Form 10-300
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
San Agustin de Laredo Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Laredo

STATE:
Texas

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
District
Site

OWNERSHIP
Public
Private

STATUS
Occupied
Unoccupied

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Yes:
Restricted
Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
Agricultural
Commercial
Educational

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Webb County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Laredo

STATE:
Texas

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE OF SURVEY:
1972

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Texas State Historical Survey Committee

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 12276

CITY OR TOWN:
Austin

STATE:
Texas
The San Agustin de Laredo Historic District is located in the central business district of the south Texas border town of Laredo. This district embraces the nucleus of the original city which was established in 1755. On the north the district is bounded by Iturbide Street, on the east by Santa Ursula, on the west by Convent and on the south by Water Street. Although none of the structures in the district can be said to date from the period of Escandon’s Colonization they reflect an historical continuum of local development.

Many of the houses and structures are individually significant, but all of them lend to the distinctly Spanish/Mexican atmosphere of the district.

Some of the individually significant structures are:

- Capital of the Republic of the Rio Grande (no. 1). This small stone and adobe L-shaped building faces north on San Agustin Plaza and is currently used as an historical museum. Once it was the capital of the Republic of the Rio Grande (1839-40). The Republic of the Rio Grande was an unsuccessful attempt on the part of the Rio Grande colonies to break with the government of Santa Anna, to either reinstate the 1824 constitution of Mexico or to become an independent republic. The defeat and surrender of Antonio Canales, chief of military forces for the republic, and his forces in Saltillo at the hands of the Federalists brought about the end of the Republic.

- San Agustin Roman Catholic Church (established in 1778). A focal point of the district, the masonry Gothic revival structure with a five-story tower and spire dominates San Agustin Plaza, (no. 2). In addition, extant church records constitute a major historical archive for the area.

- Cayetano de la Garza Residence (no. 33), the Leyendecker-Benavides Home (no. 4), and the Casa Vidaurri (no. 5) make up the west side of the San Agustin Plaza. All of these buildings reflect the Spanish colonial vernacular building style prevalent throughout the south Texas area. Even though these buildings were built after the Civil War they nonetheless retain much of the early architectural feeling of the colonial period. Casa Vidaurri was built c. 1865 by Santos Benavides, colonel in the Confederate Army. Casa Ortiz (no. 7) was built by Don Jose Reyes Ortiz, a merchant and go-between for Mexico and Texas. Part of the house dates to the original structure—1830. In 1872 the front part of the house (that which is on Zaragoza street) and the second floor were added.) Furniture purchased at that time is see continuation sheet # 1
still in all the rooms. This spacious U-shaped house has a large central courtyard. Three terraces off the back of the courtyard provides space for a flower garden, vegetable garden and orchard. Ortiz, the builder of the home, was granted the land in 1826 (At that time he was a resident of the Villa de Palafox—see National Register submission for San Jose de Palafox Historic/Archeological District). This is indeed an outstanding residence both architecturally and historically and a major component in the district’s history.

The Edgardo Gonzales Residence (no. 38) is an outstanding example of the local architectural style which because of its obvious ties to some of the Spanish and Mexican architectural heritage is labeled colonial vernacular. In plan, the original building consists of the traditional rectangular central block. Subsequent additions have been made on the north end and the house is sited almost flush with the street. The resultant L-shaped building is in a residence which opens out onto a courtyard. In the case of this particular house, the body of the house is constructed of hewn sandstone blocks which have been plastered. Later, probably when the brick addition was placed on the north end, a brick cornice was added. The cornice is made up of moulded brick. The structure is a particularly fine example of a very common building type to be found here. In addition to the above described buildings, the historic district includes many residences and commercial structures which are typical of the area. They demonstrate stylistic changes through time and constantly reflect the continued preservation of the earlier styles. It is important to recognize and preserve examples of the typical before they become unique. Many of the examples in the San Agustin de Laredo Historic District are outstanding in themselves, but coupled with the typical structures and left in that context each contributes to the visual history so obvious when you ride through the area. As each building in the area contributes to this district entity, they reflect the developmental continuum. As you move out of the district the fact that the city did radiate from this nucleus becomes even more evident. The San Agustin Historic District is the

