United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  
See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Main Street/Market Square Historic District</th>
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2. Location  

<table>
<thead>
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<td>city, town</td>
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<td>state</td>
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3. Classification  

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<td>museum</td>
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<td>building(s)</td>
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<td>object</td>
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<tr>
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<td>object</td>
<td>N/A in process</td>
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<td>object</td>
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4. Owner of Property  

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<tr>
<td>city, town</td>
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<td>state</td>
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5. Location of Legal Description  

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<td>street &amp; number</td>
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6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

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<td>(1) 1980</td>
<td>(1) 1983</td>
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<td>Texas Historical Commission</td>
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For NPS use only  
received  
JUN 3 1983  
date entered  7/15/83
Bounded roughly by Fannin Street, Texas, Milam Street, and Buffalo Bayou—a twelve-block area in downtown Houston centered around Main Street. For further description see section 10, continuation sheets 1 and 2.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

<table>
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<th>Continuation sheet</th>
<th>OWNERS OF PROPERTY</th>
<th>Item number</th>
<th>Page</th>
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Map #  | Address                          | Category* | Block Lot(s)** | Owner or Trustee          | Mailing address     |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|

SITES LISTED IN SEQUENCE BY BLOCK:

- Corner of Commerce and Travis
  1
  City of Houston

- Allen's Landing
  Corner of Commerce and Main
  3
  City of Houston

1(A) Buffalo Bayou & Main
  C
  City of Houston

30 901 Commerce
  C 2 / 
  1,2
  Harry Rosmarin
  5631 Old Clinton Rd.
  Houston, Texas 77020

2 108 Main
  C 15 /  
  4
  H.G. Patrick
  502 Strey Lane
  Houston, Texas 77024

3 110 Main
  C 15 /  
  3
  Albert Kalas
  804 Fannin
  Houston, Texas 77002

4 114 Main
  C 15 /  
  2,3
  same as above

5 116-120 Main
  C 15 /  
  1,2
  J. Bernard Schultz, Trustee
  917 Franklin, Suite 200
  Houston, Texas 77002

36 913 Franklin plus parking lot
  C 15 /  
  1,2,4-12
  Southern Pacific Transportation
  P. O. Box 1319
  Houston, Texas 77001

31 902 Commerce
  C 15 /  
  9,10
  same as above

6 203 Main
  C 21 /  
  4,5,9,10,11
  201 Main, Ltd.
  509 Caroline, Suite 509
  Houston, Texas 77002

* "C"=Contributing  
  "N"=Non-contributing  
**Lots listed are covered entirely or partially by each building. Title information is necessary for full legal description.
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Cobblestone Venture
4801 Woodway, Suite 250W
Houston, Texas 77055

Mary Faith Giles
c/o Harding & Eaves
4615 Southwest Freeway, #415
Houston, Texas

Paul E. Wise, Trustee
505 Main
1905 Bank of the Southwest
Houston, Texas 77002

John Edward Morgan
Ann Morgan Bruce
c/o Wm. K. Bruce
707 American Building
Houston, Texas 77002

John Edward Morgan
Ann Morgan Bruce
c/o Wm. K. Bruce
707 American Building
Houston, Texas 77002

Frank T. Abraham, Jr.
c/o Jas. A. Hall
600 Jefferson
Cullen Center
Houston, Texas 77002

Elmer J. Gray
3709 Wakeforest
Houston, Texas

same as above

Alma Detering et al
10002 Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77024

ENOTS 19, Inc.
3000 One Shell Plaza
Houston, Texas 77002
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<td>419 Travis</td>
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Allright, Inc.  
c/o Harding & Eaves  
4615 Southwest Freeway  
Suite 760  
Houston, Texas 77027

Allright Properties, Inc.  
1625 Esperson Building  
Houston, Texas 77002

c/o J.H. Pappas  
P.O. Box 3141  
Houston, Texas 77001

State National Bldg. Jt.Venture  
c/o First Southern Properties  
11 Greenway Plaza, Suite 2130  
Houston, Texas 77046

Harry & Nathan Lewis  
420 Main  
Houston, Texas 77002

405 Main St. Joint Venture  
c/o Jack C. Cannata  
Scanlan Building, Suite 315  
405 Main  
Houston, Texas 77002

Frank & Albert Kalas  
Mickey Manos  
804 Fannin  
Houston, Texas 77002

same as above

J.H. Pappas  
P.O. Box 3141  
Houston, Texas 77001

Frank & Albert Kalas  
804 Fannin  
Houston, Texas 77002
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Leota Hess, Agent  
c/o Harding & Eaves  
4615 Southwest Freeway  
Houston, Texas 77027

Gordon Profit Sharing  
c/o Property Tax Service Co.  
6200 Savoy  
520 Colonial  
Houston, Texas 77036

Southern Realty Corporation  
c/o same address as above

Joel J. Ezon  
9102 Cliffwood  
Houston, Texas 77096

Methodist Hospital Trust  
c/o J.K. Mitchell  
6516 Bertner  
Houston, Texas 77039

and

J. K. Mitchell, et al  
c/o Prop. Tax Service Co.  
6200 Savoy  
Houston, Texas 77001

Rovi-Texas Corp.  
Capital Bank Plaza  
Suite 4440  
Houston, Texas 77002

Anthony Piazza Sr.  
222 S. Post Oak Lane  
Houston, Texas 77056

Frank K. Meyer Est. 3  
P.O. Box 1074  
Houston, Texas 77401

Joel J. Ezon, Trustee  
9102 Cliffwood  
Houston, Texas 77096
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For NPS use only
received
date entered

Frank K. Meyer Est. 4
P.O. Box 1074
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Frank K. Meyer Est. 71
P.O. Box 1074
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Joseph Tamborello
11227 Timber Lane
Houston, Texas 77043

C.H. Coffield Est.
Box 466
Rockdale, Texas 76567

Mrs. L.H. Bethea Est.
c/o Ray Arterburn
6906 Atwell, Suite 209
Houston, Texas 77081

Wolff Memorial Foundation
333 W. Loop N., #120
Houston, Texas 77024

J. Clarence Tamborello
1119 Commerce
Houston, Texas 77002

Albert & Frank Kalas
804 Fannin
Houston, Texas 77002

Irvin L. Maleh
(tract 20)
5250 Birdwood
Houston, Texas 77024

W. L. Bowers, Est.
11905 Taylorcrest
Houston, Texas 77024

E.I. Brakatselos
2311 Welch
Houston, Texas 77019
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314 Main Street Corp.  
#28 Merrick Avenue  
Merrick, New Jersey 11566

Cobblestone Venture  
4801 Woodway, 250W  
Houston, Texas 77055

David Shapiro Et Ux  
305 Travis  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Wm. V. Berry (owns south half of building)  
813 Congress  
Houston, Texas 77002

Israel Bloom  
912 Medical Towers Building  
Houston, Texas 77025

Samuel Michael Grella  
Michael Joseph Grella  
311 Travis  
Houston, Texas 77002

Frank K. Meyer Est. 36  
P.O. Box 1074  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Hon. Ha Ray Ent. Inc.  
3730 N. Main  
Houston, Texas 77009
### United States Department of the Interior
### National Park Service
### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

#### Continuation sheet

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A request for determination of eligibility for the Main Street/Market Square Historic District was submitted by the Urban Mass Transit Administration of Houston on, or about, April 28, 1983.
7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Main Street/Market Square Historic District is located on the south bank of Buffalo Bayou between Milam and San Jacinto streets. The buildings within this district range from modest, mid-nineteenth-century brick commercial buildings to a number of small but ornately detailed High Victorian commercial buildings, and include a fine selection of multistory public, bank, and office buildings inspired by the Ecole des Beaux Arts, dating from the first three decades of the twentieth century. Completing this architectural array are several modernistically detailed commercial buildings of the early 1930s. Most of these buildings continue in use as either office or retail establishments. The district represents one of the state's best concentrations of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial and public structures (photo 23).

Fifty-two buildings and one structure (Main Street Viaduct) contribute to the architectural and historical significance of this district. Allen's Landing and Market Square (both public parks) are two of the most historic sites in Houston. Twenty-four of the fifty-two buildings were constructed between 1858 and 1900. The remainder date from 1901 to 1935. Thirty-two buildings were constructed to serve primarily as stores, eleven to serve primarily as office buildings, four to serve as warehouses or large wholesale stores, and two each to serve as banks and motion picture theaters. The district contains one hotel. Thirty-seven of the "contributing" buildings are one to three stories high. Ten range between four and eight stories in height, and five are nine to eighteen stories high. Twenty buildings are categorized as "non-contributing." Of these, the nine-story Harris County Administration Building of 1978 (#64) possesses contemporary architectural merit. Surface parking lots constitute a great intrusion within the district. Fourteen of the "non-contributing" structures are over fifty years old and have been altered so that most, but not all, of their architectural integrity has been compromised.

The lower, more modest nineteenth-century buildings in the district tend to be located in the Market Square area or along streets perpendicular to Main Street. The more elaborate nineteenth-century buildings, as well as a majority of the ornate twentieth-century bank buildings and tall office buildings, tend to be situated on Main Street or the two most important cross-streets within the district, Franklin Avenue and Texas Avenue. The Harris County Courthouse, listed in the National Register, occupies Courthouse Square, one block east of the district between Congress and Preston. Christ Church Cathedral, also listed in the National Register, is located one block east of the district between Prairie and Texas. One block west of Main between Congress and Preston lies Market Square, site of the chief public market and the offices of the municipal government from 1839 until 1939. Allen's Landing at the foot of Main Street was the principal landing for barge and steamboat traffic between Houston and Galveston Bay until the construction of the Main Street Viaduct (#53) in 1912-1913 and the concurrent construction of the Houston Ship Channel several miles downstream.

Within the past decade, rehabilitation of historic buildings in the district has been undertaken. Eleven buildings in the proposed district are presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places and one other has been nominated.
Definition of Categories:

**CONTRIBUTING**

Contributing structures and sites are over fifty years old, are of significant architectural merit, and add cohesiveness to the historic integrity of the district. Fifty-two buildings and one structure (Main Street Viaduct) are classified as "contributing" (C). The majority of the buildings were intended for commercial/retail use, are still used as such, and retain all or most of their original architectural features. Market Square and Allen's Landing are not categorized, but are perhaps the two most historic sites in Houston. The Main Street Viaduct (1913) (#53) is a significant early work of civil engineering and concrete construction, and links the historic commercial retail district with the early warehouse district on the north side of Buffalo Bayou.

**NON-CONTRIBUTING**

"Non-contributing" (N) structures are those which are under fifty years of age, or are over fifty years of age and have been severely altered. These buildings do not add to the historic or architectural cohesiveness of the district. All, however, are less than four stories tall, and in scale contribute to the district. Several of the non-contributing buildings over fifty years old possess enough original detail so that with extensive restoration they would contribute to the district's architectural character. The Harris County Administration Building (1978) (#63) possesses contemporary architectural merit, but does not contribute to the integrity of the district. Surface parking lots are not categorized, but are detrimental to the district. Some of these lots are slated for new construction.

**INVENTORY**

All buildings and structures within the district are listed below. Each entry includes the following information: map reference number, historic name, address with exact or approximate date of construction, category, a brief physical description, and a photo reference number.

**Market Square**

Block 34. Bound by Milam, Congress, Travis and Preston (laid out 1836). This is the historic site of four of Houston's City Markets and City Halls (see "significance" section). Since 1976 a grassy park. See photo 1.

**Allen's Landing**

Part of Block 3, south side of Buffalo Bayou, at the intersection of Main Street (east side) (1836). Contributing. Allen's Landing is a paved overlook, circular in plan, and combined with a grassy park which was completed in 1967. The site is Houston's earliest steamboat landing. See photo 53.
1. Main Street Viaduct. Main Street, spanning the north and south banks of Buffalo Bayou (1913; 1982); F. L. Dormant, City Engineer. Contributing. A reinforced concrete bridge with a 150 foot arch span, the Main Street Viaduct was the longest span in Texas when it was built. See photo 53.

2. Brewster Building. 108 Main Street (1872-1876); Frederick Stellbauer, builder. Contributing. This three-story plastered brick building has three bays in each story containing tall, round-arch windows with segmentally arched hood molds. A brick cornice is set below the parapet. The windows have been altered and now contain single, fixed-pane glazing. See photos 2, 3, 4.

3. Raphael Building. 110 Main Street (c.1911). Contributing. This three-story, two-bay building of painted brick has a suggestion of a cornice in the denticulated belt course across the attic story below the parapet. Double pairs of sash windows in the upper floors are probably original. A central entry at the ground level, flanked by two large fixed-pane windows, is not. See photos 2, 3, 4.

4. Dorrance Building. 114 Main Street (1903); Green and Svarz, architects. Contributing. Originally only four stories high, the Dorrance Building now has a modern fifth floor added about 1930. A masonry building with a stuccoed facade, this structure has four repeating bays with little ornamentation other than narrow piers which rise from the ground between the bays and terminate in arches over pairs of fourth-floor, round-arch windows echoing Italianate detail. The ground floor has been altered. Now Travelers Hotel. See photos 2, 3, 4.

5. Commercial National Bank. 116-120 Main Street (1904); Green & Svarz, architects. Contributing. Originally only four stories high, the Commercial National Bank now has a modern fifth floor added about 1930. A masonry building with a stuccoed facade, this structure has four repeating bays with little ornamentation other than narrow piers which rise from the ground between the bays and terminate in arches over pairs of fourth-floor, round-arch windows echoing Italianate detail. The ground floor has been altered. Now Travelers Hotel. See photos 2, 3, 4.

