

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Twin Mountain Fence Company

Other name/site number: Nick's Twin Mountain House; Twin Mountain Package Store

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 7513 South U.S. Highway 67

City or town: San Angelo

State: Texas

County: Tom Green


Not for publication: ☐Vicinity: ☒

1. 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 at the following levels of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ localApplicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

	State Historic Preservation Officer	8/21/23
Signature of certifying official / Title		Date
Texas Historical Commission		
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register☐ determined eligible for the National Register☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.☐ removed from the National Register☐ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
2	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC: single dwelling;
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store;
OTHER: freestanding sign

Current Functions: WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Modern Movement: Moderne

Principal Exterior Materials: Stucco; Wood

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6 through 9)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Commerce (*local level*)

Period of Significance: 1943-1966

Significant Dates: 1943, 1947, 1960

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 10 through 23)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 24-27)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. Part 1 approved on (date)
- ☐ 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, Austin*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 2.21 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 31.412451° Longitude: -100.543103°

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated parcel of 2.2 acres is a subset of Tom Green County property ID R000102456 (identified by the central appraisal district as "Abst: A-8649 S-0005, Survey: M MEEK, 17.590 ACRES"), as delineated on the accompanying map, page 28 & 29.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the land historically associated with the building, excluding the southeastern area of the legal parcel dominated by nonhistoric properties and lacking significant historic resources. The boundary is drawn to include the easternmost section of the parcel featuring the historic building, its additions, and the freestanding sign.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Alexander B. Walker (with NR Coordinator Gregory Smith)
Organization: Walker Services, LLC
Street & number: 11321 Fletcher Hall Lane
City or Town: Austin State: Texas Zip Code: 78717
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Date: March 29, 2023

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 28-31)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 32-42)

Photographs (see continuation 43-63)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photograph Log

Twin Mountain Fence Company

San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green Country, Texas

Photographed by Gregory Smith, September 2023

All photos reflect the appearance of the building at the time of the nomination's submission to the NPS.

Photo 1: Nominated parcel northeast corner, facing southwest.

Photo 2: South elevation detail, showing chimney, original store entrance, and curved corner.

Photo 3: North elevation, facing south.

Photo 4: Northwest corner, with original loading dock and freestanding sign.

Photo 5: Loading dock, facing north.

Photo 6: North side of entire nominated property, facing southeast.

Photo 7: West elevation, facing east.

Photo 8: West elevation, looking east towards covered loading dock.

Photo 9: South elevation, showing stairs to second floor porch to access residence.

Photo 10: Covered porch at residence entrance, facing west.

Photo 11: East elevation with historic painted signage and infilled second floor porch, facing northwest.

Photo 12: Entrance to residence, facing northeast.

Photo 13: Fireplace in front room, facing northeast.

Photo 14: Fireplace in front room, facing northeast.

Photo 15: Kitchen, facing west.

Photo 16: South addition, facing north.

Photo 17: South addition with entrance from porch, facing southeast.

Photo 18: Living room/dining room, facing north.

Photo 19: Ground floor retail space, facing southeast.

Photo 20: Ground floor retail space, facing northwest.

Photo 21: Interior stairs, leading from retail area to upper floor residence, facing west.

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Narrative Description

The Twin Mountain Fence Company building on the western outskirts of San Angelo, Texas, is a two-story, concrete masonry unit (CMU) and wood frame building, which was constructed in several stages during the 20th century. An exhaustive search of public records and news articles of the time did not point to a concise construction date for this building. While the precise construction date remains a mystery, certain aspects of the building's stylistic characteristics, when taken together with oral interviews and clues found in newspaper clippings from the time period in question, help to place the date of construction at c.1940. Pictures from 1948 also shed light on the original style and appearance of the building when Homer Guy Nickel and his family first occupied the building in 1943 and clearly demonstrates that it was used as both a residence and package store. The building currently functions as a storage space and workshop for the company's electric fence components, as well as a temporary residence for the business' employees. The 2-story Moderne style building faces north and features a curved northwest corner, a white stucco exterior, remnants of neon piping across two-thirds of the top perimeter, and a thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) covering the parapet style roof. The core building has three entrances. The first floor was designed and used historically as a retail space, while the upstairs contained living quarters connected by an interior staircase. The primary floor was comprised of a large sales floor with a sales counter in the front, two offices, and a large storeroom/workshop in the rear. The original sales counter, shelves to display merchandise, and tile floor still remain largely as they were when the package store opened in 1943. The second floor living quarters contains a large living room, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and sleeping porch. Research indicates that the storefront was originally utilized as a package store called Nick's Twin Mountain House and would eventually become the headquarters for the Twin Mountain Fencing Company; known at the time as Nick's Twin Mountain Cedar Post Company. The name "Nick's" written in black paint over the white stucco exterior can still be clearly seen along the east wall of the sleeping porch. Additions were built c.1960.

The Twin Mountain Fence Company building was constructed on the outskirts of San Angelo, along the old Mertzon highway (Highway 67). Its placement directly off the highway made the building highly visibility to passing traffic and helped to advertise the various merchandise sold out of the location. It was located in the only historically "wet" section of Tom Green County, allowing it to qualify for a permit to operate as a package liquor store. It is also located in an area with open land suitable for a cedar post yard, which requires ample space to store and dry the timber. The building was situated so that the Twin Mountains landmark loomed large in the background. This natural feature is located outside of the property line for the building and served as the inspiration for the original name of the business; a connection retained to this day.

The design of the building illustrates the original intent and historic function of the building as a storefront and residence. The building's design and essential physical features demonstrate the historic intent of the property, associate it with its historic contexts, and place it within its period of significance.

The core building is a two-story cinder block and wood frame building with a white-stucco exterior and a curved side on the northwest corner of both floors that disrupts the otherwise rectangular shape of the building. The building contains 4,528 square feet of habitable space on the two floors, or 2,264 square feet per floor. It is believed to have been built in the manner of modernist architecture typical of the dominant styles of the era (1920s to 1930s) by the Bullock family who owned the land, and presumably the building. Mr. David Hutchison, an architect, describes the building as being comprised of "a pastiche of styles and an eclectic combination of influences, materials, and shapes that emphasized functionalism and minimalism in a most radical extreme."¹

The exterior design of the building possesses characteristics that further indicate the building's intended use and historical function. They also place it within the popular design trends of the period. The exterior walls of the main building are white-stucco, and the additional secondary building is comprised of wood cladding. The west side of the building serves

¹Hutchison, David, University of Cincinnati, BA/Architecture; George Washington University, MBA, International Business; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-hutchison-23a1276/>.

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as a loading bay and covered storage space. Research indicates it was used historically for storing and loading merchandise for the store. Currently it is covered by a metal shed-style roof, but photographic evidence indicates that no roof existed when the building was originally constructed. The construction date of the roof is unknown.

The building still features one of the four original exterior light fixtures for the business. Photographs from the period of construction clearly show the type and style of the fixtures. While only one historic example remains, all exterior fixture boxes remain exposed in the same location as they were historically, albeit without light fixtures attached.

Noticeable on the exterior middle perimeter of the building is a system of steel gas lines added at a later date to provide gas utilities to the building. While not original, they do not detract in any significant way from the original appearance of the building.

Structural system

The frame of the original structure is comprised of cinder block (CMU) and wood framing with a concrete foundation. The original building was constructed with a flat style roof. However, newspapers indicate that tornado-like winds damaged a section of this original roof in 1954 requiring a repair that included the addition of a conventional hip-style roof with asphalt shingles.² The underside of the roof had lumber rafter supports which served as the main structural members carrying the weight of the non-original roof to the load-bearing exterior walls. A high wind event in June 2020 removed the hip-style roof in its entirety, exposing the original roof once more. This recently exposed, original parapet style roof is lined with TPO which was installed to protect the interior of the building. The flat, parapet roof is reminiscent of the Spanish-style influence commonly found in this region of Texas.

Fenestration

The majority of the windows and doors have been altered and/or modernized throughout the years and, in all cases, their date of alteration/replacement is unknown. However, historic photographs of the building provide clues to their original type and style and will serve as a guide for restoration efforts.

All exterior doors have been replaced with more modern commercial/residential doors over the years. Most interior doors have been replaced as well, although a few original examples remain on the second floor.

All first-floor windows, with the exception of two, are of a more modern type and style than what was originally found in the building. The two exceptions, one located on the front northeast corner of the sales office and the other located in the rear southeast corner of the second office/storage room, provide clues to the original appearance and match the type and style of the windows that appear in historic photographs. These two windows will serve as a guide for restoration efforts. Additionally, four of the window openings have either changed in size and/or material over the years. The front north wall of the building's first floor once contained a glass block window that has since been replaced with that of a more modern style. A large rectangular plexiglass window to the right of front door was also enlarged from the original size and style found throughout the first floor, likely to increase ambient light and enhance visibility for the store's merchandise. Further, the northwest corner of the sales floor is curved and features a set of modern style windows that were originally made of glass block. Finally, the iron bars placed over the entirety of the first floor have been removed over the years. However, their presence in historic photos helps illustrate the building's historic intent as a storefront as the bars served to protect the merchandise within the building.

The second-floor windows have likewise been modernized and some openings altered; the most notable sections being the sleeping porch and kitchen windows. Historic photographs show that the sleeping porch was lined with twenty windows. Today, only four remain—one on both the north and south wall and two on the east wall, with modern CMU filling in the space in between. However, in addition to evidence provided in historic photographs, the modern CMU was never faced with stucco, leaving the original outline of the sleeping porch windows clearly visible. Additionally, a window located on

² "Hail" *San Angelo Standard-Times*, July 8, 1954, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/787551097/>.

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the center of the interior wall of the sleeping porch was covered by a closet at a later, unknown date. This intact window would have provided ambient light to the interior stairwell from the sleeping porch and will likely serve as a guide for restoration efforts. The other notable window alteration is located in the kitchen, which features a curved wall on the northwest side that was once filled with glass blocks, but today contains two small windows framed into the original opening.

