HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

May 05, 2021

HDRC CASE NO: 2021-217

COMMON NAME: Whitt Printing Co. Building

ADDRESS: 821 W COMMERCE ST (816 W Houston)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 285 BLK 25 LOT 10, 13, W IRR 145.6 FT OF 9 (ARB 12A) & N

IRR 107.60 FT OF 11

ZONING: D. HS. H

CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 5

DISTRICT: Cattleman Square Historic District

LANDMARK: Individual Landmark

APPLICANT: Patrick Christensen, Attorney at Law

OWNER: YUEN KING LIM FAMILY LLC

TYPE OF WORK: Removal of historic landmark & district designation

APPLICATION RECEIVED: April 29, 2021

60-DAY REVIEW: Not applicable due to City Council emergency orders

CASE MANAGER: Cory Edwards

REQUEST:

The applicant seeks a recommendation from the Historic and Design Review Commission to remove historic designation from the property at 821 W Commerce / 816 W Houston (Golden Star Restaurant / Whitt Print Co. Building)

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

a.Process for Considering Designation of Historic Districts and Landmarks. Historic districts and landmarks shall be evaluated for designation using the criteria listed in subsection (b) and the criteria applied to evaluate properties for inclusion in the National Register. In order to be eligible for historic landmark designation, properties shall meet at least three (3) of the criteria listed. Historic districts shall consist of at least two (2) or more structures within a legally defined boundary that meet at least three (3) of the criteria. Additionally, all designated landmarks and districts shall demonstrate clear delineation of the legal boundaries of such designated resources.

. . .

g. Removal of Designation. Upon recommendation of the historic and design review commission based upon new and compelling evidence and negative evaluation according to the same criteria and following the same procedures set forth herein for designation, a designation made under subsection (a) of this section may be removed by city council following recommendation by the historic and design review commission.

FINDINGS:

- a) The property at 821 W Commerce (816 W Houston) was designated an historic landmark by Ordinance 68210 on October 27, 1988. The property also falls within the Cattleman Square Historic District which was designated by Ordinance 60317 in 1985.
- b) The lot at 821 W Commerce currently features two structures: the Whitt Printing Company building, an individual historic landmark facing north on West Houston, and the Golden Star Café, a non-contributing structure at the southwest corner of the lot. The Whitt Printing Company building was constructed c. 1930 and features its original rectangular footprint as documented on the 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, concrete frame of columns and roof beams with CMU masonry infill walls with cut window openings, a wood framed roof, and slab on grade foundation. The traditional enframed window wall storefront facing W Houston retains its a Mission Revival parapet, stucco texture, tiling, and canopy hooks. The two-story clay block masonry rear addition appears to have been constructed in the early 1950s per aerial photographs. The Whitt Printing Company was founded by Gilberto White after he fled the Mexican Revolution in 1914, and the business operated at this location from its date of construction through 1977. The use of this commercial

structure is consistent with other contemporary light industrial uses in the area. The landmark is particularly remarkable for its role printing Spanish language materials and publications; at this time, San Antonio had the most Spanish language publishing houses of any city in the US. The Whitt Printing Company building contributes to the Cattleman Square Historic District.

- c) The current property owner wishes to demolish all buildings on the property and has requested for removal of historic designation (demolition has also been requested in separate HDRC Case 2021-212). Consistent with the UDC Sec 35-606(g), the applicant must present new and compelling evidence that the property no longer meets the criteria for landmark designation. The applicant has provided no such evidence to warrant a reversal of the previous decisions to designate the property; the structure located on the site at the time of designation remains.
- d) Historic District Designation is not just a tool to provide careful decision making about demolition. It also provides an important design review process to ensure compatible infill development in historically sensitive areas. Other multifamily and commercial projects have had success with design review within the Cattleman Square Historic District including properties in very close proximity to the subject property.

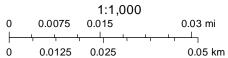
RECOMMENDATION:

Staff finds there is no new and compelling evidence for removal of designation for the property based on findings b and c. Staff is further concerned that removal from the historic district will result in inappropriate and incompatible new construction on the site in the future. Staff recommends denial of the request for removal of historic designation.

821 W Commerce



April 27, 2021



COUNTY BLOCK BEX	548
OHAD CA 990C- 2011	32-55-1
NAME: WILLES COUNTY:	
ADDREDD	
UTM: 102/	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: DATE: 1934 PERIOD: MT OWNER: Vernacular Commercial	
	entrances
DESCRIPTION: 1 story, brick commercial bldg. Rectangular plan, flat roof. Two flanked by plateglass windows (all topped by transoms) in front. Stepped parap	et w/central
Tranked by pracegrass windows (arr copped by transoms) in rione. Occuped partern.	Parapet has
round arched panel, covered in multi-colored tile in a checker-board pattern.	row bldg
brick cap. Small, rectangular side window have been made smaller. A long, nar	TOW DIGG.
BUILDING MATERIAL: wall: Brick roof: Flat - probably built up	
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Good SITE: original X or moved date ALTERATIONS: Brick has been painted. Side windows have been made smaller	
SIGNIFICANCE: Good example of unpretentious warehouse/commercial bldg. Context	ually
important to area.	
AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Contextual LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local	
DESIGNATION: NR NHL RTHL HABS HAER HESI HSI OTHER:	
ORIGINAL USE. Warehouse PRESENT USE. Painting shop	
RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS: Isolated in block	
ACREAGE/BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:	
BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA:	
SEE INFO/CORRESPONDENCE FILES:	
RECORDED BY: J. S. Clark INFORMANT:	
DATE: 1981 - 82 PHOTO DATA:	



Machine Co., Easyfield Manufacturing Co., R. G. Padilla (1987)

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Architecture: "The one-story long and narrow brick commercial building features two entrances flanked by plate glass windows, all with transoms. The design includes recessed rectantular brick panels and at the roofline a bracketed metal cove cornice. A stepped parapet with central round arched panel covered in miniature multi-colored glazed ceramic tile in a checkerboard pattern. A small, rectangular side window has been made smaller." (Recorded by S. Stepan, December 1987; Source: J. Dickman, 1983.)

