

Ball House  
120 King William Street  
San Antonio, Bexar County  
Texas

HABS No. TEX-3151

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TEX  
18-SANT  
27-

PHOTOGRAPH  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction  
1000 Geary Street  
San Francisco, California

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT  
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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BALL HOUSE

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

ADDRESS: 120 King William Street  
OWNER: Roy G. and Alma Yates  
OCCUPANT: Roy G. and Alma Yates  
USE: Private Home  
ARCHITECT  
& BUILDER: Unknown

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

A well preserved example of early indigenous domestic architecture in San Antonio, the product of a Middle European immigrant family.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Joseph and John Ball came to San Antonio from Elmendorf, a community about fifteen miles to the south. John Ball went to work for John Kampmann, architect and builder, and is said to have built the house, and a companion house on the adjoining lot northeast at 116 King William Street (which has been remodeled into a two-story dwelling). This would date the house circa 1868.

The architectural character, however, is earlier, and it is remotely possible that the houses were built by John Groesbeck, circa 1856, owner of the property during that period. There are no records to substantiate either theory.

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Alterations and Additions: A 10' x 20' frame addition at rear of house, flush with southeast corner, contains an extra room and a screened porch. Running water, bath and kitchen facilities under the roof of the original house were installed when they became available.

REFERENCES

Bexar County Deed Records, 1823, Vol. A2, p. 214.  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1827, Vol. 2 (Spanish) p. 184.  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1849, Vol. H1, p. 141.  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1849, Vol. I2, p. 375.  
Bexar County Probate Records, 1854, Estate #412.  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1854, Vol. M1, p. 111.  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1868, Vol. U2, p. 449.  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1893, Vol. 123, p. 193.  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1898, Vol. 164, p. 536.  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1928, Vol. 1061, p. 133.  
(The Deed Records and Probate Records given show property transfers from Antonio and Geronimo Huizar to Ramon Musquiz in 1823; Ramon Musquiz to Juliana Bosque in 1827; Manuel Cabrera to Jno James in 1849; Jno James to Lewis & Groesbeck in 1849; Lewis & Groesbeck to Jno French in 1854; Jno French to John Groesbeck in 1856; Mollie Groesbeck to Phoebe Groesbeck in 1863; Phoebe Groesbeck to John and Joseph Ball in 1868; the two houses and properties were then split, and Joseph Ball (the second) sold this house to F. V. and Cora Alter in 1928; the Alters sold the house to the Yates, present owners, in 1944.)  
Bexar County Deed Records, 1944, Vol. 2073, p. 523  
San Antonio, by Charles Ramsdell, p. 156, published by the University of Texas Press in 1959.  
Mrs. F. V. Alter, 122 King William Street, San Antonio, Texas  
Mrs. Joseph Ball, 204 Nolan Street, San Antonio, Texas.  
(Mrs. Ball is now 92 years old; she is the widow of the second Joseph Ball, son of the elder John Ball; the Joseph Ball who came from Elmendorf with John was his brother.)

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Architectural Character: The original house is one-story rectangular (square or nearly square) with gabled roof and a porch across the front. The floor line is about 15 inches above grade.

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Condition of Fabric: Good.

#### EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions: 36' wide by 36' deep, one-story, including 8' wide front porch, but not including 10' x 20' screened porch and bath at rear.

Foundations: Continuous natural stone with stone-walled cellar under southeast bed room, approached by interior wood stair.

Wall Construction: 12" to 16" thick stone masonry, plastered both sides.

Porches: Cement floor (originally wood) with boxed wood posts, exposed rafters and 1" x 12" roof sheathing.

Chimneys and Fireplaces: One fireplace with wood mantel, and one chimney with thimble opening.

Doorways and Doors: Two-panel double doors, upper panel 3 light glass, open in; two panel, double louvred wood shutters, open out; 1" x 3" molded trim.

Windows: Original windows, double casement, 3 light each, open in; replacements 6/6 light double hung, not counter balanced; double 2-panel louvred wood shutters opening out; 1" x 3" molded trim.

Roof: Standing seam tin, about 10 in 12 pitch, breaking gently to 8 in 12 pitch over front porch and rear part of house.

Cornice: Projects 2" to 3" with verge boards and crown moldings; gutters at eave lines.

#### INTERIOR

Floor Plan: House is one-story with unfinished attic; the original rectangle is divided into four connecting rooms, kitchen, living room, two bed rooms; a small bath was squeezed into a closet area over stairs to basement at a later date. Ceiling height is 11'-6".

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Flooring: 1½" x 5" cherry wood.

Wall and Ceiling Finish: Lime plaster on masonry walls, and beaver-board ceilings. The original ceilings were suspended canvas.

Doors: Interior doors are four panel with vertical center rail.

Trim: 1" x 3" molded trim; base board is 1" x 6" with shoe mold (probably a replacement).

Stairway: (To cellar) Wood.

Partitions: 12" or more, masonry with lime plaster.

Hardware: Rim lock with white porcelain knobs.

Lighting: Original facilities, Kerosene lamps; now wired for electricity.

Heating: Fireplace and wood burning stoves. Now piped for gas.

OUTBUILDINGS

None of note, and all have disappeared.

SITE

The house is located about 10' from the street front, and the property is 50' wide by 142' deep; no site improvements of note are in evidence.

Prepared by,

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February, 1964

APPROVED: *Charles S. Pope*

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