(see continuation sheet #2)
last example of an extant settlement founded during the Escandon colonization of the lower Rio Grande and does indeed reflect this heritage in its architecture and history.
Laredo, a south Texas border town, is one of the oldest independent cities in Texas. When Don Tomas Sanchez de la Barrera y Gallardo founded the city in May, 1755, this added another settlement to the growing number of Spanish towns along the banks of the Rio Grande. This colonization, accomplished between the years 1728 and 1755, was done under the guidance of Jose de Escandon who had been commissioned by the viceroy of Mexico to pacify and settle the gulf coast in 1746 (Bolton, 1962). This active colonization finally resulted in 23 settlements.

Twelve years after its founding (1767) the land was apportioned and the village of San Agustin de Laredo formally surveyed and laid out. The nucleus of the city as described in the Acta de la General Visita del Pueblo de San Agustin de Laredo (Translation on file, General Land Office, Austin) is the same as today's San Agustin Plaza area. The town, as it developed, radiated from this main square. From this point in time on, Laredo figured in the unique and colorful history of the state.

Locally unique is the fact that Laredo was the short-lived capital of the abortive Republic of the Rio Grande (Webb, 1952). This downtown area which comprises the district has figured in the entire span of economic, political and domestic development in the city.

Laredo is the last remaining settlement on the north bank of the Rio Grande which is directly part of the Escandon colonization of the area; furthermore, the district reflects the broad spectrum of the local history.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>27° 30' 11&quot;</td>
<td>99° 30' 26&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>27° 30' 11&quot;</td>
<td>99° 30' 12&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>27° 30' 04&quot;</td>
<td>99° 30' 12&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>27° 30' 04&quot;</td>
<td>99° 30' 26&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 23.87 acres

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Gary L. Hume, Project Director
Marsha Jackson, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: 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:

Name: Truett Latimer
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 8-29-73

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

Robert J. Lett
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Date: 8-29-73

ATTEST:

Edwin Smith
Keeper of The National Register
Date: 9-7-73
PROPERTY
San Augustin de Laredo
Historic District
STATE Texas

WORKING NUMBER
9.4.73.3517

TECH REVIEW
Photos 21
Maps 1

CONTROL REVIEW

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
Coast Guard are all involved in a project which is to have an effect on this area

ARCHAEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register write-up 2-14-74
Federal Register entry 11-6-73

Send-back
Re-submit
Entered

SEP 19 1973
Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co., Texas
Casa Ortiz, View of interior Court yard

CODE: WE 47
VIEW: Courtyard detail
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7/16/78

NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT PERMISSION
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co. Texas
de la Garza Residence

CODE: NE 1/4 Sec. 29, T. 3S, R. 29E de la Garza House
VIEW: NE Oblique
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7-16-73

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12278
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973
Title: San Agustín de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co., Texas
     Casa Vidaurri,
     (1874). East elevation

CODE: 3029
VIEW: SE Oblique
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7-19-72

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX  78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973
Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co., Texas
Detail of bird's eye view c. 1890

CODE: 1890 map (Laredo (detail))
VIEW: Laredo public library
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: '73

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P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Title: Sen. Agustin de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co., Texas

Cayetano de la Garza residence; S.W. view

CODE: NE 1/4 Navi Hotel
VIEW: NE Adjacent
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7-19-72

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711
Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic Dist.
Loc: Webb Co., Texas

Bird's eye view of Laredo C. 1890

CODE: 1890 map Laredo
VIEW: Laredo Public Library
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 1973

NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT PERMISSION
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
MPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973
Title: San Agustín de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co., Texas

Edgardo Gonzales Residence
Detail of molded brick cornice, South facade

CODE: 495 Edgardo Gonzales House

VIEW: S. ellb. cornice detail

NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy

DATE: 7/16/72

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
National Park Service

MPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973

Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic Dist.

Loc.: Webb Co., Texas

Edgardo Gonzales

Residence: Moulde Brick Conriss.

