

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received NOV 20 1979

date entered JAN 8 1980

1. Name

historic San Antonio Casino Club Building

and/or common Casino Club

2. Location

street & number 102 West Crockett Street not for publication

city, town San Antonio vicinity of congressional district 20

state Texas code 048 county Bexar code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Arthur P. Veltman, Jr.

street & number 316 North Presa Street

city, town San Antonio vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number Main Plaza

city, town San Antonio state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

San Antonio Historic Survey;
title Historic Sites Inventoryhas this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ nodate 1972; 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records City of San Antonio Preservation Officer; Texas Historical Commission

city, town San Antonio; Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☒ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Representing the Texan architectural tradition of combined styles, the Art Deco massing and unique shaping of the Casino Club Building compliments the detailed decorative elements borrowed from Mayan culture.

The brown brick over poured concrete building rises six stories above a basement and features a distinguished front tower and special decorative on the first and sixth floor facades. An outstanding feature of the building is its flatiron shape; a sensitive response to the shape of the city block and its relationship to the San Antonio River bordering the building. The primary visual emphases are the verticality and flared side elevations from the main entrance elevation. Paired, vertical window openings and the surmounting domed tower distinguishing the entrance elevation augment the visual interest. Except on the first and sixth floors, where eight-over-eight windows are found, fenestration consists of one-over-one sashes. The crowned appearance of the front tower, the detailed concrete castings which ornament the crest of the sixth floor, the tower terraces, and the first floor level compliment the streamlined midsection of the body. Such stylization is typical of Art Deco architecture.

The interior boasts a collection of elegant rooms dedicated to the public function of the San Antonio Casino Club, such as game rooms, banquet halls, a ballroom, and dormitory space. Hardware furnishings and woodworked trim were elaborate in detail and of fine materials. Many of the interior elements were borrowed from each of the Club's previous homes. Ceiling and frieze treatments of stencilled patterns were employed to add elegance and visual appeal to the public functions of such a prestigious social environment as the San Antonio Casino Club.

The exterior and interior materials existing today are remnants of the original architectural fabric of the 1927 construction. Four large gilt mirrors once decorated the ballroom. Reportedly, they had earlier adorned the Astor House in New York.

The existing material coloring was the original color scheme. Only discoloration by the natural aging process in urban siting has had any effect. The interior arrangement is fairly consistent with the original layout despite reuse of rooms for other purposes. Occasional flimsy partitions were used to divide dormitory spaces during its more recent use as a Youth Hostel. Plans for extensive interior remodeling in 1931 were never executed due to loss of financing opportunities during the Depression.

Currently, interior conversion for forty apartments is underway. This project is one of the largest efforts in the locally designated historic district to encourage the development of a residential community in the downtown area. The ground and river level of the building will be converted to seven retail spaces following the existing commercial trend of adaptive reuse of the other buildings along the San Antonio River Walk.

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 checked="" 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 1927

Builder/Architect Kelwood Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The San Antonio Casino Club Building, completed in 1927, is a visually unique structure in its combined Art Deco and Mayan architectural styling. Mayan detailing, found primarily in the cast concrete motifs and the stairstepped central tower, represents an unusual style in Texas borrowing from the architectural ancestry of its Mexican-Mayan neighbors. The rear of the building fronts the San Antonio River Walk lending an historic charm through detail, scale, and positioning to the winding river. Two local social clubs established in the 19th century in Texas, merged in 1925 and collaborated to construct this building as an elegant clubhouse.

The original purpose of this building recognized a rich cultural heritage of the affluent German-Texan and the well-educated Anglo-Texan elites of the 19th century. Their collaboration of purpose and dedication to aesthetic and social communion was notable as their cultural inheritance was different. The design and construction of the San Antonio Casino Club is a significant monument reflecting the mergance of two venerable institutions.

In 1854 the original Casino Club was established in San Antonio by German-San Antonians as a social club. This club basically served the cultural entertainment needs such as theaters, games, dances, and meetings. The San Antonio Club formed in 1881 "for literary purposes... social intercourse...convenience of a clubhouse." Its functions included game rooms, ladies' parlor, dormitory rooms, and opera productions. In 1925 the two clubs merged.