6. First National Bank. 201 Main Street (1905, 1909, 1913, 1925); Sanguinet and Staats, architects. Contributing. This Beaux Arts, eight-story, steel-framed building is faced with buff colored brick and limestone trim. The building has been altered. Now Travelers Hotel. See photos 6, 10, 33.

7. South Texas National Bank. 213 Main Street (1908-1910; 1921-1922); C. D. Hill and Company, architects; William Ward Watkin, architect of additions. Contributing. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1978). This two-story Beaux Arts building is of steel-frame and masonry construction with a marble facade. The original (central) section has a Corinthian portico rising two stories to a pediment with a denticulated, raking cornice and elaborately decorated tympanum. The rectangular wings were added in 1921-22. See photo 7.
### 8. Dumble Building. 217 Main Street (1882-83). Contributing. This three-story brick building is surfaced with plaster. A massive iron cornice with central broken pediment is supported by scroll brackets. The double bay windows were added in the 1920s. Vacant. See photo 8, 9.

9. B.A. Shepherd Building. 210 Main Street (1883); George E. Dickey, architect. Contributing. This three-story, three-bay building on a corner site is Houston's best example of the Victorian Gothic style as employed in a commercial building. Its facade is typically polychromatic with red brick and stone. A two-tiered iron balcony once surrounding the building on its two street elevations has been removed. The heavy bracketed cornice is broken in the center by a distinctive pointed-arch aedicule surmounting a pair of round-arch windows. Below, the central bay of the second story has a less-exaggerated aedicule with a wider arch supported by short stone colonettes with stylized, but elaborate, capitals. Within the arch, a stained-glass window fills the tympanum above a pair of rectangular sash windows. Stone lintels and belt courses continue around the building along the Congress Avenue elevation, which is plainer than the facade, but contains a centrally located pediment above the cornice line. The ground floor has been altered. Vacant, euphemistically known as the "Pink Pussycat." See photos 8, 9.

10. Houston National Bank. 202 Main street (1928); Hedrick and Gottleib, architects, Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1975). Four fluted, Doric columns five feet in diameter and thirty-five feet high dominate each of the two street elevations of this three-story, steel-frame building. Set on a polished black granite base, this Beaux Arts building is faced with limestone. Exposed metalwork is bronze. Above the colonnade is an architrave studded with solid cast-bronze discs. Cast-iron spandrels with marble panels and a richly carved, festooned frieze and cheneaux occur above the attic floor. Vacant. This has one of the most elaborate interiors in the district. See photo 13.

11. Union National Bank. 220 Main Street (1910-1912); Mauran, Russell and Crowell, architects. Contributing. This twelve-story, steel-frame building is located on a corner site at Main and Congress. It has a tri-partite vertical composition which includes a limestone base two stories high. Colossal Corinthian columns separate the bays of the base section, which are entirely filled with large, round-arch apertures. Carved stone heads of Hermes, God of Commerce, are located in the keystone positions above these arches. A massive cornice with modillions is crowned by a balustrade at the top of the building. Unsympathetically altered windows contain fixed-pane glass panels. American Bank is the major tenant. See photo 14.

12. Sweeney, Coombs and Fredericks Building. 301 Main Street (1889); George E. Dickey, architect. Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1974). The main architectural feature of this three-story, stuccoed brick building is the prominent, rounded corner turret which rises above the roofline. The double-door entrance is cut diagonally below the two-story corner of the turret. Stained-glass transoms, pilasters, string courses, and decorative panels, moldings, and friezes ornament the building with a Victorian exuberance. See photo 11.
13. Sterne Building. 302 Main Street (1914-1916); Finger and Bailey, architects. Contributing. This three-story building clad in yellow brick is constructed of reinforced concrete. Three bays on Main each contain pairs of double-sash windows. Seven bays on Congress contain triple sets of double-sash windows. Brick piers between the bays rise above the roofline and terminate in stylized pendants, in lieu of capitals or a cornice. Ground-floor alterations include iron bars over the first bay entry on Main and changes in the display windows. See photos 15, 16.

14A. Stuart Building. 304 Main Street; (1879-1880). Contributing. Although it appears as three separate structures from Main Street, the continuous construction in the rear confirms that 304-308 Main was once a single unit. At #304, a three-story structure of load-bearing walls of masonry is topped by a flat, heavy, bracketed metal cornice. A broken pediment above the cornice perches above the word "Stuart." Rectangular hood molds over segmental arches occur on the second floor, while pedimented hood molds are found on the first floor. The original windows in the top two stories remain. The ground floor now contains Eve's Fun Shop and has been altered. See photos 15, 16, 50.

14B. Guaranty National Bank. 306 Main; (1879-1880; 1924). Non-contributing. Originally part of the three-part Stuart Building, #306 Main was remodeled by A. C. Finn in 1924 for the Guaranty National Bank. More recent exterior changes have rendered it non-contributing. Now Cinema XX. See photos 15, 16, 50.

14C. Stuart Building. 308 Main (1879-1880). Contributing. The third part of the original Stuart Building, at #308 Main, still has a heavy metal cornice upheld by large scroll brackets. Although the window glazing has been altered, hood mold ornament like that at #304 Main also remains. The ground floor has been unattractively altered. See photos 15, 16, 50.

15. Kiam Building and Kiam Annex. 316-320 Main Street (1893); H.C. Holland, architect; Barry Moore, rehabilitation architect (1981-82). Contributing. This five-story building on a corner site is faced with red brick and white cast-stone trim. A prominent cornice supported by corbelled brickwork tops the structure above a series of round-arch windows, which repeat in the third floor. A deep, two-story arch marks the recessed main entrance, while a side entrance is punctuated by a balcony. This balcony projects from the wall between the third and fourth floors, and is rather like the medieval English oriel window. Large display windows have been restored in a recent reconditioning of the building. The Kiam Annex, built at the same time, is a three-and-a-half-story structure which has been completely refaced. See photos 17, 18.

16. Scanlan Building. 405 Main Street (1907-1909); D.H. Burnham and Company, architects. Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1980). This eleven-story, L-shaped, steel-frame building has a two-story base faced with Texas granite. The remaining floors are faced with grey brick. Ornament consists of a continuous belt course at the sill level of each floor. The cut-stone moldings, terra-cotta rosettes, scroll brackets and palmette acroteria surround the main entrance. Huge terra-cotta wreaths occur between the attic story windows. A heavy cornice has been removed. See photo 19.
17. Burns Building. 421 Main Street (1883); Edward J. Duhamel, architect. Contributing. This three-story, High Victorian building with Italianate detailing stands on a corner site. It is heavily decorated with plaster. Round-arch and segmentally arched apertures occur on two street elevations. An iron canopy and corner roof cap have been removed. The ground floor has been altered. See photo 20.

18. Public National Bank. 402 Main Street (1924-1925); James Ruskin Bailey, architect. Contributing. This nine-story, rectangular building has three bays on Main and six on Preston. The ninth story, like the eighth, is recessed. The top floor was added in 1928. The building is faced with smooth-cut limestone, and is vertically divided into three zones. A decorative frieze tops the sixth-story, above which a corbelled balcony with iron railing separates the seventh and eighth floors. Now Citizens Bank. See photo 21.

19. State National Building. 412 Main Street (1922-1924); Alfred C. Finn, architect. Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1982). This twelve-story, steel-frame building is faced with smooth-cut limestone on the Main Street facade, and with painted brick on its other three sides. The top two stories display colossal Corinthian pilasters separating bays filled with large, round-arch windows. Set above this is a frieze of scroll brackets supporting a cornice. A small octagonal pavilion with a terra-cotta tile roof sits on top of a gabled roof, and contains a thirteenth-floor penthouse which is recessed from the Main Street elevation. See photo 22.

20. Byrd's Building. 418-420 Main Street (1934-35); Joseph Finger, architect. Contributing. This is a three-story, Moderne-style corner building displaying three bays on Main Street and five on Prairie. The ground floor contains large, fixed-glass display windows and a diagonal corner entry. See photo 23.

21. Isis Theater Building. 501 Main Street (1911-1912); C. D. Hill and Company, architects. Contributing. This is a three-story building faced with buff-colored brick. Cast-stone belts occur above and below brick pilasters which separate window bays on the second and third floors. The entrance to the theater was on Prairie Street, while the Main Street facade was given over to retail space and an office lobby. The ground-level front has been considerably modified. Now called McCrory's. See photo 24.


24. Mosk Building. 508-510 Main Street (ca. 1916). Contributing. This is a two-story, buff-brick building with three bays. The second-floor windows are original. The ground floor has been altered. Now Golden Stein and Esther Imports. See photo 25.
25. Rice Hotel. 917 Texas Avenue (1912-1913); Mauan, Russell and Crowell, architects. Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1978). This is an eighteen-story, E-shaped brick structure with a five-story annex and a motor lobby. Along with decorative brick work and stone trim, the cast-iron canopy that extends the full length of the Main and Texas elevations is the most notable ground-level feature of the building. A second-floor canopy on Texas forms a large gallery. Large second-floor arches extending around the two main elevations have been filled in an unsympathetic way. The west arm of the "E" was added by A. C. Finn in 1925-26; the north wing was added ca. 1956. See photo 26.

26. Wilson's Building. 1010 Prairie Avenue (ca. 1932); William Ward Watkin, architect. Contributing. This is a five-story, buff-colored stucco building. Triple raised bands between floors give this Streamline-Moderne building a horizontal emphasis. The large, metal-framed industrial windows are generally intact. See photo 29.

27. Paul Building. 1018 Preston (1907); Sanguinet and Staats, architects. Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1979). This eight-story, steel-framed Beaux Arts building is faced in brown brick and terra-cotta ornament. Prominent brick piers between bays emphasize the building's verticality in the five-story shaft of the building, which rises above a two-story rusticated base. The original denticulated cornice above the one-story attic level of the building has been removed. See photo 30.

28. Pillot Building. 106 Congress (ca. 1858). Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1974). This three-story brick building is on a corner site, and is considered the oldest building in the district. A fine, cast-iron front with Corinthian columns between bays is intact on the ground floor. The second- and third-floor windows have cast-iron, segmentally arched hood molds and cast-iron bracketed sills, while a corbelled cornice crowns the structure. The windows have been altered. Vacant. See photos 11, 12.

29. Zindler Building. 1019 Congress Avenue (1921); Cato and Finger, architects. Contributing. Abstract classical motifs decorate the white, terra-cotta facade of this four-story, steel-frame building on a corner site. A wide sidewalk canopy extends around the building on both street elevations. Large six-paneled windows (now shuttered with Aramco blinds) in the upper stories fill each bay. The building has five bays on Congress and four on Fannin. See photo 10.

30. Desel-Boettcher Building. 901 Commerce Avenue (1912); H. C. Cooke and Company, architects. Contributing. This two-story brick building (plus basement) is covered with plaster on the two decorated elevations. The second floor has been scored in horizontal bands. The multipaned, first-floor windows and the leaded-glass entrance door are not original, while the metal canopy probably is. Now the Old Spaghetti Warehouse. See photo 31.
31. Riesner Building. 902 Commerce Avenue (1906); attributed to H. C. Cooke and Company, architects. Contributing. This three-story brick building is now painted. Decorative brickwork at the cornice level above the third-story windows, and at the header level of the second-story windows, occurs on both elevations. No photos.

32. Dickson Building. 800 Commerce (age unknown, over 50 years). Contributing. This two-story building of sand-colored brick with stone trim has a four-bay front. Each bay is bridged by a wide, elliptical, second-floor arch with keystone, and is filled with modern plate glass. A metal second-floor balcony spans each bay front. The continuous cornice with arched parapet may be original. See photo 32.

33. Sierwessen Building. 800 Commerce (age unknown, over 50 years). Contributing. Since 1944, this small two-story, one-bay structure has been considered one building with the Dickson Building. The Sierwessen Building has three round-arch windows with voussoirs on the second floor, and a cornice continuous with its neighbor's. Solid-pane plate glass has recently been installed. See photo 32.

34. Kirlick Building. 110-112 Travis Street (1894); August Baumbaugh, builder. Contributing. This is a two-story brick building with a corbelled cornice over a central recessed nameplate, "Dickson," which was added in the early twentieth century. On the second floor, each side bay has two round-arch windows with painted, cast-stone voussoirs. Three windows with flat arches occur in the center bay beneath the nameplate. The ground-floor front has been considerably altered. Now Huber's Seafood House & Oyster Bar. See photo 46.

35. George's Cafe. 118 Travis Street (ca. 1915). Contributing. This one-story buff-colored brick shell retains its original metal-frame windows, canopy hooks, and decorative brick cornice. The entry is boarded over. No photos.

36. Southern Pacific Building. 913 Franklin Avenue (1910-1911); Jarvis Hunt, architect. Contributing. This nine-story, steel-frame building is faced with brown brick and has a brown-marble, one-story base. Abstract Renaissance details are rendered in brick and terra cotta. The eight-bay front has one window to each side bay, and paired windows elsewhere. Red mortar is used in places as a decorative detail. The very deep, plain iron cornice protrudes on both street elevations. See photos 4, 5.

37. Houston Cotton Exchange and Board of Trade. 202 Travis (1884); Eugene T. Heiner, architect. Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1971). This Italianate, four-story, red-brick and stone building is highly ornamented with polychromatic banding, hood molds, keystones, and a bracketed stone cornice. On the facade facing Travis, an imposing entrance is decorated with stone arches and decorative brickwork. Recently rehabilitated; Graham Luhn, restoration architect. See photos 34, 36.
38. Hermann Estate Building. 204-212 Travis (1916-1917); F. S. Glover and Son, architects. Contributing. This eight-story, yellow-brick building has its original cast-iron canopy along its facade on Travis. In the upper seven floors, the five repeating bays, each containing three undecorated wood-frame windows, are joined by a common cast-stone sill pierced by brick piers between bays. A flat parapet lies over a cornice with large modillions. Vacant. See photos 34, 35, 36.