Significant Details

1. *Nick's*: The east side of the primary building contains the word "Nick's" painted in large black letters over the white-stucco exterior.
2. *Neon Piping*: The top perimeter of the building is lined with a single line of soft-white neon piping on all but the rear, south face of the building and was intended to draw attention and to light up the store at night. The current owner of the building grew up on the property and recalls that the neon was a "white, kind of soft light" going around the top of the building.
3. *Sign*: A large, two-story steel sign lined with incandescent bulbs is located off the northwest corner of the building and was erected when the business was originally founded. It still retains its original shape, structure, and style. The words on the sign read "Twin Mountain Supply" a reflection the of the current business name, but historic photographs indicate that it served as a form of advertisement for the businesses operated out of the building and that the words on the sign evolved to reflect the merchandise sold at the store.

Interior

The organization of the interior space includes important design elements that point to its intended use and historic function. The building is divided into two floors; the first floor was dedicated to commerce and features a storefront, two offices and a storage room/workshop, while the second floor contains a residence for the owner. Each room is described below and identified with a three-digit number that corresponds to the floor plan submitted with this application.

The first floor was designed to serve as a storefront, office, and storeroom/workshop for the business. The front half of the store includes a storefront and a sales office directly off of the sales floor. The sales floor (101) is accessed through the front door of the building located in the middle of the north wall. Notable interior features of the sales floor include a fireplace along the north wall, recessed tile floor, a long wooden sales counter and wooden shelving behind the counter used to display merchandise; all four attributes are original to the building and remain largely as they were during the period of significance. The sales floor has access to a large storeroom/workshop via an open doorway on the southwest corner of the sales floor. One of two offices (108) for the building is located directly off the sales floor on the northeast corner of the building and has access to both the sales floor and interior staircase landing. The rear south wall of the first floor includes a large rectangular storage room/workshop (102) with an exit door leading to a covered loading bay on the west wall. A second office/storage room (111) smaller in size to the sales office and located on the southeast corner of the building is accessed by both the storage room/workshop and stairwell landing area. The sales office, storeroom, secondary office, and exterior door leading to the detached parking area can all be accessed from the entryway (109) landing of the interior staircase located in the middle section of the eastern wall of the building. The entryway landing connects the storefront to an interior stairwell that leads to the living quarters on the second floor.

The second floor was designed as a residence for the operator of the business and clearly indicates this historic function. The second floor contains the original building, as well as additional living quarters constructed c.1960. The original living quarters are divided into six parts. An entry hallway (214) located at the top of the interior staircase and situated in the middle of the second floor serves as a transition room with access to the bedroom, bathroom, and living/dining room. The northwest corner of the second floor contains a full kitchen (207) and small dining area, which opens towards the living/dining room via a door on the south wall of the kitchen, and a large bedroom accessed via a door on the west wall of the kitchen. The dining/living room (204) includes two closets, a doorway to the transition room, and a doorway leading to the additional living quarters along the south wall of the room. The large bedroom (208) has three interior doors

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that lead to the kitchen, transition room, and sleeping porch. It also features a fireplace situated in the middle of the north wall. The entire eastern wall of the building is comprised of a sleeping porch (209), an attribute common among homes constructed in this era, and has doors leading to both the bedroom and bathroom. The sleeping porch is accessed via the private living quarters, is situated on the eastern wall, and was originally lined with twenty screen windows on three sides to maximize evening airflow. Research indicates that sleeping porches from this era took a variety of forms, but all contained a few common characteristics, such as those found on this building.³ Two closets, one original and located in the southwest corner of the sleeping porch, and the other constructed at a later, unknown date and located in the middle interior wall of the room, are present in this space. The latter obstructs a single window along the interior wall that opens to the stairwell. This window, which remains intact in its original state, would have provided ambient light to the interior stairwell from the sleeping porch. The sleeping porch was converted at some point to increase interior space and helps place it within its period of significance. The full bathroom (212) is in the middle of the south wall and can be accessed from either the sleeping porch or transition room.

The addition to the second floor of the building expands the living quarters further. It is accessed through an open doorway in the middle of the original living room along the southern wall and opens into a large L-shaped living/bedroom space (201); the corner of the L-shape being situated on the southwest corner. It also includes a full bathroom (202) located on the northeast corner of the addition, a closet located to the left of the doorway as you face the additional space, and a large porch with a shed-style roof on the rear south face of the addition. The porch also has an exterior staircase connected to the east side that leads to the ground level of the building.

Contributing Object

A contributing structure in the form of a large steel sign lined with incandescent bulbs is found off the northwest corner of the building. The two-story sign advertising the company's presence has stood resolute since the inception of the business and still retains its original style. The only alterations to the sign were updates to the language to match the many names the business was called, and to reflect the various merchandise sold out of the business at different points in time.

The Twin Mountain building retains all of the seven aspects of integrity. Based on these findings, the Twin Mountain building retains its identity for the period in which it was significant and thereby retains its integrity as a historic property.

Non-historic additions to the building include: (1) a loading dock with a shed-style roof erected on the west side of the building; (2) a long rectangular aluminum storage shed off the southwest corner of the building and connected to the newer addition; and (3) a two-car carport erected off the east wall of the core building. Sheds and trailers are scattered on the property, but no other permanent buildings or structures are within the nominated parcel boundary.

The extended site beyond the nominated parcel includes a modern headquarters for the Twin Mountain Fence Company, multiple welding bays for fabrication of various fencing products, parking for the business' fleet of trucks, and a large storage yard in the westernmost section of the property for storage of fencing materials.

³ Hailey, Charlie. "From Sleeping Porch to Sleeping Machine: Inverting Traditions of Fresh Air in North America." *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review* 20, no. 2 (2009): 27-44.

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Statement of Significance

In 1943, San Angelo businessman Homer Guy Nickel opened “Nick’s Twin Mountain Package Store,” selling beer, wine, and liquor in the only part of Tom Green County where alcohol sales were legal. The business operated until 1960, and the building stands as the only surviving example of a package store on the old Mertzson Highway. From 1947 to 1966, Mr. Nickel also used this building as a cedar post and fencing supply store. The cedar posts were sourced from the famed cedar choppers of the Central Texas Hill Country and connect this West Texas business to one of the most important natural resources in Texas’ development through the mid-20th century. The Twin Mountain Cedar Post Co. provided ranching supplies that contributed to San Angelo’s transformation into one of the top sheep and cattle centers in the nation. Still in operation, the Twin Mountain Fence Company continues to contribute to the region’s economy and, since its inception, has expanded from a cedar post hauling business to a national and international turn-key commercial and residential fencing operation. The building retains many of its original features, including its overall Moderne design, ornamental details, and the original sales counter, sales floor, merchandise shelving, and signage. The property is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Commerce at the local level of significance as an example of a rural Texas package store established immediately adjacent to dry jurisdictions, and for its continued significance with the establishment and growth of Mr. Nickel’s fence business. Although the building was built c.1940, the period of significance begins in 1943, the earliest record of the business being run out of the building, and ends in 1966, which coincides with the death of Homer Nickel.

Tom Green County is in west central Texas, and its county seat of San Angelo is approximately 230 miles southwest of Dallas, 165 miles southeast of Lubbock, and 180 miles northwest of Austin. The San Angelo metropolitan area (pop. 122,027) is the largest such area in Texas not served by an interstate highway.⁴ The Concho River is the principal waterway in the county, and San Angelo has historically been a particularly large processing and shipping center for the wool and mohair industry in the United States. Before European arrival in the 1600s, with multiple visits by Spanish explorers in the seventeenth century, the area was primarily home to the Jumano peoples. By the mid-eighteenth century, Apaches allied with the Jumanos, but by the early nineteenth century, they were forced west by the Comanches and their allies, who remained in control of the Concho area until westward expansion of European-Americans in the late nineteenth century. The United States established a number of forts in the area in the 1850s.⁵ San Angelo began as a frontier town with the establishment of Fort Concho in 1867. Shortly after the establishment of Fort Concho, Bartholomew J. DeWitt, the founder of San Angelo, bought 320 acres across the North Concho River and built a trading post which he called San Angela. In 1883, the name was officially changed from San Angela to San Angelo by the United State Postal Service; the post office insisted that the name was spelled with grammatically incorrect Spanish and entered the name of the town as “Angelo” as a result.

The early growth of San Angelo was propelled by the presence of Fort Concho. The fort protected the territorial boundaries of the growing United States and its presence attracted traders, merchants, and a host of other industries who came to the town eager to supply the soldiers stationed at the fort. Other contributing factors to the early growth of the city were its abundant supplies of water from the Concho River, land suitable for ranching and agriculture, and the arrival of the railroads. In San Angelo, cattle ranching began in 1864 and in 1877, sheep ranching was introduced. The arrival of the railroads, specifically the Santa Fe Railroad in 1888 and the Kansas City, Mexico, and Orient in 1909, developed San Angelo into a shipping and commerce center. The combination of wool from sheep, cattle raised on local ranches, and the presence of the railroads transformed San Angelo into the biggest sheep and wool markets in the US and one of the top cattle markets in Texas.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, “Quick Facts San Angelo city Texas 2019 estimate,” Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2021), accessed March 1, 2023, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/sanangelocitytexas>.

