

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JUN 30 1980

date entered

SEP 8 1980

## 1. Name

historic Shapira Hotel

and/or common Wills Hotel

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 209 N. Madison St. \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Madisonville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 2nd

state Texas code 048 county Madison code 313

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name Lynne and John R. Parten

street &amp; number P. O. Box 1478

city, town Madisonville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas 77864

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Madison Courthouse

street &amp; number

city, town Madisonville \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  nodate December, 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shapira Hotel is a 24 room wooden building constructed about 1904 just off the town square in Madisonville, a rural east Texas town. A provincial reflection of the Queen Anne style, the 7,100 square foot structure resembles a truncated 'H' in plan with two parallel wings oriented east-west, connected by a central wing oriented north-south which houses the lobby and parlor. Brick piers support the balloon framed structure, sheathed in moulded lap siding and surmounted by a full pitch gabled roof with six decoratively shingled gable ends. Exterior walls rise from a wide baseboard and water table, a distinctive horizontal band of jigsawn shingles between stories wraps the building and narrow vertical boards define the corners. The cornice consists of a raking closed soffit with moulded fascia. One chimney and four flues rise above the roofline, each crowned with ornamentally coursed bands of red brick in contrast to the cream colored brick of the stacks. More than 90 double hung windows punctuate the building's facades allowing cross ventilation in the warm climate.

A 40' gallery spans the asymmetrical east facade between two projecting gabled wings, each of which is pierced with uncentered windows vertically aligned in both stories. Jigsawn shingles infill the pedimented gable which is broken by a small attic window. An octagonal turret topped with a tall bell-shaped roof and finial is engaged on the corner of the southerly wing; a rectangular turret with tetrahedral roof and cresting is attached to the corner of the northerly wing. Both turrets rise three stories with windows in each facet of all three stories. Originally the porch was two story, supported by slender turned and scalloped columns which were infilled with bobbin work spandrels and balustrades of turned spindles. A balustraded flight of stairs at either end ascended the wooden porch which has been replaced by a concrete slab and stairs. Two entrances give access to the interior; the main entrance at the southern end of the facade, consists of two panel doors with beveled glass and transom. Four windows on each floor complete the facade which is surmounted with a large windowless gable flanked by a dormer on each side, all trimmed with decorative shingles.

Three major bays comprise the south facade; the center bay projects forward forming a minor wing topped with a shingled, windowed gable. The octagonal turret anchors the west end of the facade. Originally the east end supported a porch which has been enclosed into a room, and a gallery, now removed. Windows aligned on both stories pierce each bay and a double door with transom that originally gave access to the west end gallery has been converted to windows. The north facade is marked with the squared turret and a slightly projecting bay with a shingled, windowed gable. Double hung windows in singles and pairs pierce the walls.

A large 'U' shaped court enclosed by the three major wings of the hotel dominates the west facade. Facing the court and wrapping around to the west end of the southerly wing is a continuous wooden balustraded porch and gallery, though portions of the balustrade and gallery have been removed. An exterior stairway along the rear wall of the court provides access between porch and gallery onto which doors and windows of the hotel's bedrooms open. The

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southern wing is terminated with a hipped roof (the only hip on the building) while the northern wing is topped with an unadorned windowed gable.

A rather complex floorplan separates the service areas from the guest rooms and also the public and private areas. The kitchen, ballroom, and dining room are housed on the first floor of the south wing with the parlor and stair hall contained in the connecting wing. Both floors of the north wing and the remainder of the second floor are divided into guest rooms. Pine is used throughout the interior with 4" matched flooring on the first floor and 6" on the second floor. Ship-lap walls and ceilings are papered throughout except for the kitchen, halls, and closets which are beaded board. A heavily moulded baseboard is used in the dining room; all other rooms are wainscoted. Moulding with carved corner blocks accentuates doors and windows. The second floor is reached by a prominent staircase which is adorned with large carved newels and turned balusters and ascends the second floor with a full turn and landing. The bannister returns at the head of the stairs and wraps the open stair well. Other decorative features include a parlor fireplace with large mantle, moulded brick pilasters and cornice, and turned and fretsawn spandrels which span the entrances to the octagonal turret rooms. Originally the hotel was lighted with piped gas; fixtures are still intact in the third story of the turrets which unlike the rest of the attic, are finished. At least three bathrooms were built in the hotel; several more added in recent times.