39. W. L. Foley Building. 214-218 Travis (1860; 1880); Eugene T. Heiner, architect (1889); John Kennedy, builder (1860). Contributing. National Register of Historic Places. This three-story brick building has elaborate stone trim. Third-story arched windows have limestone keystones, voussoirs, and impostes under a corbelled limestone parapet, as well as hood molds on the third floor. The iron sidewalk canopy remains. The 1860 section is slightly shorter in height than the addition, although it was refaced in 1889 and matches the 1889 building stylistically. See photo 36.

40. Kennedy Corner. 220 Travis Street (ca. 1860; remodeling 1889). Contributing. This three-story masonry building has plastered facades scored to resemble ashlar on Travis and Congress. The windows have pedimented cast-iron hoods, and the building has a prominent corbelled cornice. An early photograph shows a metal canopy and a triangular pediment centering on the Congress Ave. facade. These elements have been removed. See photo 36.

41. Kennedy Bakery. 813 Congress (ca. 1860). Contributing. National Register of Historic Places (1979). This narrow, two-story, red-brick building is two bays wide. The single-door entrance is framed by wooden pilasters and has brackets supporting an architrave. One first floor window is a wood-framed, fixed-pane window with twenty-four lights. In the second floor are two segmentally arched, double-sash windows. The building's elaborate cornice shows brick dentils and corbelled brick brackets. The ornamental iron work on the facade was added in the 1960s. Now La Carafe. See photos 37, 38.

42. Henke Building. 805 Congress Avenue (1924); R.D. Steele, architect. Contributing. This three-story brick building has tile coping below the parapet over a cornice with dentils and brackets. The facade consists of five bays with three windows each on the second and third floors, and with single display windows at street level, all filled with modern plate glass. In 1981, a set-back fourth story was added. See photo 37.

43. Erickson Building. 310 Milam (ca. 1868). Contributing. This two-story commercial building faces Market Square. At the parapet there is a corbelled brick cornice. On the second floor, four segmentally arched windows are outlined by a double brick course which arches over each window, to give the effect of joined hood molds. The ground floor has been considerably altered. See photo 39.
44. Bethje-Lang Building. 316 Milam (ca. 1868). Contributing. This two-story brick building is twenty-five feet wide. The original facade was remodeled in the 1960s, and a second-floor balcony added in front of three French doors. Original brick dentils can still be seen below the front parapet. The area below the balcony has been markedly altered. Now Warren's Inn. See photos 39, 40.

45. Fox-Kuhlman Building. 305-307 Travis (1862-1866). Contributing. Originally one structure, this two-story brick building now appears to have two separate facades. Two hipped roofs lie behind a continuous cornice line of decorative brickwork. The double front doors of the south half of the front, as well as the narrow flanking doors with transom lights and brick hood molds, appear to be original. The ornamental iron balcony across the second floor was added sometime in the twentieth century. New Market Square Food and Beverage. See photo 41.

46. Larendon Building. 309 Travis Street (ca. 1890). Contributing. This is a two-story stuccoed brick building three bays wide. The first floor has been remodeled except for the one-inch-thick, cast-iron pilasters at the corners. A twentieth-century metal canopy is suspended over the first floor. The second floor has tall, narrow, segmental-arch windows with wooden sashes and one-over-one lights. A metal denticulated cornice and flat parapet crown the building. Now Facets. See photo 43.

47. Altmont Building. 311 Travis Street (ca. 1878; 1892). Contributing. This two-story, three-bay building of stuccoed brick has a central double door which is believed to be original. The second floor, added in 1892, has a central bay containing a triangular pediment with "1892" inscribed in the tympanum, and is supported by three pilasters. Round-arch windows occupy the flanking bays. Heavy quoining is seen at the corners of the building on the second floor. Now Mexicatessen Two-on-The-Square. See photo 43.


49. Ritz Theater. 911 Preston (1926); William Ward Watkin, architect. Contributing. This two-and-a-half-story building with plastered front has a simple, banded cornice below a flat parapet. Two of four original octagonal windows are located below the cornice, and are decorated with painted plaster. Four festooned windows occur on the second floor, with its small marquee. An original, wrought-iron balcony is found under each. The canopied first floor has been remodeled many times. The small interior theater is not highly decorated, and still functions as a movie theater. Now Majestic Metro Theater. See photo 18.

50. Baker Building. 401-403 Travis Street (1875). Contributing. This two-story brick building has a corbelled brick cornice with dentils and a frieze of indented panels. The second-floor windows have slightly rounded arches, and brick sills. The first floor has been unsympathetically refaced. See photo 44.
51. Brashear Building. 910 Prairie (1882); Eugene T. Heiner, architect. Contributing. One of Houston's best examples of a Victorian commercial building, the Brashear building is very ornate in its facade decoration, and is a heavily plastered, three-story brick building twenty-five wide. An iron entablature and cornice, broken by a central broken pediment and urn, reach above the roofline. The third floor is heavily decorated over the entire surface with subtle pattern changes such as segmental-arch bays over windows with flattened arches. On the second floor are reticulated and smooth grids between three round-arch windows and fluted Corinthian pilasters upholding heavily molded vousoirs and prominent keystones. Ground floor exterior modifications are probably overlaid on the original facade. See photo 27.

52. Scholibo Building. 912 Prairie (1880). Contributing. This two-story building has a stuccoed facade over brick construction, and a large sheet-metal cornice supported by four large brackets. A small pediment originally capping the parapet over the center of the three bays has been removed. Arched windows and hood molds with prominent keystones remain on the second floor. The first floor has been altered. Now Cinema Golden Star. See photos 27, 28.

53. Stegeman Building. 914 Prairie (ca. 1877). Contributing. This is a small two-story building of brick construction. Arched hood moldings accent the tall, and thin second-story windows, while wide inset panels lie below the corbelled cornice. Now Wig Salon. See photo 28.

54. Cochran Building. 809 Congress Avenue (age unknown, over 50 years of age). Non-contributing. A two-story building which has been completely refaced with a brown stucco front. Now Glatzmaier Seafood Market & Restaurant. See photo 37.

55. Parking Garage of American Bank. 901 Congress (ca. 1964). This non-contributing building is a two-story, grey-concrete parking garage at the corner of Travis and Congress. It is the only structure of this kind in the district. See photo 51.

56. Show Time Club. 1000 Congress (ca. 1925). Non-contributing. This is a one-story, building with buff-colored brick front. See photo 50.

57. Aaron Mintz Building. 1011 Congress (ca. 1940s). Non-contributing. This is a one-story, red-brick building with a metal canopy over the glass entrance. See photo 50.

58. Buck's Mens Wear. 314 Milam (ca. 1935). Non-contributing. This one-story building has a black, glazed-tile facade. See photo 39.

59. United Labor Service. 918 Congress (ca. 1890's). Non-contributing. Three metal pilasters remain and old brickwork is evident on the sides of this two-story building. Seven tall, second-story apertures are further evidence of the building's age. Unsympathetic alterations with "shell-stone" have ruined the original facade. See photo 43.
60. Circle Bar. 924 Congress (ca. 1920). Non-contributing. A unique round-arch parapet at the roofline occurs on this building's one-story storefront. The original facade has been completely covered. Now Swank Lounge. See photo 42.

61. Main Street Drugs. 319 Travis (ca. 1914). Non-contributing. This two-story building has an added "shell-stone" skin, while the second-story windows are filled with plywood. See photo 18.

62. Sweeney & Coombs Building. 310 Main Street (1880); Eugene T. Heiner, architect. Non-contributing. This three-story, three-bay rectangular building of brick construction was extensively remodeled in the 1920s, obliterating the original Italianate facade which had a striking, pedimented cornice, arched windows, and elaborate hood molds. Were this building to be restored, it would be eligible for "contributing" status. See photos 16, 50.

63. The Hub. 312 Main (ca. 1934). Non-contributing. Two-story building faced with large, square, red ceramic tiles above storefront windows, now plywood. See photo 48.

64. Harris County Administration Building. Main Street and Preston (1978); Kenneth Bentsen Associates, architects. Non-contributing. This nine-story concrete brise-soleil building has bronze-glass windows. The structure covers over half the block. See photos 12, 47.

65. Bolfrass Building. 417 Travis Street (ca. 1878). Non-contributing. This two-story brick building has a twenty-five foot street frontage. Its stuccoed facade is scored to resemble stone. The bracketed and denticulated cornice along the flat parapet line is broken midway by a semicircular pediment. The iron canopy is shared with the adjacent Roco Building. The second-floor windows are stuccoed over, and the ground floor has been altered. With extensive restoration this building would contribute architecturally to the historic district. See photo 45.

66. Roco Building. 419 Travis Street (ca. 1870; 1883). Non-contributing. A two-story brick and stucco building on which a simple bracketed cornice shows the beginning of Italianate stylistic influence. A metal canopy supported by thin cast-iron columns wraps around the building on Travis and Prairie. Windows have been filled in and stuccoed, but with restoration the building could be reclassified "contributing." Now Bubba's Bar-B-Q. See photo 45.

67. Texas Pawn Shop. 404-408 Main Street (20th century). Non-contributing. This one-story, masonry-block building has three separate storefronts. See photos 22, 49.

68. Charlie's. 410 Main Street (20th century). Non-contributing. This is a two-story masonry building, three bays wide. The second-story windows have been filled in with glass block. See photos 22, 49.
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<tr>
<th>Item number</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>69. Reiner's. 416 Main Street (ca. 1922).</td>
<td>Non-contributing. This is a three-story corrugated aluminum front building. The original facade has been totally covered. See photo 22.</td>
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<td>70. Stegeman Building. 502-504 Main Street (1879; 1890).</td>
<td>Non-contributing. This two-story plastered building has large, paired, Italianate brackets supporting a metal cornice. In 1890 a mansard roof was added as a third floor, but has since been removed. The original second floor windows with deep pedimented hood molds and other Italianate elements have been obliterated in a refacing of both street facades. With extensive restoration this building would qualify as contributing. Now Church's Fried Chicken. See photo 25.</td>
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<tr>
<td>71. Barringer-Norton Building. 506 Main Street (1928); James Ruskin Bailey, architect.</td>
<td>Non-contributing. This two-and-one-half-story building's Main Street facade has been almost entirely refaced with plaster. Part of the original half-timbered, Elizabethan-style facade remains at the top of the building in a cantilevered gable. A brick chimney and a steeply pitched roof top the structure. Photographic documentation of this building's original appearance would make it possible to restore its Main St. facade so that it could become a &quot;contributing&quot; building. See photo 25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72. Southern Dental. 1014 Prairie (1940s).</td>
<td>Non-contributing. This four-story commercial building has a textured concrete facade. There are no apertures except the ground floor entrances. See photo 52.</td>
</tr>
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73. Cruger's Warehouse/Radoff Building. 202-204 Milam (1850;1896). Contributing. August Baumbach, builder, designed a new facade for H.V. Radoff in 1896. This is the two-story, stuccoed brick commercial building that was originally constructed, unornamented, as a warehouse. The roof of the corner tower, added in 1896, has been removed. At the roofline a stuccoed balustrade wraps around the two decorated facades. A shallow cornice below the balustrade is upheld by closely spaced brackets. Hood moldings, original windows, and a stuccoed belt course remain, as does the ground floor entrance. Vacant except for a mission-type facility in part of the building. Endangered. See photo 54.

74. Magnolia Brewery. 715 Franklin (1893). H.C. Cook & Co., architects. Contributing. This two-story building of reinforced concrete and full basement originally housed the Magnolia Cafe, the taproom for the Brewery. At the roofline, a low balustrade wraps around the building on the two street facades. A large corner baluster rises prominently. A heavy, decorative metal cornice protruding below the balustrade is upheld by exaggerated Italianate scroll brackets. The second-story, leaded-glass windows are framed with original cypress, and the transom lights are of stained glass with magnolia motifs. Both ground-floor facades have been restored to their original condition and the second-floor interior was restored in 1966-67 to its original appearance. In a large second-story room, Corinthian columns uphold a circular rotunda with clerestory skylights. Floors are original tile and terrazzo, and walls are of glazed tile. The building now houses several restaurants. See photo 55.

75. Houston Ice and Brewing Company. 112-114 Milam (c. 1915). Non-contributing. This one-story, green stuccoed building with windows filled by glass blocks, was a two-story brick building with arched windows and a pyramidal pediment over the central bay. The second story was removed ca. 1960. Vacant. See photo 56.

