HIDALGO PARK QUIOSCO

The Quiosco in Houston's Hidalgo Park was built for use as a bandstand and served for many years as an active focal point for the surrounding Hispanic-La-Mexican-American community. At grade below the elevated floor of the pavilion is a enclosed storage space. The building is constructed entirely of reinforced concrete; all exposed surfaces are covered with hand-molded textured concrete. The exterior walls bear a stone texture. The floor resembles wood pattern; the roof suggests shingle, and the ceiling resembles thatch. The railing is made to imitate tree branches and the eight columns are formed like tree trunks, each with a different grain texture.

In 1926, members of the community began a fund drive to build the Quiosco as a gift to the city. The structure was subsequently designed and built by Houston architect Vidal Lozano, and was completed in 1929. Shortly thereafter, the city initiated park improvements under the direction of Kansas City landscape architects Hare & Hare; although the park layout was subsequently changed, most original trees remain. Aside from the addition of new lights, fixtures and a sensitive exterior decoration in 1959, the Quiosco remains in its original condition.

HIDALGO PARK QUIOSCO

The Quiosco has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register. The building is important for several reasons; it is the earliest documented structure in Houston designed and built by a Mexican-American. It is the only remaining historic public structure in the vicinity of the port of Houston; and it is the best example of textured concrete construction which has its origins in the traditional arts of Mexico.

Documentation was undertaken by the Summer of 1987 by graduate students Mohammed Al-Daher, Elan Ortie, Carla Shannon, Christopher Shanks, Aneke St. Cyr and Darrell Winkley of the University of Houston, under the direction of James P. Arnold with the assistance of David Mankin, P.T., O.T., and Karen Brasier. Soil total station surveying technology and digital photography were utilized in the field and documentation was used in the preparation of the final drawings.

This project was organized by Adjunct Professor Barry Root, director of the Center for Historical Architecture at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture of the University of Houston.

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HOUSTON MEXICANS TO THEIR CITY V LOZANO

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