Through the years, the hotel has undergone several changes which covered the clapboard siding with asbestos shingles, replaced the wooden shingle roof with composite shingles, and altered the porches. Present owners have begun operations to return the building to its original use as a hotel, restaurant, and social center, restoring it to its original appearance as shown in the photographs.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1904 Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

An unusual example of a nearly vanished class of American public building, the small town hotel, the Shapira was the only facility of its kind in this primarily rural region of east Texas. In addition to providing accommodations for travelers and businessmen, the hotel was the social center of the small ranching and farming community, second only to the courthouse in local significance. Polychromatic bands of shingles, turreted rooms, and broad verandas contributed to the hotel's visual prominence while the elegant suites and public spaces assured its eminence during an era when travel was congenial and visits prolonged. At the time of its completion in 1904, the Shapira was one of the most lavish buildings in the region, attracting drummers, wealthy ranchers, and oilmen with its modern conveniences and gracious service. It functioned continuously as a hotel and integral part of the community until its closing in 1974.

The Reconstruction era brought a new wave of displaced settlers into the area and it was at this time that Madisonville began to prosper and emerge as the commercial center for Madison and surrounding counties. During this period Jake and Sarah Shapira, a Russian-Jewish immigrant couple, arrived in Madisonville and established a mercantile business on the town square. Generously hospitable, the Shapiras opened their home as a boarding house which soon became popular with the drummers, or traveling salesmen, whose visits became increasingly frequent with the growing population. By the turn of the century the Shapiras had achieved personal prosperity, but in 1903 Jake died, leaving Sarah to raise their four children. Soon after, the family home, then known as the Shapira Hotel, burned to the ground. Despite such setbacks, Sarah elected to remain in Madisonville, where the economic future was more optimistic than ever. Cotton production in the county continued to grow, the railroad had been surveyed and was soon to reach Madisonville, and a new First National Bank was under construction just two doors down from the hotel site on North Madison Street.

In 1904 the new Shapira Hotel opened on the site of the original one, providing overnight accommodations for salesmen and travelers and a social center with dining and entertainment facilities for farmers, ranchers, townspeople, and later, oilmen. Though built in the twentieth century, the new structure was a statement of Victorian construction techniques and stylistic ornament. Its balloon frame form incorporated porches, turrets and a multi-gabled roof and utilized turned balusters and slender columns, turned and jig-sawn gingerbread detailing, and horizontal bands of elaborate fish-scale shingling for decorative enhancement. This new visual landmark was run in much the same manner as its predecessor. Guests were treated as family during their stay and Sarah, continuing to display her cooking talents, served meals on a large oak table which

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seated 26. She was able to raise her children and maintain the family's reputation for excellence until 1922 when the decision was made to move to Crockett where one of her sons had purchased a hotel on the square.

For the next few years the hotel was leased. Sarah Shapira died in 1926 and the hotel was sold to Clara Wills in 1928. In the mid 1930's the structure underwent a major renovation in which porches were altered and the original wood siding was covered with protective shingles. Mrs. Wills continued to operate the hotel as such until 1974 and reside in the building until 1978. Although the physical appearance of the hotel was changed considerably in the 30's, the alterations are reversible and it is the intent of present owners, Lynne and John R. Parten, to restore the building to its former appearance and function as a social center for the community. To date, the foundation has been stabilized and the porches have been repaired except for the trim. A majority of the asbestos siding has been removed (all of that on the lower level) and the ground floor windows have all been rebuilt. Currently the roof is being replaced with one of standing seam tin, chosen over wood shingles by the owner for fire safety considerations. Interior work has not yet begun.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Madisonville Meteor, Dec. 6, 1921, p.1.