76. Houston Ice and Brewing Company. 110 Milam (1906). H.C. Cook & Co., architects. Contributing. Although now basically a ruin, the street facade and two side walls of this four-story plaster-and-brick building are partly intact except for the missing cornice. The plastered facade features round-arch windows within the rusticated third floor. Three capped pedestals rise above a flat roof, giving an Italianate feeling. Elaborate molded-metal inserts with the Magnolia trademark, the symbol of the Magnolia Brewery (part of the vast Houston Ice and Brewing Company complex), are still intact. The sidewalk canopy supported by an iron colonnade is also still in place. The structure was originally L-shaped. It wrapped around the Magnolia Brewery and had frontage on Franklin Street. The flood of 1935 caused the Franklin Street side to collapse. A small addition to the north of the structure is not included within the boundaries of the district. Although the structure is basically a ruin, its integrity is not compromised and provides an essential balance in scale, texture, and style to the buildings immediately adjacent. Vacant. See photos 56 and 57.
8. Significance

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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The structures and sites of the Main Street/Market Square Historic District constitute Houston’s largest, most nearly intact accumulation of physical resources representing the city’s civic and commercial past. Main Street, the commercial axis of the city, runs south from Allen’s Landing at Buffalo Bayou to Texas Avenue, the southern boundary of the original townsite. Flanking Main Street are the two public squares, Market Square and Courthouse Square, set aside by the founders. Until well into the twentieth century, this cruciform pattern of streets and places marked the bounds of the public and business life of Houston. Here were the municipal and county buildings, as well as structures dedicated to wholesale, retail, and financial enterprises. The surviving architecture documents the episodes of development which occurred between Reconstruction and the building and real estate boom of the 1920s, the half century when Houston emerged from relative obscurity to become the largest city in the southern United States. Connected with many of these buildings and places are the personalities and institutions which were instrumental in promoting the city's political and commercial advancement.

The townsite of Houston was platted in the fall of 1836 by the surveyors Gail Borden (1801-1874), Thomas H. Borden (1804-1877), and Moses Lapham (1808-1838). This work was done for two investors who came to Texas from upstate New York in 1832, the brothers Augustus C. (1806-1864) and John K. Allen (1819-1838). The town consisted of sixty-two numbered blocks, most of them two-hundred fifty feet square, located near the southeast corner of the John Austin league which the Allen brothers had acquired in August 1836. The townsite was wedged into a shallow bend on the south bank of Buffalo Bayou opposite its confluence with White Oak Bayou, which the Allen brothers had determined was the head of tidewater and navigation on Buffalo Bayou. Consequently, they promoted their new townsite, named after General San Houston who had recently won the Battle of San Jacinto nearby, as the logical point of transshipment between the coast and the vast interior of the new Republic of Texas.

A grid-iron plan was employed for the Borden survey. The blocks were separated by eleven streets running from the bayou northeast to southwest, and by five cross-streets running northwest to southeast. Of the eleven streets, the central one commencing at Allen's Landing was called Main Street and was platted at ninety feet in width. The southernmost of the cross-streets was designated Texas Avenue, and it was platted at a hundred feet in width. Two square blocks near the center of the townsite, one to each side of Main Street, were designated as sites for public buildings. A courthouse was to be placed on one, and as the Allen brothers harbored no mean ambitions, the capitol of the Republic was supposed to be placed on the other. At the edge of the townsite on Texas Avenue, parts of two blocks were reserved for a church and a school.
The Allen brothers were successful in persuading the Texas Congress to name Houston as the provisional seat of government in November 1836. Rather than in Congress Square, the legislature convened in April 1837 in a two-story wooden building, still under construction, at the northwest corner of Main and Texas. A map of 1839 identified Congress Square as Market Square, the site of the later public market and the seat of municipal government. One year after the Allens had acquired their league, the town of Houston was chartered. In 1839 a new charter was issued which, among other things, provided for the division of the town into four wards. Main Street and Congress Avenue were the lines of partition, and remained so until the abolition of the ward system in the reforms of 1905. In 1839, however, the seat of national government was moved from Houston to what would become Austin.

Between 1836 and 1838, the Allens considerably expanded the limits of the townsite to the south, the east, and across Buffalo Bayou to the north. During the ensuing two decades, Houston would continue to expand as a market town and as the state's first railroad center. The earliest commercial buildings along Main Street were little more than houses of wood-frame construction, usually with the end gables turned toward the street. Only their close configuration and lack of porches distinguished them from houses in the residential section of Main Street (south of Prairie Avenue), and east of Main Street.

A wave of prosperity in the late 1850s was attended by the construction of the Houston and Texas Central Railway, as well as the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railway. Houston's situation was enhanced as a point of transshipment between the coast and the "interior" lands of the Brazos and Colorado river valleys. This prosperity encouraged the replacement of wooden commercial buildings with more substantial masonry structures. Three examples of the typical commercial architecture of this period survive: the relatively large, three-story Pillot Building (#28) of about 1858, on Courthouse Square; the three-story Kennedy Corner (#40) of about 1860, remodeled in 1889 and now partially effaced; and the small, adjoining, two-story Kennedy Bakery (#41) on Market Square of about 1860. All of these buildings exhibit similar architectural traits. They are flat faced, with window openings punched regularly into an unarticulated wall. They have segmental window heads, and their decorative brick work confined to the cornice. The ground floor of the Pillot Building is faced with a screen of cast-iron Corinthian columns, and the windows above are crowned with arcuated cast-iron lintels. These industrially produced decorative features permitted the Pillot Building to transcend the architectural limitations of the frontier.

After the Civil War Houston renewed its role as a growing regional center of trade and finance. Continuing railroad construction permitted its wholesale merchants to expand into new territories. Shallow-draft traffic on Buffalo Bayou allowed Houston to represent itself as a port, although this claim often provoked the amusement of visitors. In the postwar boom which markedly influenced most Southern cities, long overdue public improvements were commenced in Houston. A brick courthouse for Harris County, begun in 1860, was completed after the war. T. H. Scanlan (18??-1906), the controversial Reconstruction Mayor of Houston between 1870 and 1873, built a permanent City Hall and Market House in Market Square in 1873, which far surpassed any municipal
building in the state. During the late 1860s and early 1870s, the wooden buildings on the block fronts surrounding Market Square were replaced by two-story masonry buildings housing the establishments of grocers, bakers, butchers, confectioners, liquor dealers, and other businesses who would derive advantage from their proximity to the public market.

Most of the buildings on the east side of Market Square, the Fox-Kuhlman Building ca. 1866 (#45), the Altmont Building ca. 1876 (#47), the Baker-Meyer Building ca. 1879 (#48), and the remaining segment of the Baker Building of 1975 at Travis and Preston (#50), date from this era as do the two remaining buildings on the west side of the square, the Erickson Building ca. 1868 (#43), and the Bethje-Lang Building ca. 1868 (#44). These buildings do not depart widely from the type of masonry construction used business block established in the late 1850s in such buildings as the Kennedy Bakery. They featured segmentally arched or flat-headed windows in regular patterns on the upper floors, with most ornament confined to brick cornices. All of these buildings have lost their original storefront and sidewalk canopies. Three buildings south of Market Square, the Roco Building ca. 1870 (#66), the Bolfrass Building ca. 1878 (#65) (both effaced), and the first Stegeman Building ca. 1877 (#70), conform in size and composition to the Market Square blocks. Their decorative details give evidence of the increasing influence of High Victorian eclecticism, even in commercial construction. The same characterization applies to buildings of slightly larger scale, such as the Brewster Building of 1873 (#2) on Main Street, and the Scholibo Building of 1880 (#52) on Prairie Avenue (next to the first Stegeman Building). The three-part Stuart Building of 1880 (#14A,B,C), and the second Stegeman Building of 1880 (#53, now resurfaced), both on Main Street, demonstrate the popular High Victorian rendition of classical detail.

The tendency toward more stylish architectural expression was only one indication of the changes which would become evident in the Main Street/Market Square District of Houston during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The relative simplicity of masonry commercial buildings erected between 1855 and 1875 was superseded by a taste for complex profiles, textural variety, and rich ornamental programs, even on narrow storefront blocks. Within the district specific subdistricts began to emerge. Main Street could be divided into four zones. The first, between Allen's Landing and Franklin, was dominated by wholesale establishments and warehouses; the second, between Franklin and Congress, was mostly financial institutions; the third, between Congress and Texas, consisted of retail establishments; and the fourth, south of Texas, was primarily single-family, detached houses. Between Market Square and the bayou were the wholesale stores and warehouses of Produce Row, as Commerce Avenue was called. The food and liquor trade dominated Market Square. Courthouse Square still remained surrounded by single-family residences except on the west, where business buildings began to be erected on Fannin Street. Along Texas Avenue a series of large churches were to be constructed. Since 1859 the church reserve marked on the Allen brothers earliest map of 1836 had been occupied by the brick Gothic-style church of the state's second oldest Episcopal parish, Christ Church.
Architectural exuberance underscored the development of an architectural profession in Houston after the late 1870s. Despite the tremendous loss of nineteenth-century structures in downtown Houston, those that remain document the ability of the town's earliest established architects. After Mayor Scanlan's City Hall and Market House of 1873 burned in 1876, Galveston architect Edward J. Duhamel won the commission to design a second City Hall and Market House, completed in 1877. In 1883 Duhamel received the commission for a new Harris County Courthouse, built in 1884 in Courthouse Square. Duhamel's one remaining building in Houston is the Burns Building of 1883 (#17) on Main Street, a spirited work of picturesque eclecticism. George E. Dickey (1840-?) and Eugene T. Heiner (1852-1901) both arrived in Houston in 1878. Dickey was originally from New Hampshire and had worked in Boston and Toronto; Heiner was born in New York but received his professional training in Chicago. Heiner's surviving buildings in lower downtown Houston are the presently resurfaced Sweeney and Coombs Building of 1880 (#62), the Henry Brashear Building of 1882 (#51), the W. L. Foley Dry Goods Company Building of 1889 (#39), and the Houston Cotton Exchange and Board of Trade Building of 1884 (#37). Dickey's remaining downtown buildings are the B. A. Shepherd Building of 1883 (#9), and the Sweeney, Coombs and Fredericks Building of 1889 (#12). To a remarkable degree, these buildings retain the architectural features that have distinguished them since the time of their completion. The architectural authorship of the Dumble Building of 1883 (#8), and the remodeling of the Kennedy Corner of 1889 (#40), is unknown. While neither is as distinctive architecturally as the works of Duhamel, Heiner, or Dickey, they represent the typical standard of architectural achievement in Houston of the 1880s.

During the 1890s there was an influx of new architects, and new construction in lower downtown Houston continued to increase. Two small structures, the Altmont Building, as it emerged from its 1892 alterations, and the Kirlick Building of 1894 (#34), demonstrate a degree of restraint not evident in the architecture of the previous decade. This restraint is apparent in two other major construction projects of the 1890s: a new Christ Church parish group on Texas Avenue in 1893, and the five-story Kiam Building of 1893 (#15) on Main Street. Both the Gothic Revival style Christ Church and the Richardsonian style Kiam Building were the work of younger architects. J. Arthur Tempest designed Christ Church, and Henry C. Holland designed the Kiam Building.

These buildings remark not only the stylistic currency of Houston architects, but the emergence of important local institutions. The Houston Cotton Exchange and Board of Trade was organized in 1882 to take advantage of Houston's importance as a center of the Texas cotton trade, and was a consequence of the city's rail and water connections. The B. A. Shepherd Building, located in the Main Street financial district and built by Benjamin A. Shepherd (1814-1891), a pioneer Houston banker, housed the Houston National Bank from 1889 until 1912, which was organized by Henry S. Fox (1835-1912) and Joseph F. Meyer (1851-1935). The W. L. Foley Dry Goods Company, established by William L. Foley (1855-1925) in 1876, was one of the first large-scale retail stores in Houston. It was surpassed in size by the Kiam Building constructed by the merchant Ed Kiam. Kiam's included a passenger elevator, and the dry goods store was topped by three floors of office space. The Kiam Building, and the adjoining Kiam Annex built at the same time and also designed by Holland (presently
effaced), were located in what would remain the heart of the Main Street retail and entertainment district until the 1920s. Christ Church was only one of a number of large, architecturally distinguished public institutional buildings erected along Texas Avenue on the edge of the solidly built-up downtown district in the 1890s.

After the turn-of-the-century, Houston experienced another episode of intensive growth and development. Continuing expansion of railroad connections, the discovery of oil, and the construction of a deep-draught ship channel were factors in this development. Architecturally this growth was reflected in a new surge of construction in the lower downtown area. Especially notable during the first two decades of the twentieth century was the virtual reconstruction of the financial district. There was once again an increase in the scale of new buildings and, as in the 1880s, a noticeable shift in architectural taste. Classical architectural details determined the appearance of most of the new buildings in lower downtown Houston from this period. Also, as in the 1880s and 1890s, there was an influx of new architects, often of national reputation, who were called to Houston to undertake important local commissions.

Late Victorian traditions did not die easily, and this was perhaps a factor in the sudden vogue for commissioning out-of-town architects. George E. Dickey's last major building was a new City Hall and Market House completed in 1904 to replace Duhamel's building of 1877 which had burned in 1901. Dickey's design was a late essay in the Richardsonian Romanesque. Displaying much greater stylistic currency were two buildings then under construction at Main and Franklin: the six-story Commercial National Bank Building of 1904 (#5) by the Houston architects Green and Svarz, and the eight-story First National Bank Building of 1905 (#6) by the Fort Worth architects Sanguinet and Staats. The First National Bank, the oldest chartered bank in the city and the second-oldest national bank in Texas, was also to occupy Houston's first steel-framed office building. Sanguinet and Staats, a firm organized in 1902, found Houston so profitable a field that they operated a branch office there until 1930. Sanguinet and Staats were the first Texas architects to master the skyscraper form, and they were responsible for many of the early multistory office buildings constructed in Texas between 1900 and 1917. They designed two subsequent extensions to the First National Bank, and additions to the Paul Building of 1907 (#27) on Courthouse Square.

