

(Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Trolley Stop in Alamo Heights
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Bus Stop in Alamo Heights

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 4900 block of Broadway
CITY OR TOWN: Alamo Heights
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Bexar **CODE:** 029 **ZIP CODE:** 78209
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x nomination) (___ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (x meets) (___ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (___ nationally) (___ statewide) (x locally). (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___meets ___does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
___ entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ See continuation sheet		
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___ other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public - local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Structure

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	0	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	1	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: *The Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: Transportation / Rail-related = trolley stop
Recreation and Culture / Work of Art

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: Transportation / Road-related = bus stop
Recreation and Culture / Work of Art

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: Faux bois sculpture

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION
WALLS
ROOF
OTHER CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 5).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: B

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Art

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c.1927

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c.1927

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Dionicio Rodriguez

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheet 5).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 5).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	14	552043	3260385

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary encompasses an oval traffic island, approximately 32' long and 8' feet wide, and corresponding to the footprint of the resource, at the northwest corner of the intersection of Broadway and Patterson, San Antonio, Texas. The nomination encompasses only the structure, the original concrete island, and the ground upon which it stands.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Nomination includes all property historical associated with the structure

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patsy Light and Maria Pfeiffer

ORGANIZATION:

DATE: January 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 300 Argyle

TELEPHONE: (210) 824-5914

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-6)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: City of Alamo Heights (Susan Rash, City Administrator)

STREET & NUMBER: 6116 Broadway

TELEPHONE: (210) 822-3331

CITY OR TOWN: Alamo Heights

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7,8,9 Page 5

Trolley Stop in Alamo Heights
Alamo Heights, Bexar County, Texas

7. DESCRIPTION

The trolley stop on the corner of Broadway and Patterson Avenues is constructed of three large “tree trunks” (with branches serving as brackets) which support a gabled palapa roof. Wooden seating areas surround the base each trunk and each seat is different. One seat has areas where the “wood” has “decayed” leaving four “bark-covered” legs, another has a heavily grained seat that appears to be a “trunk” base that has “rotted” away underneath and the third is a solid “bark – covered trunk.” The entire structure sits on a base of “crosscut timbers.” The height of the structure is 9’9” inches, the width of the platform is 7’10” and the length is 32’2” inches. The platform is 9” high. Some color remains on the “trunks” and on the underside of the roof. When the street was widened and the median where the shelter was sited was removed in 1931, the structure was moved several yards to the west, and two original end sections with “branch” handrails were removed. The northernmost “tree trunk” seat appears to have been modified from its original design. The bronze plaque on the inside of the roof reads “Presented to the City of Alamo Heights by San Antonio Portland Cement Company Charles Baumberger, President.” The trolley stop, now used as a bus stop, belongs to the City of Alamo Heights.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The c.1927 trolley stop in Alamo Heights, Texas, is the only trolley stop known to have constructed by Dionicio Rodriguez, although the palapa (thatch) roof was an oft repeated detail in his work. The use of multiple large tree trunks as roof supports is not present in any known works as of 2002. This sculpture is the only extant Rodriguez piece known to have been presented as a gift by an individual (Charles Baumberger) to a municipality. The Trolley Stop is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, under Criterion C, in the Area of Art, at the local level of significance, as a work of art by noted sculptor Dionicio Rodriguez, as part of the Multiple Property Submission *Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*. The structure was moved a few yards from its original location in 1931 when the road was modified and the trolley stop was converted to a bus stop, but the property meets Criteria Consideration D (moved properties) as it retains its setting, orientation, and all the character-defining features that makes it recognizable as an important and distinctive work of art by noted sculptor Dionicio Rodriguez.

Charles Baumberger commissioned Rodriguez to construct a streetcar stop as a gift to the City of Alamo Heights, an incorporated municipality north of San Antonio’s city limits (photo 17). John Kite, former plant engineer with the San Antonio Transit Company who documented the City’s streetcar system, stated that the structure was so realistic, “...that I’ve even seen birds sit on it” (*North San Antonio Times*, nd). The shelter, located at Broadway and Patterson Avenues, is still used as a bus stop.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hermanson, Renee. “*Shelter May See Trolley Lines Again.*” The North San Antonio Times, San Antonio, Texas; November 6, 1980: p. 11.

Carson, Chris and William McDonald. *A Guide to San Antonio Architecture*. San Antonio, Texas: American Institute of Architects, San Antonio Chapter, 2986, p. 123.

Schmidt, Stanley. “The Concrete Art of Dionicio Rodriguez” (monograph based on interviews with J.R. Kagay and Richard Rodriguez, Sr.) n.d.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 6

Trolley Stop in Alamo Heights
Alamo Heights, Bexar County, Texas

PHOTO LOG

Palapa roofed trolley stop by Dionicio Rodriguez
Alamo Heights, Bexar County, Texas
Photographs by Patsy Light (except as noted)
July 1996 (except as noted)
Negatives on file with Patsy Light (except as noted)

Trolley stop
Camera facing southwest
Photo 1 of 2

Trolley stop
Camera facing east
Ca. 1926
Unknown photographer
Courtesy of Stanley Schmidt
Photo 2 of 2