

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Stations of the Cross and Grotto at the Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua  
**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** N/A

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 100 Peter Baque Road  
**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio  
**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**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A  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): _____	_____	_____

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**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Private

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** District

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	0	1 <b>BUILDINGS</b>
	0	0 <b>SITES</b>
	1	0 <b>STRUCTURES</b>
	14	0 <b>OBJECTS</b>
	15	1 <b>TOTAL</b>

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

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

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** Recreation and Culture / Work of Art  
Religion / Religious Facility

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** Recreation and Culture / Work of Art  
Religion / Religious Facility

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER:** Rock sculpture

**MATERIALS: FOUNDATION**

**WALLS**

**ROOF**

**OTHER CONCRETE; STONE/limestone, marble; OTHER: seashells**

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheet 5).

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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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### 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: A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Art

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1933-1936

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1933

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Dionicio Rodriguez

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 6 and 7).

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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**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**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

<b>UTM REFERENCES</b>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	14	551330	3263667

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** The nominated property is the western portion of the property described by the Bexar County Central Appraisal District as: "NCB 11928 BLK LOT 1,S IRR 531 FT OF 3 & S IRR 209.6 FTOF W IRR 120 FT OF 4," further described as: bounded by Peter Baque Road to the west; Lorenz Road to the north; and the Diocese of San Antonio property line, parking lot, and driveway to the east and south. This boundary is sketched on the accompanying map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Nomination includes all property historical associated with the resource.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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**NAME/TITLE:** Patsy Light and Maria Pfeiffer**ORGANIZATION:****DATE:** November 2003**STREET & NUMBER:** 300 Argyle**TELEPHONE:** (210) 824-5914**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio**STATE:** Texas**ZIP CODE:** 78209

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS****MAPS** (see continuation sheet Plan-8)**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-9)**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** Missionary Servants of Saint Anthony**STREET & NUMBER:** 100 Peter Baque Rd.**TELEPHONE:** (210) 824-4553**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio**STATE:** Texas**ZIP CODE:** 78209

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Stations of the Cross and Grotto at the Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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The stations and the grotto at the Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua in San Antonio, Texas, are aligned on a north-to-south axis along the east side of 100 Peter Baque Road, and the site is landscaped with two parallel rows of Pecan trees. The fourteen stations are identical upright objects of honeycomb limestone rock from the Texas Hill Country, each approximately 13 to 16 feet tall. The property is anchored at the north end by a honeycomb rock grotto with a central gated arched opening. Recently moved onto the site is a 2-story stuccoed chapel, which now sits facing east between stations 1 and 2.

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The fourteen stations are identical upright structures of honeycomb limestone rock from the Texas Hill Country, and are 5'5" wide, 3' in depth and range from approximately 13' to 16' tall. Their parapet walls are capped by three rock pinnacles. Below the pinnacles, an applied cement Celtic cross is placed above three arched cement blocks, which bear the Roman numerals of the station. Below the numerals, at approximately the mid point of each station, there is an inset marble relief carving of an individual scene from the Via Dolorosa (path walked by Jesus). The 23" by 21" marble plaque is bordered by a band of small stones. The names of the donor family are incised on a concrete plaque just below. Below this plaque is a small shelf of cut stones that serves as an altar rail for the 16" high rock kneeling platform below. A course of cut stones curves over an arch above the kneeling bench and continues around the sides. The benches are irregularly cut stones that rest on two smaller stones. Some of the stations have broken and/or missing pinnacles, but otherwise, they are in good condition.

The honeycomb rock grotto is sited at the north end of the property. The south (front) façade is topped with two 4' high pinnacles centered with a statue of St. Anthony. The grotto is 14'6" high and 18' long. The interior ceiling is concave and the rear and the sidewalls are faced with honeycomb rock covered with various seashells, similar to the conch shell encrusted sound cave at Eddingston Court in Port Arthur, Texas. A statue of the Virgin Mary is elevated on a platform of rock over a kneeling nun figure bearing an inscribed plaque which reads "Recuerdo de las snrs. Sarlat" (*in remembrance of Mr. and Mrs. Sarlat*). A baptismal font of rock is built into the west wall. The grotto is in good condition.

In 2002, a chapel (noncontributing) was moved 1200 feet to the northern end of the property west of the large church between Station VII and Station VIII near the grotto, and is being remodeled (2003) as an adoration chapel. Lloyd W. Jary, FAIA, is the restoration architect, and the work was funded by individual donors and an original \$2500 grant from the San Antonio Conservation Society (*North San Antonio Times*, 1990). In addition to its stucco exterior (resembling plaster finish), the church exhibits other stylistic elements reminiscent of Spanish mission architecture: an *espadana* façade pierced by an open niche which originally housed a bell, and two open oculi on lower projections. It is a simple rectangular building placed (during its recent relocation), on an east-west axis with its main (east) façade facing a parking area and the west façade of the large 1954 church. It has a 35' long x 20' wide nave terminating in a 17' long elevated domed altar on its western end. A wing projects from the southern façade. A quatrefoil window with alternating rose and blue glass panes is above the main entrance, a square door frame capped with an arched opening with panes of blue and rose glass. Two frosted glass 2/2 windows with green and blue glass arches and two plain frosted glass windows frame the doorway. Fenestration on both the south and north facades includes four 4/4 frosted glass paned windows capped with rose and green glass paned arches. The west façade has two 2/2 green glass windows with arches of blue and green glass. The 1'x6" long-leaf pine floors, wooden stairs and choir loft on the eastern end of the building are being refinished. The building's original foundation of cedar posts has been replaced with concrete blocks. A standing seam metal roof caps the front gabled nave, the hipped roof gable over the altar and side gabled roof over the east wing. When the chapel is complete, the altar will house the original statues of Mary and Joseph in niches on the right and left sides and the five-foot high statue of St. Anthony on a pedestal at the rear of the altar.