Interviews: Maj. J. R. Parten (age 84), 8/27/79.  
John D. House (age 101), 9/1/79.  
Mrs. Hopi Randolph (age 92), 9/11/79.  
Mrs. C. L. Loud (age 72), 9/11/79.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Madisonville, Texas

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

15	2	2	1	5	1	5	3	4	2	7	5	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wm. Keeton Turner, Research Associate/Linda C. Flory, Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission date January 24, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 5693 telephone 478-3845

city or town Austin state Texas

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 16, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*[Signature]*

Keeper of the National Register

date 9/5/80

Attest: *[Signature]*

Chief of Registration

date 9/3/80

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Beginning at a point N. 25 W. 449 feet from the Southeast corner of Block NO. 4 in said town of Madisonville, Texas, as shown by the original plan and plat of said town, said point being in the East line of Block No. 24 and in the West line of Madison Street (formerly known as Bedias Street) and now known as North Madison Street.

Thence N 25 W with the said East line of said Block No. 24, 31 feet to the Northeast corner of said block, continuing same course with the East line of said tract conveyed by R. Lessing to Jacob Shapira and the West line of said street, a total distance of 128 feet for the East line of the land herein conveyed, stake for corner.

Thence S 65 W 220 feet to the West line of the said tract of land so conveyed by R. Lessing to Jacob Shapira, stake for corner.

Thence with the West line of said tract 97 feet to its Southwest corner, same point being the Northwest corner of said Block No. 24 in said town of Madisonville, and continuing same course with the West line of said Block No. 24, a distance of 31 feet, making a total distance of 128 feet for the West line of the land hereby conveyed, stake for corner.

Thence N 65 E 220 feet to the said East line of said Block No. 24, to the Place of Beginning, hereby conveying a strip of land 31 feet wide off the South side of the tract so conveyed by R. Lessing to Jacob Shapira.

Property

*Shapira Hotel*

00004140

State

*W. Madison*

Working Number

*6.30.80.1707*

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 11

Maps 1

**HISTORIAN**

*This building is significant as an example of a turn of the century, small town Grand Hotel - built in 1904 this large wooden building is an impressive example of a vernacular interpretation of Queen Anne style architecture. For years the building served as the social center for the town and surrounding area. When completed it was considered the finest building in the area.*

*accept  
Patrick Andrews  
7/3/80*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered SEP 8 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

