

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Dionicio Rodriguez Bridge in Brackenridge Park  
**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** N/A

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 400 N. St. Mary's Street  
**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio  
**STATE:** Texas      **CODE:** TX      **COUNTY:** Bexar      **CODE:** 029  
**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A  
**VICINITY:** N/A  
**ZIP CODE:** 78205

**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:** Public - local

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Structure

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	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:** *Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** Recreation and Culture/Work of Art; TRANSPORTATION/pedestrian related = bridge

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** Recreation and Culture/Work of Art; TRANSPORTATION/pedestrian related = bridge

**7. DESCRIPTION**

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** OTHER: Faux bois sculpture

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION  
 WALLS  
 ROOF  
 OTHER CONCRETE

**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:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Art

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** c.1926

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** c.1926

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Dionicio Rodriguez

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheet 5).

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**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:

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**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	551535	3259603

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** The bridge is at the north section of Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Texas. The nomination encompasses only the bridge, any related structural components, and the ground upon which it stands.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** The nomination boundary is drawn to include only the bridge itself and related structural components.. Although the park itself may be eligible, it has not yet been evaluated due to the specific focus of this theme (*Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez*).

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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**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

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS****MAPS****PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-6)**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** City of San Antonio, Parks and Recreation Dept. (ATTN: Malcolm Matthews, Director)**STREET & NUMBER:** 115 Plaza de Armas**TELEPHONE:** (210) 207-8480**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio**STATE:** Texas**ZIP CODE:** 78205

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7,8,9 Page 5

Dionicio Rodriguez Bridge in Brackenridge Park  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

The Dionicio Rodriguez-designed bridge is at the far north section of Brackenridge Park in San Antonio, near the Hildebrand entrance to the park. The bridge is a 98-foot-long rustic bridge, which spans a flood channel of the San Antonio River, featuring 33 pairs of vertical “tree trunks” which support an arbor-type roof of deeply grained “branches.” The height of the structure is 7’2”. Three-foot high hand rail “branches” placed at 4’ intervals are infilled with intertwined cross “branches,” similar to the fence at the Alamo Portland Cement Company office. Crosscut planks (each 11” wide) form the walkway. The ends of several of these planks extend outside the base of the bridge that is 5 ½’ wide. Found throughout the structure are “insect borings,” “knotholes,” “bark” textures and “branches” with cut ends. A 6’ long “tree root” extends out from the supporting “trunk” on the right side of the southern end. “D. Rodriguez” is incised in the right hand upright “trunk” on the north end of the bridge, although Maximo Cortes and Sam Murray were assistants on the project. In 2002, Carlos Cortes (the son of Maximo Cortes), restored the bridge.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Dionicio Rodriguez completed numerous works for the City of San Antonio installed in Brackenridge, Pittman-Sullivan, and Buckeye Parks, Alamo Plaza (NR Historic District, 1977) and the garden of the Spanish Governor’s Palace (NR 1970). Two of his best-known pieces – a footbridge over the old waterworks channel and the entrance to the Japanese Tea Garden – are located in Brackenridge Park. The “wooden” footbridge was built c.1926. The curved structure parallels a bend in the road and resembles an elongated arbor. The realism of the structure’s detailing was described by *Popular Mechanics* magazine in 1927. “...where stripped bark exposed the channel made by some wood borer, a spot where some industrious woodpecker sought a grub. Park attendants say this bridge even fools the woodpeckers.” Although Rodriguez would later build many bridges, this design remains unique and was not replicated at any other known site. “D. Rodriguez” is incised in one of the horizontal “branches” near the northern end of the bridge. Sam Murray and Maximo Cortes are said to have been assistants on the project (Cortez to Light; Murray to Light and Pfeiffer).

The Dionicio Rodriguez-designed bridge in Brackenridge Park is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the area of Art, as a unique and significant work of art by the noted San Antonio sculptor. The bridge, along with other works for the City of San Antonio, are the only known Rodriguez projects commissioned by a municipality.

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barker, W.E. “Beauty in Concrete Wood,” *Popular Mechanics*, October 1927: pp. 585-587.

Bechtol, Ron. “Home is Where the Art Is.” *San Antonio Light*, San Antonio, Texas: April 1, 1984, pp. 29-33.

St. Louis Missouri, Kansas Texas Railroad. *San Antonio, As Seen by a Northern Visitor*, 1930, pp. 14, 21.

Tyler, Ron. ed.et.al. *New Handbook of Texas History, Vol. 5*: Austin: The Texas Historical Assoc., 1996. pp. 652-653.

Vertical files of Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section Photo Page 6

Dionicio Rodriguez Bridge in Brackenridge Park  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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### PHOTO LOG

Rustic bridge by Dionicio Rodriguez in Brackenridge Park  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas  
Photographs by Patsy Light  
July 1996  
Negatives on file with Patsy Light

Rustic bridge  
Camera facing southeast  
Photo 1 of 2

Rustic bridge  
Camera facing northeast  
Photo 2 of 2