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Stations of the Cross and Grotto at the Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua

Section 8, 9 Page 6 San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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## Statement of Significance

The Stations of the Cross (1936) and Grotto (1933) at the Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua in San Antonio were constructed by artist Dionicio Rodriguez, under the supervision of Reverend Peter Baque. The property is a distinct and separately-owned parcel of a church parish established in 1925 to serve the families of the Cementville settlement, employees of the nearby Alamo Portland Cement Company. The property is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the area of Art, at the local level of significance, as the work of noted sculptor Dionicio Rodriguez, as part of the Multiple Property Submission *Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*. The property meets Criteria Consideration A (religious properties) because it derives significance primarily as a work of art.

In 1908, Alamo Portland Cement (later Alamo Cement Company) moved its operations from Brackenridge Park to a site five miles north of the city limits (at that time) where in 2003 Jones Maltsberger Road intersects US Highway 281. The company built ninety- one three room cottages adjacent to the plant and rented them to its employees and their families, many of them Catholic Mexicans who had fled Mexico during the revolution. This settlement, Cementville, was several miles from the nearest Catholic church, St. Peter Prince of the Apostles, in Alamo Heights. In 1925, Archbishop Arthur J. Drossaerts assigned St. Peter's priest, Reverend Peter Baque, (a native Spanish speaker from the Basque area of Spain) to establish a church for the Cementville families. Rev. Baque, realizing that at that time there was no church or shrine honoring the patron saint of the city, named the shrine for Saint Anthony of Padua. The first church was a small wooden building, which was replaced by a stucco structure (1928) that served as a church until 1954, when a new sanctuary was completed (*San Antonio Express News* 2001: 5G) Father Baque not only supervised the construction of the 1928 church, originally sited near the southern boundary of the property at the corner of Nottingham and Peter Baque Road, but also the construction of the 1933 grotto, and the 1936 Stations of the Cross.

Dionicio Rodriguez is credited with building the Stations of the Cross and the grotto west of the original church. Rodriguez's client, President of Alamo Portland Cement Company Charles Baumberger, donated one of the stations. The honeycomb rock of the grotto and the stations was also used by Rodriguez for construction of an additional project in Texas, the grotto at the Moye Military Academy in Castroville, Texas. These Stations of the Cross are one of two that Rodriguez built; the other is in the Township of Cambridge, Michigan. The Saint Anthony Shrine grotto and Stations are the property of the Missionary Servants of St. Anthony.

The St. Anthony Shrine grotto and Stations are the property of the Missionary Servants of St. Anthony, an order founded by Reverend Baque to serve the residents of Cementville. Originally a lay society of Catholic women working with poor Mexican Catholic families, their first Mother Superior, Mother Theresa Edwards, was a widowed 60 year old mother of 11, grandmother of 18 and great-grandmother of 6. (*Today's Catholic* 1966). These early sisters established a clinic and St. Anthony's Nursery School at the Shrine. In addition, they operated a day care center and St. Anthony's Working Girls' Home at another site. The order received apostolic appointment in 1956, and in 2003 it operates Padua Place, a home for retired priests, a day care learning center and St. Anthony Retreat Center. (Domagalski to Light).

Manuela Theall recalls that either before or after she traveled with Rodriguez in the 1930s, he built the Stations of the Cross and the grotto at St. Anthony of Padua Shrine (Theall to Light). The church, founded by Father Peter Baque in 1925, was located near the Alamo Cement Company's employee housing, "Cementville," and served as the parish church for the inhabitants of the settlement. Maria Ciarrochi writes that Father Baque supervised the building of the shrine, the stations and the grotto (Ciarrochi 1996; 3). Each station, built of Edwards honeycomb limestone rock, is capped by two

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Section 8, 9 Page 7 Stations of the Cross and Grotto at the Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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pinnacles, and at eye level is a relief carved marble plaque with a scene from the “Way of the Cross.” Inscribed below the plaque is the name of the donor of the station. Rodriguez’s patron, Charles Baumberger, donated one of the stations. The grotto, constructed of the same rock as the stations, has an interior lined with seashells similar to an earlier work in Port Arthur (Eddingston Court). The numerals “1939” are etched into the sidewalk leading to the entrance of the grotto. The construction style and incorporation of Edwards’ limestone are similar to the grotto at Moye Retreat Center in Castroville, Texas, that was built and signed by Rodriguez in 1945.