Construction began in 1926 for the provision of a facility to serve the two clubs. Architectural work was executed by the Kelwood Company. Construction was contracted to Heath and Kinsey Construction Company. The furnishings and fixtures from the San Antonio Club were transfered to the new building. Partial leasing for office spaces of the upper floors generated more complete use of the building. Newspaper accounts of the building valued it at \$250,000 in 1927. However, as the Depression years began to destructively affect the Club's financial status, the building was repossessed and sold in public auction for \$114,000 in 1940 to Henry Caulfield of St. Louis, Missouri. The building passed through several owners until 1942 when it was sold to the Thomas Gilcrease Western Collection and used as headquarters for the Gilcrease Oil Company. In 1952 it was sold to C. B. Erwin and General American Casualty Company for insurance offices.

Gradual decline of use emptied the building for nearly a decade; infrequent use by transient visitors and a short lived Youth Hostel provided inexpensive lodging during the 1968 World's Hemisfair.

In 1978 the Casino Club Limited acquired the building and has sought to revitalize the building's use as residences (upper floors) and retail space (ground and river levels). Both concepts are deemed appropriate as full day and night use of the locally designated historic destrict has been encouraged.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bexar County Deeds.

Heusinger, Ed. W; A Chronology of Events in San Antonio, Standard Printing Company, 1951.

The San Antonio Express; 12/19/26, 2/24/1924, 6/22/52, 5/7/62, 7/12/31.

Casino Club Vertical File, D.R.T. Library

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name San Antonio East, Texas

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 14 549632 3254965
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded north by Crockett Street, south by River Square Building, east by San Antonio River, and west by North Presa Street. Legal Lots 4, 6, and 6 1/2, NCB 148.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lenora Brown Rickards, Research Associate

organization Texas Historical Commission

date August 21, 1979

street & number P.O. Box 12276

telephone 512-475-3095

city or town Austin,

state Texas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 24, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

Sally G. Oldham
Keeper of the National Register

date 1/8/80

Attest: Kristin O'Connell
Chief of Registration

date 1/2/80

Property San Antonio Casino Club Building

State Tx - Texas

Working Number 11-20-792789

Ref # 89004078

TECHNICAL

Photos 4

Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

Imposing 6-story flatiron-shaped building, chiefly notable for its striking Art Deco dome, decorative treatment of top-storey windows and cornice, and unique low-relief panels of Mayan-inspired decoration. Originally a clubhouse now being converted for mixed apartment-retail use in downtown revitalization effort. Prominently sited on river.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
O'Connell
1/2/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry 2-3-81

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered JAN 8 1980

INT:2106-74



NOV 20 1979

San Antonio Casino Club Building
102 West Crockett Street
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, Texas Historical
Commission, 1979

Northeast oblique

Photo #1

JAN 8 1980



NOV 20 1979

San Antonio Casino Club Building
102 West Crockett Street
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, Texas Historical
Commission, 1979

Northwest oblique

Photo #2

JAN 8 1980



NOV 20 1979

San Antonio Casino Club Building
102 West Crockett Street
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, Texas Historical
Commission, 1979