The architectural style of the Commercial National Bank and First National Bank buildings was derived from Renaissance classicism, while the Paul Building was decorated with classical elements of a more abstracted configuration. Green and Svarz had employed a less grandiloquent sort of Renaissance architecture for their four-story Dorrance Building of 1903 (#4), next to the Commercial National Bank Building. The rather austere use of selected classical ornaments was carried through in what was briefly Houston's tallest building, the eleven-story Scanlan Building of 1909 (#17) at Main and Preston. Like the Paul Building, it was constructed for exclusive use as an office building by the daughters of T. H. Scanlan, in whose memory it was named. Constructed on the site of the shed-like house in which Sam Houston resided while President of Texas, the Scanlan Building was designed by one of the most outstanding architectural firms of the period, D. H. Burnham and Company of Chicago. In the financial district, the South Texas National Bank (#7) was built in 1910.
exclusively for banking purposes. It has a Corinthian temple facade clad in white marble. Again, an out-of-town architect was responsible for this Beaux Arts design, C. D. Hill and Company of Dallas, who like Sanguinet and Staats opened a Houston branch office.

In both the wholesale sector and Market Square, evidence of the new architectural taste was seen. The real-estate investor and industrialist Benjamin A. Riesner (1856-1932) built a large, three-story brick warehouse at Commerce and Travis in 1906 (#31), probably designed by the Houston architects Cooke and Company. This seems to have represented the English-born Henry Cooke's (1852-1920) idea of Georgian architecture, executed with a certain late Victorian flair. In Courthouse Square, Duhamel's courthouse of 1884 gave way to a domed and porticoed six-story building, the commission for which was won in 1907 by another prominent Dallas architectural firm, Lang and Witchell, and completed in 1910. Although it suffered unsympathetic internal remodeling in the early 1950s, the classical exterior of Harris County's fifth courthouse continues to serve as the centerpiece of Courthouse Square.

Three of the most architecturally distinctive buildings in the district from this period were the work of nationally known architects. The Chicago architect Jarvis Hunt (1859-1941), who designed the Union Station in Dallas, was responsible for the nine-story Southern Pacific Office Building of 1911 (#36) at Franklin Avenue and Travis Street on the former site of one of Houston's most famous hotels, the Hutchins House of 1859. The Southern Pacific Lines absorbed the Houston and Texas Central Railway in 1893, and thereafter maintained a regional headquarters in Houston. Like the Paul and Scanlan buildings, the Southern Pacific Office Building is decorated with classical detail, but of an abstract and restrained type.

The St. Louis architects Mauran, Russell and Crowell (Mauran, Russel and Garden before 1911) had a thriving Texas practice and were responsible for large projects in El Paso, Dallas, San Antonio, Galveston, and Fort Worth, in addition to the seven buildings which they executed in Houston between 1908 and 1913. Most of their Houston commissions were associated directly or indirectly with the entrepreneur Jesse Holmon Jones (1874-1956). Jones was a director of the Union National Bank for which Mauran, Russell and Crowell designed a twelve-story building (#11) at Main and Congress. This structure opened in 1912, and served as an office and bank building distinguished by elegant Beaux Arts detail at its base and summit. Jones directly commissioned the design of the seventeen-story Rice Hotel (#25) completed in 1913 at Main and Texas on the site of the Capitol of the Republic of Texas. The Allen brothers' wooden Capitol (which has become the Capitol Hotel) was demolished to permit construction of a five-story brick Capitol Hotel designed by George E. Dickey and completed in 1883. The Capitol was acquired in 1886 by the investor William Marsh Rice (1819-1900), who placed it in trust in 1891 as an endowment property to benefit the university he established, the William M. Rice Institute. Rice instructed that upon his death the hotel he renamed the Rice Hotel. Rice's trustees leased the property to Jesse H. Jones, who replaced it with Mauran, Russell and Crowell's building. From 1913 until 1975, the Rice was Houston's foremost downtown hotel.
The retail and entertainment district on Main Street in proximity to the new Rice Hotel continued to attract new construction even though large new hotels, office buildings, and department stores began to be built along Main, Fannin, and Travis several blocks south of Texas Avenue. In 1912, C. D. Hill and Company designed a combination motion picture theater and retail shop for the Isis Theater (#21) at Prairie and Main, a two-story building of sober classical aspect. This was one of several motion picture theaters for which Hill's Houston office was responsible. Joseph Finger (1887-1953), an Austrian immigrant, was the architect in charge of the Houston office. In 1914 he established a partnership with James Ruskin Bailey (1889-19??) that would persist until 1919. One of their early commissions was the three-story retail and office building at Main and Congress (#13) for Pauline Sterne Wolff. It replaced a building George E. Dickey had designed for her father in 1884 that subsequently burned. Like the Isis Theater, the Sterne Building was of sober appearance, eschewing even the former's vestigial classical detail. The same is true of the narrow Raphael Building at 110 Main (#3) and of another of B. A. Riesner's warehouses, the Desel-Boettcher Building of 1912 (#30) which was designed by H. C. Cooke and Company at Commerce and Travis.

The Houston building boom that began in 1909 subsided in 1913. Completed that year was the Main Street Viaduct (#1), a reinforced-concrete bridge spanning Buffalo Bayou between Allen's Landing and the north bank. Designed by the City Engineer F. L. Dormant, the Main Street Viaduct was claimed as having the longest arch span in Texas, one hundred fifty feet. It was equipped with comfort stations, planting boxes, and benches, because Mayor H. Baldwin Rice (1865-1929), a nephew of William M. Rice and one of the Houstonians most strongly identified with the Progressive movement in local politics, felt that its civic dignity as the city's major bridge demanded such amenities. Mayor Rice ushered in the reforms of 1905, and supported the Civic Arts movement in urban beautification. Extensive remodeling in 1981-1982 compromised the historic character of the Viaduct.

One of the last large buildings to be erected in downtown Houston prior to U.S. entry into World War I was the eight-story office building on Travis between the Cotton Exchange and Foley's Dry Goods Company. Built by the trustees of the estate of the industrialist and philanthropist George H. Hermann (1843-1914), the Hermann Estate Building (#38) was vestigially classical and was the work of the Houston architects F. S. Glover and Son. Like Foley's (and the Rice Hotel), the Hermann Estate Building retains the metal canopy sheltering the sidewalk, a feature once typical of all of lower downtown Houston.

Following World War I, the building boom of the 1920s eclipsed all previous episodes of growth and expansion in Houston. During that decade Houston moved from the position of third-largest city in Texas to that of the largest city in the South. This period of development, however, was not felt as strongly along Main Street and Market Square as in the newer portions of downtown, south of and eastward along Texas Avenue. Intensive new construction did not occur on North Main Street in that period.
Nonetheless, new construction did occur within the District area on an incremental basis. Joseph Finger and his new partner Lamar Q. Cato (1888-1948) designed a four-story department store for Ben Zindler and Sons on Courthouse Square (#29) in 1921. This building is decorated with selected classical details and clad entirely in white terra-cotta. On Market Square, a large, three-story building with a decorative clay-tile parapet was constructed in 1924 (#42) by the grocer Henry Henke (1850-1928) for investment purposes. The architect was R. D. Steele. The South Texas National Bank was expanded with the construction of flanking two-story wings containing office space. These were built in 1922 to the designs of the Houston architect William Ward Watkin (1886-1952), head of the Department of Architecture at the Rice Institute from 1912 until 1952. The expansion of the First National Bank between 1923 and 1925 by Sanguinet, Staats, Hedrick and Gottlieb gave the building full block of frontage on Franklin Avenue. Jesse H. Jones contributed to this process of additive expansion by having the Houston architect Alfred C. Finn (1883-1964) add a third wing to the Rice Hotel in 1926. Finn was a former member of Sanguinet and Staats whom Jones had set up in practice in 1914. Augmenting the retail and entertainment district around the Rice was the construction of the Ritz Theater in 1926 (#49), a graceful, Renaissance-style motion picture theater built by the T. H. Scanlan Estate and designed by William Ward Watkin. The Ritz is the only legitimate motion picture theater still in operation in downtown Houston. Adjacent to the Rice Hotel on Main Street, James Ruskin Bailey designed a picturesquely gabled and half-timbered storefront building of three stories for the clothing store of Barringer-Norton in 1928 (#71). It has been effaced.

Most of the new construction in lower downtown Houston in the 1920s occurred in the financial district. Between 1922 and 1924, Finn designed the twelve-story State National Building on a mid-block site in the 400 block of Main Street (#19), formerly considered a part of the retail district. The thin, classically detailed tower was capped with an octagonal, tile-roofed penthouse pavilion. During the same years he also refaced the center bay of the Stuart Building with a classically detailed front to transform it into the Guaranty National Bank. Acquiring a corner lot on the same block as the State National Bank, the Public National Bank retained James Ruskin Bailey to design an eight-story bank and office building (#18), constructed between 1924 and 1925. As Finn had done on his bank tower, Bailey decorated the building with classical ornament. He treated the eight floor like a loggia, and wrapped a continuous, cantilevered balcony around the street sides of the building.

Although not the tallest new bank to be built in the financial district, the Houston National Bank Building (#10), constructed between 1926 and 1928 by the oilman, newspaper publisher, real estate investor, and future Texas governor, Ross S. Sterling (1975-1949), was its most impressive work of architecture. It is of limestone block, is faced with Doric columnar screens on the Main and Franklin elevations, and carries an attic floor above the vaulted banking hall. The architects were Wyatt C. Hedrick (1888-1964) of Fort Worth, Sterling's son-in-law, and Hedrick's Houston partner Richard D. Gottlieb. Hedrick's firm was the successor to Sanguinet and Staats, which had been dissolved in 1926. During the 1920s, Sterling and Jesse H. Jones, who would become Secretary of Commerce during the Roosevelt administration, were friendly rivals in real estate, building, publishing, banking, and political developments in Houston.
The Great Depression marked the climax of the area's historic role as the commercial, financial, retail, and entertainment center of Houston. During the Depression years a small number of buildings were constructed for retail purposes. The three surviving structures exhibit the popularity of the Moderne styles of architecture: the zig-zag-style McCrory's of 1931 at 505 Main Street (#22), by the New York architect W. W. Simpson; the streamlined Wilson's of 1932 at Fannin and Prairie (#26), by William Ward Watkin; and the classical Byrd's of 1935 at Main and Prairie (#20), by Joseph Finger. However, the area began to lose the institutions that had guaranteed its importance in the life of the city. The Houston Cotton Exchange and Board of Trade moved to new quarters in 1924. In 1929 the City Market was removed from Market Square to a new Farmers' Market in the Civic Center; ten years later a new City Hall was completed in the Civic Center. Dickey's 1904 building was leased by the city to a bus company, which used it as a bus terminal until its destruction by fire in 1960. Between 1955 and 1964, all the banks moved to newer buildings south of Texas Avenue. Retail establishments either moved southward or abandoned downtown altogether. The construction of the suburban Produce Terminal in 1954 ended Commerce Avenue's career as Produce Row. After the late 1940s, buildings began to be demolished in the district. This was not done for new construction, but to clear property, usually for surface parking lots.

Intermittent revitalization occurred. After the destruction of the 1904 City Hall and Market House in the 1960s, the City of Houston resisted suggestions that Market Square be sold for private development. Instead it became a parking lot, but this provided the impetus for the transformation of "Old" Market Square into a center of downtown nightlife from the middle 1960s through the middle 1970s, a development which did not sustain itself, however. In 1966 and 1967 the Houston Chamber of Commerce sponsored the construction of a park and a scenic overlook at Allen's Landing. The Junior League of Houston undertook a similar effort of urban improvement in 1976, when Market Square was turned into a park dotted with trees and grassy hillocks. Serious restoration and adaptive use also began to occur. The Burn's Building was the object of a careful exterior restoration in 1965. The Houston Cotton Exchange and Board of Trade Building was rehabilitated in 1973 to be used as offices, as were the Dickson and Sierwessen buildings in the 800 block of Commerce (#32, #33) in the 1970s, the Paul Building in 1978, the Kiam Building in 1981, the Scanlan Building in 1981, and the Henke Building in 1982. Public attention was focused upon the historic resources of the Main Street/Market Square District when Harris County proposed to level an entire block on the west side of Courthouse Square for the construction of a nine-story County Administration Building in 1974. The efforts of citizens led to the preservation and restoration of the Sweeney, Coombs and Fredericks Building, and the preservation (but not the restoration) of the Pillot Building. The Henry S. Fox Building of 1877, however, was demolished to provide a site for the county building. The general success of this preservation effort encouraged many unsympathetic property owners to embark upon a campaign of massive demolition between 1975 and 1981, before their plans could be "interfered with."
Since 1971, eleven buildings within the Market Square/Main Street District have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The formation of groups such as the Houston Old Town Development Corporation and the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance have helped substantially to inform the public of the historic character of this architecturally significant historic district.

JUSTIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES

The District contains the only concentration of remaining nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century commercial/retail buildings of architectural and historical significance in Houston. Included are Market Square and Allen's Landing, which are among Houston's most historic sites, and the Main Street Viaduct, an early significant structure for Texas.

The spine of the district runs north-south on Main Street from Buffalo Bayou to Texas Avenue. Buffalo Bayou, as the northern boundary, is a natural geographic delineation between the commercial/retail district and a warehouse/industrial area to the north. Texas Avenue was the southern boundary of the original town site as laid out in 1836. Most new construction in the last fifty years has taken place south of Texas Avenue.

The eastern boundary is edged with nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings facing east onto Fannin Street. Two buildings east of Fannin, the Harris County Courthouse and Christ Church Cathedral, are listed in the National Register and are adjacent to the district.

