

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Jacala Restaurant
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 2702 N. St. Mary's St. **NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio **VICINITY:** N/A
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Bexar **CODE:** 029 **ZIP CODE:** 78212

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (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 (meets) (does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally) (statewide) (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
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	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: COMMERCE/TRADE / restaurant

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE/TRADE / Professional = Art Studio

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: One-Part Commercial Block; Faux bois sculpture

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE
WALLS CONCRETE
ROOF ASPHALT
OTHER

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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Art

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c.1952

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c.1952

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Dionicio Rodriguez

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 6-7)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 7).

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	549772	3257986

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 1 &2, New City Block, 6518, H.C. Thorman Subdivision

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patsy Light and Maria Pfeiffer

ORGANIZATION:

DATE: February 2004

STREET & NUMBER: 300 Argyle

TELEPHONE: (210) 824-5914

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Figure-7)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-8)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Bernard Lifshutz

STREET & NUMBER: 701 N. St. Mary's St.

TELEPHONE: (210) 223-5161

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78205

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7. DESCRIPTION

The false front stepped façade of the building has a graduated height, beginning at the first offset which measures 22', the second, 24', and the third, 25'. The *faux bois* application by Rodriguez is the significant element of the front (west) façade of the building, which is 37'7" wide with a 20'9" angled wing on the north west. Unlike Rodriguez's simulated stone façade at the Cave of Machpelah in Memorial Gardens in Memphis, Jacala's front façade is clad with cement "wood" siding of 1' wide planed "boards." Heavily grained "split logs" are used for the window and door trim. "Pyramid-headed bolts" appear on the base of the building's "siding." A portico (6' wide, 6'4" deep and 9' high at the apex of the gable), supported by two 7'4" "tree trunks" (each with a planter applied to its side), is capped by a front gabled *palapa* roof. Two small windows flanking the front door are infilled with glass bricks. The *faux bois* work is in fair condition. Tenants throughout the years have applied numerous coats of paint on the "plank" siding, portico, and window and door trim which conceal some of the original sculptural quality of the work.

The building was originally all frame construction and rested on a cedar post foundation. During one remodeling, concrete was poured under portions of the floor. The north, south and east façades, faced with a combination of grooved plywood siding (T1-11) and brick cladding, evidence numerous remodeling efforts. The south elevation measures 65'3," and the walls are clad with three sections of the siding and one of brick. Three window openings have been boarded over. A 10' inset in this wall is centered with a door flanked on either side by two wooden columns that rest on square brick pillars. The wall of an obvious addition to the building's east elevation is covered with the plywood siding. The north elevation, that includes a 7'4" attached aviary, measures 56'5," is clad in siding, and is pierced by two sets of double French doors, a single French door, three single fixed panes, six high fixed panes, and a fixed pane mirrored window. Between this facade and the northern boundary of the property, which houses a corrugated metal storeroom and fence, is a paved patio and a grass garden area landscaped with numerous tropical plants. The roof of intersecting gables is capped with composition shingles. A wooden fence delineates the eastern boundary of the property, and a painted metal fence screens the street (west) side.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The former Jacala Restaurant at 2702 North St. Mary's St., San Antonio, Texas, features a false front *faux bois* façade, added to the building when the Quinones family opened their Jacala #3 restaurant ca. 1952. The building is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the area of Art, at the local level of significance, under the context *Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*, as one of only two known building facades attributed to noted sculptor Dionicio Rodriguez.

Deed Records in the Bexar County Clerk's office reveal the various property owners from 1922 to 2003. The first owner of the property was H.C. Thorman, a land developer, who platted the lots 1 and 2 in the H.C. Thorman subdivision in 1922. The address was listed for many years as 415 East French Place, as the land is on the corner of what was previously named Jones (now St. Mary's), and East French. He sold the property to Meta Klaus in May of 1923, who subsequently sold it to Lee Roy and Ella Russell in August of the same year. It can be assumed that they built a building on the lots where they operated the Community Store and lived in the rear until 1929, when they sold the property to real estate partners, Wayne Davis and Anacleto Martinez. Davis' widow, Jean sold to Martinez in 1930 who leased it to Fernando and Concepcion Rodriguez who opened Fred's Place Restaurant and also lived there. (at some undisclosed time, there was a house built which fronted on East French). Joe's Barber Shop was also listed at this address. Martinez sold the property

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to Fernando Martinez in 1932. By 1934, the address of the lots includes 2700 North St. Mary's, where Mrs. Natividad Anaya operated St. Mary's Inn until 1937. Sam's Barber Shop was also at this address. Mrs. Anaya lived in the house 415 East French. Several subsequent owners later, Mr. Thorman (Olmos Development Company) repurchased the property in 1935, and sold it to Lydia and Daniel Quinones in 1940. The Quinones opened Los Zarapes Restaurant until ca. 1943, but continued to occupy the French Place dwelling until 1948. The St. Mary's building was utilized as a residence and Sam's Barber Shop (1946), Dan's Home and Hardware Store (1948), and Earle Cobb School of Dancing and Earle Cobb, realtor (1951). At this time, Cobb was occupying both buildings.

By 1952, the St Mary's property was vacant, and Adele and Rudolph Quinones (son of Lydia and Daniel) began its remodeling for their Jacala Restaurant. (James Garza, relative of the Quinones family was living in the French Place house.). According to their daughter, Lucille Hooker, (Hooker to Light, 2003), her father felt the building "too plain," and engaged a group of craftsmen to apply the *fuax bois* façade. Carlos Cortes, nephew of Rodriguez's relative, credits Rodriguez with the work. In June 1962, Lydia Quinones (a widow by this time) sold the property to Rudolph and Adelfa, who owned it until 1984, when it was sold to Bernard Lifshutz and Arthur Veltman, Jr. The partners leased the building (which, at an undisclosed period, incorporated the French Place house) to several nightclubs/ bars, and during this time there were two fires, and the building was remodeled many times by subsequent tenants. At Veltman's death, the property reverted to his estate, and in 1994, the Lifshutz family purchased Veltman's interest.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cortes, Carlos. Interview with Patsy Light; February 20, 1998.

Conversations with Lucille Hooker, Cindy Roundtree, Adelfa Quinones, and Carmen Pfeininger

Bexar County Deed Records: Bexar County Courthouse: Vol. 642, p. 47; Vol. 722, p. 315; Vol. 737, p. 233; Vol. 1101, p. 385; Vol. 1319, p. 601; Vol. 1327, p. 413; Vol. 1459, p. 132; Vol. 1489, p. 440; No. 212170, WDVL & TRF; No. 42929, W/d; Vol. 5827, p. 923; Vol. 3036, p. 1156; Vol. 4540, p. 1755.

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Jacala Restaurant
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Plan (not to scale)

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Section Photo Page 8

Jacala Restaurant
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PHOTO LOG

Jacala Restaurant (now Atrvarks)
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
Photographs by Patsy Light
June 20, 2002
Negatives on file with Patsy Light

Building façade
Camera facing east
Photo 1 of 2

Portico
Camera facing northeast
Photo 2 of 2