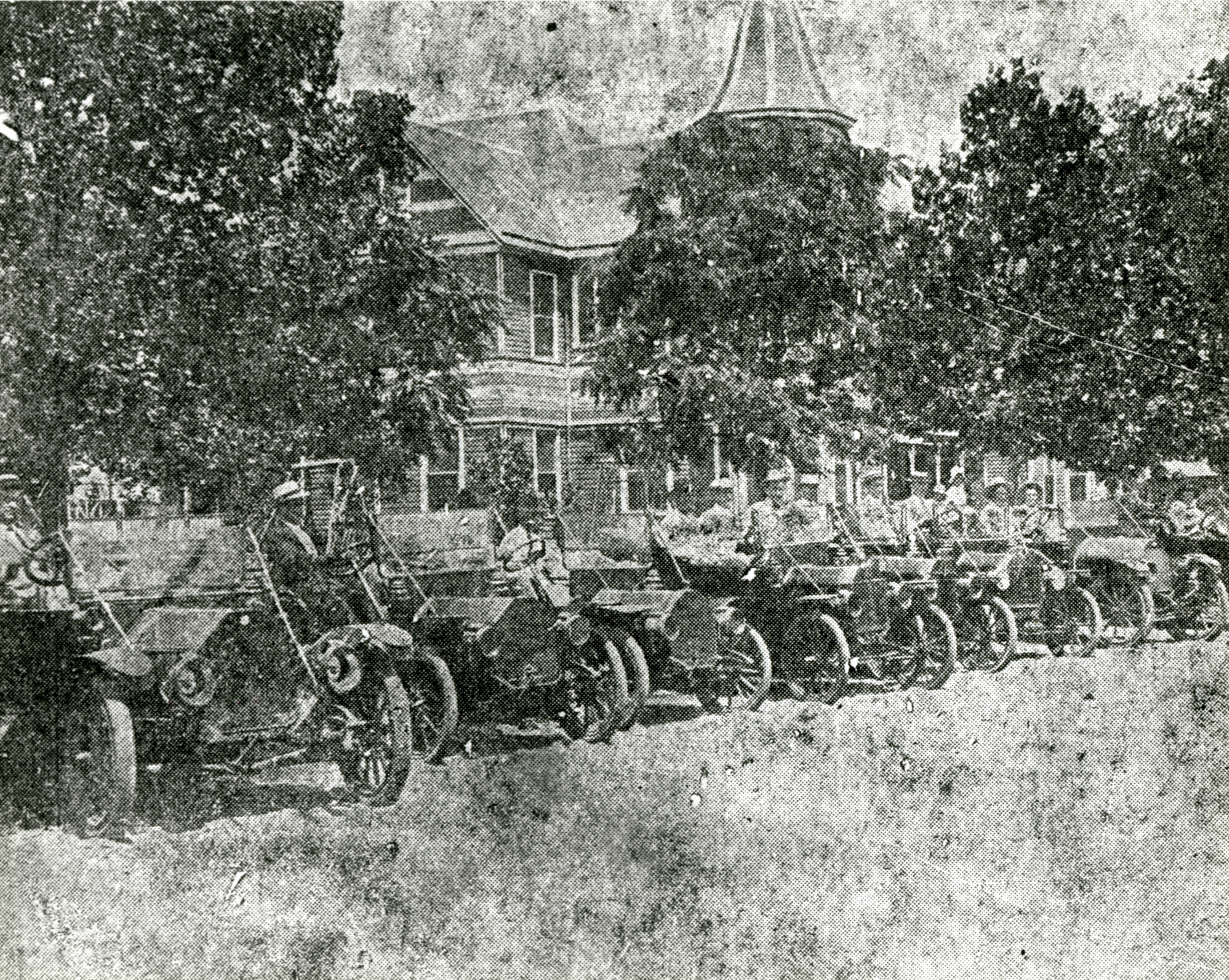


The Old Shakino Hotel.

Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas  
Photo: Historic, ca. 1900, courtesy Iola McLaren,  
Office of the County Clerk  
Photocopy negative on file at THC  
Original Shapira Hotel, Northeast Oblique, camera facing  
Photo # 1 of 11 southwest

JUN 30 1980

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Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison

Madisonville, Madison County, Texas

Photo: Historic, ca. 1915, courtesy Joe Pinnelli,  
P. O. Box 1478, Madisonville, Texas, 77864

