The Governor's Mansion

1010 Colorado
Austin, Texas

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: TEXAS
COUNTY: TRAVIS
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.842.0016
DATE: 8/5/70

1. NAME
COMMON:
The Governor's Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
1010 Colorado
CITY OR TOWN:
Austin
STATE:
Texas
CODE:
042
COUNTY:
Travis
CODE:
453

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
☐ District
☒ Building
☐ Site
☒ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP
☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

STATUS
☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work in progress
☐ Unrestricted
☐ Restricted

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ Yes:
☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
☐ Agricultural
☐ Government
☒ Park
☐ Industrial
☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Commercial
☐ Educational
☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment
☐ Museum
☐ Transportation
☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
The State of Texas

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Austin

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Travis County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Austin

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Texas State Historical Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1962

☐ Federal
☒ State
☐ County
☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Texas State Historical Survey Committee

STREET AND NUMBER:
108 W. 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Austin

(Continued)
One of the few Greek Revival Governor's Mansions still in use as the residence of the Chief of State, this building is a charming example of the Texas style. It is set on a hill southwest of the Capitol, on a standard city block. The building is a two story symmetrical white brick residence with a flat roof and five bay inset two story front gallery. The fluted wooden columns and the entablature with its dentils and wide cornice are proper Ionic. The absence of pediment is a regional characteristic.

The full width second story gallery has the graceful and delicate wood balustrade used by the Austin Master Builder, Abner Cook, made up of slender bundled slats forming an open diamond pattern (crows foot balusters). The first floor balustrade and stair railings are a harmonizing modern addition.

A second typical detail of Abner Cook's Greek revival buildings is seen in the sidelights and transom of the front door with an unusually tall transom intersected by the pilasters of the door jambs and carrying a high entablature. In this case the motif is not repeated in the center of the second story and instead there are five six over six sash windows with shutters. The first story gallery windows are floor length and have six over nine sashes. Additions have been made to the original block of the house at the rear and there is also an ell. There is a separate Victorian carriage house, plain but with a modified Mansard roof. Walls, terracing, and gardens were added during the residence of John Connally. The brick on the north side of the house is stuccoed and painted, the rest is exposed and painted.
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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>8/25</td>
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(State) Texas

(County) Travis

For NPS Use Only

Entry Number: 708420016

Date: 8/25

(Continuation Sheet)

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<tr>
<td>Library of Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, District of Columbia 08</td>
</tr>
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</table>
A visit to the Governor's Mansion in Austin, Texas, is an opportunity to see the best in Texas architecture and to learn a lesson in Texas history. Indeed, the heritage created by all the First Families who have lived in the Governor's Mansion has helped to shape the destiny of Austin and the State of Texas.

Texas law demands that each governor must live in a governor's mansion during his term of office. The first structure built to serve this purpose was a two-story frame "president's house" at Seventh and San Jacinto. By 1850, however, the house was clearly insufficient, and the Legislature made plans to build a new Governor's Mansion. The Legislature appropriated $2,500 for furnishings. Abner Cook, famous for his work on other Austin homes, was architect-contractor.

Cook finished the mansion by 1856. It was in Greek revival style and used bricks made in Austin, and pine logs from Bastrop. The mansion was rectangular--105 feet long and fifty-six feet wide--and six Ionic pillars extended the two-story height. Cook's plans involved four rooms around a central hallway and a kitchen wing which he built apart from the main portion of the house. Nine large fireplaces gave heat during the winter; wide porches caught breezes during the long Texas summers.

Most of the first-floor rooms are used for entertaining. Two north rooms, for example, have been combined to form the Blue Room. A second reception area is the Green Room, south of the entrance hall. The chandelier in this second room is said to be the only original light fixture remaining in the Mansion.