<u>History</u>: "Gilbert B. Whitt was Secretary of the State of Monterey, Mexico, an author, printer and publisher. In 1914, during the Revolution he was taken as a political hostage and was to be hanged. He was able to escape to Texas and set up his news stand in San Antonio on the corner of Commerce and Santa Rosa Streets. He developed a mail order house with catalog that served the others who had fled the unrest in Mexico. Appropriate items from Spain and Mexico were provided through his business and a printing facility was maintained for the production of forms and catalogues.

"During the depression the mail order service faultered with the economy and Whitt solicited printing and delivered his orders which kept his employees working and printing machines in operation. He was able to build the present building in 1934 and expand his commercial printing for English and Spanish speaking clients.

"There were fourteen children and in 1939 Homer, Guillermo (William) and Ivan continued with the printing company as managers. In 1978, Homer and his children Homer and Rebecca became the owners and continued to carry on the family tradition." (Recorded by S. Stepan, December 1987; Source: J. Dickman, 1983.)

Significance:

Owner/Address: Whitt Properties, Inc.

11803 Mill Pond

San Antonio, TX 78230 (12/87)

<u>Legal</u>: NCB 285 Blk 25 Lot N Irr 107.60' of 11 - 0.192 Acres

Whitt Printing Co. Building (1934) 818-820 W. Houston St.

Significant

<u>Current Name</u>: Whitt Building, Whitt Printing Company; Alamo Sewing

- COMMEDCIAL ART - LAVOUTE BLANE COM · UTHOGRAPHY COLOR AND LARE WORK

PHIED FORMS OFFICE SUPPLIES

PRINTING COMPANY

Established, 1914

P. O. BOY 4425 . 1120 W HOUSTON ST . SAN ANTONIO 7 TEXAS May 22, 1950

BLEASE SEND 500 hULAS PLACARDS AS PER YOUR LETTER WITHOUT THE CORD. Would APPRECIATE Could I

Mr. John J. Herrers. 710 Scanlan Bldg. Houston 2. Texas

Dear Mr. Herrara:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letter of May 9th. It came at a time when we were so "snowed under" that it was practically impossible to take care of our good customers. On top of that, we received some new equipment which necessitated moving other presses in our shop, thus creating additional havoc and delays.

There is still plenty of time to print the placards you want so that you may take them to the convention. We presume you will leave for El Paso on the 7th and the cards could be in Houston the 5th or 6th. Following are the prices for the placards. printed in three colors on 10 ply boards, coated one side, punched 2 holes, as per your specifications. The prices moted do not include the cord which was sold to you separately last year and which you may still have some on hand. The tri-color cord is not available at present and if you do need cord we could furnish it to you in any color desired except black, gold, silver or tri-color. Please call us collect on the quantity you want.