The western boundary encompasses a number of contributing buildings facing west onto Travis Street, and includes all contributing buildings surrounding Market Square (bounded by Travis, Preston, Milam, and Congress). Market Square, now serving as a park, will undergo major improvements in the next two years, and will continue to serve as the focal point for the northern CBD. Contributing buildings facing east onto Travis Street and north of Market Square are also included in the district.
The present extension of the Main Street/Market Square Historic District adds cohesiveness to the district in terms of scale, building age, architectural styles, and use. The original boundary proposal was conservative, and the inclusion of the present four structures will help set a more meaningful western boundary. Early in 1983, it became apparent that several of these structures were endangered. With the inclusion of the additional four buildings on the western boundary of the historic district, the district will be more clearly defined, since it will extend to Buffalo Bayou. The buildings adjacent to the bayou are the Houston Ice and Brewing Company (site no. 76), and the Magnolia Brewery (site no. 74). An added impetus for the preservation of these two structures is their future inclusion in the Buffalo Bayou Transformation Project, which will include a riverwalk. A large parking lot adjacent to the structures in the extension does not compromise the area in terms of scale and visibility.

The Magnolia Brewery (site no. 74), originally owned by the Houston Ice and Brewing Co., has been in continuous use as an eating facility since its design by architects H.C. Cook & Company and its subsequent construction in 1912. The structure originally housed the Magnolia Cafe, the taproom for the brewery. An ingenious cooling system was devised and installed, introducing Houston to its first taste of air conditioning. One of the few buildings in this vast complex to have survived the flood of 1935, this structure is not only significant for its continuous use and innovative cooling system, but adds cohesiveness to the historic district in terms of scale, use, and age.

The Houston Ice & Brewing Co. consisted of more than 10 buildings built between 1892 and 1915. The Magnolia Brewery and the building at 110 Milam (site no. 76), are two of three important survivors of this large complex which spanned Buffalo Bayou and was one of Houston's largest businesses in the early 1900s.

Hugh Hamilton, founder of the Brewery Company, was a prominent Houston businessman. The company at its height produced 750 tons of ice daily and 600 barrels of beer. With the advent of prohibition in 1920, and the flood of 1935, the Houston Ice and Brewing Co. fell into a gradual decline and went out of business in 1950.

Cruger's Warehouse/Radoff Building (site no. 73) is one of Houston's oldest buildings. It was originally constructed circa 1860 as Cruger's Fireproof Warehouse. It survived Houston's great fire of August, 1860. The building was acquired by Simon Priester in 1871, and had a number of tenants during the Priester family's ownership, including a boarding house and a wholesale distributor of dairy products.

In 1896 the simple two-story building was remodeled, and included a three-story corner tower and a metal canopy. In 1903 a smaller structure was added to the rear (facing Franklin Street).
In 1919 the building was sold by the Priester family to the Radoff Brothers Notion Company which removed the roof of the corner tower and the metal canopy. "1896" (probably the date of origin of the Radoff Brothers Notion Company) and "H.V. Radoff" were embossed on the corner. The building remains virtually unchanged since this 1919 remodeling.

This building is in imminent danger of demolition (Spring, 1983) by a major bank which has constructed a drive-in facility designed by I.M. Pei on the adjoining lots. The structure's significance lies not only in its age, as one of the earliest extant commercial buildings in Houston, but in its location. As corner buildings at the intersection of Franklin and Milam, the Magnolia Brewery and the Radoff Building balance each other in scale and harmony and provide a handsome enhancement to the edge of the Main Street/Market Square Historic District. Facing onto Buffalo Bayou, these buildings will make an essential contribution to the proposed Bayou Walk Project. No further additions to the district are contemplated.
9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 35 acres
Quadrangle name Settegast, Tex.

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheets

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

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Minnette Boesel, Barrie Scardino, Stephen Fox
organization Houston Old Town Development Corp.
date November 30, 1982
street & number 2103 Bartlett
telephone 713 528-7129

city or town Houston
state Texas 77098

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

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration


Webb, Walter Prescott (ed.). *The Handbook of Texas.* Austin: Texas Historical Association, 1952

*Houston City Directories, 1859-1982.*

*Houston Post, 1870-1982.*
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Main Street/Market Square Historic District comprises all or part of sixteen blocks (Blocks 1; 2; west half of 3; 15; lots 1, 2, 6-11 of 16; lots 1-5, 9-11, part of lot 12, of 19; 20; 21; 32; 33; 34; lots 2-4 of 35; 44; 45; Lots 4, 5, 9-11 56; and 57; all South Side of Buffalo Bayou, Houston, Harris County, Texas) on both sides of Main Street between Buffalo Bayou on the north and Texas Avenue on the south, extending as far as Fannin on the east and as far as the depths of lots bounding the west side of Milam Street on the west. The street pattern is a grid of square blocks (except along the bayou banks where the shapes conform partially to the contours of the shoreline). The grid is skewed a few degrees east from true north. Each block is approximately 250' by 250'. Streets on the edges of the district are inclusive to the middle of the streets.

EASTERN BOUNDARY

Begin at Main Street Viaduct the north bank of Buffalo Bayou and continue across the Viaduct to the south shoreline. Proceed southeast along shoreline to the northeast corner of tract 16, block 3, commence south 205 feet along the eastern boundary line of tracts 16 and 14. Continue south to middle of Commerce Street. Then proceed west to middle of intersection of Commerce and Main. Then proceed south along center of Main one block to center of intersection of Main and Franklin. Then proceed east along center of Franklin one block to center of intersection of Franklin and Fannin. Then proceed south along center of Fannin one hundred feet. Then proceed west (approximately 40 feet) to edge of Block 56, proceed west 100 feet along south boundary line of Lot 4. Proceed south 25 feet along eastern boundary line of Lot 11. Proceed west 50 feet along southern boundary line of Lot 11. Proceed north 25 feet along western boundary line of Lot 11. Proceed west 100 feet along southern boundary line of Lot 9. Proceed west (approximately 40 feet) to middle of Main. Proceed south along center of Main approximately one half block to center of intersection of Texas and Main.

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY

Then proceed west along center of Texas one block to center of intersection of Texas and Travis.

WESTERN BOUNDARY

Then proceed north along center of Travis two blocks to center of intersection of Travis and Preston. Then proceed west along center of Preston one block to center of intersection of Preston and Milam. Then proceed north along center of Milam 50 feet past southern boundary line of block 35. Proceed west (approximately 40 feet) to edge
of block 35. Then proceed west 100 feet along northern boundary line of lot 1 block 35. Then proceed north 100 feet. Then proceed east 100 feet along northern boundary line of lot 3 of block 35. Continue east to center of Milam. Then proceed north along center of Milam to center of intersection of Congress and Milam on the north side. Proceed north along center of Milam 120 feet. Proceed east (approximately 40 feet) to edge of block 19 and continue east 100 feet into block 19. Proceed south 20 feet. Proceed east 50 feet along north boundary line lot 3, block 19. Proceed north 150 feet along western boundary line of lots 11 and 9, block 19. Continue north across Franklin to southwest corner of lot 2, block 16. Proceed north 100 feet along western boundary line of lot 2, block 16. Proceed west 25 feet along southern boundary line of lot 11, block 16. Proceed north 50 feet along western boundary line of lot 11, block 16. Proceed west 125 feet along southern boundaries of lots 6, 7, and 8, block 16, and continue west from edge of block 16 to center of Milam. Proceed north along center of Milam across Buffalo Bayou. Proceed northeast along the north shoreline to beginning point.
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Main Street/Market Square Historic District comprises all or part of 18 blocks (Blocks 1; 2; west half of 3; 15; 16; lots 1-4 of 17; lot 5 of 18; 19; 20; 21; 32; 33; 34; lots 2-4 of 35; 44; 45; lots 4, 5, 9-11 of 56; and 57; all South side of Buffalo Bayou, Houston, Harris County, Texas) on either side of Main Street between Buffalo Bayou on the north and Texas Avenue on the south, extending as far as Fannin on the east and as far as the depths of lots bounding the west side of Milam Street on the west. The street pattern is a grid of square blocks (except along the bayou banks where the shapes conform partially to the contours of the shoreline). The grid is skewed a few degrees east from true north. Each block is approximately 250' by 250'. Streets on the edges of the district are inclusive to the middle of the streets.

EASTERN BOUNDARY

Begin at Main Street Viaduct on the north bank of Buffalo Bayou and continue across the Viaduct to the south shoreline. Proceed southeast along the shoreline to the northeast corner of tract 16, block 3, commence south 205 feet along the eastern boundary line of tracts 16 and 14. Continue south to middle of Commerce Street. Then proceed west to middle of intersection of Commerce and Main. Then proceed south along center of Main one block to center of intersection of Main and Franklin. Then proceed east along center of Franklin one block to center of intersection of Franklin and Fannin. Then proceed south along center of Fannin three blocks to center of intersection on the south side of Prairie and Fannin. Then proceed west (approximately 40 feet) to edge of Block 56, proceed west 100 feet along south boundary line of Lot 1. Proceed west 50 feet along southern boundary line of Lot 11. Proceed north 25 feet along western boundary line of Lot 9. Proceed west (approximately 40 feet) to middle of Main. Proceed south along center line of Main approximately one-half block to center of intersection of Texas and Main.

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY

Then proceed west along center of Texas one block to center of intersection of Texas and Travis.

WESTERN BOUNDARY

Then proceed north along center line of Travis two blocks to center of intersection of Travis and Preston. Then proceed west along center of Preston one block to center of the intersection of Preston and Milam. Then proceed north along center of Milam 50 feet past southern boundary line of Block 35. Proceed west (approximately 40 feet) to edge of Block 35. Then proceed west 100 feet along northern boundary line of lot 1 Block 35. Then proceed north 100 feet. Then proceed east 100 feet along northern boundary line of lot 3 Block 35. Continue east to center of Milam. Then proceed north along center of Milam to center of intersection of Congress and Milam on the north side. Proceed north along center of Milam
200 feet. Proceed west to edge of Block 18. Proceed west 100 feet along south boundary line of lot 5 Block 18. Proceed north 50 feet along western boundary line of lot 5 Block 18. Continue north across Franklin to northwest corner of lot 1 Block 17. Proceed east 25 feet along north boundary line of lot 1 Block 17. Proceed north 54 feet along west wall of 112-114 Milam (site no. 75). Proceed west 5 feet along south wall of 110 Milam (site no. 76). Proceed north 47 feet to north boundary line of lot 3 Block 17. Proceed east along north boundary line of lot 3 and continue to center of Milam Street. Proceed north along center of Milam across Buffalo Bayou. Proceed northeast along north shoreline to beginning point.
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Harris County
TEXAS

Working No. JUN 3 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 7/8/84
Date Due: 7/8/83
Action: ACCEPT

Federal Agency:

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria Accept
Reviewer Enriqueta
Discipline History
Date 7/8/83

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification
Category Ownership Status Present Use
Public Accession 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
excellent deteriorated unaltered Check one
good altered moved date
fair unaltered

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

summary paragraph
completeness
clarity
alterations/integrity
dates
under selection
8. Significance

Period
Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates
Builder Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

[ ] summary paragraph
[ ] completeness
[ ] clarity
[ ] applicable criteria
[ ] justification of areas
[ ] checked
[ ] relating significance to
[ ] the resource
[ ] context
[ ] relationship of integrity
to significance
[ ] justification of exception
[ ] other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ______________________
Quadrangle name ______________________
UNIT 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 ______________________
State ______________________
Date ______________________

13. Other

[ ] Maps
[ ] Photographs
[ ] Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to ______________________

Signed ______________________
Date ______________________
Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet
NRIS Reference Number: 83004471

Property Name: Main Street Market Square Historic District

County: Harris       State: Texas

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper: ____________________________  Date of Action: March 13, 2002

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 7. Description/Sketchmap. The classification of the Barringer-Norton Building at 506 Main Street is, hereby, changed to "contributing," due to the removal of modern panels that had obscured its historic facade and due to confirmation that the 1928 Tudor Revival facade has survived in a fairly intact condition and the building possesses historic integrity. The sketchmap is also, hereby, amended to indicate the building's contributing condition.