N.W. view

CODE: WE 26

VIEW: SE Oblique

NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy

DATE: 7.16.72

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

Property of the National Register
Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic Dist.
Loc.: Webb Co., Texas
Capital of the Republic of the Rio Grande, 1840
North Elevation

CODE:  10020  Republic & Rio Grande
VIEW: NW Oblique
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7/6/72

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
San Agustín de Laredo Historic District
Webb Co., Texas
Capital of the Republic of the Rio Grande, 1840. Arbor, view north

Code: We 26 Republic Rio Grande 1840
View: Arbor detail
Neg. By: Craig Kennedy
Date: 7-16-72

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Texas State Historical Survey Committee
P.O. Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Property of the National Register
NPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973
Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic Dist.
Loc: Webb Co. Texas
San Agustin Roman Catholic Church - view N.E.

CODE: St Agustin Church
VIEW: SW oblique
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7-17-73

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973

Title: San Agustín de Laredo Historic Dist.

Loc: Webb Co., Texas

Old photograph showing N.W. Oblique of church square

CODE: 10 5th Agustín Church

VIEW: NW Oblique

NEG. BY: Nicolas Sanchez Collection

DATE: no date prior 1900

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973
Title: San Agustín de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co., Texas
American Legion Hall

CODE: WE 01 American Legion
VIEW: NE Oblique
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 8-15-72

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973

Title: San Agustin de Lasco. Historic Dist.

Loc.: Webb Co., Texas
Typical Brick Cottage in district

CODE: [Handwritten]

VIEW: NE oblique.

NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy

DATE: Winter '73

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1278
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973
Title: San Agustín de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co., Jémez

Residence, View S.W.

CODE: WE 26
VIEW: NE Oblique
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 4-16-73

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Title: San Agustín de Laredo Historic District
Loc: Webb Co., Texas

de La Garza Residence
East elevation

CODE: de la Garza House
VIEW: Elevation
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7.16.72

NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT PERMISSION
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
San Agustín de Laredo Historic District
Webb Co., Texas
Casa Date: (1830, 1872)
North Elevation

CODE: WE 17
VIEW: NW Oblique
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7-16-72

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NPS Number: Sept. 19, 1973
Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic District
Loc.: Webb Co., Texas
Judge Mullaly Residence

CODE: Mullaly Res.
VIEW: S. Elevation
NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy
DATE: 7. 19. 72

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TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12278
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NFS Number: Sept. 19, 1973

Title: San Agustin de Laredo Historic Dist.

Loc.: Webb Co. Texas

Stone veneer and bldg. with stucco plaster on extension

Judge McAlldy house at left.

CODE: #6 Salinas Typewriter

VIEW: SE Oblique

NEG. BY: Craig Kennedy

DATE: 7/17/73

NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT PERMISSION
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME
   COMMON: San Agustin de Laredo Historic District
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN: Laredo
   STATE: Texas

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey
   SCALE: 1:24000
   DATE: 1965

4. REQUIREMENTS
   TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.
   
Texas map reference #2799-31

STAGE
Texas

COUNTY
Webb

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER SEP 10 1973

STATE: Texas
COUNTY: Webb
CODE: 048
CODE: 479

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

INT: 155-72
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: San Agustin de Laredo Historic District

2. **LOCATION**
   - STATE: Texas
   - COUNTY: Webb
   - TOWN: Laredo

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Comm.
   - DATE: 7-72

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - DESCRIPTOR VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   - Plat of Laredo, drawn from written description in the *Acta de la General Visita*. 

**NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)**

**SEP 19 1973**

**NEGATIVE FILED AT**

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Villa San Agustin de Laredo -1767

town lot
20v X 50v

public street
10v wide

plaza
80v X 100v

0 10
vars
Spanish vara = 33 1/3 in
August 22, 1973

Mr. Jerry Rogers
Chief, Branch of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Jerry:

Because of a forthcoming on site inspection with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, your prompt attention on this submission would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Hume, Director
National Register Programs
for Texas

GLH/sm

Enclosed is an article on historic preservation which appeared here. You and Carol, I think will find it interesting.
ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE  TEXAS

Date Entered  SEP 19 1973

Name
San Agustin de Laredo Historic District

Location
Laredo
Webb County

Also Notified
Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Abraham Kazen, Jr.
Mr. Steven Ruttenbaum, GSA
Ms. Ann Webster Smith, DOT

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Post Office Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Director, Southwest Region

[Signature]

[PHR MMOTT:p1 10.1.73]