100 - \$22.65 200 - 26.55 300 - 30.50 400 - 34.35

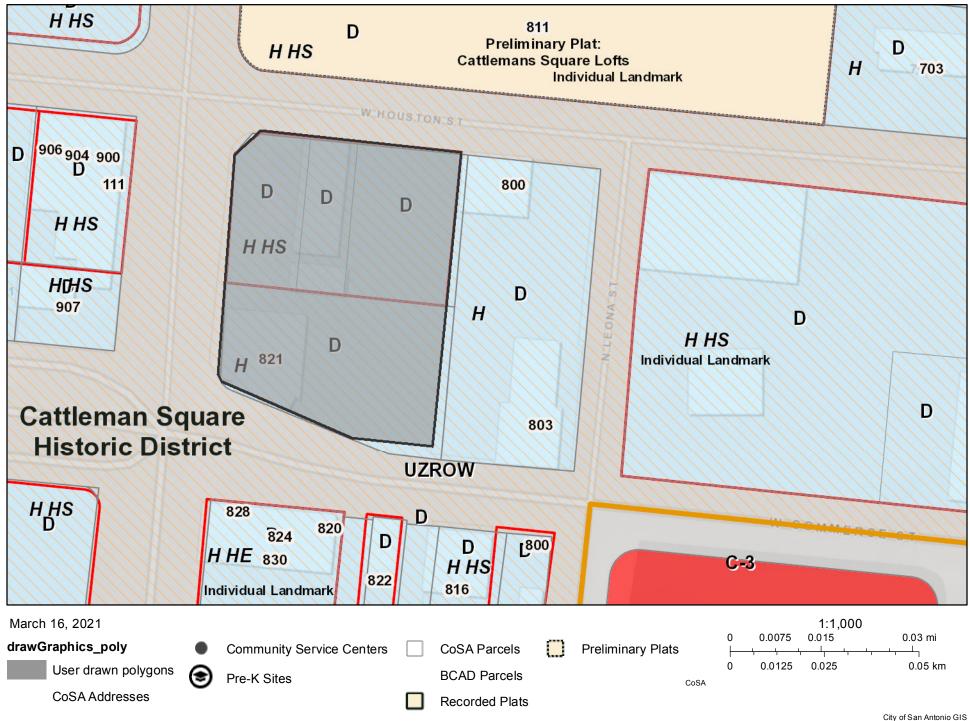
500 - 38.30

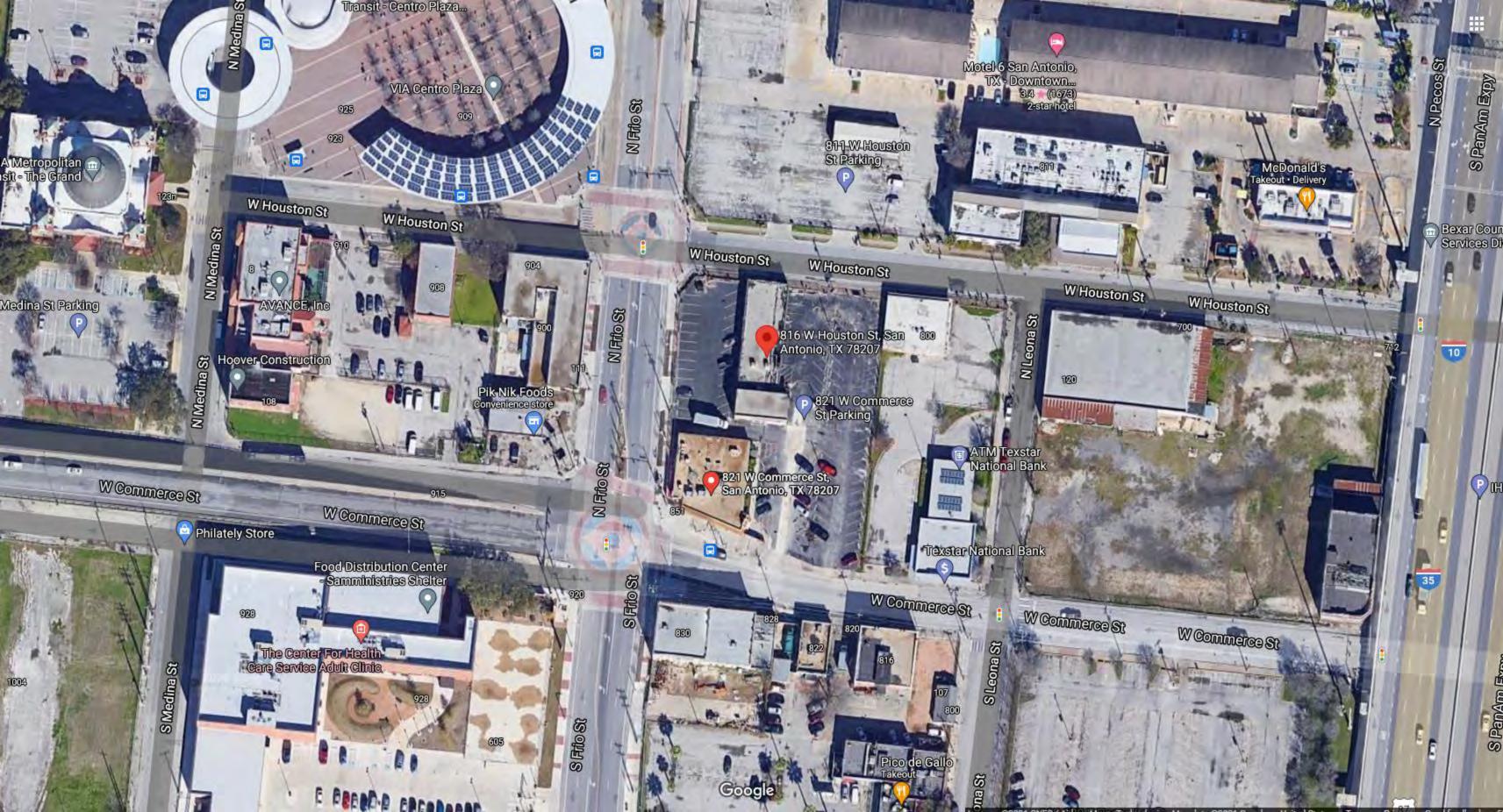
We are not quoting on the gummed stickers for windshields because the design does not lend itself for a good job. The shield has too much ink coverage and thus covers the gumming. This will keep it from adhering to the glass. May we suggest a decalcomania? There are several firms in Houston that can produce these decals. A good firm to see would be the firm of Wetmore & Co., 1015 S. Shepherd St., Phone Lynchburg 9126.

Yours very truly,

WHITT PRINTING THE HILL

City of San Antonio One Stop



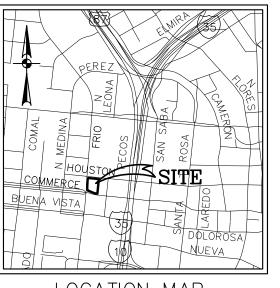












SCALE: 1"= 30'

L=40.19



ALTA/NSPS LAND TITLE SURVEY

BEING 1.129 ACRES OF LAND SITUATED IN THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, AND CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING TRACTS OF LAND:

TRACT 1: BEING ALL OF LOT 13, BLOCK 25, NEW CITY BLOCK 285, GOLDEN STAR SUBDIVISION, CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 9500, PAGE 65, OF THE DEED AND PLAT RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS.

