

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Texas	
COUNTY: McLennan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Waco Suspension Bridge #300497	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Bridge Street and Brazos River			
CITY OR TOWN: Waco			
STATE: Texas	CODE: 42	COUNTY: McLennan	CODE: 309

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: City of Waco			
STREET AND NUMBER: 90 Planning Dept POB of 1370			
CITY OR TOWN: Waco	STATE: Texas	CODE: 42	76703

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: City of Waco			
STREET AND NUMBER: Street and Bridge Department			
CITY OR TOWN: Waco	STATE: Texas	CODE: 42	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: None			
DATE OF SURVEY: _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An early suspension bridge with two double cable towers of pink brick (now stoccoed) with superimposed arches connecting the two piers of each tower and crossing the road bed. Toll houses and walls terminate both ends of the bridge. The original crenellation, pierced openings, and fine detail has been removed or stuccoed over, but the general lines of the structures are still architecturally interesting. The toll houses have stepped gable roofs, parapets, and round arched openings now closed up.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1870

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☒ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☒ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☒ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Waco suspension bridge was the first bridge across the Brazos river and the longest single span suspension bridge in the world when it was built.¹ It was chartered by Waco stockholders November 1, 1866. Col. John T. Flint, President of the Waco Bridge Company, went to New York and contacted the John A. Roebling Company (the Brooklyn Bridge was completed in 1883). The engineer Thomas M. Griffith was sent to Waco to design the bridge. It has a 475 foot span and the cable and pieces were tooled at eastern foundaries and shipped to Galveston. They were then sent on part of the way by rail and the rest of the way by ox teams. Thousands and thousands of local brick were used.

The bridge was opened January 7, 1870 and functioned for twenty years as a toll bridge with a 24 hour toll keeper. On September 1, 1889, it was purchased by McLennan county for \$75,000 and conveyed to the city for one dollar.

A severe flood in 1885 damaged the east approach and a steel span was built for this section. Later the windows and doors of the anchor houses and towers were closed and the brick construction was covered with plaster.

The bridge is still in daily use.

¹

O'Dowd, M. A., The Magic Bridge

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

O'Dowd, Mary Alice. The Magic Bridge, Waco, The Heritage Society of Waco, n.d., Pamphlet, 4pp.

Liecke, Jay; Mogas, Richard; Fields, Earl. Waco Suspension Bridge. unpublished student paper. Architecture archives, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, n.d.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		31° 33' 38"	97° 07' 38"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wayne Bell, Project Director Roxanne Williamson, Architectural Historian (SB)	
ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Survey Committee	DATE 3/25/70
STREET AND NUMBER: 108 W. 15th Street,	
CITY OR TOWN: Austin	STATE Texas
	CODE 042