The Texas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
Market Square (1836) Block 34
Bound by Travis, Milam, Preston, and Congress
Camera looking south
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 1 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas

#4 Part of Dorrance Building (1903)
   114 Main

#3 Raphael Building (ca. 1911)
   110 Main

#2 Brewster (1872-76)
   108 Main
Camera looking west
Photo by Paul Hester, 1981; neg. on file with
  P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 2 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#4 Dorrance Building (1903)
  114 Main Street
#3 Raphael Building (ca. 1911)
  110 Main Street
#2 Part of Brewster Building (1876)
  108 Main Street
Camera looking west
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 3 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#36 Southern Pacific Building (1911)
  913 Franklin Avenue
#5 Commercial National Bank (1904)
  116-120 Main Street
#4 Dorrance Building (1903)
  114 Main Street
#3 Raphael Building (ca. 1911)
  110 Main Street
#2 Brewster Building (1876)
  108 Main Street
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Paul Hester, 1981; neg. on file with
  P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 4 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#36 Southern Pacific Building
(1910-11)
913 Franklin
Camera looking north
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 5 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#6 First National Bank (1905, 1909, 1913, 1925)
201 Main Street
Camera looking southeast
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 6 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#7 South Texas National Bank
(1908-10, 1921-22)
213 Main
Camera Looking southwest
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 7 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#8 Dumble Building (1882-83)
217 Main Street
#9 B.A. Shepherd Building (1883)
219 Main Street
(To the left of the Dumble Building is part of the South Texas National Bank, #7, and the Dome of the Harris County Courthouse is in the background)

Photo 8 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#8 Dumble Building (1882-83)
217 Main Street
#9 B. A. Shepherd (1883)
219 Main Street
Camera looking northeast
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 9 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#29 Zindler Building (1921)
1019 Congress
Rear of B. A. Shepherd Building
(#9) to left
Rear of First National Bank
(#6) to right
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 10 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#28 Pillot Building (ca 1858)
#12 Sweeney, Coombs and Fredericks Building (1889)
Camera looking southeast
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 11 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#28 Pillot Building (ca 1858)
106 Congress
Background (left to right): Harris County Administration Building
Camera looking southeast
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 12 of 53
#10 Houston National Bank (1928)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#10 Houston National Bank (1928)
202 Main Street
Camera looking west
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 13 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#1 Union National Bank Building (1912)
220 Main Street
Camera looking northwest
photo by Paul Hester, 1981; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 14 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#13 Sterne Building (1916)
302 Main Street
To the left: #14A, B, C - Stuart Building
Camera looking southwest
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 15 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#62 Sweeney and Coombs Building (1880)
310 Main Street
#14 A,B,C Stuart Building (1880)
304-308 Main Street
#13 Sterne Building (1916)
302 Main Street
Camera looking west
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008 1/2 Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 16 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#15 Kiam Building (1893)
320 Main
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 17 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#61 Main St. Drugs (ca. 1914)
319 Travis
#49 Ritz Theater (1926)
911 Preston Avenue
#15 Kiam Building (1893), Preston Street Facade
318-320 Main Street
Camera looking south
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 18 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#16 Scanlan Building (1907-09)
405 Main Street
Camera looking southeast
Photo by Paul Hester, 1981; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 19 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#17 Burns Building (1883)
421 Main
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 20 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#18 Public National Bank Building (1925)
402 Main Street
Camera looking west
Photo by Paul Hester, 1981; neg. on file with P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 21 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#19 State National Bank (1924)
  412 Main Street
#67 404-408 Main
#68 410 Main
#69 416 Main (ca. 1922)
Camera looking west
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 22 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
Aerial View and #20 Byrd's Building (1935)
(signs read: Nathan's, Loans, G.E., Armour's Furniture)
418-420 Main Street
Camera looking west
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 23 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#21 Isis Theatre Building (1912)
501 Main
#22 McCrory's (Original) (1931)
505-507 Main
Camera looking east
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 24 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#24 Mosk Building
508-510 Main (ca. 1916)
#71 Barringer-Norton Building (1928)
506 Main
#70 Stegeman Building (1879, 1890)
502-504 Main
Camera looking west

Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston

Photo 25 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#25 Rice Hotel (1912-1913)
917 Texas
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 26 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#52 Scholibo Building (1880)
912 Prairie Avenue
#51 Brashear Building (1882)
910 Prairie Avenue
Camera looking south
Photo by Paul Hester, 1981; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 27 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#53 Stegeman Building II (ca 1877)
914 Prairie Avenue
#52 Scholibo Building (1880)
912 Prairie Avenue
Camera looking south
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 28 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#26 Wilson's Building (ca 1932)
1010 Prairie Avenue
Camera looking southwest
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 29 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#27 Paul Building (1907)
1018 Preston
Camera looking southwest
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 30 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#30 Desel-Boettcher Building (1912)
901 Commerce
Camera looking northeast
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 31 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#32 Dickson Building
800 Commerce
#33 Sierwessen Building
800 Commerce (far right)
Camera looking southwest
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 32 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#6 First National Bank (1905, 1909, 1913, 1925)
201 Main Street
Old Bank Lobby
Camera looking east
Photographer unknown - September 1982; neg. on file at 201 Main Venture, 2727 Kirby Drive, Houston
Photo 33 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas

#38 Hermann Estate Building (1917)
204-212 Travis

#37 Houston Cotton Exchange (1884)
202 Travis

Camera looking southwest
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston

Photo 34 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#38 Hermann Estate Building
204-212 Travis
Camera looking west
Photo by Paul Hester, 1980; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1009½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 35 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#40 Kennedy Corner
   220 Travis (ca. 1860, remodeled 1889)
#39 W. L. Foley Dry Goods Company Building
   214-218 Travis (1860, remodeled 1889)
#38 Hermann Estate Building (1917)
   204-212 Travis
#37 Houston Cotton Exchange & Board of Trade (1884)
   202 Travis (far right)
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
   Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
   Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 36 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#42 Henke Building (1924)
  805 Congress
#54 Cochran Building
  809 Congress
#41 Kennedy Bakers (ca. 1860)
  813 Congress
Camera looking north; photo by P. Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 37 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#41 Kennedy Bakery (ca. 1960)
  813 Congress
Camera looking north
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
  Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
  Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 38 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#44 Bethje-Lang Building (ca. 1868)
316 Milam
#58 Buck's Menswear (ca. 1935)
314 Milam
#43 Erikson Building (ca. 1868)
310 Milam
Camera looking west
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 Mckinney, Houston
Photo 39 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#44 Bethje-Lang Building (ca. 1868)
316 Milam
Camera looking west
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 40 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#45 Fox-Kuhlman Building (south half) (1862-1866)
305-307 Travis
Camera looking east
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 41 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#60 Circle Bar (Swank Lounge)
   924 Congress (ca. 1920)
#59 United Labor Service
   918 Congress (ca. 1890)
Camera looking south
Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 42 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#46 Larendon Building (part of) (ca. 1890)
309 Travis
#47 Altmont Building (ca. 1878, 1892)
311 Travis Street
Camera looking east
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 43 of 53 (left to right)
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#50 Baker Building (1875)
401-403 Travis
Background (left to right):
  Scanlan Building
  Public National Bank
  State National Building
Camera looking south
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 44 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#65 (left) Bolfrass Building
  417 Travis (ca. 1878)
#66 (right) Roco Building
  419 Travis (ca. 1870, 1883)
Camera looking south
Photo by Peter Boesel, 1982; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 45 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#34 Kirlick Building
110-112 Travis (1894)
Camera looking southwest
Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 46 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#64 Harris County Administration Building
Main Street at Pearson (1978)
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 47 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#63 The Hub
  312 Main (ca. 1934)
#62 Sweeney & Coombs Building
  310 Main (ca. 1880) remodeled
#14 A,B,C Stuart Building
  304-308 Main
308 Main remodeled 1924
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 48 of 53 Left to Right
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#67 Texas Pawn Shop
  404-408 Main (20th century)
#68 Charlie's
  410 Main (20th century)
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 49 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#56 Show Time Club
  1000 Congress (ca. 1925)
#57 Aaron Mintz Building
  1011 Congress (ca. 1940s)
Camera looking north
Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with
  Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
  Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 50 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#55 American Bank Parking Garage
901 Congress
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Minette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with
Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 51 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
#72 Southern Dental
1014 Prairie (1940s)
Camera looking south
Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983; neg. on file with
Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston
Public Library, 500 McKinney, Houston
Photo 52 of 53
Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Houston, Harris County, Texas
Allen's Landing (1936, 1967)
Corner of Main & Commerce
#1 Main St. Viaduct (1913, 1982)
Main St. at Buffalo Bayou
Camera looking northwest
Photo by Paul Hester, 1981; neg. on file with
P. Hester, 1008½ Hyde Park, Houston
Photo 53 of 53
Houston Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Harris County, Texas
Site No. 73, Cruger's Warehouse/Radoff Building
202-204 Milam

Photo 1983 by Minnette Boesel; neg. on file with her at Preservation Services, 2243 B W. Alabama, Houston

View of SW corner of Franklin and Milam Streets, looking southwest

Photo 54
Houston Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Harris County, Texas
Site No. 74, Magnolia Brewery, 715 Franklin

Photo 1983 by Minnette Boesel; neg. on file with her at Preservation Services, 2243 B. West Alabama, Houston.

View of NW Corner of Franklin and Milam Streets, looking northwest.

Photo 55
Houston Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Harris County, Texas
Sites No. 75 (112-114 Milam) and 76 (110 Milam)

Photo by Minnette Boesel; neg. on file with her at
Preservation Services, 2243 B W. Alabama,
Houston

View of buildings on Milam Street, looking northwest

Photo 56
Houston Main Street/Market Square Historic District
Harris County, Texas
Site No. 76, 110 Milam

Photo 1983 by Minnette Boesel, neg. on file with her at Preservation Services, 2243 B. West Alabama, Houston

Oblique view of front (east) facade of Houston Ice and Brewing Co., looking north-by-northwest.

Photo 57
July 27, 1983

Mr. Curtis Tunnell
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Tunnell:

This letter is in response to the letter addressed to Texas Commerce Bank dated June 22, 1983, from Peter Flagg Maxson regarding nomination of the building at 202-204 Milam in Houston for the National Register of Historic Places.

Texas Commerce Bank is the sole owner of the property, and Texas Commerce Bank does not wish to have this building listed on the National Register. Texas Commerce Bank, therefore, does hereby object to the proposed listing.

I do understand that the State Historic Preservation Officer will submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for a determination of eligibility of the property for inclusion in the National Register. Upon that determination I would like to be informed whether this property is eligible.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Senior

DS:dh

xc: Peter Flagg Maxson
TEXAS COMMERCE BANCSHARES, INC.

THE STATE OF TEXAS &
COUNTY OF HARRIS &

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared David Senior, Senior Vice President of Texas Commerce Bancshares, Inc., a Delaware Corporation, known to me to be the person and officer whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, in the capacity therein stated, and as the act of said Corporation in such capacity.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this __ day of July, 1983.

[Signature]
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

My Commission Expires: __/__/__
September 29, 1983

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is an amendment to the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Main Street/Market Square Historic District in Houston, Harris County, Texas. You will note that there is a notarized letter of objection from the owner of one of the seven affected properties.

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Curtis Tunnell
Executive Director

CT/mc
Enclosure
H30(2255)

January 28, 2002

Mr. Mike Melnik
Japhet Realty For 506 Main Partnership
P.O. Box 22957
Houston, TX 77227

PROPERTY: Barringer-Norton Building, 506 Main Street, Houston, TX
PROJECT NUMBER: (8756)
TAXPAYER ID NUMBER: 76-0522688

Dear Mr. Melnik:

The National Park Service has determined that the subject property contributes to the significance of the Main Street/Market Square Historic District. This determination is made in response to the Historic Preservation Certification Application -- Part 1 submitted to this office. While obtaining this certification of significance is the first step in qualifying for maximum tax benefits under federal laws, there may be an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issue. We understand that this property has been placed in service. Guidance we have received from the IRS states that "owners who wait until after all work is complete, and the building placed in service, before they file Part 1 of the application [with the State Historic Preservation Office] . . . do not qualify for a Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit." The basis for this opinion can be found in IRS regulation Section 1.48-12(d)(7) and Section 1.48-12(d)(1). The National Park Service cannot determine eligibility for use of the credit under IRS regulations. Therefore, we recommend that you contact the IRS for advice as to whether this project, if certified by the NPS, will meet the basic IRS eligibility criteria for the 20% investment tax credit. You may contact the following individuals at the IRS: Donna Richard, 512-499-5895; or Colleen Gallagher, 651-312-7904.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, please call me at 202-343-9531.

Sincerely,

Gary Sachau
Technical Preservation Services Branch

cc: IRS
TX SHPO
Courtney Tardy, 2127 Milford Street, Houston, TX 77098
Memorandum

To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

From: Gary Sachau, Technical Preservation Services Branch, Heritage Preservation Services Division

Subject: Request for National Register Review of Historic Preservation Certification Application

A Historic Preservation Certification Application—Part 1 for the Barringer-Norton Building, 506 Main Street, Houston, TX, in the Main Street/Market Square Historic District, was recently submitted to this office through the TX State Historic Preservation Office. The owner requests certification of the building. However, the National Register documentation contains a contradictory evaluation of this property.

We believe this building does contribute to the significance of the Main Street/Market Square Historic District, whose period of significance extends to circa 1933. At the time the district was listed in 1983, most of the façade was covered with modern panels. A pre-rehabilitation photograph was submitted with the Part 1 showing many of the panels removed. This photo reveals that the 1928 Tudor Revival façade has survived largely intact; therefore, the building possesses sufficient historic integrity to be classified as contributing. Since the SHPO has no plans at the present time to revise the National Register documentation, our office requests a Supplementary Listing Record be issued, revising the National Register nomination and listing this building as a contributing structure. We have already taken action on the owner's application for certification of significance, as recommended by the SHPO.

Enclosed please find copies of the Part 1 application, the State Review Sheet, and photographic documentation. Thank you.

Attachments

cc: TX SHPO
**Property:** Barringer-Norton Building  
506 Main  
Houston, TX 77002

**Historic District:** Main Street-Market Square Historic District

**Certified state or local district:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Property visited by State?</th>
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<td>7-27-01</td>
<td>12-20-01</td>
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**Date initial application received by State:** 7-27-01

**Date(s) additional information requested by State:** 7-27-01

**Date complete information received by State:** 12-03-01

**Date transmitted to NPS:** 12-20-01

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**State Recommendation:**

Gregory Smith, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, has reviewed this application.

- The property is included within the boundaries of a registered historic district, contributes to the significance of the district, and is a “certified historic structure” for the purposes of rehabilitation.
- The property does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.
- Insufficient documentation has been provided to evaluate the structure.
- This application is being forwarded without recommendation.