TRACT 2: BEING 0.615 ACRES OF LAND, CONSISTING OF ALL OF LOTS 10 AND A12, AND THE REMAINING PORTION OF LOT 11, BLOCK 25, NEW CITY BLOCK 285, VISTA VERDE NORTH TEX. R-109 SUBDIVISION, UNIT 12, SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 9504, PAGE 45, OF THE DEED AND PLAT RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY,

O = MAG NAIL WITH SHINER SET (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) = (IPF) FND 1/2" IRON PINUNLÉSS OTHERWISE NOTED Co = POWER POLE \forall = GUY WIRE X = LIGHT POLE \triangle = TELEPHONE PEDESTAL \otimes = WATER VALVE W = WATER METER S = SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE (D) = STORM SEWER MANHOLE --- = SIGN = GUARD POST/ BOLLARD B.S.L. = BUILDING SETBACK LINE R.O.W. = RIGHT-OF-WAY() = RECORD INFORMATION DPRBCT = DEED AND PLAT RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

OPRBCT = OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

DRBCT = DEED RECORDS OF

OHE = OVERHEAD ELECTRIC P.O.B. = POINT OF BEGINNING

LEGEND:

- 1. BEARINGS BASED ON THE TEXAS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, TEXAS SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE (4204), NORTH
- AMERICAN DATUM 1983.
 2. SAID DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN AN AREA HAVING A ZONE DESIGNATION X BY FEMA, ON FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP NO. 48029C0395G, WITH A DATE OF IDENTIFICATION OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2010, FOR COMMUNITY NUMBER 480045, IN BEXAR COUNTY, STATE OF TEXAS, WHICH IS THE CURRENT FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP FOR THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH SAID PROPERTY IS SITUATED.
- THERE IS NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF ANY RECENT EARTH MOVING WORK, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OR BUILDING ADDITIONS ON THE SUBJECT TRACT.
- ONLY OBSERVED EVIDENCE OF UTILITIES WERE LOCATED AT THE TIME OF THIS SURVEY. THE SURVEYOR DID NOT SUBMIT ANY UTILITY LOCATE REQUESTS TO TEXAS 811 NOR A PRIVATE UTILITY LOCATING COMPANY.

 5. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF RECENT STREET OR SIDEWALK

TITLE COMMITMENT: CHICAGO TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY PROPOSED INSURED: GOLDEN STAR LOFTS, LLC GF# SCT-53-4300171900227-MB EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS: VOLUME 8281, PAGE 452, AND VOLUME 4891, PAGE 1267, OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS.

10.(g.) HISTORIC DESIGNATION VERIFIED CERTIFICATE, VOLUME 16817, PAGE 1967, OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS. (AFFECTS TRACTS 1 AND 2, NOT PLOTTABLE)

NOTE DESCRIPTION (TRACT 2):

BEING A 0.615 ACRE TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, BEING ALL OF LOTS 10 AND A12, AND ALL OF THE REMAINING PORTION OF LOT 11, BLOCK 25, NEW CITY BLOCK 285, VISTA VERDE NORTH TEX. R-109 SUBDIVISION, UNIT 12, SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 9504, PAGE 45, OF THE DEED AND PLAT RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, AND SAID 0.615 ACRE TRACT OF LAND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A $\frac{1}{2}$ " IRON PIN WITH CAP STAMPED 'DAM #5348 PROP COR." SET IN THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY (R.O.W.) LINE OF WEST HOUSTON STREET (A VARIABLE WIDTH PUBLIC R.O.W.), BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER A CALLED LOT A11 AND LOT A5, BLOCK 25, NEW CITY BLOCK 285, OF SAID VISTA VERDE NORTH TEX. R-109 SUBDIVISION, UNIT 12, AND BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 10 AND THIS HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT OF