⁵ John C. Henderson, “Tom Green County,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed December 13, 2022, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/tom-green-county>. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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World War I, 1914-1918, caused an economic depression and a population decline that briefly stunted the growth of San Angelo. However, between 1920-1930, there was a massive population increase, accredited to the discovery of the Permian Basin oilfield in 1923, which brought new industry into the area. During the Great Depression era of the 1930s, San Angelo once again struggled due to low oil prices, drought, and difficulties with the agricultural economy. Then in the 1940s, Goodfellow Air Force Base was established which, accompanied by rising oil prices, created a prosperous economy for San Angelo once more. Today, San Angelo is home to over 100,000 people and is well-known for its robust agricultural and oil economy, as well as the location of Angelo State University, Goodfellow Air Force Base, and Texas A&M Research & Extension Center.⁶

Twin Mountains: A Natural Landmark of West Texas & a Forgotten Hamlet

The Twin Mountains, for which the Twin Mountain Fence Company was named, have stood as a natural landmark since the days when Native Americans roamed the area and later served as an important landmark for early explorers trying to navigate the new frontier.⁷ Indeed, it was from these peaks that the original founders of San Angelo gazed down at the Concho River Valley below as they sought to make their fortunes in this western territorial outpost of the United States. Twin Mountain, Texas, was a tiny rural community located “near the Middle Concho River south of the Twin Buttes in southwestern Tom Green County.”⁸ The Handbook of Texas reports that, “gold was discovered in the area” but that “the amounts were not significant [enough] to cause a boom.”⁹ In 1900, the community’s school had thirteen pupils and one teacher. According to the same source, the pupil population reached 29 in 1933 but the town’s population remained less than 100. Construction of Lake Nasworthy began in 1930, and the new lake eventually flooded the tiny village. By 1936, the community could no longer be found on the county highway map.¹⁰

Construction of the c.1940 Building

The land where Twin Mountain Fence Company is located was once owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ashby (H.A.) Bullock. The Bullocks came to San Angelo from Kentucky in 1905. H.A. Bullock was in the real estate business and was involved in San Angelo’s local government, where he served as an alderman from 1912-1914 and “commissioner when the city adopted the charter form of government...until 1919 when he resigned.”¹¹ Ultimately, he became an “implement salesman.”¹² Along with the two warehouses Mr. Bullock kept in San Angelo, he likely also used the Twin Mountain building as a residence and storefront from which to sell his farm implements.¹³ The Bullock’s 1930s census address in the San Angelo area is noted as, “lives on farm . . . has no radio.” Further, the *San Angelo Morning* news reported that Bullock died in 1939¹⁴ and his death certificate lists his residence as “7 miles west of San Angelo” and his occupation as “rancher.”¹⁵ Oral interviews that researcher Mario Castillo conducted with Joyce McAfee, former spouse of Robert A.

⁶ Escal F. Duke. “San Angelo, TX.” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed March 1, 2023, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/san-angelo-tx>. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

⁷ “They are Coming to San Angelo Where Opportunity Stands Knocking All the Time; They Are Coming to Concholand Where Mere Existence Is Counted a Perpetual Pleasure,” *San Angelo Daily Standard*, November 3, 1914, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111134042/>. “Concho Country,” *Fort Worth Daily Gazette*, September 18, 1889, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111134094/>.

⁸ Diana J. Kleiner, “Twin Mountain, TX (Tom Green County),” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/twin-mountain-tx-tom-green-county>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ “Funeral Pending for H.A. Bullock,” *San Angelo Morning Times*, March 9, 1939, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110528929/san-angelo-morning-times/>.

¹² Year: 1930; Census Place: San Angelo, Tom Green, Texas; Page: 5A; Enumeration District: 0011; FHL microfilm: 2342135

¹³ Ancestry.com. U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

¹⁴ “Funeral Pending for H.A. Bullock,” *San Angelo Morning Times*, March 9, 1939, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110528929/san-angelo-morning-times/>.

¹⁵ Texas Department of State Health Services; Austin Texas, USA.

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Nickel, son of Homer Nickel, indicated that “the building was there when the Nickels bought the place.”¹⁶ On July 24, 1948, Mrs. Viola Bullock sold the property (420.5 acres) to Homer Nickel for \$29,435.00.¹⁷

Extensive research, including public records requests with Tom Green County officials and archival searches of the Angelo State University’s West Texas Collection, was conducted to identify the precise construction date and no documentation, official or unofficial, was located. Correspondence with officials attesting to this lack of documentation can be found in the Appendix. While the precise construction date remains a mystery, certain aspects of the building’s stylistic characteristics, when taken together with oral interviews from individuals associated with the building and clues found in newspaper clippings from the time period in question, help to place the date of construction at c.1940.

Newspaper clippings indicate that Mr. Nickel first leased the building in 1943, two years after the United States entered World War II. During this period, wartime rationing enacted by the War Production Board placed strict limits on the type and quantity of construction materials available to the general public and prohibited new construction in order to conserve resources and manpower for the wartime effort.^{18 19} Further, material and labor shortages associated with the war caused a dramatic decrease in the productivity of the construction industry from 1943-1945.

Given the size and style of the building, the use of restricted construction materials, oral testimony from living family, and the date of the lease announcement in the local paper, it is highly likely that the building was constructed during the pre-war period. These clues, when taken together, place the date of construction at c.1940.

Nickel Family Timeline

Homer Guy “Nick” Nickel was born in Morrisville, Missouri in 1910 and shortly thereafter his family moved to Fresno, California where he grew up.²⁰ Records indicate he worked in a grocery store. The tenacity of Homer Nickel was readily apparent as, at the young age of eighteen, he was recognized as the youngest manager of a Safeway meat market in the state of California.²¹ In addition, he served as President of the Safeway Employee Association.²² This experience would likely come to influence him later in life as he would own and manage a string of businesses throughout his career.

Mr. Nickel met his wife and fellow Missouri native Flossie Edith Shaw in Fresno, whom he married in Reno, Nevada in 1935.²³ They made their home first in Tulare, California and later in Fresno, where they had two sons, Robert “Bob” (b.1932) and Milton (b.1937). The Nickel family moved to Amarillo, Texas in February of 1939. Homer was a traveling salesman for Schenley’s Liquor, a wholesale liquor company that would become the largest in the nation.²⁴ His occupation in the liquor business seems to have made an impression, as four years later, in 1943, he moved his family to San Angelo to open his first package store by the name of Twin Mountain Package Store “in Tom Green County, Texas, Justice Precinct No 3, seven miles from San Angelo on Mertzon Highway.”²⁵

¹⁶ Castillo’s telecom with Beesley, Hampton, attorney, Board Certified, Residential Real Estate Law; 8-19-19.

¹⁷ Guaranty Abstract & Title Company, One East Twohig, San Angelo, Texas, see page __; August 14, 2019.

¹⁸ HUD User – Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R); Washington DC, USA.

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/hudtimeline_1940.html

¹⁹ National Park Service (NPS). “War Bonds, Scrap Drives & Housing Shortages: St. Paul’s as World War II Home-front” April 9, 2019. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/war-bonds-scrap-drives-housing-shortages-st-paul-s-as-world-war-ii-home-front.htm>

²⁰ <https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/93975?token=w01lw%2F1sQIZWc5ZX8B3tH7YzKEPrsqAYVTvHgZuBy74%3D>.

²¹ “Newlyweds to Make New Home in Tulare,” *Tulare Advance Register*, August 5, 1935,

<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110586691/tulare-advance-register/>.

²² “Lucerne Creamery Employees Are Host at Banquet,” *Handford Daily Sentinel*, November 8, 1938,

<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110642732/the-hanford-sentinel/>.

²³ “Edith Nickel,” *San Angelo Standard Times*, July 19, 2011; “Marriage Licenses,” *The Sacramento Bee*, August 1, 1935,

<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110992555/>.

²⁴ “Welcomes to Town,” *Amarillo Globe Times*, February 28, 1939,

<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110586991/the-amarillo-globe-times/>.

²⁵ *San Angelo Evening Standard*, June 1, 1943, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111002993/>.

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Nick's Twin Mountain Package Store (1943-1960)

Despite the official end of prohibition on the federal level in 1933, Texas retained a 1919 state prohibition amendment. In 1933, Texans voted to allow the sale of 3.2% beer and in 1935 repealed the state dry law altogether with the sale of alcohol becoming licensed in 1936.²⁶ Now that the state prohibition amendment was repealed, all counties "returned to the same status that they had in 1918, until local option elections could be held."²⁷ While Tom Green County was technically wet, the five county precincts each held local options. On May 2, 1936, Precinct 3 "rejected by a vote of 185 to 120 a proposal to prohibit totally the sale of intoxicants in the precinct, making it the only fully 'wet' precinct in Tom Green County."²⁸ As a result, all liquor dispensaries in Tom Green county, including the Twin Mountain Package Store, were located along the San Angelo-Mertzson Highway (now called Highway 67) and San Angelo-Water Valley.²⁹ Package store permitting laws required applicants to post a legal notice in the local newspaper for two consecutive publishing dates, which Mr. Nickel did on May 31 and June 1, 1943.³⁰ This requirement provided an opportunity for citizens to object to the permit, as well as for the control board to investigate the character of the applicant.³¹ At the time, Texas laws also required package store applicants to have been a Texas resident for at least three years.³²

By 1943, the Nickel family had lived in Texas for four years. Mr. Nickel spent his time in Amarillo learning more about the burgeoning liquor business, and once he qualified to apply and identified a potential location for a viable business, moved his family from Amarillo to San Angelo. Additionally, it is speculated that Mr. Nickel may have moved from Amarillo to San Angelo in order to be closer to the Mexican border, making it easier to supply his Twin Mountain package store with cheap Mexican beer, which he imported himself.

Research indicates that the land on which the Twin Mountain Package Store is located was leased by Homer Nickel from the Bullock Family in 1943. While no record of the building's construction nor the lease exists, newspaper clippings indicate that he operated a package store out of this location five years prior to his purchase of the property in 1948. An examination of newspapers from the time, in combination with oral testimony by Ms. McAfee, indicates that the structure already existed at this location when Nickel first leased the property in 1943. Nick's Twin Mountain Package Store was widely patronized by area residents and was, by all accounts, a successful business; remnants of the liquor store's name can still be seen on a side wall of the building. During its first years as a package store, the building was described in the local newspaper as a handsome edifice; it was apparently so attractive that locals mistook it for a nightclub leading Mr. Nickel to take out an ad to specify that it was indeed a package store, not a nightclub.³³

Mr. Nickel owned several other package stores along the western extremities of the city limits that were used for wholesale and storefront sales: Nickel's Package Store #2 in Carlsbad, Texas, and Nick's Pay-Less Package Store on

²⁶ K. Austin Kerr, "Prohibition," *Texas Historical Commission*, April 30, 2019, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/prohibition>.

²⁷ Robert Plocheck, "Prohibition Elections in Texas," *Texas Almanac*, <https://www.texasalmanac.com/articles/prohibition-elections-in-texas>.

²⁸ "Wet Precincts in Dry Counties to Settle Own Liquor Affairs," *San Angelo Morning Times*, June 23, 1939, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111001036/>.