Southwest oblique

Photo #3

JAN 8 1980



NOV 20 1979

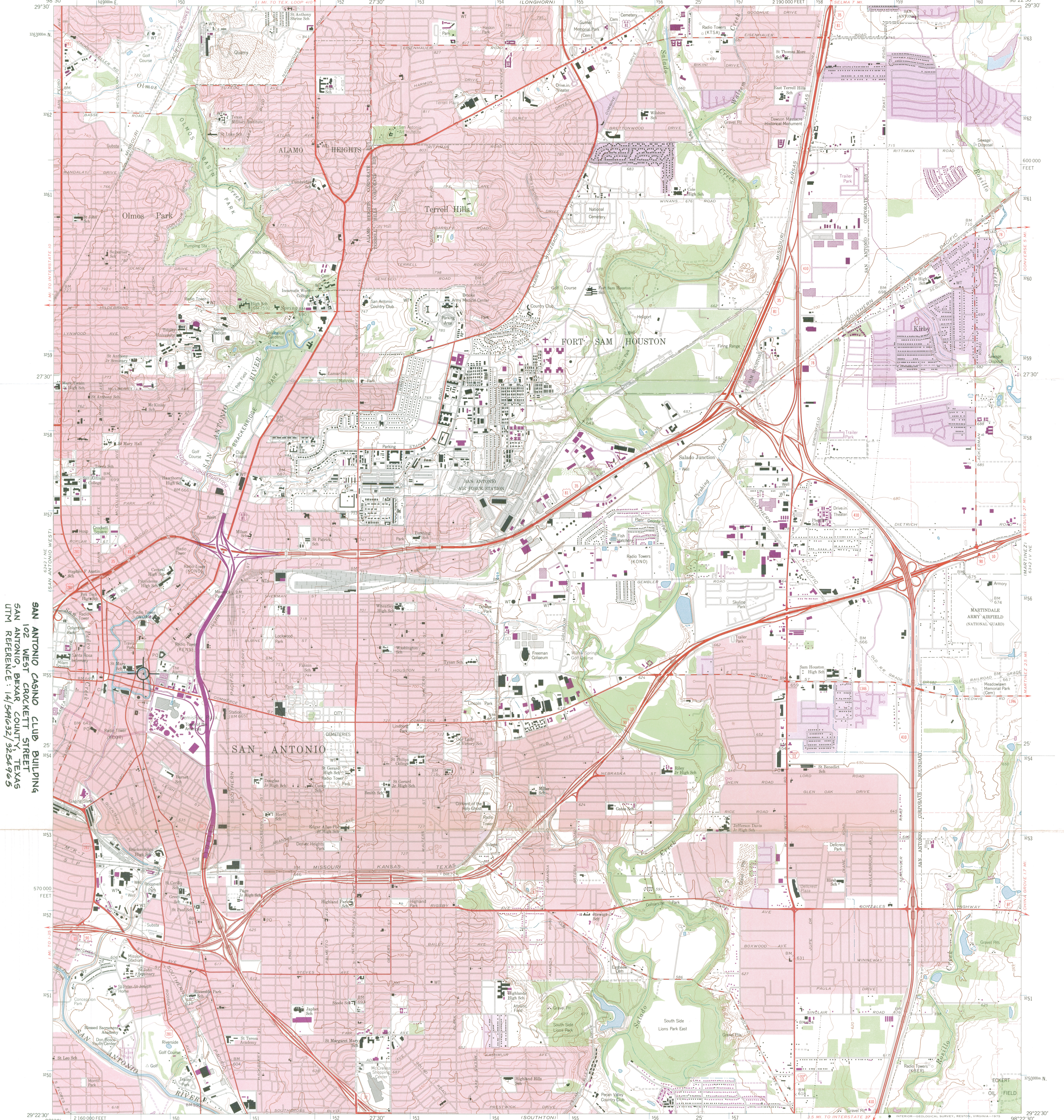
San Antonio Casino Club Building
102 West Crockett Street
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, Texas Historical
Commission, 1979

Window detail

Photo #4

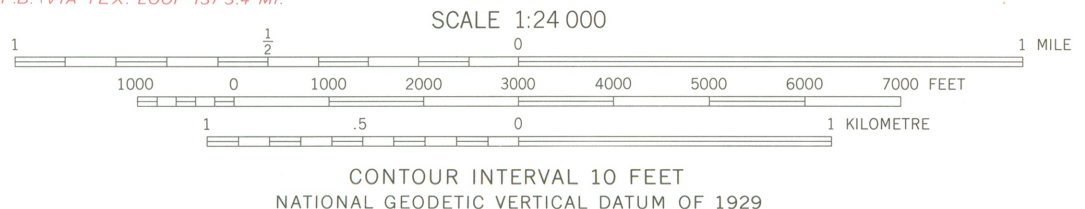
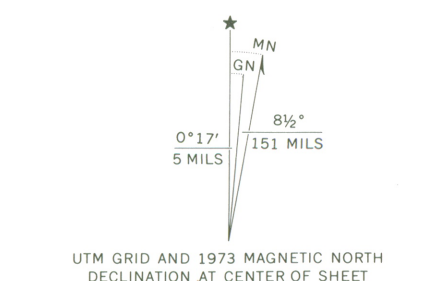
JAN 8 1980



SAN ANTONIO CASINO CLUB BUILDING
102 WEST CROCKETT STREET
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14J541032/3254905

Mapped 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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

RECEIVED
NOV 20 1979
NATIONAL REGISTER

SAN ANTONIO EAST
N2922.5-W9822.5/7.5

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 6342 IV NW-SERIES 7582-1

2998-133

JAN 8 1980

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JAN 8 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
White-Pool House	Odessa Ector County
San Antonio Casino Club Building	San Antonio Bexar County
Haden House	Ladonia Fannin County
Roper Hotel	Marble Falls Burnet County
Boardman-Webb-Bugg House	Austin Travis County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Richard C. White
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr.
Honorable James M. Leath
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR Byers/bjr 1/15/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6.