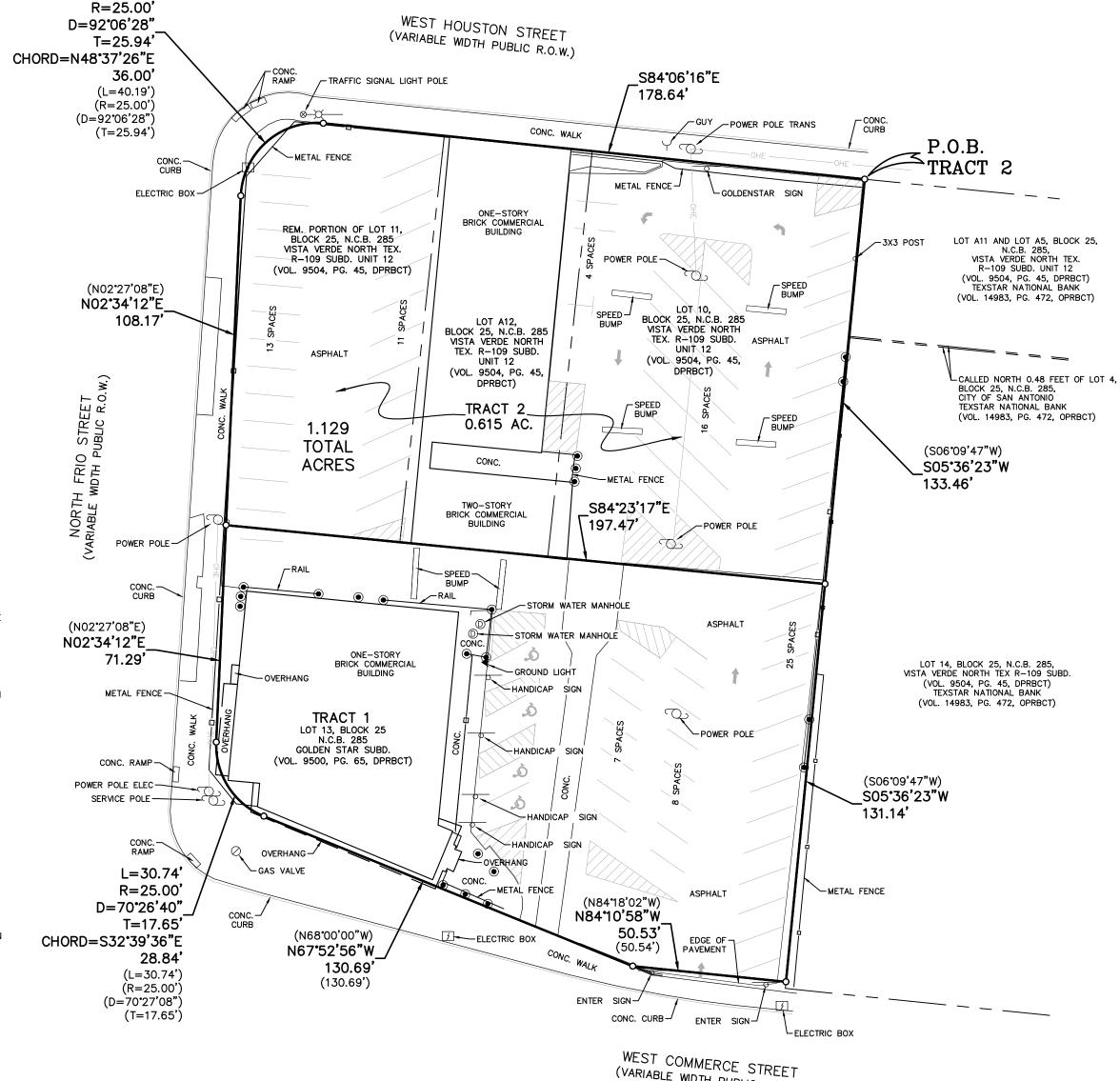
THENCE DEPARTING THE SOUTHERLY R.O.W. LINE OF SAID WEST HOUSTON STREET, WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT A11 AND LOT A5, WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF A CALLED NORTH 0.48 FEET OF LOT 4, BLOCK 25, NEW CITY BLOCK 285, CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, AS CONVEYED TO TEXSTAR NATIONAL BANK, AND RECORDED IN VOLUME 14983, PAGE 472, OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 14, BLOCK 25, NEW CITY BLOCK 285, OF SAID VISTA VERDE NORTH TEX. R-109 SUBDIVISION, UNIT 12, AND WITH THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 10, S 05° 36' 23" W, A DISTANCE OF 133.46 FEET TO A $\frac{1}{2}$ " IRON PIN WITH CAP STAMPED 'DAM #5348 PROP. COR." SET IN THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 14, BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 13, BLOCK 25, NEW CITY BLOCK 285, GOLDEN STAR SUBDIVISION, AS RECORDED IN VOLUME 9500, PAGE 65, OF THE DEED AND PLAT RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, AND BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 10 AND THIS HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT

THENCE WITH THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 13, AND WITH THE SOUTHERLY LINES OF SAID LOTS 10 AND A12 AND THE REMAINING PORTION OF SAID LOT 11, N 84° 23' 17" W, A DISTANCE OF 197.47 FEET TO A $\frac{1}{2}$ " IRON PIN WITH CAP STAMPED "DAM #5348 PROP. COR." SET IN THE EASTERLY R.O.W. LINE OF NORTH FRIO STREET (A VARIABLE WIDTH PUBLIC R.O.W.), BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 13, AND BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE REMAINING PORTION OF SAID LOT 11 AND THIS HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND;

THENCE WITH THE EASTERLY R.O.W. LINE OF SAID NORTH FRIO STREET, AND WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF THE REMAINING PORTION OF SAID LOT 11, N 02° 34' 12" E, A DISTANCE OF 108.17 FEET TO A ½" IRON PIN WITH CAP STAMPED "DAM #5348 PROP. COR." SET AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY END OF A CUTBACK LINE BETWEEN THE EASTERLY R.O.W. LINE OF SAID NORTH FRIO STREET AND THE SOUTHERLY R.O.W. LINE OF SAID WEST HOUSTON STREET, BEING AT THE BEGINNING OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, AND BEING THE MOST WESTERLY NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE REMAINING PORTION OF SAID LOT 11 AND THIS HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND;

THENCE WITH SAID CUTBACK LINE, WITH THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF THE REMAINING PORTION OF SAID LOT 11, AND WITH SAID CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING AN ARC LENGTH OF 40.19 FEET, A RADIUS OF 25.00 FEET, A DELTA ANGLE OF 92' 06' 28", A TANGENT LENGTH OF 25.94 FEET, AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF N 48° 37' 26" E, 36.00 FEET TO A 1/2" IRON PIN WITH CAP STAMPED "DAM #5348 PROP. COR." SET AT THE NORTHEASTERLY END OF SAID CUTBACK LINE, BEING IN THE SOUTHERLY R.O.W. LINE OF SAID WEST HOUSTON STREET, AND BEING THE MOST NORTHERLY NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE REMAINING PORTION OF SAID LOT 11 AND THIS HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND;

THENCE WITH THE SOUTHERLY R.O.W. LINE OF SAID WEST HOUSTON STREET, AND WITH THE NORTHERLY LINES OF SAID LOTS 10 AND A12 AND THE REMAINING PORTION OF SAID LOT 11, S 84° 06' 16" E, A DISTANCE OF 178.64 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 0.615 ACRES