²⁹ "Wet Precincts in Dry Counties to Settle Own Liquor Affairs," *San Angelo Morning Times*, June 23, 1939, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111001036/>.

³⁰ *San Angelo Evening Standard*, Newspapers.com, May 31, 1943, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111003193/>; *San Angelo Evening Standard*, June 1, 1943, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111002993/>.

³¹ "The New Liquor Law and the Present Status," *The Austin American Statesman*, November 16, 1935, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111002904/>.

³² "Liquor Law," *San Angelo Standard Times*, November 7, 1935, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/780311796/>.

³³ "Nick's Twin Mt Beer Dispensary, Not a Nightclub," *The San Angelo Weekly Standard*, August 5, 1947, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/781192936>.

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Arden Road in San Angelo.³⁴ Mr. Nickel ran afoul of the liquor sales law on a few occasions. For example, he was fined for selling whiskey above the approved ceiling price and had several failed attempts to open additional package stores in the area; with the most notable being Blackie's.³⁵ Competition for the most desirable real estate, that closest to the wet-dry boundary, was so fierce that Mr. Nickel took it upon himself to hire a surveyor to contest the recognized boundary of the wet precinct and shift it 94 feet east in order to encompass his newest store, "Blackie's." Had his case been accepted, Mr. Nickel would have owned the closest liquor store to the wet-dry precinct boundary and would have bested the placement of one of his biggest package store rivals, Pinkie's. In fact, the permanent package store building to be erected on this site would have partially eclipsed and been 100 feet closer to the city than Pinkies #2.³⁶ The court case for Blackie's, titled *Nickel v. Texas Liquor Control Board*, reached the highest levels of the state court system and was rejected by the State Supreme Court in 1954.³⁷ This judgment seems likely to have impacted Mr. Nickel's business decisions and signifies the point at which he began to shift away from alcohol sales. Indeed, this was the last package store he attempted to open, and shortly after, he sold off his other two stores, leaving only his Twin Mountain Package Store remaining. One year later, in 1955, Mr. Nickel indicated that his main business would now be his Twin Mountain Cedar Post Co., now called Homer G. Nickel and Sons.³⁸ Finally, on May 16, 1960, after 17 years in the business, Nickel announced in a full-page advertisement that he intended to leave the industry altogether and would "devote most of [his] time to the Twin Mountain Cedar Post Co. business."³⁹ It was at this point that Mr. Nickel focused solely on the cedar post business. While today modern liquor stores can be found along Highway 67 and throughout Tom Green County, the Twin Mountain building is the only surviving example of a package store in Tom Green County located along this road and dating to this historic period.

Twin Mountain Cedar Post Company

While Mr. Nickel was known for the many hats he wore throughout his business career, his cedar post business served as a constant source of revenue and eventually became his sole business focus. The Twin Mountain Cedar Post Company grew from its humble beginnings as a cedar post hauling business with one truck and trailer, to a large turn-key commercial and residential fencing company with national and international reach that has contributed greatly to the West Texas landscape and the region's economy.

Mr. Nickel's Canadian Comet, as his truck came to be known locally, was used not only to transport cedar posts to clients nationwide, but also to transport goods back home from the far reaches of the nation.⁴⁰ He famously loaded up his truck with cedar posts to deliver to clients nationwide, except for North Dakota as he was a devoted southerner, and faithfully returned to San Angelo with a truck load of items, from mustard seed to alfalfa to sheetrock, to sell at his Twin Mountain property.⁴¹ Ever the outdoorsman, he typically found the time to hunt and fish while on his journey and always left room

³⁴ *San Angelo Standard Times*, March 19, 1944, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111008599/>. San Angelo Evening Standard. Newspapers.com December 22, 1948, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111008754/>.

³⁵ "San Angelo Man is Fined for Contempt." *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 3, 1945, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110585701/fort-worth-star-telegram/>.

³⁶ "Battle for Top Liquor Store Nearing Climax." *San Angelo Evening Standard*, January 7, 1953, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111009252/>.

³⁷ "High Court Denies Store Permit," *The San Angelo Weekly Standard*, April 16, 1954, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/781196826>, ³⁷ <https://www.judyrecords.com/record/8k5r6z1846>.

³⁸ "Cedar Post Man is Concentrating." *San Angelo Standard-Times*, December 19, 1955, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111009667/>.

³⁹ *San Angelo Standard Times*, May 16, 1960, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111009782/>.

⁴⁰ *San Angelo Standard Times*, October 13, 1955, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111048520/>.

⁴¹ *San Angelo Evening Standard*, March 23, 1950, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111048694/>.

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on the truck for the spoils of his outdoor adventures.⁴² While Mr. Nickel sold his fabled original truck and trailer that started the business in 1949 to help make the payment on his newly acquired land at the Twin Mountain Ranch, by 1952 he replenished his fleet of trucks and trailers to four, starting with his famed Canadian Comet flat-bed truck, to meet the demand for his cedar posts.^{43 44}

History of the Fencing Industry in West Texas

Fences are an essential part of the American rural economy and its evolution. Nowhere is this more evident than in West Texas with its impact on the beef, sheep, wool, and fiber agribusiness sectors. While in some areas of Texas there was violent conflict between cattlemen and sheepmen, this was less the case in Tom Green County. Early pioneers of the region encountered areas that were semi-rocky and not suited for cattle raising alone. However, producers of that era quickly discovered that cattle and sheep could co-exist due to several factors. Cattle favored eating the tall grasses, while ate the shorter grasses found on the ranches, and they consumed far less water than cattle. Additionally, sheep manure proved to be a better fertilizer than that of a cow and the sheep's sharp hooves cultivated the soil, thus renewing the growth of pasture grasses. The need to "keep in what needs to be kept in and keep out what needs to be kept out" led to the use of fencing in previously wide-open lands. The type of fencing used prior to 1882 was found to be inadequate, as it was easily overcome by livestock. However, the introduction of more effective barbed wire fencing changed the perception of livestock fencing in the area and contributed greatly to the development of the sheep and cattle industries.

In 1882, fencing in the area came into full practice. A rancher named H.B. Harris installed the first barbed wire fences on his ranch, which was located between the Colorado and Buffalo Creek in southern Coke County and about 25 miles north of Fort Concho (located in present day San Angelo). Mr. Harris enclosed about 160,000 acres of his land. It was a project that took more than a year to complete and one that would impact the region's development into the future. Fencing played a particularly important role in the economic growth of rural West Texas and the definition of agriculture related work. Real estate prices soared when ranchers (in particular stockmen) started fencing their lands. They did so in order to secure title or rental agreements to land and in particular land adjacent to water sources, i.e., rivers and creeks. Thus, one of fencing's unintended consequences was its negative impact on the employment of cowboys and sheepherders, who blamed the growing popularity of fencing for their diminished employment and the changed nature of their former free ranging ways.

In 1883 fence-cutting was so prevalent in West Texas that area ranchers began employing "fence-runners" to protect their fences. In fact, such was the flurry of fence-cutting by individuals with poor lands and little access to water that in 1884 the Texas Legislature met in special session to pass stringent fence-cutting laws. In short order, fence-cutting became a felony and \$50,000 was appropriated to enforce the law. Fencing spelled the end of the wide-open range with sheep and cattle being intermingled on the same ranches. The great trail drives ended, the population of the area exploded, and dry land farming was introduced, which caused boom times between 1888 and World War I. In a sense, the Old West was fenced out of existence and the New West was born and defined by fencing.

Twin Mountain Cedar Co. and the Central Texas Cedar Choppers

The cedar posts Mr. Nickel sold were of the Ashe juniper variety, also known as mountain cedar, and sourced from the area around Junction, Texas; "the geographic heart of the Hill Country cedar forest."⁴⁵ This native species has been utilized throughout Texas history as a building resource which "the Spanish in the 1700s and the Germans in the 1800s

⁴² *San Angelo Evening Standard*, October 24, 1955, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111048799/>.

⁴³ *San Angelo Evening Standard*, March 1, 1949, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/779410831/>.

⁴⁴ *San Angelo Evening Standard*, January 7, 1952, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/779820708/>.

⁴⁵ Joe Nick Patoski, "The War on Cedar." *Texas Monthly*. December 1997, <https://www.texasmonthly.com/travel/the-war-on-cedar/>.

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used...to build their homes, missions, and barns.”⁴⁶

While Mr. Nickel initially purchased his timber from this region’s cedar post yards, his business acumen led him to cut out the middleman and in 1951, he opened Nick’s Cedar Co., a cedar post storage yard, in Junction, Texas. Mr. Nickel commented at the time that “...the ranchers want their cedar posts dry...And we can haul a bigger load when the posts are dry.”⁴⁷ With his cedar yard established, Mr. Nickel bought directly from the famed cedar choppers of the Texas Hill Country, ensuring a better price and quality of his cedar posts, and a space close to the source of the timber for him to dry out the posts.

The cedar posts he sourced have a storied history all their own due to the lore surrounding the hardy and reclusive cedar choppers who harvested them. Renowned for their fierce individualism, a strong desire for independence, and isolation from modern society, the cedar choppers played an important role in Texas agricultural and fencing history. Not long after the end of the Civil War, a hardy and fiercely independent group of Scots Irish clans found their way from the Ozarks to Central Texas and settled in the Hill Country along the Balcones Fault. While they were not the first to settle this region, they soon replaced the German⁴⁸ and Anglo⁴⁹ farmers, who had established themselves in the area decades prior but whose “intensive tilling and overgrazing practices quickly depleted the region’s thin topsoil, allowing Ashe juniper—a shrubby tree known colloquially as mountain cedar—to spread out of the region’s steep canyons and across disturbed rocky slopes where native grass once grew.”⁵⁰ As the wealthy farmers migrated to other areas of the state in search of more fertile lands to cultivate, they were replaced by the scrappy mountain folk who would come to be known as the “cedar choppers.”

