### **United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 14. W. S. Hills Commercial Structure

For HCRS use only received APR date entered

> 21 Page

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Name:

W. S. Hills Commercial Structure

Address: Owner:

215-19 San Antonio Avenue Coles Brothers Agents

P. O. Box 126

El Paso, Texas, 79901

Architect/Builder:

Trost and Trost

Style: Second Renaissance Revival

Date:

1927

Original Use:

Commercial

Present Use:

Same

Physical Description:

The commercial structure located in the 200 block of San Antonio Avenue is a fine example of the Second Renaissance Revival influence applied to early 20th century commercial architecture. The two story building fronts on both Texas Avenue and San Antonio. Each facade is divided into five bays by pilasters that rise two floors to support a prominent entablature and parapet. This classical framework is executed in blocks of marble, sharply scored to give a three dimensional richness, with other details executed with painted, galvanized iron. The second floor bays are infilled with the original three part windows while the ground floor has been modernized with contemporary display windows, signage, and awnings. Despite the severe disruption created by the cosmetic alterations, the original classical framework appears to be intact.

### Statement of Significance:

Known locally as the W. S. Hills Building, the classical revival commercial structure was commissioned in 1926 by Mrs. Hills in memory of her husband. Longtime residents of the city, the Hills are noted as making significant contributions to both the financial and commercial development as well as the cultural expansion of El Paso.

Mr. Hill, educated in law at Harvard, arrived from St. Louis in 1879 to investigate the real estate holdings of a St. Louis firm which had indirectly come into possession of land in the area. Immediately recognizing the potential for growth and development, he established himself as a realtor and constructed the first two story building in the settlement of adobe structures. This new building served as both a residence and office and existed on the site of the current Hills building. Mrs. Hills arrived three years later with their son. Welleducated and travelled, Mrs. Hills made a cultural impact on the community with her developed artistic and aesthetic capabilities. Mr. Hills died at the turn of the century and Mrs. Hills later moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. She did, however engage the firm of Trost and Trost to design the two story structure to be built on the site of the original one in memory of her husband. The structure, still occupied for commercial use, is owned by the Coles family, relatives of Mrs. Hills.

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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 14. W. S. Hills Commercial Structure

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Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

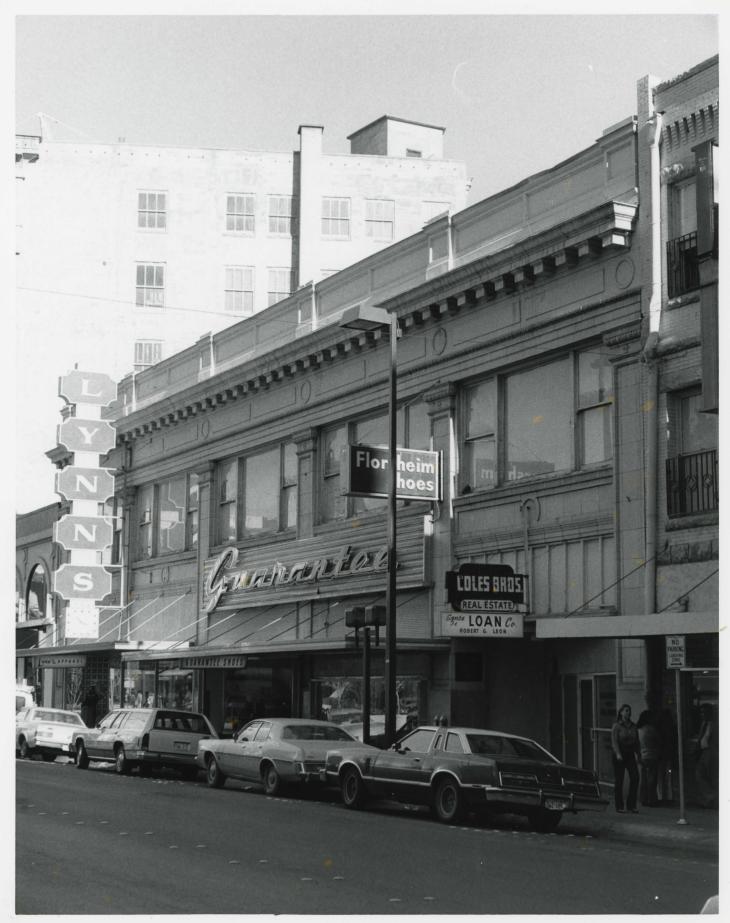
Mills Survey, Block 5 1/2, Lot 29 101.82 on San Antonio extending to Texas beginning 108.29 east of SWC

Less than one 13/3514401/359175

Acreage: UTM References:

Property Commercial Structures of the Haso by Henry C. Strost Thenstie Resources  State Working Number	80004111
State Tx- fel Paso Working Number 4-2-80 1070	8000 4115
TECHNICAL Photos 36 Maps 5	Cover CONTROL
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National Register Write-up Send-back	Entered <b>SEP 2 4</b> 1980
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# SEP 2 4 1900

Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost
Commercial Structure (for Mrs. W. S. Hills)
215-19 San Antonio Avenue
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas
Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 2/80
Negative on File
North elevation, camera facing southeast
Photo # 14 of 36

APR 2 1980

# Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000837