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Allen, Paula. “Cementville’s Little Shrine is Still A Treasure.” *San Antonio Express News*, San Antonio, Texas; December 23, 2001, p. 5 G.

Ciarrochi, Maria. “A place to pray.” *Today’s Catholic*, San Antonio, Texas: March 15, 1996.

Theall, Manuela Vargas. Taped interview with Patsy Light; June 22, 2000 (by special arrangement with Johanna Phelan). Telephone conversations, March 27, 2002, April 3, 2002, and May 30, 2002.

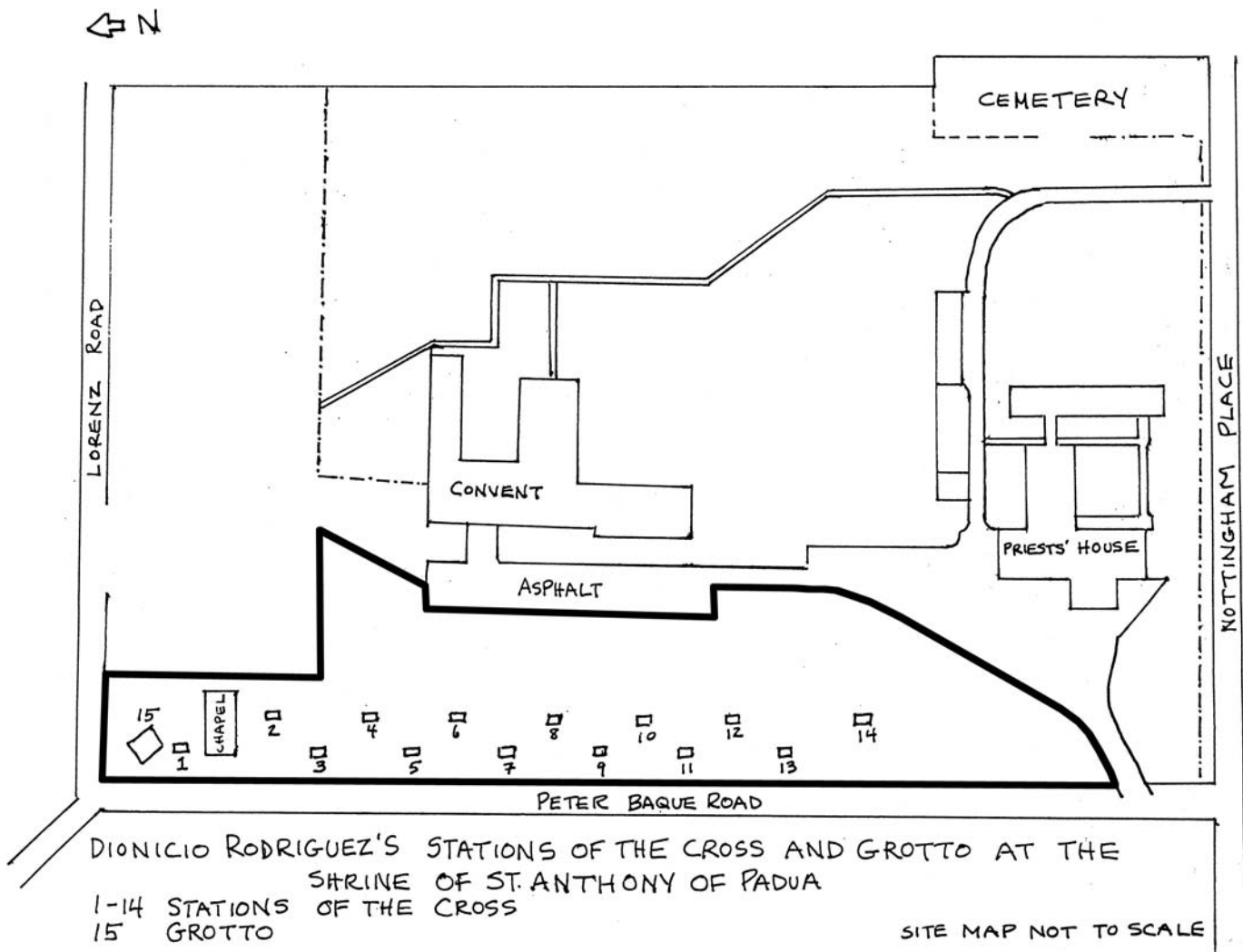
Vertical files of the San Antonio Conservation Society.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Plan Page 8 Stations of the Cross and Grotto at the Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Plan (no scale)  
Nominated area indicated by bold line on lower edge of map





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Section Photo Page 9

Stations of the Cross and Grotto at the Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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**PHOTO LOG**

Sculptures by Dionicio Rodriquez at Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas  
Photographs by Patsy Light  
Negatives on file with Patsy Light

Station of the Cross (one of fourteen)  
October 2002  
Camera facing west  
Photo 1

Grotto  
October 2002  
Camera facing north  
Photo 2

Stations amongst pecan trees  
October 2003  
Camera facing northwest  
Photo 3

Chapel (noncontributing)  
West elevation, camera facing east  
October 2003  
Photo 4