Accustomed to scraping by in harsh, wooded terrain, they soon began eking out a meager existence “hunting, fishing, stocking semi-feral pigs and cattle, distilling moonshine, and cutting cedar, which they used to build zigzagging ‘worm fences’ and rustic barns or burned to sell as charcoal.”⁵¹ The mountain folk were famous for their preference for isolation from the greater society and this desire to keep to their own enabled them to preserve their distinct Scots Irish heritage and dialect, as a result. However, their insular nature, seemingly simple 19th century lifestyles, and unfamiliar dialect would also serve to alienate them from the surrounding populations, leading to a reputation as rough, violent, mountain folk to be avoided by “civilized” society. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the capital Austin, where residents were shocked at the appearance of the men, filthy and covered in tree sap, who descended from the hills to sell their cedar posts and enjoy the city’s bars. The animus of Austin’s civilized society was so great that they quickly began to ridicule these reclusive people, mocking their appearance and adding them to “...the regions folklore as bogeymen featured in the kinds of scary stories told around a crackling campfire;” even the “...term ‘cedar chopper’ became a catchall pejorative for the region’s hillbillies...” akin to the modern terms “white trash” and “redneck.”⁵²

During the mid-twentieth century, the financial fortunes of the cedar choppers turned for the better as agrarian Texas shifted away from farms and towards ranches that required fencing to keep the cattle from roaming free. As it turns out,

⁴⁶ Monika Maeckle, “New book on Mountain Cedars challenges long-held myths,” *San Antonio Report*, August 14, 2021, <https://sanantonioreport.org/new-book-on-mountain-cedars-challenges-long-held-myths/>.

⁴⁷ “Nick Expands and Dries His Cedar Posts,” *San Angelo Standard-Times*, April 3, 1951, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111053141/>.

⁴⁸ Terry G. Jordan, “Germans,” *Texas State Historical Association*, November 29, 2019, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/germans#:~:text=Between%201844%20and%201847%20more.end%20of%20the%20German%20Belt.>

⁴⁹ Margaret S. Henson, “Anglo-American Colonization,” *Texas State Historical Association*, January 4, 2021, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/anglo-american-colonization.>

⁵⁰ Wes Ferguson, “Meet the Unruly Clan Who Once Ruled the Hill Country,” *Texas Monthly*, August 2020, <https://www.texasmonthly.com/being-texan/cedar-choppers-once-ruled-texas-hill-country/>.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

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mountain cedar, specifically the prime first-growth cedar, was in plentiful supply in the Hill Country and the posts fashioned from them were some of the best fencing materials available at the time because they “contain high levels of wood oils that make the wood resistant to decay.”⁵³

By the 1940s, as the hardy mountain folk sought to meet the demands of ranchers, the once impoverished cedar choppers were now flush with cash from their chopping and transportation businesses “...cutting cedar at a prodigious rate and hauling it on flatbed trucks across Texas, the Great Plains, and the West, where it commanded top dollar.”⁵⁴ Cedar choppers, and the cedar post yard operators who sold their valuable commodity, enjoyed a hay-day of demand for their prized timber.

Unfortunately, their fortunes were short lived as a combination of drought, overharvesting of prime cedar, and the emergence of cheap post-war steel T-posts out of Japan would make the once profitable cedar posts less-desirable in many ranchers’ minds.⁵⁵ Finally, by the 1960s, the majority of cedar choppers abandoned the Hill Country to move into cities and towns seeking trade work that might afford them the same sort of independence they were accustomed to enjoying in their isolated lives in the hills.⁵⁶ Today, only a few professional cedar choppers remain and the famed cedar choppers of old are all but extinct.

While the demand for cedar posts declined in the 1950s and 60s, demand for cedar posts still exists—largely among coastal ranchers concerned about metal posts decaying in the salty air and those who value a Hill Country aesthetic—and Twin Mountain Fence Company has faithfully supplied them for the last 75 years, while also adapting and diversifying their services in response to the technological evolutions and emerging demands of the industry.

The Twin Mountain Fence Company

The origin story of the Twin Mountain cedar post business comes in two forms, depending on who you ask; the first more lore than reality, while the latter speaks to Homer Nickel’s tenacity as a businessman. The lore surrounding Homer Nickel (“the Cedar Post Man”) can be attributed to both his colorful self-promotion and his reputation in the community as a businessman.

The Lore: “The Knock at the Door or How It All Started”

In 1947, month unknown and late at night, a stranger knocked on the door of “Nick’s.” The caller explained to Homer that his Mac truck and flat-bed trailer loaded with cedar posts had broken down “a bit down the road.” The driver asked Homer for a small amount of money in order to walk into San Angelo to find lodging for the night. Homer, not one to miss an opportunity, asked the driver for collateral. The driver handed Homer the keys to the truck and was never seen nor heard from again; thus, leaving Homer with a broken truck and a large load of cedar fencing posts. After a few days, the entrepreneurial Homer decided to sell the cedar posts to local ranchers and Twin Mountain Fence Company was born!

The Practical: A Savvy Businessman Seeks to Deliver a Higher Quality Product to the Region

Mr. Nickel was unsatisfied after receiving a sub-par delivery of cedar posts for his land. Ever the businessman, Mr. Nickel determined that he could do better and announced to his friends that he would create his own cedar post business that

⁵³ Elizabeth McGreevy, *Wanted! Mountain Cedars: Dead and Alive*, Spicewood Publications, 2021.

⁵⁴ Wes Ferguson, “Meet the Unruly Clan Who Once Ruled the Hill Country,” *Texas Monthly*, August 2020, <https://www.texasmonthly.com/being-texan/cedar-choppers-once-ruled-texas-hill-country/>.

⁵⁵ Joe Nick Patoski, “The War on Cedar,” *Texas Monthly*, December 1997, <https://www.texasmonthly.com/travel/the-war-on-cedar/>.

⁵⁶ Wes Ferguson, “Meet the Unruly Clan Who Once Ruled the Hill Country,” *Texas Monthly*, August 2020, <https://www.texasmonthly.com/being-texan/cedar-choppers-once-ruled-texas-hill-country/>.

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would provide high grade cedar posts to area ranchers at reasonable prices and with honorable service. Within two days, Mr. Nickel purchased a truck and a trailer, and the Twin Mountain Cedar Post Company was born.

This more practical origin story for the business demonstrates Mr. Nickel's business acumen and is substantiated by research.⁵⁷ The lore surrounding his business likely developed through word of mouth and, while research cannot confirm the late-night knock on the door, the story may well stem from Mr. Nickel's creative use of language and practical business sense. He was a prolific presence in the local paper, largely due to his philanthropic activities, unique salvage dealings, and the high volume of advertisements he placed in the local paper for his various business ventures.⁵⁸ He would typically include colorful stories and humorous language in his advertisements to stand out amongst the other businesses competing for the attention of readers. Indeed, part of what made this man such a colorful West Texas character, as his friend and sportswriter Blondy Cross would describe him in Mr. Nickel's death notice, was his ability to "spin a yarn" to build both a local reputation for himself and to help sell the various merchandise at his Twin Mountain store. Indeed, his salvage activities were well-known in the area and contributed greatly to his reputation as the anecdotes below, recorded in *The Westerner* and oral interviews conducted by Mario Castillo with area residents, indicate.⁵⁹ These are just a sample of the many stories that made the "cedar post man" such a colorful west Texas character.

Anecdote 1: *Salvage extraordinaire* "The Ribbon of Toilets"

In 1964 during the demolition of the St. Angelus Hotel, Homer went on one of his most legendary spending sprees. Homer "bought 250 toilets from the doomed hotel, 200 wash basins, 200 bathtubs, ceiling fans, ceramic and floor tile for 250 bathrooms, about 40 miles of pipe and hundreds of pounds of fitting." Homer's son, Robert, recalled how they "scattered the commodes out in the pasture, so they could be seen from the highway." Apparently, Homer's advertising scheme worked as "people could go out in the pasture and pick one out and take it to town." On one notable occasion, a "nearsighted Ozona rancher" was so confused by the display that he confronted Homer to inquire about the peculiar nature of the objects laid out in the pasture. Robert recalled that the rancher kept driving by looking at the toilets about four or five times. Finally, he went to Nick's and asked Homer, "Homer, what kind of sheep do you have out in that pasture? I haven't seen a single one move. How do you train them to do that?"⁶⁰

Anecdote 2: "The Buried Goods"

One prominent rancher shares a story about his father, Homer, and "buried goods." The ceiling fans from the same demolished hotel were also put up for sale by Homer. The rancher's father, interested in a bargain, asked Homer if he had any fans left for sale. Homer promptly replied, "no – done sold all of 'em." As the rancher was about to leave Homer's property, Homer shouted out to him, "Wait, I think I can get you one, stay put." Fetching a shovel from a nearby shed, Homer started digging furiously in a close by spot and unearthed a ceiling fan, while yelling at the rancher, "I can give you a good price on this one." At that point, the rancher decided that he would be better off with a brand-new fan and decamped.

Homer Nickel's impact on his community went beyond his businesses and is perhaps best characterized by the descriptions of him found in articles following his death from cancer in 1966 at the age of 55. These statements reflect

⁵⁷ Barry, Rachel. "Don't Fence Me In." *San Angelo Standard-Times* (San Angelo, Texas) · Sun, Oct 5, 1997. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/789664805>. Accessed May 22, 2023.

⁵⁸ "Colorful San Angelo Resident Succumbs," *Abilene Report News*, June 13, 1966, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/762149967/?terms=Homer%20G%20Nickel&match=1>.

⁵⁹ Mario Castillo is a San Angelo native and former THC Commissioner. The anecdotes within this document were gathered by him through oral interviews with family members and individuals associated with the history of the building.

⁶⁰ Frank DuBois, "Colorful San Angelo trader was the real deal," *The Westerner*, February 21, 2011, <https://thewesterner.blogspot.com/2011/02/colorful-san-angelo-trader-was-real.html>.