The State Dining Room, used for all state luncheons and banquets, is back of the Green Room. It is decorated in red, and accented in white. Its furniture includes Chippendale dining chairs and a Chippendale sideboard. The south and west wings are additions to the original plan, and they serve as private rooms for the governor's family. Mementos and
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Austin Public Library. Austin and Travis County Collection.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30° 16' 22&quot;</td>
<td>97° 44' 34&quot;</td>
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</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.06 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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</thead>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY Wayne Bell, Project Director

NAME AND TITLE: Roxanne Williamson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 4-27-70

STREET AND NUMBER: 108 West 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Austin, Texas

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Name: Swett Johnson

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 5-1-70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Henry Allen Chapman
Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date: Aug 25, 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Shortfield
Keeper of The National Register

Date: Jun 23, 1970
8 (cont'd)
reminders of previous occupants are scattered throughout the
Portraits of outstanding Texans such as John Reagan, and William
and John Wharton line the walls of the second-floor hallway; the
Sam Houston room includes Houston's four-poster bed, Stephen F.
Austin's mahogany chest, and Houston's hand-written treaty with
the Cherokee Indians.

Recently-added furnishings have been carefully planned.
Originally, Governor Pease sent Colonel S.M. Swenson to New
York to buy rugs, draperies, and furniture. Subsequent additions
were frequently comical: on the first floor, for example, delicate eighteen-century French chairs stood beside massive
Victorian chests. A Mansion Board quickly remedied such anomalies,
however, and now each governor's wife must confer with the Board
concerning her selections of furniture and decorations.

The Governor's Mansion was the first structure to be design-
nated a Texas Historic Landmark, recorded in 1962. Official
dedication ceremonies were held December 7, 1969.
DATE OF RECEIPT: 5/6/70

DATA PAGE: Y
PHOTO (S): Y
PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S): Y
MAP (S): Y
MAJ DESCRIPTIONS (S): Y
LOGGED: 9/1/70
ACKNOWLEDGE: 5/6/70

REVIEW

HISTORIAN: OK
COMMENTS

ARCHITECT: OK
COMMENTS

CHIEF, OAHP: OK
COMMENTS

EDITORIAL PROCESSING

EDITOR: Federal Register Entry
Date: 10/6/70

Annual Edition Entry

FILE: FILE
WORKING NUMBER: 5-6-70-2
NPS Number  70.8.42.0014

Title: The Governor's Mansion

Loc. Travis Co., Texas
Carriage House from the West

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Photograph Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. NAME</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMON: The Governor's Mansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. LOCATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STREET AND NUMBER: 1010 Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN: Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE: Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE OF PHOTO: June, 1969</td>
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<td>NEGATIVE FILED AT:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas State Historical Survey Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. IDENTIFICATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carriage House from the west</td>
</tr>
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</table>
NPS Number 70.8.42.0016

Title: The Governor's Mansion

Loc. Travis Co, Texas

Front & east elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
### 1. NAME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON:</th>
<th>The Governor's Mansion</th>
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<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
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### 2. LOCATION

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<td>CITY OR TOWN:</td>
<td>Austin</td>
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<td>STATE:</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>042</td>
<td>Travis</td>
<td>453</td>
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### 3. PHOTO REFERENCE

| PHOTO CREDIT:       | Texas State Historical Survey Committee |
| DATE OF PHOTO:      | June, 1969                                |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT:  | Texas State Historical Survey Committee   |
|                     | 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711   |

### 4. IDENTIFICATION

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**

Front and East elevation
NPS Number 70.8.42.0014

Title: The Governor's Mansion

Loc. Travis Co., Texas Side and north elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
1. NAME
   COMMON: The Governor's Mansion
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 1010 Colorado
   CITY OR TOWN: Austin
   STATE: Texas
   CODE: 042
   COUNTY: Travis
   CODE: 453

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
   DATE OF PHOTO: June, 1969
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
   108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.: Side and north elevation
## Property Map Form

### 1. Name
- **Common:** The Governor's Mansion
- **And/or Historic:**

### 2. Location
- **Street and Number:** 1010 Colorado
- **City or Town:** Austin
- **State:** Texas

### 3. Map Reference
- **Source:** United States Department of Interior Geological Survey
- **Scale:** 1:24000
- **Date:** 1952-54