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Quett Jalene

Title

State Liaison Officer

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

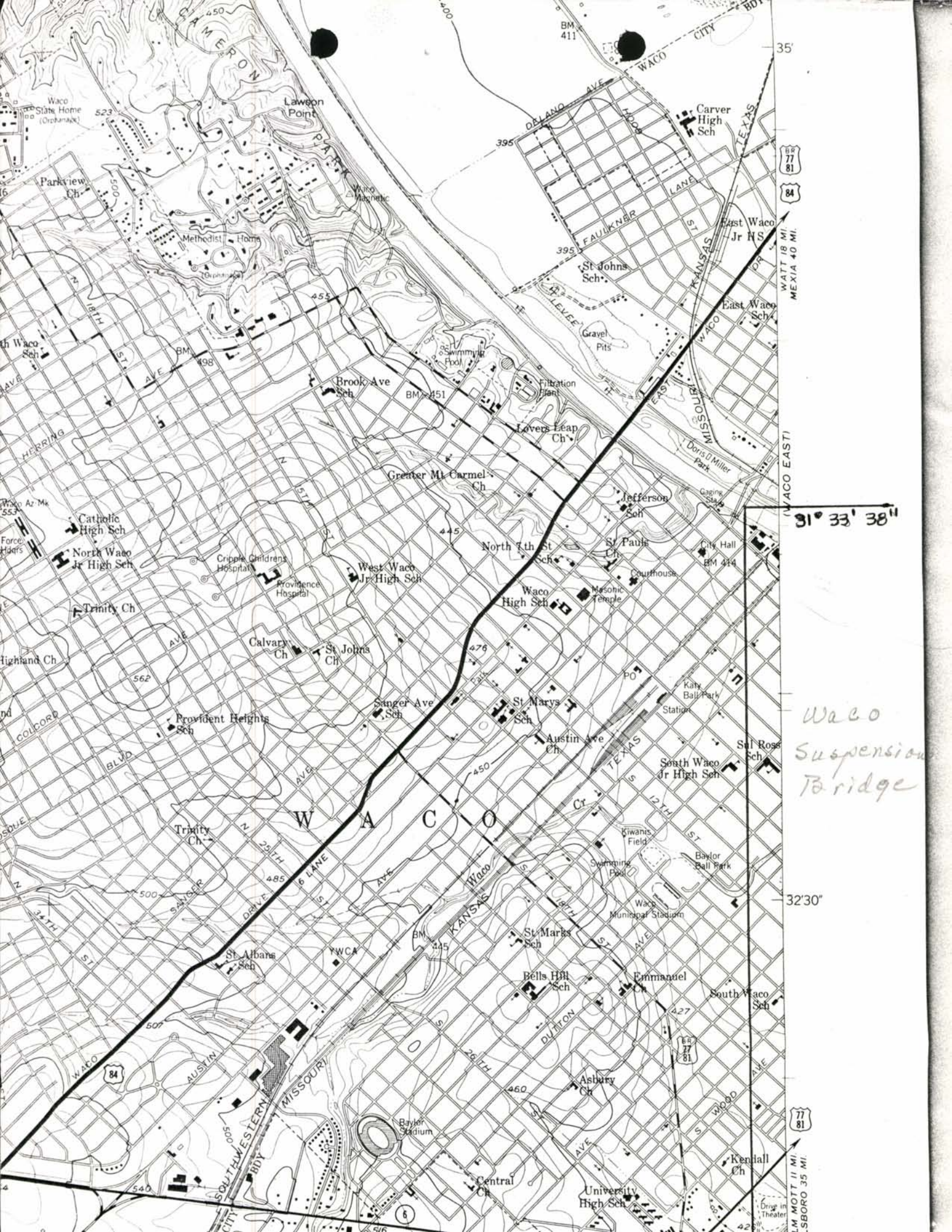
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



77
81
84

WACO 18 MI.
MEXIA 40 MI.

WACO EAST

31° 33' 38"

Waco
Suspension
Bridge

32° 30'