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more than just the appreciation of the many people he helped and the large number of friends he accumulated during his lifetime in San Angelo. They also speak to his personality as a "...colorful figure on the San Angelo scene for 23 years..."⁶¹

His friend and local sportswriter Blondy Cross remembered Mr. Nickel fondly, stating that he was "perhaps best known as simply a friend by thousands of San Angeloans and West Texans."⁶² Additional excerpts from Mr. Cross' commentary are further revealing:

"His personality and presence were as much a part of the San Angelo scene as are the twin peaks where he had built his home. Many are those who mourn his passing; long will he be remembered by those who called him friend."⁶³

"It is doubtful any other man in San Angelo has or had any more friends in this city than Homer Guy Nickel."⁶⁴

"Will there ever be here another man like him?"⁶⁵

Homer Nickel, the "cedar post man," was a colorful figure and he has rightfully become a part of West Texas folklore. As previously stated, "Homer G. Nickel started Twin Mountain in 1947 as a cedar post hauling business with one truck and trailer."⁶⁶ Under Homer, the Twin Mountain Cedar Post Co. exclusively sold cedar posts to ranchers. However, his eldest son, Robert "Bob" Nickel, took the business in a new direction, leading an expansion program that added "...wire, gates, and other ranch supplies and began providing turn-key fencing projects with its own crews."⁶⁷

Research indicates that Mr. Nickel's cedar posts were used in great number by ranchers in the region during the period of significance. In fact, a photograph (H:3) from 1957 pictures then President Dwight D. Eisenhower talking with local San Angelo area rancher Cecil Meador over what is identified as a Twin Mountain supplied fence. The occasion of his visit was notable given that he "...was the first president to make a visit to San Angelo while in office..."⁶⁸ His visit to the region began in San Angelo and was intended to serve as a "...tour through the drought-stricken farms and Ranches in West Texas", the result of a severe seven-year drought in the region that had forced many families off their land and into the oil fields.⁶⁹ Another photo from the same period likewise shows Eisenhower with a local farmer and a Twin Mountain cedar post fence in the background (Photo 8).

⁶¹ Colorful San Angelo Resident Succumbs," *Abilene Report News*, June 13, 1966,
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/762149967/?terms=Homer%20G%20Nickel&match=1>.

⁶² "Remembered," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, June 14, 1966,
https://www.newspapers.com/image/780363464/?terms=Homer%20G%20Nickel&match=1&clipping_id=111000200.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ "With a Bang," *San Angelo Standard Times*, October 11, 1997,
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/789666468/?terms=Homer%20G%20Nickel&match=1>.

⁶⁷ "Twin Mountain Supply Under New Ownership," *San Angelo Standard Times*, January 27, 1994,
https://www.newspapers.com/image/789461455/?clipping_id=110583188.

⁶⁸ Krista Johnson, "Presidential visits a rare treat for San Angelo," *Go San Angelo*, February 18, 2018,
<https://www.gosanangelo.com/story/news/local/2018/02/18/presidential-visits-rare-treat-san-angelo/341953002/>.

⁶⁹ Jerry Lackey, "HOMESTEAD: Block family traces far, to ancestor's start on range," *Go San Angelo*, April 23, 2011,
<https://archive.gosanangelo.com/business/homestead-block-family-traces-farm-to-ancestors-start-on-range-ep-439888070-356834311.html/>.

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Since the business began in 1947, the Twin Mountain Fencing Company has dutifully provided West Texas ranchers with the materials they require to properly maintain their land and livestock. For the last 75 years, they have kept Mr. Nickel's original promise to "fence the nation with service as great as our product."

Homer Nickel's Community Service

Homer Nickel's philanthropy began in Fresno, California when he became president of the 20-30 International Service Club; a service organization consisting of and led by young individuals who help improve the lives of children in their community.⁷⁰ Mr. Nickel continued this philanthropic tradition as he established himself as a San Angelo businessman and his philanthropic contributions had a profound impact on his community. Indeed, a few notable examples demonstrate his commitment to providing opportunities for the less fortunate, regardless of race or station, which remains a part of the company's ethos to this day.

Fuentes Bro's Cafe: Fuentes Bro's Cafe was a Mexican restaurant founded in 1948 on the Mexican-American side of a segregated San Angelo. In 2003, on the owner's 95th birthday and the 55th anniversary of his restaurant, Mr. Fuentes remembered fondly how Mr. Nickel broke the mold: "In the early days, most of the patrons were Hispanic. Segregationists' attitudes of the day kept many whites away, but not Homer Nickel." Fuentes recalled that "Nickel was one of the few whites who would patronize the little restaurant in the barrio."⁷¹ In the same interview, Robert "Bob" Nickel remembered how his father "always took an interest in improving race relations...he liked to see everybody have a chance that maybe didn't have such a good chance."⁷²

Nickel's Christmas Party: In 1946, just three years after arriving in San Angelo, Homer Nickel held his first annual Christmas party for underprivileged youth. Newspapers from the time indicate that his first party served 2,000 children providing them with food, drinks, gifts, and entertainment. Mr. Nickel hosted this party annually for the next 23 years, with the exception of a three-year period from 1949-1952 due to a drought that impacted his cedar business, until his death, and recruited more members of the business community each time to expand the festivities. Mr. Nickel always made a point to clarify that "the party [was] sponsored for the benefit of underprivileged children regardless of race, creed, or color."⁷³ Reporters covering this event noted that "the ones Nickel wants there most are those 'that might not have much Christmas otherwise.'"⁷⁴ As was his style, Mr. Nickel would always take advantage of the press attention to advertise his business, but nevertheless displayed a fervent commitment to giving back to the less fortunate in his community.

The Blackshear Leopards & Benjamin "Ben" Kelly: Mr. Nickel was well-known in San Angelo as an avid sportsman who "...ha[d] a heart as big as the outdoors...and who never missed an opportunity to help local athletes."⁷⁵ In 1951, Mr. Nickel treated the champion Leopards football team, from the local African American Blackshear High School in San Angelo to an all-expense trip to Galveston to watch Angelo College play in the Oleander Bowl on New Year's Day. Homer chartered a bus and paid for the room and board of the athletes; he even gave each athlete \$100, a lot of money at the time,

⁷⁰ "20/30 Club Elects Homer Nickel Club Leader," *Tulare Advance Register*, December 20, 1934, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110641396/tulare-advance-register/>.

⁷¹ "Family, friends celebrate birthday of restaurateur 95 years and counting," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, December 1, 2003, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110583392/san-angelo-standard-times/>.

⁷² Family, friends celebrate birthday of restaurateur 95 years and counting," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, December 1, 2003, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110583392/san-angelo-standard-times/>.

⁷³ "Nickel Party for Kids Set at 4 P.M. Sunday," *San Angelo Evening Standard*, December 16, 1953, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111054622/>.

⁷⁴ "Fifth Christmas Party Planned for Children," *San Angelo Evening Standard*, December 1, 1952, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111054903/>.

⁷⁵ Hugh Welch, "It Says Here," *San Angelo Evening Standard*, December 27, 1950, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111057357/>.

Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

to “play the slots.”⁷⁶ On another occasion, Mr. Nickel paid for the tuition and books of a promising young Blackshear athlete named Benjamin “Ben” Kelley, who became the first collegiate African American in Texas to walk onto an otherwise all-white team, his local Angelo College. He later attended and played for Illinois University with the financial support of Mr. Nickel, whom he corresponded with to update him on his experience at the university and later his time in the military.⁷⁷ Kelley later joined the NFL as a player for the San Francisco 49ers. Mr. Nickel’s own words display his love of sport and commitment to helping the less fortunate: “I know Kelley will be under pressure going to a school like that but like other folks here I believe he has the stuff in him to make the grade. At least I’ll be pulling for him all the way.”⁷⁸ A 1950 article in the *San Angelo Evening Standard* noted that:

Benjamin Kelley, the only San Angelo Negro football player ever to make the grade at a big white Northern or midwestern school...braved the racial and football barriers at Illinois to become a first stringer...Kelly’s success is a great tribute to the far-sightedness of a couple of San Angeloans—Sportsman Homer Nickel and Coach A.L. Thomas of the Blackshear Leopards...Nickel furnished the finances and Thomas much of the moral assistance...”⁷⁹

Newspaper interviews with Coach Thomas of the Blackshear team indicate that the entire city supported the team, regardless of the segregation policies of the time, but Mr. Nickel is cited as paying special attention to supporting the team in a variety of ways.

Chronology of Business Names

The list below details the chronological order for the various names the business went by over the years and cover a period from 1943 to the present. These changes reflect both the historical function of the business at any given point in time, as well as its evolution into a modern full-service residential and commercial fencing company. The names in order from 1943 to current day are as follows:

- Nick’s Twin Mountain House; Twin Mountain Package Store (1943)
- Nick’s Cedar Post Yard (1947)
- Nick’s Twin Mountain Trading Post (1957)
- Nick’s Twin Mountain Cedar Post Co.; Twin Mountain Cedar Post Company (1958)
- Homer Nickel and Sons (1959)
- Nick’s Twin Mountain Cedar Post Company (1961)
- Nick’s Twin Mountain Supply Company; Twin Mountain Supply Company (1963)
- Twin Mountain Fence Company (1994)

Afterward

Twin Mountain Supply Company—Robert “Bob” Nickel—[1963-1994]

Homer Nickel’s eldest son, Robert “Bob” A. Nickel, took over the business in 1963, upon returning from his service in the Korean War and completing his education at the University of Texas at Austin, and renamed the business Twin

⁷⁶ “Blackshear Won It All in 1950,” *San Angelo Standard-Times*, November 10, 1991, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110582916/san-angelo-standard-times/>.

⁷⁷ Hugh Welch, “It Says Here,” *San Angelo Evening Standard*, December 26, 1950, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110584019/>.

⁷⁸ Hugh Welch, “It Says Here,” *San Angelo Evening Standard*, July 28, 1950, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/11058044/>.

⁷⁹ Hugh Welch, “It Says Here,” *San Angelo Evening Standard*, December 26, 1950, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/110584019/>.

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Mountain Supply.⁸⁰ With Robert at the helm, the business took a new direction, from the selling of cedar posts to providing “turnkey” fencing services for the area. Robert’s business sense allowed him to take advantage of the agricultural and petroleum boom era, thus expanding the service reach of business beyond Tom Green County. Robert was also instrumental in bringing electric fencing to the Concho River Valley. Under his tenure, Robert expanded the business into national and international sales, laid 457 miles of interstate fencing from South Junction to El Paso, and realized a long-time ambition of his father to fence Big Bend National Park located in Brewster County, Texas.

