

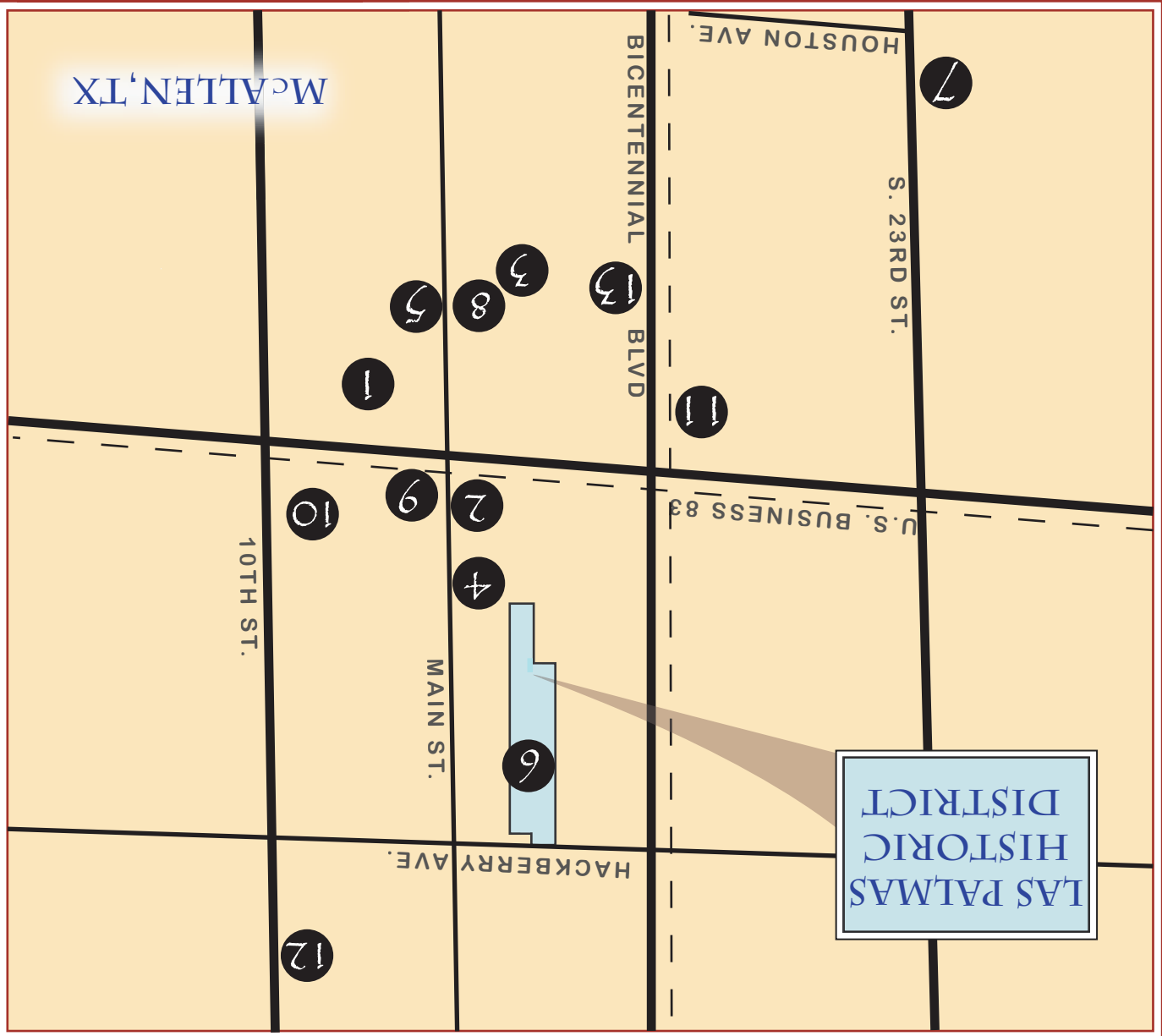
\* Las Palmas Historic District  
 Neighborhood developed in the 1920's and 30's, Architectural styles include Craftsman, Mission Revival, Spanish Eclectic and Tudor revival among others.

In 1746, the Junta General of War and Finance of New Spain designated a new province, Nuevo Santander, and appointed Jose de Escandon the governor. The new province bordered the Rio Grande River. It was a tremendous land area considering that the river rises in the present state of Colorado, flows eastward and southward through the states of Colorado and New Mexico and bordering Texas to the Gulf of Mexico. This river was known by various names through the years including Rio del Oro, Rio de las Palmas, Rio del Norte, Rio Grande and Rio Bravo.

In 1767, individual assignments of land, called porciones, were made by the Spanish Crown. In 1791, Don Manuel Gomez held Porciones 62 and 63 north of the Rio Grande. Don Manuel was married to Doña Gregoria Balli. Gregoria Balli, married John Young, a Scotsman. After Young's death in 1859, she married John McAllen in 1861. The couple lived in what is now Hidalgo County. (continued)

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## HISTORY OF McALLEN, TEXAS



## LANDMARK LOCATIONS

## HISTORY CONT.

Before the death in 1897 of Doña Salome Balli she divided her estate as follows: The property acquired during her marriage to John Young went to John J. Young, their son. One-fourth of the remainder went to her son, James B. McAllen and the rest to her husband, John McAllen who survived her.

In 1904, John McAllen donated 400 acres of land for a town to be located 8 miles north of Hidalgo on the STLB&M Railway. The McAllen Townsite Co. was incorporated by John J. Young, John McAllen, James B. McAllen, Uriah Lott and Lon C. Hill. A road from Hidalgo to McAllen was constructed and a train station built at the intersection of the railway and this road, which was appropriately named Depot Road.

The McAllen townsite was disbanded because a new town was growing rapidly to the east. This new town, originally called East McAllen, was started by William Briggs of Briggs and Smith from Lake Charles, Louisiana. John Closner and O.E. Jones joined Briggs in contracting to purchase some 8,000 acres of land in Porciones 63 and 64 at \$3.00 per acre. On May 16, 1907, Briggs, Jones and Closner started their own town on this tract.

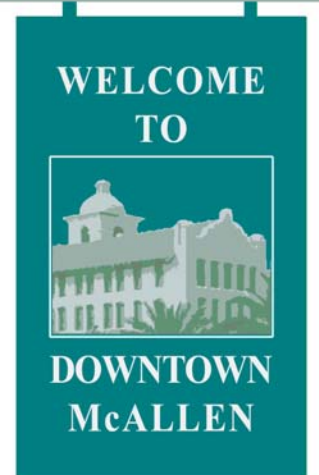
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## HISTORICAL LANDMARK BROCHURE

### CITY OF McALLEN

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Cover Photo:  
 McAllen High School Memorial  
 corner of Austin and 12th commemorating  
 the old McAllen high school location  
 1913 to 1963.