5151 W. SH 46 NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78132 PH: 830.730.4449 DATE: MAY 2020 JOB: BRD359

ADDRESS: 821 WEST COMMERCE STREET

ALTA/NSPS CERTIFICATION

TO: CHICAGO TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY; YUEN KING LIM FAMILY, LLC, A TEXAS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; GOLDEN STAR CAFE, INC., A TEXAS CORPORATION;

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP OR PLAT AND THE SURVEY ON WHICH IT IS BASED WERE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2016 MINIMUM STANDARD DETAIL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTA/NSPS LAND TITLE SURVEYS, JOINTLY ESTABLISHED AND ADOPTED BY ALTA AND NSPS, AND INCLUDES ITEMS 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17 AND 19 OF TABLE A THEREOF. THE FIELD WORK WAS COMPLETED ON

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF ____

DREW A. MAWYER

(VARIABLE WIDTH PUBLIC R.O.W.)

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR NO. 5348







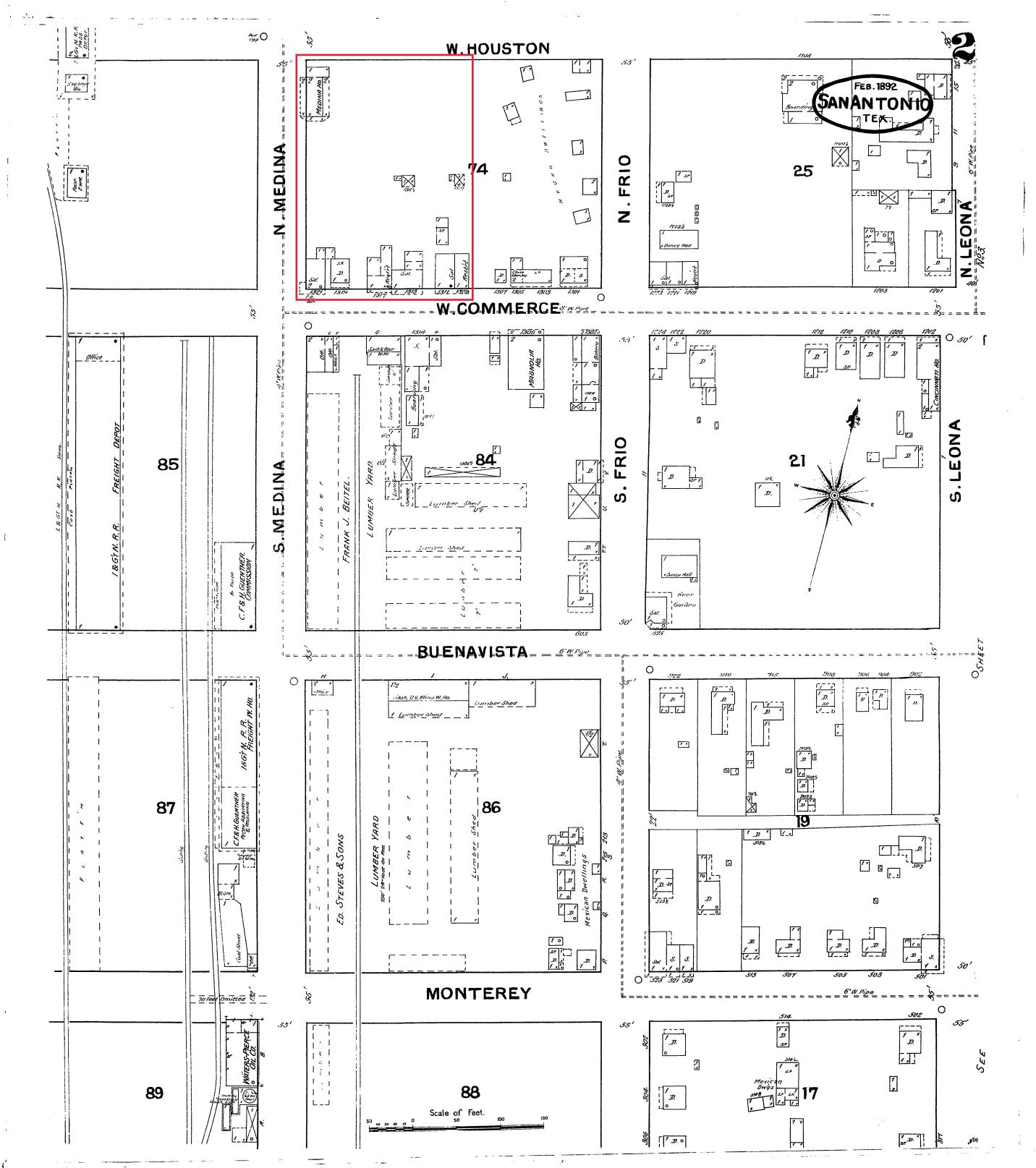


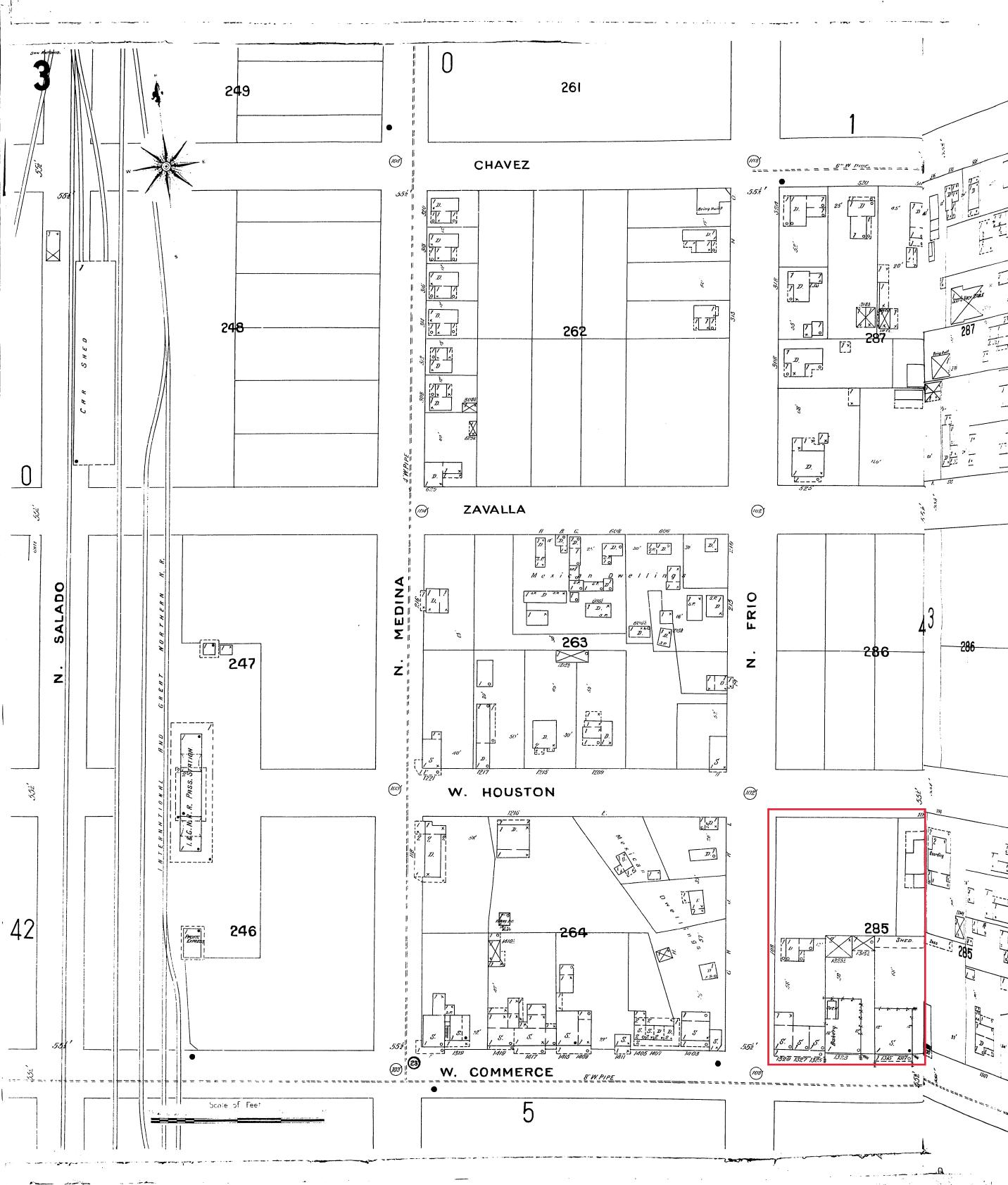


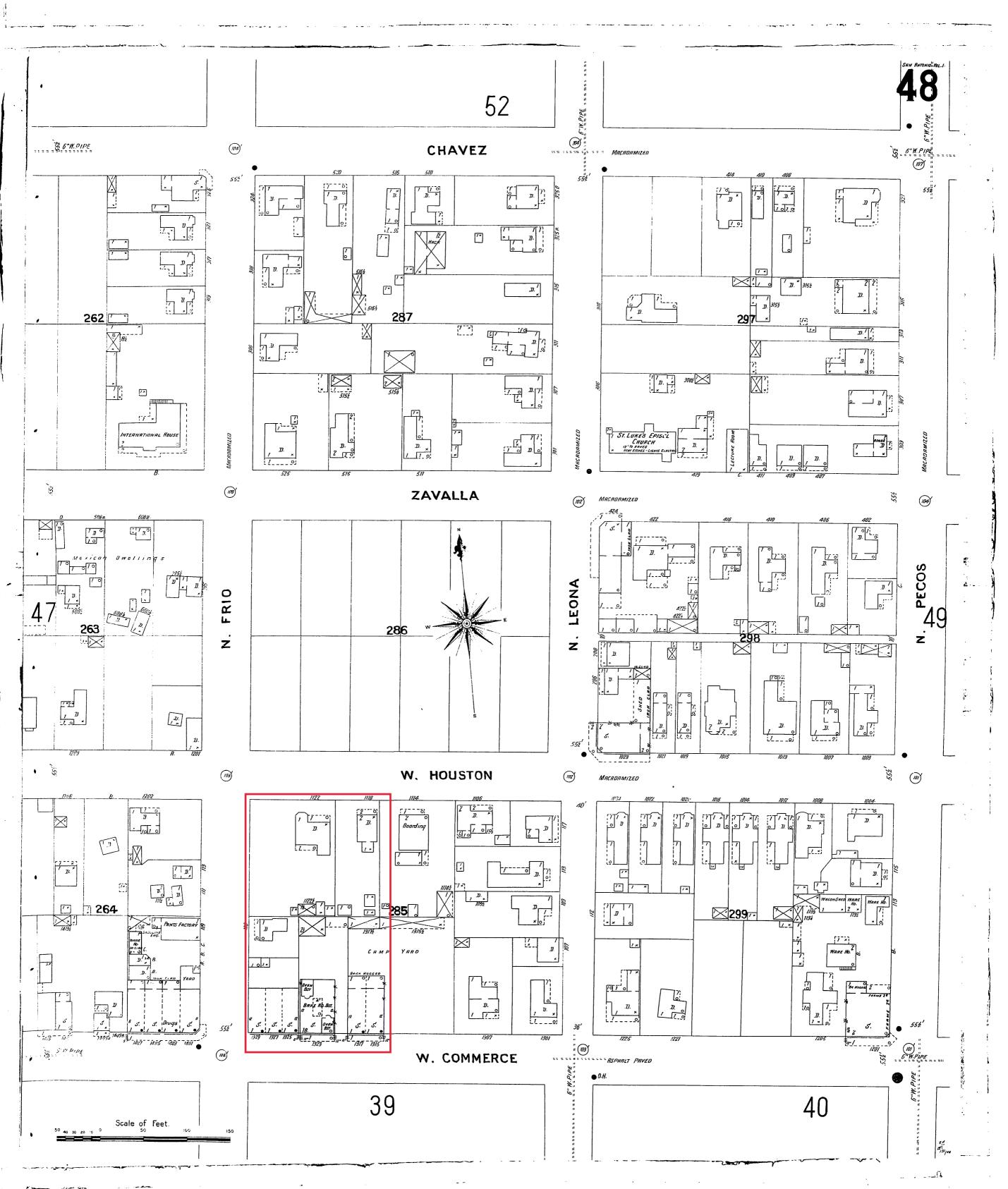


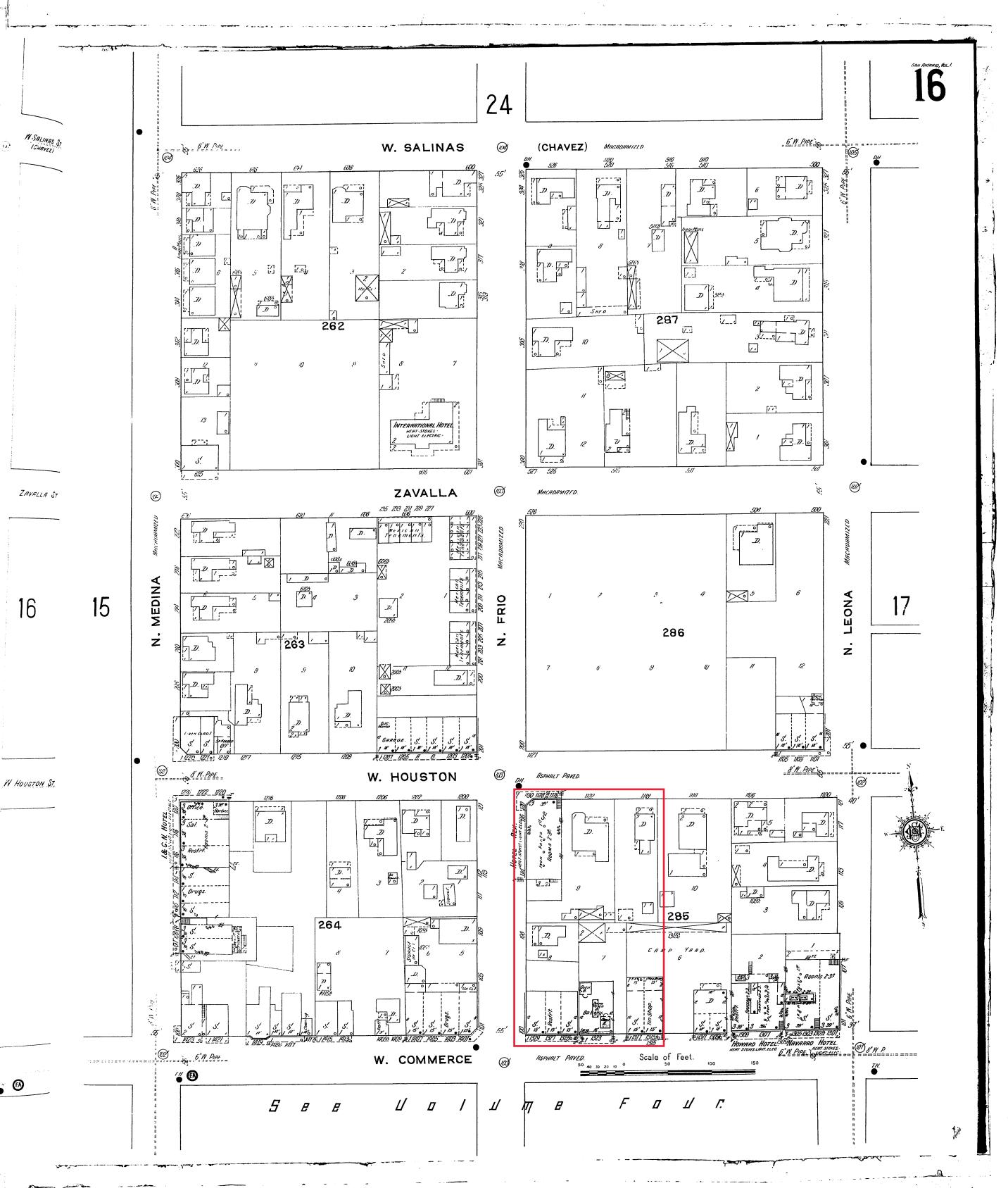














Original located at San Antonio Public Library Special Collections



Original located at San Antonio Public Library Special Collections