During Robert’s ownership of the company, a new home was built on one of the twin mountain hillsides for his family. At that juncture, the Meza family, including a young Raymond, the current owner of the business, moved into the Twin Mountain building. Raymond Meza would literally “grow up with the business” and, with the friendship and guidance of his mentor Robert Nickel, would eventually come to own it and enlarge its operations. Robert Nickel died in 2020 after a long battle with Parkinson’s. Notably, his obituary characterized Raymond as “...family by choice,” reflecting the close relationship the two gentlemen shared.

Twin Mountain Fence Company—Raymond Meza—[1994-Current]

The current owner, Raymond Meza, purchased the company from Robert Nickel in 1994. Mr. Meza’s connection to the business dates to his early childhood. Media reports note that at age “7, young Raymond followed his father to work at Twin Mountain.”⁸¹ He “managed to make himself useful, dragging a magnet around the yard picking up nails.”⁸² Raymond rose quickly through the ranks of the business serving as a welder, foreman, sales manager, and eventually vice-president and general manager for the company.⁸³ Since purchasing the company from Robert Nickel, Raymond has led the company into the high technology of battery and solar-powered electric fencing. Under his leadership, Twin Mountain Fence Company has expanded its reach into Mexico and beyond. As the company continues to grow and expand, it has adhered to the original promise on which the company was founded, “Fence the nation with service as great as our product.”

Over the past 75 years, the Twin Mountain Fence Company has completed a number of notable jobs including:

- Constructed over 500 miles of fence along Interstates 10 & 20.
- Constructed fence in Yellowstone National Park.
- Constructed over 40 miles of fence in Big Bend National Park.
- Installed an Electric Fence System in the Elephant Exhibit at the National Zoo in Washington D.C.
- Constructed 150 1-acre plots of electric fence to keep the bears from eating the honey crop for the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado,
- Installed a 42-strand Electric Fence System for the Texas Snow Monkeys, an endangered species.
- Since 1947 TMFC has stretched over 54,000 miles of fence equating to more than twice the earth’s circumference.

Competitors

An extensive search of archived newspapers from the period of significance in San Angelo and the area of West Texas was conducted. Information regarding key/meaningful competitors for cedar post sellers was not located and no direct competitors were found. While other fencing competitors were in the market, none focused exclusively on cedar posts or fencing, and based on research, none are still in operation today. Further, while other package stores existed

⁸⁰ “Twin Mountain Has the Goods of Many Types,” *San Angelo Standard Times*, October 11, 1963, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/788386822>.

⁸¹ “World-wide fence supply operation run from home,” *San Angelo Standard Times*, March 3, 1995.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ “Twin Mountain Supply Under New Ownership,” *San Angelo Standard Times*, January 27, 1994, https://www.newspapers.com/image/789461455/?clipping_id=110583188.

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contemporaneously with the Twin Mountain Package Store, the Twin Mountain Building is the only surviving example of a package store in Tom Green County dating from this period. **Correspondence**

In researching property ownership and building construction information for this project, researcher Mario Castillo was informed by a Tom Green County Appraisal official that, “the old records are a real mess, sometimes all we have are ‘3 x 5’ index cards with little or no details as to edifices on lands, construction, etc.” As such, he was unable to locate the original construction documents for this building.

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Map of Texas Counties; Tom Green County indicated in red.



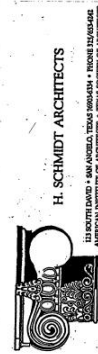
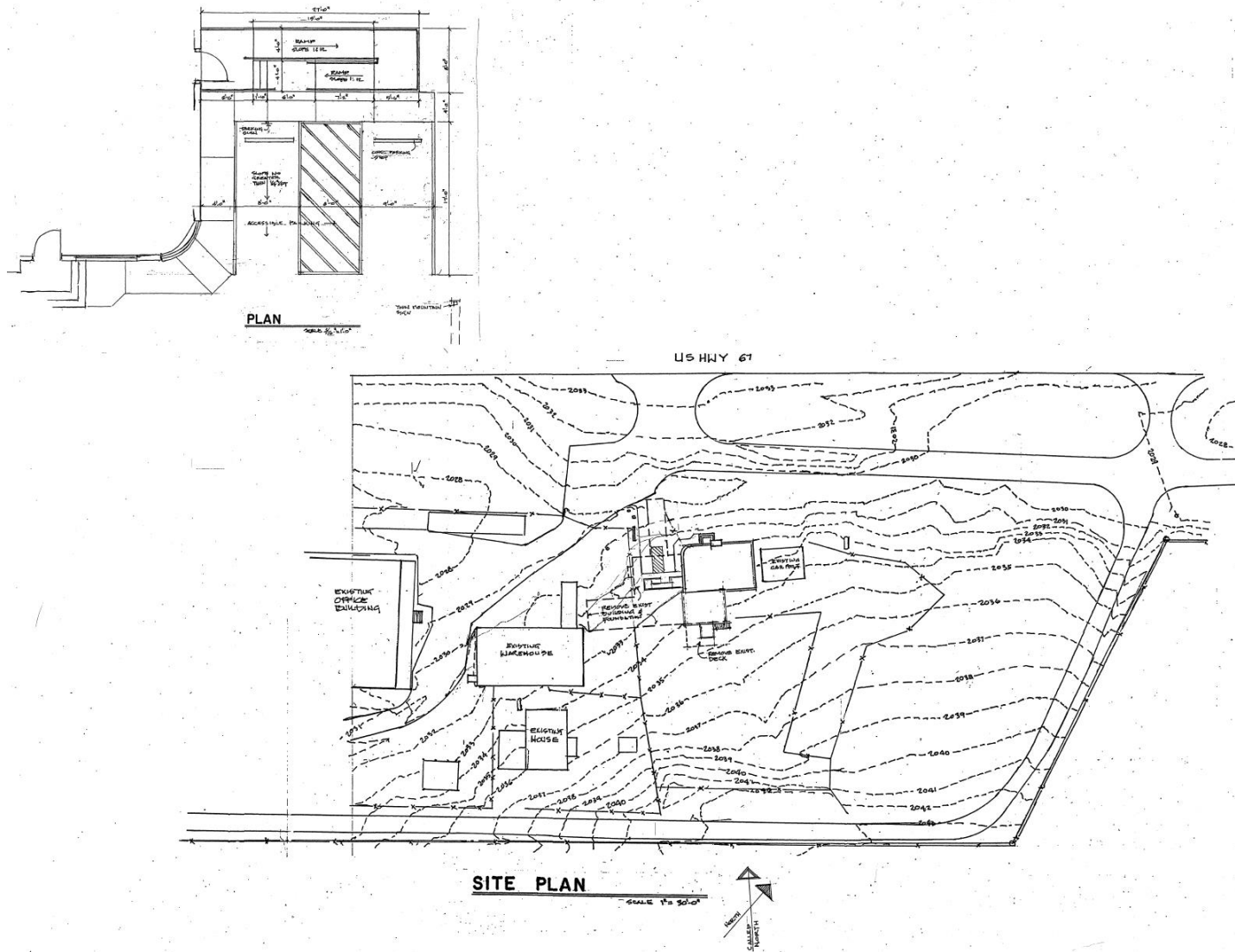
Tom Green County

Google Maps, accessed March 29, 2023.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