### 4. Requirements
- **Texas Map Reference #3097-242**
- 1. Property boundaries where required.
- 2. North arrow.
- 3. Latitude and longitude reference.
Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas State Historical Survey Committee  
Post Office Box 12276  
Capitol Station  
108 West 15th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  

Dear Mr. Latimer:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally  
Ernest Allen Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosure  
Entered in the National Register

AUG 25 1970

cc:  
HR  
RGamble:mm  
8/13/70  
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR
Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

**TEXAS**

Bishop's Palace  
Old Land Office Building  
Barker History Center  
Heill-Cochran House  
Old Post Office and Federal Building  
Woodlawn

*The Governor's Mansion*  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
Hollamon House (Erakine House #1)  
Carrington-Covert House  
Klein (Stephen) House  
Schubert House  
Tinnen House  
Sedberry House  
Sebastopol (Zorn House)  
Littlefield House  
Old Galveston Custom House  
Captain Singleton House  
Linheimer Home  
Captain William Perry House  
Beard House

Galveston, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
Seguin, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
New Braunfels, Texas  
Giddings, Texas  
Georgetown, Texas  
Jefferson, Texas  
Seguin, Texas  
Austin, Texas  
Galveston, Texas  
Jefferson, Texas  
New Braunfels, Texas  
Jefferson, Texas  
Jefferson, Texas
SEP 16 1970

Mr. J. J. (Jake) Pickle
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pickle:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John C. Tower have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capital Station, 103 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.
Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register

AUG 2 5 1970

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, P. O. Box 12276, Capital Station, 103 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78701
Director, Southwest Region
Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

1. Schubart House
2. Timmen House
3. Littlefield House
4. Old Land Office Building
5. Burleson History Center
6. Heill-Cochran House
7. Old Post Office and Federal Building
8. Woodlawn
9. The Governor's Mansion
10. Gethsemane Lutheran Church
11. Carrington-Covert House

Giddings, Texas
Georgetown, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Austin, Texas
Hon. Ralph W. Yarborough  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) George B. Hartzog, Jr.

Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register AUG 25 1970

cc:
Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, 108 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78701

Duplicate letter sent to: Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.
Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

**TEXAS**

- Bishop's Palace
- Old Land Office Building
- Barker History Center
- Kelso-Cochran House
- Old Post Office and Federal Building
- Woodlawn
- The Governor's Mansion
- Gethsemane Lutheran Church
- Hullabuck House (Erskine House #1)
- Carrington-Covert House
- Klein (Stephan) House
- Schubert House
- Timm House
- Redberry House
- Sebastopol (Zorn House)
- Littlefield House
- Old Galveston Custom House
- Captain Singleton House
- Linnheiser House
- Captain William Perry House
- Beard House
- Galveston, Texas
- Austin, Texas
- Austin, Texas
- Austin, Texas
- Austin, Texas
- Austin, Texas
- Seguin, Texas
- Austin, Texas
- New Braunfels, Texas
- Giddings, Texas
- Jefferson, Texas
- Seguin, Texas
- Austin, Texas
- Galveston, Texas
- Jefferson, Texas
- New Braunfels, Texas
- Jefferson, Texas
- Jefferson, Texas
### Congressional Telephone Request

**WASO-145 (1/71)**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**CONGRESSIONAL TELEPHONE REQUEST**

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<td>CALLER</td>
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**RECEIVED BY**

| Walker |

**TO BE HAND-CARREYED TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LEGISLATION WHEN ACTION COMPLETED**

**ACTION TAKEN**

To be Hand-Carried To Assistant Director Legislation When Action Completed

---

**DATE**  
Agreed to have architect of historic sites supply plans in Jackson and requested recent word (a restoration?) as we could determine whether changes are sufficient to bring the mansion before Advisory Board again.

**ACTION TAKEN**

Signed by:

---

**Handwritten Note:**

- Dr. Mottremen
- Al Chamber
- will make this study
- + Trip
- Keep this for your records.
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<td>3. (NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)</td>
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