

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

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

For HCRS use only

received APR 2 1980

date entered SEP 24 1980

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

Continuation sheet 21

Item number 7

Page 21

Name: W. S. Hills Commercial Structure  
Address: 215-19 San Antonio Avenue  
Owner: 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. Well-educated 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

Continuation sheet 22

Item number 7

Page 22

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

Acreage:

Less than one

UTM References:

13/3514401/359175

Property Commercial Structures of El Paso  
by Henry C. Frost Thematic Resources

80004111  
80004108  
80004115

State Tx - El Paso Working Number #-2-801070

**TECHNICAL**

(Cover) CONTROL

Photos 36  
Maps 5

**HISTORIAN**

Basically a well-done nomination. For the most part the buildings are nicely executed examples of various architectural styles, designed by the city's leading architect during the early decades of the 20th c. & have questions or reservations about blbga 1, 3, 4, 12, 13, and 17, however - see attached sheet

Grossman  
6/2/80

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

For specifics. Call about these 6 buildings - the most can be accepted.

*all comments attached*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

See 8/5 phone sheet  
Revised NBD for #1 rec'd.  
All but 3 of the buildings are individually eligible. # 4 & 12 do not appear to meet the criteria considering the other better Chicago School examples. I think #3 has lost too much integrity to be listed individually

Accept: #1-3, 5-11, 14-17  
Reject: #4, 12, 13

Grossman  
9/23/80

**BRANCH CHIEF**

~~no, the buildings are not eligible for listing as a group. They are too different in style and location to be considered as a group. They should be listed individually if they meet the criteria.~~

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered SEP 24 1980  
Federal Register Entry 2, 3, 81 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

80004104

80004105

80004100

80004101

80004109

80004110

80004102

80004112

80004113

80004109

OTHER

BAR

Inventor

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

REPORT

SEP 24

2 2 21



SEP 24 1960

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