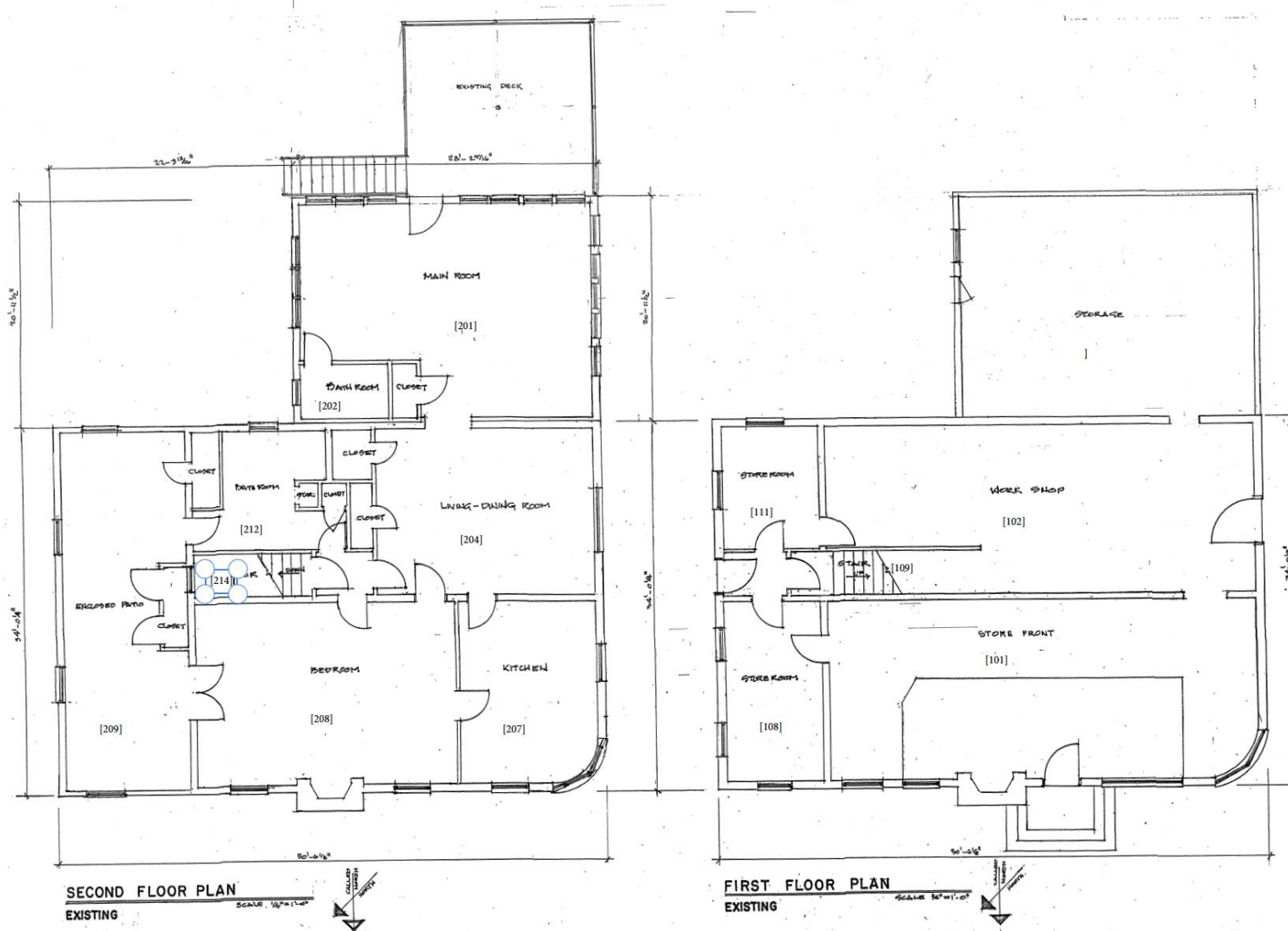
Site Plan



Twin Mountain Fence Co. Building
7513 South U.S. Highway 67
San Angelo, Texas

Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

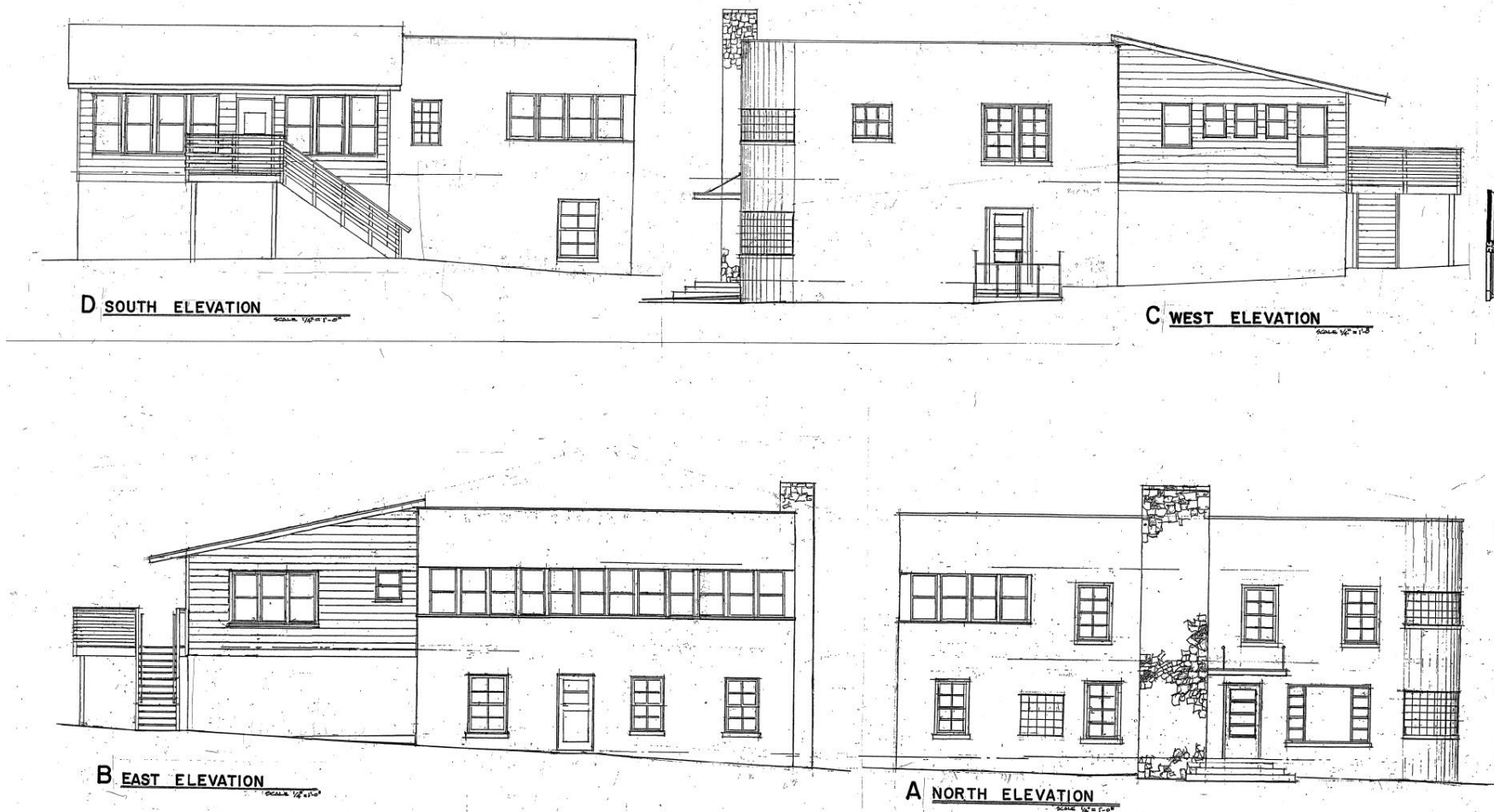
Existing Floor plans



Twin Mountain Fence Co Building
7513 South U.S. Highway 67
San Angelo, Texas

Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Elevations



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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS • TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

Twin Mountain Fence Co. Building
7513 South U.S. Highway 67
San Angelo, Texas

Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Historic Photographs

Historic Photo 1: Homer Nickel's fleet of cedar post trucks



Historic Photo 2: Nick's Twin Mountain Cedar Post Co. Truck



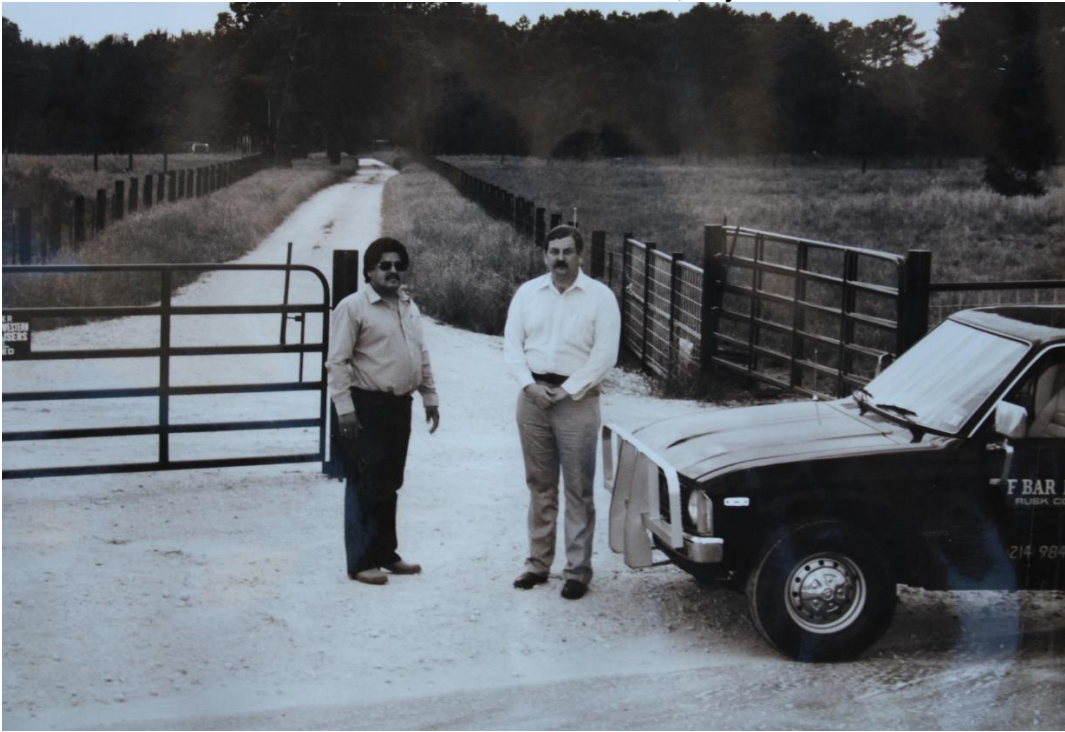
Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Historic Photo 3: Homer Nickel standing next to his famed "Canadian Comet"



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Historic Photo 4: Robert "Bob" Nickel and current owner, Raymond Meza



Historic Photo 5: Advertisement for Nick's Twin Mountain Cedar Post Co.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Historic Photo 6: Twin Mountain building (c.1943)



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Historic Photo 7: Twin Mountain Cedar Post Company - Original Truck & Trailer (c.1948)



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Drone Photos (2020)

Original chimney with evidence of extension to accommodate pitched room, August 2020.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

North elevation. Exposed original parapet roof, August 2020.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

East elevation, August 2020.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Birds eye view of north elevation, August 2020.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

East elevation with evidence of damaged pitch roof, August 2020.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Ariel view of damaged pitch roof, August 2020.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Current Photographs

All photos by Gregory Smith, September 2023

Photo 1: View of northeast corner of nominated proeprty. The building on right is outside the boundary.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 2: South elevation detail, showing chimney, original store entrance, and curved corner..



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 3: North elevation, facing south.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 4: Northwest corner, with original loading dock and freestanding sign.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 5: Loading dock, facing north.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 6: North side of nominated property, facing southeast.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 7: West elevation, facing east.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 8: West elevation, looking east towards covered loading dock.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 9: South elevation, showing stairs to second floor porch to access residence.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 10: Covered porch at residence entrance, facing west.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 11: East elevation with historic painted signage and infilled second floor porch, facing northwest.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 12: Entrance to residence, facing northeast.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 13: Fireplace in front room, facing northeast.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 14: Fireplace in front room, facing northeast.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 15: Kitchen, facing west.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 16: South addition, facing north.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 17: South addition with entrance from porch, facing southeast.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 18: Living room/dining room, facing north.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 19: Ground floor retail space, facing southeast.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 20: Ground floor retail space, facing northwest.



Twin Mountain Fence Company, San Angelo vicinity, Tom Green County, Texas

Photo 21: Interior stairs, leading from retail area to upper floor residence, facing west.



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