**Preliminary determinations:**

- The property appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will be nominated individually.
- The property does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will not be nominated.
- The property appears to contribute to the significance of a:
  - potential historic district which appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be nominated.
  - registered historic district but is outside the period(s) or area(s) of significance documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS, and nomination will be amended.
- The property is located within a proposed historic district
- The property does not appear to the significance of the proposed historic district
- The proposed historic district does not appear to meet the NR criteria for Evaluation and will not be nominated
### Number 3

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<td><strong>ISSUES</strong></td>
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<td>Ⓞ Obscured or covered elevation(s)</td>
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<td>State recommendation inconsistent with NR documentation</td>
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<td>Functionally related complex or multiple buildings within an individual nomination</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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### Number 4

Complete items below as appropriate:

1. ________ is the period(s) of significance for the district

2. The property is mentioned in the NR or state or local district documentation Section 7, Page 12

3. For preliminary determinations, the status of the nomination for the property/historic district:
   - Nomination has already been submitted to the State Review Board, and will be forwarded to the NPS within _______ months. Draft nomination is enclosed.
   - Nomination was submitted to the NPS on _______.
   - Nomination process will likely be completed within thirty months.
   - Other, explain:

4. The property is located in a registered district, but its current condition is inconsistent with the determination of its contribution to the district as stated in the nomination. Supplemental Listing Record requested.

### Number 5

Describe problematic issues or other concerns.

This building was listed as noncontributing to the Main Street Market Square Historic District (NR 1983). The nomination text (Section 7, Page 12) describes it as “almost entirely refaced with plaster.” SHPO staff has determined that enough fabric remains to make it recognizable to the period of significance as a unique example of Tudor Revival commercial architecture in downtown Houston. Certification of this building from the NPS would be consistent with recent determinations for properties within the district, most recently the finding that the adjacent property at 508 Main Street (Victory-Wilson Building) continues to contribute to the district despite similar changes to the ground floor. The Texas SHPO only has photocopies of the images included in the district nomination, and we recommend that the photos on file with the National Register be examined to determine if the building contributes to the district.

See attachments: photographs maps other:

NPS COMMENTS: Concur w/ State—property contributes to HD. (Needs SLR)

Facade some of the panels in the 1982 photo have been removed to show that there was sufficient integrity prior to rehab.

Date 1-28-02

S. Jackson
NPS Reviewer
69. Reiner's. 416 Main Street (ca. 1922). Non-contributing. This is a three-story corrugated aluminum front building. The original facade has been totally covered. See photo 22.

70. Stegeman Building. 502-504 Main Street (1879; 1890). Non-contributing. This two-story plastered building has large, paired, Italianate brackets supporting a metal cornice. In 1890 a mansard roof was added as a third floor, but has since been removed. The original second floor windows with deep pedimented hood molds and other Italianate elements have been obliterated in a refacing of both street facades. With extensive restoration this building would qualify as contributing. Now Church's Fried Chicken. See photo 25.

71. Barringer-Norton Building. 506 Main Street (1928); James Ruskin Bailey, architect. Non-contributing. This two-and-one-half-story building's Main Street facade has been almost entirely refaced with plaster. Part of the original half-timbered, Elizabethan-style facade remains at the top of the building in a cantilevered gable. A brick chimney and a steeply pitched roof top the structure. Photographic documentation of this building's original appearance would make it possible to restore its Main St. facade so that it could become a "contributing" building. See photo 25.

72. Southern Dental. 1014 Prairie (1940s). Non-contributing. This four-story commercial building has a textured concrete facade. There are no apertures except the ground floor entrances. See photo 52.

Excerpt from NR nomination:
Main Street / Market Square 44D,
1983
Barringer-Norton Bldg.
Part 1 Photo - 12/99
Facade
Barringer-Norton Bldg.
Part 1 Photo - 7/00
(2nd floor interior)
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
PART 1 — EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Instructions: Read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certification will be made unless a completed application form has been received. Type or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

1. Name of property: Barringer Norton Building
   Address of property: Street 506 Main St.
   City Houston County Harris State TX Zip 77002
   Name of historic district: Main Street Market Square
   ☑ National Register district ☑ certified state or local district ☐ potential historic district

2. Check nature of request:
   ☑ certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district (or National Register property) for the purpose of rehabilitation
   ☑ certification that the structure or building and, where appropriate, the land area on which such a structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes
   ☑ preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register
   ☑ preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district
   ☑ preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district

3. Project contact:
   Name Courtney Tardy
   Street 2127 Milford St.
   City Houston
   State Texas Zip 77046 Daytime Telephone Number 713-442-9629

4. Owner:
   I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the property described above. I understand that falsification of factual representations in this application is subject to criminal sanctions of up to $100,000 in fines or imprisonment for up to five years pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.
   Name MIKE MELNIK Signature ___________ Date 7-17-01
   Organization JAPNET REALTY FOR 506 MAIN PARTNERSHIP
   Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Number 76-0572687
   Street PO Box 2297
   City Houston
   State TX Zip 77227 Daytime Telephone Number 713-443-5620

The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Preservation Certification Application — Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:

☑ contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district (or National Register property) and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation

☑ contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980

☐ does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district

Preliminary Determinations:

☐ appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

☐ does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.

☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.

☐ does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

Date ___________ National Park Service Authorized Signature ___________ National Park Service Office/Telephone No: ___________
5. Description of Physical Appearance

The Barringer-Norton Building is located within the Main Street/Market Square Historic District in downtown Houston. The building is located on Main Street in the center of the 500 block. (Attachment #1) A multi-story historic structure is located on the South end of the block; the remaining structures are two-story buildings. The majority of the structures on the blockface were built in the 1880s. (Attachment #2) The Rice Hotel was built in the 1910s. Others, including the Barringer-Norton Building, were refaced in the 1920s. None of the structures on this block face, with the exception of the Rice Hotel, are in original condition. Only two are currently occupied.

The Barringer Norton Building was built pre-1885 as a load-bearing masonry structure. It has a 1928 Tudor façade. The exterior is clad in plaster and wood in a half-timbering detail. The roof has intersecting gables clad with shingles. It is a two-story building with a rectangular plan. (Photograph #1)

The Barringer-Norton Building survives with only its second floor intact. This facade features a variety of Tudor features: a massive stucco chimney, vergeboard detailing, casement windows, and half-timbering. The front gable roof contains a projection over the second story windows. This projection features half-timbering and a metal ship ornament. The intersecting gable is set back from the front-facing gable and is covered in shingles. The four casement windows on the second story have divided lights topped by divided light transoms and are evenly spaced across the width of the building.

None of the first floor façade remains intact. What exists now is a metal and wire roll-down security fence. A canopy mechanism exists. A steel beam has been added across the front of the building.

The plan of the second floor is rectangular. (Photograph #2) The walls are covered with plaster. There is a brick room built in the rear North corner of the second floor; it has two punched openings for windows and a door. (Photograph #3)

The first floor interior has been altered many times. The entry of the building was pushed back in the 1940s when Zale's Jewelers occupied the building. A terrazzo floor was placed in the entry. The present owner cleaned the floor to reveal a detail of a
Continuation Sheet 2:
Barringer-Norton Building
506 Main Street, Houston, TX (Main Street/Market Square Historic District)

Tile mosaics and tile walls on the North, West and part of the South walls throughout the interior were uncovered when the present owner cleaned the decaying plaster from the walls. It is believed that they were added when J. Thompson Restaurant moved into the space in 1917. The mosaics feature a flower pattern interspersed with a garland and urn pattern. The colors are in gold, blues, greens, and red; all are vibrant. The mosaics are intersected by vertical rows of green and white tile. The rest of the walls are clad with white tile. Other parts of the floor are clad with white and green tiles that complement the interior walls. (Photographs #4 & 5)

Two pastoral scenes created in tile and mosaics were also uncovered. They were previously unknown to the owner. These murals are indicative of the late American Arts & Crafts period. One of the murals features a tile mosaic of cows idly grazing by a small stream with a gambrel-roofed farmhouse in the background. The other depicts cows standing by a stream with farm buildings in the background. Both are bordered in mosaics. The craftsmanship is very good and both murals appear to be in excellent condition.

Along the top of the first floor ceiling is a short row (about 5 feet) of older 19th century pressed tiles. These feature a pattern of flower garlands and are executed in pastel colors. These likely pre-date the tile interior walls.

When James Ruskin Bailey remodeled the exterior for the building in 1928, it is probable that the interior first floor was not significantly remodeled, but the tile walls were most likely covered. The pastoral scenes would not be appropriate for a high-end gentlemen’s clothing store. Although no pictures of the Barringer-Norton Co. store interior have been found, a picture was located of their shop interior in the 1910s at a different location. This interior shows floor-to-ceiling wood shelving, more in keeping with a men’s store than pastoral tile murals. It is most probable that the interior walls at 506 Main were simply covered with another material.

Along the back wall two doors were punched in the tile walls to provide access to a concrete stairway and a restroom. In the center an opening had been punched into the tile wall for a safe, disrupting the mosaic border. Because of the materials used, it seems

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1 Houston City Directories, 1900-1930. From 1900-1915, the building contained a variety of small businesses, including a barber shop, shoeshine establishment, manicurist shop, chiropodist office, and a clothes cleaners establishment.
Continuation Sheet 3:
Barringer-Norton Building
506 Main Street, Houston, TX (Main Street/Market Square Historic District)

Along the back wall two doors were punched in the tile walls to provide access to a concrete stairway and a restroom. In the center an opening had been punched into the tile wall for a safe, disrupting the mosaic border. Because of the materials used, it seems most likely that this alteration dates to the Zale's Jewelry period. (Photograph #3). A safe exists and is painted with the name of the jewelry store that once occupied the building. There is a mezzanine level in the rear North corner of the interior, added perhaps when the concrete stair was added. This mezzanine was most likely executed during the occupancy of Zale's Jewelers.
6. Statement of significance:

The Main Street/Market Square District is comprised of commercial structures that were built between the years of 1860 and 1940. It contains the site of Houston’s founding and the site of Houston’s early city halls and city markets. The variety of architecture in the district shows the periods of commercial growth and restructuring in the oldest commercial and civic district in Houston. The District is testament to the physical and economic growth during the period between Reconstruction and Houston’s real estate boom of the 1920’s. The Barringer-Norton Co. 1928 remodeling of a 19th century building is an example of the real estate boom. By 1930, Houston had become the largest city in the South. Many Houston institutions were nurtured within the Main Street/Market Square Historic District, including the Barringer-Norton Company (now Norton Ditto).

Main Street is the historical commercial axis of the District. Major banks and retail institutions began on Main Street within the district. Foley’s, Sakowitz and the Barringer-Norton Company, all major retail stores in Houston, had shops on Main Street in the early 20th century.

In 1928 the façade of 506 Main Street was reconstructed by Houston architect James Ruskin Bailey. Bailey was one of Houston’s more popular architects of the early twentieth century. He designed residential, office, and hotel structures in Houston. He was born in Philadelphia in 1889. Educated at Carnegie Tech, he came to Texas in 1908 to be a draftsman for the Texas Company (later Texaco) in Port Arthur. In 1909, he moved to Houston and soon married Margaret Scott, the daughter of the President of First National Bank. He entered into partnership with Joseph Finger from 1911 to 1919. From 1919 to 1921, Bailey worked on his business interests, including a Ford Motor Company dealership. He reentered the architectural field in 1922, submitting his first design for the Public National Bank Building (also located in the Main Street/Market Square Historic District). In addition to the Barringer-Norton Building, he designed the John H. Kirby House (1928) in the Tudor style.

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2 Main Street/Market Square Historic District National Register Nomination, 1983.
The Barringer-Norton Building is the only Tudor style building in the District. Despite its exuberant façade, its use a retail establishment and its massing hold it consistent to other structures within the district. Other buildings constructed in the district in the 1920s were mainly Classical revival bank structures or sensible commercial and retail structures. The Barringer-Norton Building is not the only Revival style structure in this area of downtown. The nearby 1929 National Cash Register Building by Joseph Finger is in a Mediterranean Revival style. Its massing and size are comparable with the Barringer-Norton Building.

The Barringer-Norton Company is still one of the premiere men's clothing stores in Houston. The company is now known as Norton Ditto. While the Barringer-Norton Company had leased store space in other downtown buildings, 506 Main was reconstructed as their showplace. While in the 506 Main location, they advertised the store as “Norton’s, Houston’s Best Shop for Men,...furnishings, hats, clothing, tailors.”

The building’s use as a gentlemen’s shop lent itself nicely to the style of the façade. The 1920s were a period when many gentlemen’s clubs, country clubs and large homes across the nation were built with an English Tudor influence in an attempt to reconnect with Anglo-Saxon traditions and heritage. It is not surprising that the Barringer-Norton Company chose such a style for their retail store given the quality of their clothes and the image the Tudor façade projected. This “gentlemen’s” image can be seen clearly in the rendering by the architect, who places golf clubs in the store window and late model cars on the street. (Attachment #3)

By the time the company left the 506 Main building to take a larger and more upscale shop in a downtown skyscraper, they advertised as “The Southwest’s Finest Men Store, the finest ready-to-wear clothing, sportswear, furnishings and the very finest custom tailoring.” Their move to the Esperson Building in 1946, in the heart of the new commercial district, represents the company’s growth and prominence.

Following the Barringer-Norton Company’s abandonment of 506 Main in 1945 to move to the Esperson Building, 506 Main housed the first Houston Zale’s jewelry store.

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4 This building is located just outside the Main Street/Market Square District.
5 Houston City Directory, 1938.
6 Rendering from The Book of Houston, 1928.
7 Houston City Directory, 1946.
CITY OF HOUSTON
Planning Commission

SITE LOCATION MAP
MAIN STREET/MARKET SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT
HOUSTON, TEXAS
NOT TO SCALE
The Book of Houston—1928

New Store Building for Barringer & Norton Company
505 Main St., Houston, Texas
James Ruskin Bailey, Architects

Planned and drafted by the Texas Mill Work Company, Houston, Texas