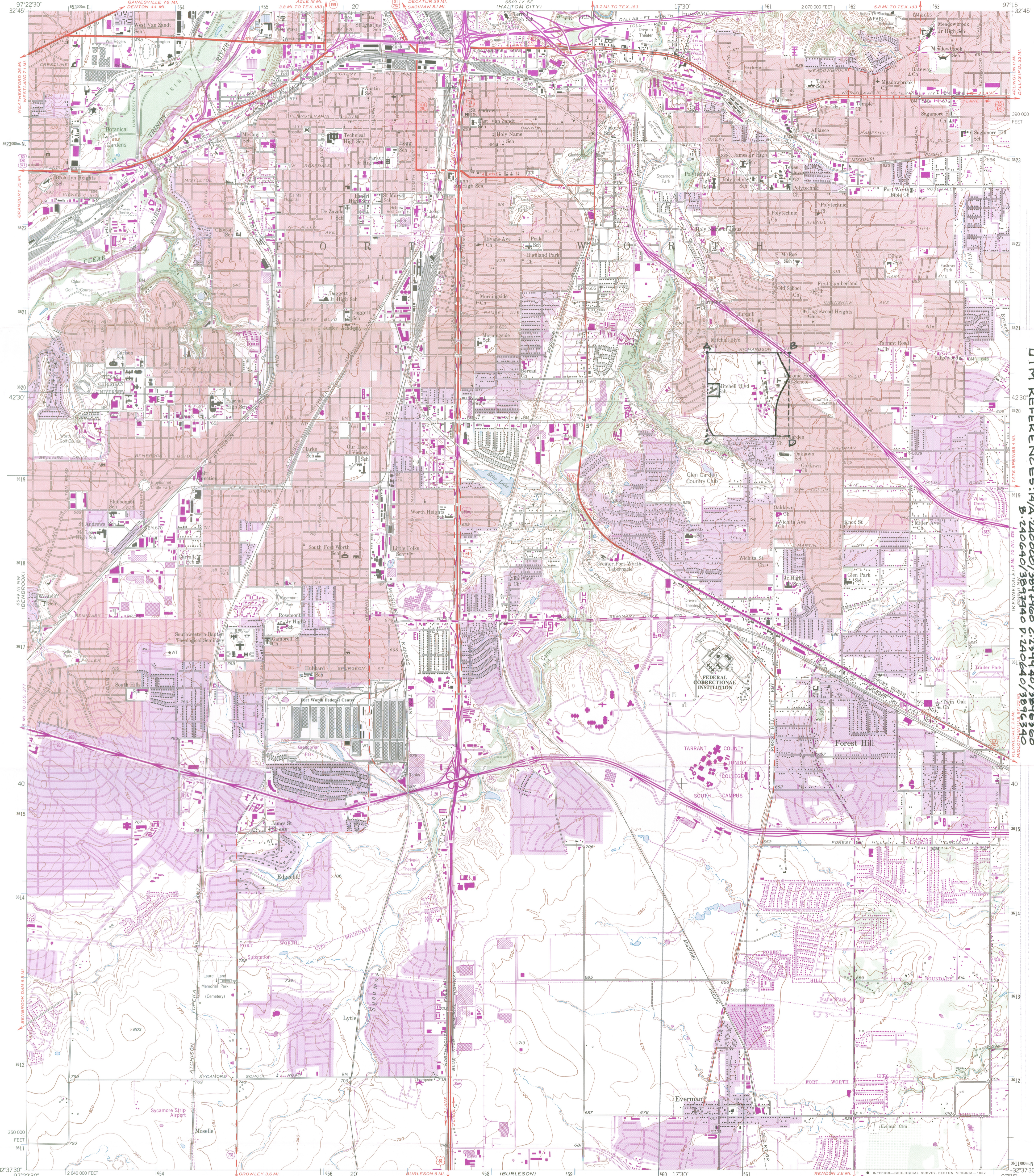
COTTAGE, SITE NO. 23, - MASONIC HOME H.P.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO, TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 24 OF 26



COTTAGE, SITE NO. 24, - MASONIC HOME H.O.
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 25 OF 26

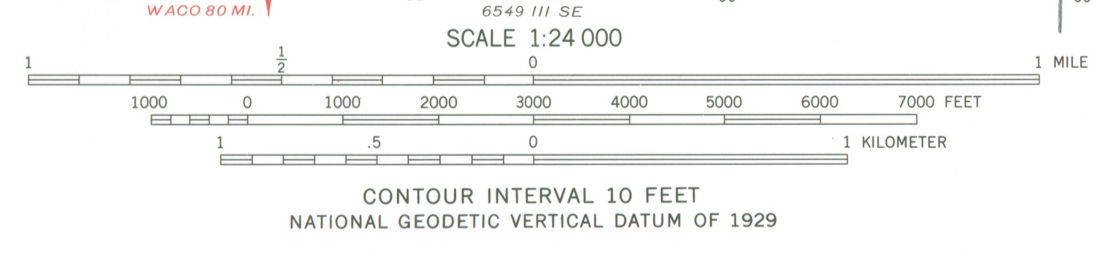


VIEW OF UNDEVELOPED ACREAGE - MASONIC HOMES
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 26 OF 26



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1952-1954. Field checked 1955
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Texas coordinate
system, north central zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator
grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection
lines 10 meters south and 28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries
of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1979 and other sources. This
information not field checked. Map edited 1981
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

FORT WORTH, TEX.
N3237.5-W9715.7.5

1955
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 6549 III 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

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