77
81

WACO 18 MI.
MEXIA 40 MI.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

Acreage of nominated property: approx. 8 acres

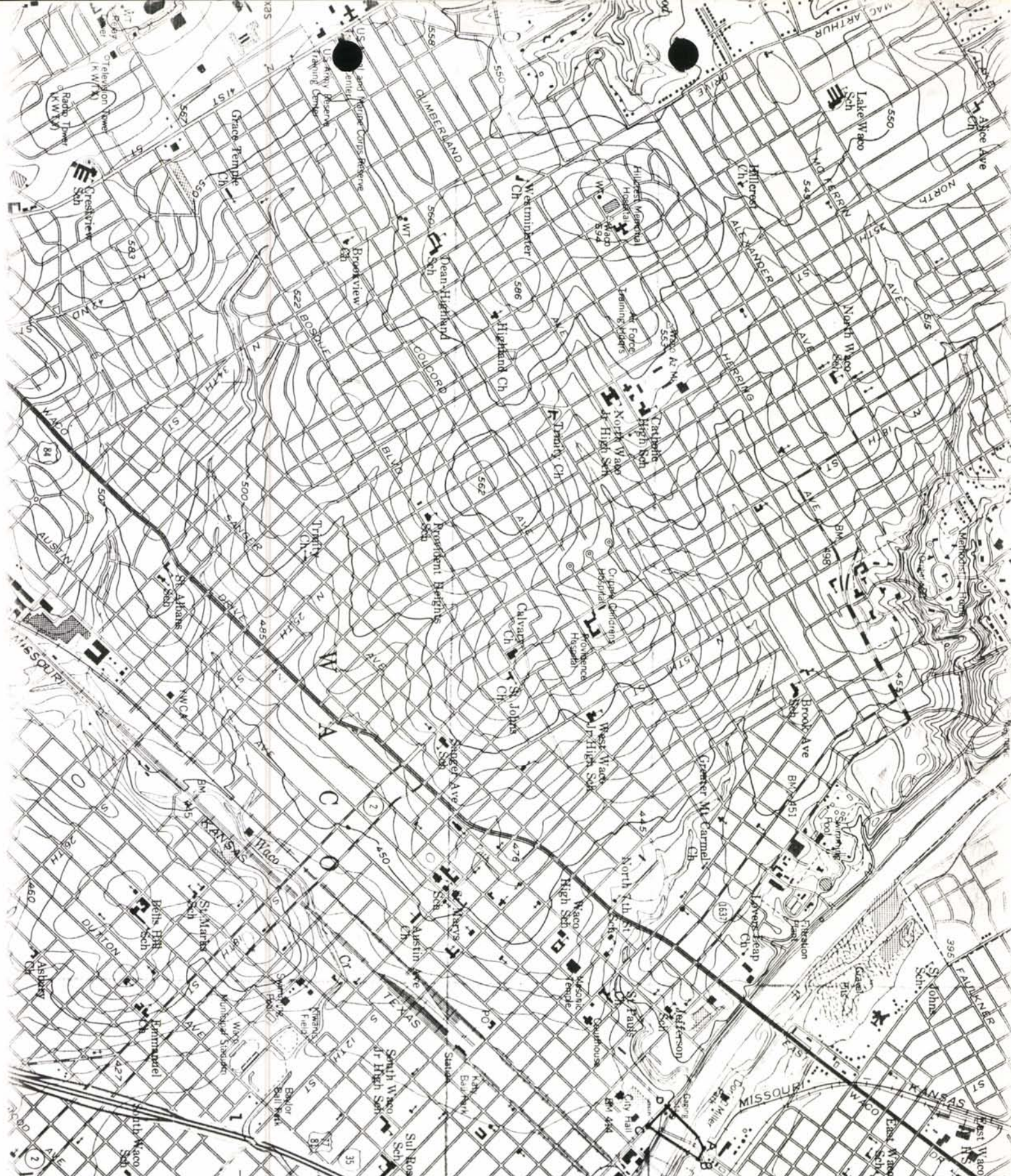
Quadrangle name: Waco West, Texas

Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References: A)14/677800/3493265
B)14/677860/3493245
C)14/677700/3493000
D)14/677600/3493085

Verbal boundary description:

The nominated property is bounded by University Parks Drive, Washington Ave., Lake Brazos Drive, and Franklin Ave.



WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE

BRIDGE STREET & BRAZOS RIVER
WACO, MCLENNAN COUNTY, TEXAS

- UTM REFERENCE: A) 14/677800/3493265
B) 14/677960/3493245 C) 14/677700/3493000
D) 14/677600/3493085

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE TEXAS	
COUNTY McLennan	
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AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:		Bridge Street and Brazos River	
CITY OR TOWN:		Waco	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	042	McLennan	309
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Texas Historical Survey Committee	
DATE OF PHOTO:		October 5, 1969	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Texas Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Cable anchor at toll house			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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Tower spanning roadway			

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of bridge approach			

Form 10-301
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:		United States Department of Interior Geological Survey	
SCALE:		1:24000	
DATE:		1956	
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.		Texas Map Reference #3197-412	
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

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Toll houses			

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of approach and bridge			