Negative property of John R. and Lynne Parten

Southeast Oblique, camera facing northwest

Photo # 2 of 11

JUN 3 0 1980

SEP 8 1980



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison

Madisonville, Madison County, Texas

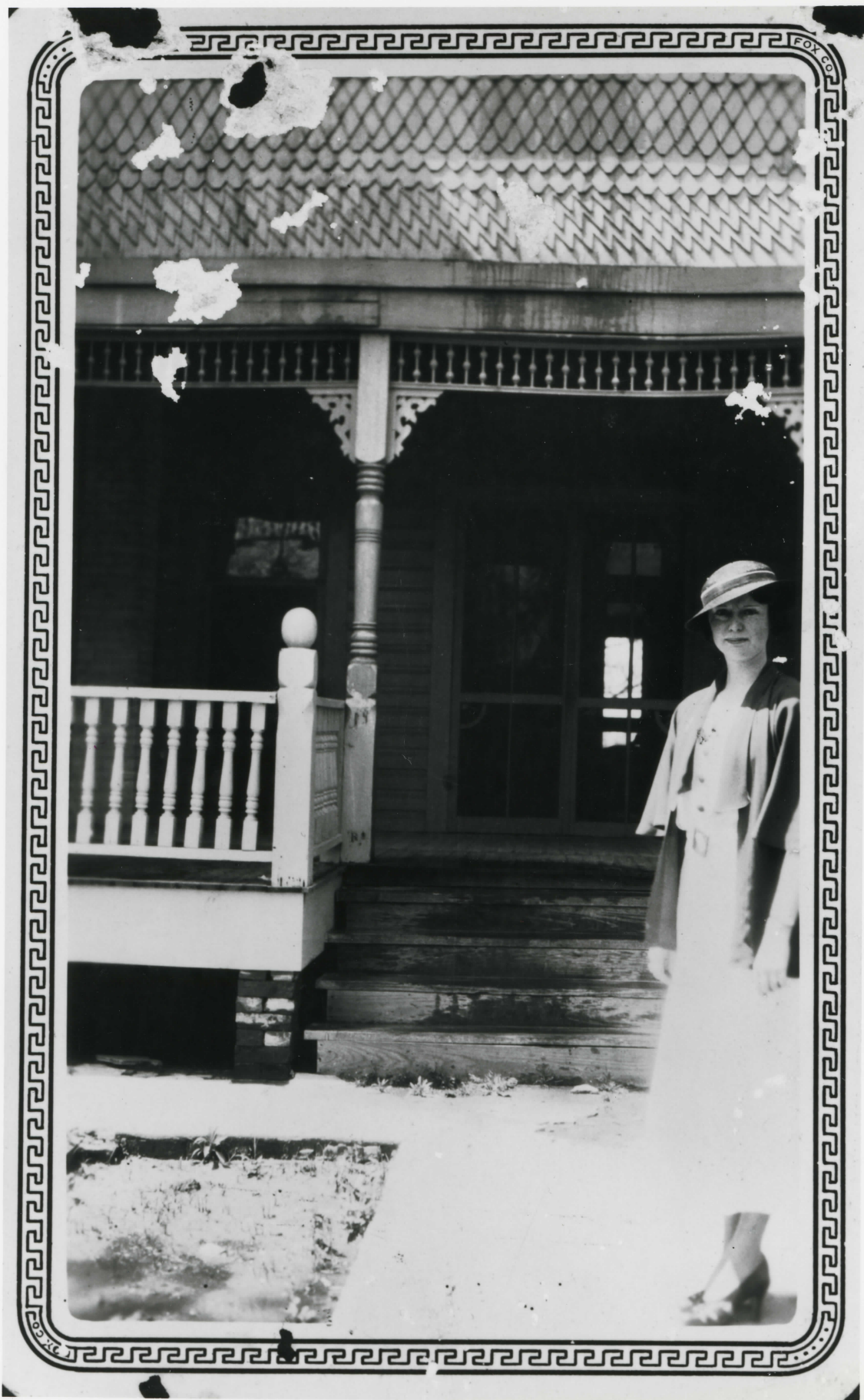
Photo: Historic, ca. 1933, courtesy Mrs. J.H. Frozzard  
Negative property of Mrs. Frozzard, Chairperson  
of Daughters of American Confederacy

Northeast Oblique, camera facing southwest

Photo # 3 of 11

UBS 0 6 N116

SEP 8 1980



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas

Photo: Historic, ca. 1938, courtesy Joe Pinnelli,  
P. O. Box 1478, Madisonville, Texas, 77864

Negative property of John R. and Lynne Parten  
Entrance, east elevation, camera facing west  
Photo # 4 of 11

JUN 8 1980

SEP 8 1960



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas  
Photo: Lynne Parten, January, 1980  
Negative property of Lynne Parten  
East Elevation, camera facing west  
Photo # 5 of 11

JUN 3 1980

SEP 8 1980



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas  
Photo: Danny Hardy, December, 1979  
Negative on file at THC  
Southeast Oblique, camera facing northwest  
Photo # 6 of 11

JUN 3 0 1980

SEP 8 1980



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas  
Photo: Danny Hardy, December, 1979  
Negative on file at THC  
Northeast Oblique, camera facing southwest  
Photo # 7 of 11

JUN 3 0 1980

SEP 8 1980



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas  
Photo: Danny Hardy, December, 1979  
Negative on file at THC  
Southwest Oblique, camera facing northeast  
Photo # 3 of 11

SEP 8 1980

SEP 8 1980



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas  
Photo: Danny Hardy, December, 1979  
Negative on file at THC  
Southwest Oblique, camera facing northeast  
Photo # 9 of 11

JUN 30 1980

SEP 8 1980



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas

Photo: Danny Hardy, December, 1979

Negative on file at THC

Interior, Stair detail

Photo # 10 of 11

JUN 3 0 1980

SEP 8 1980



Shapira Hotel  
209 N. Madison  
Madisonville, Madison County, Texas

Photo: Lew Potts, October, 1979

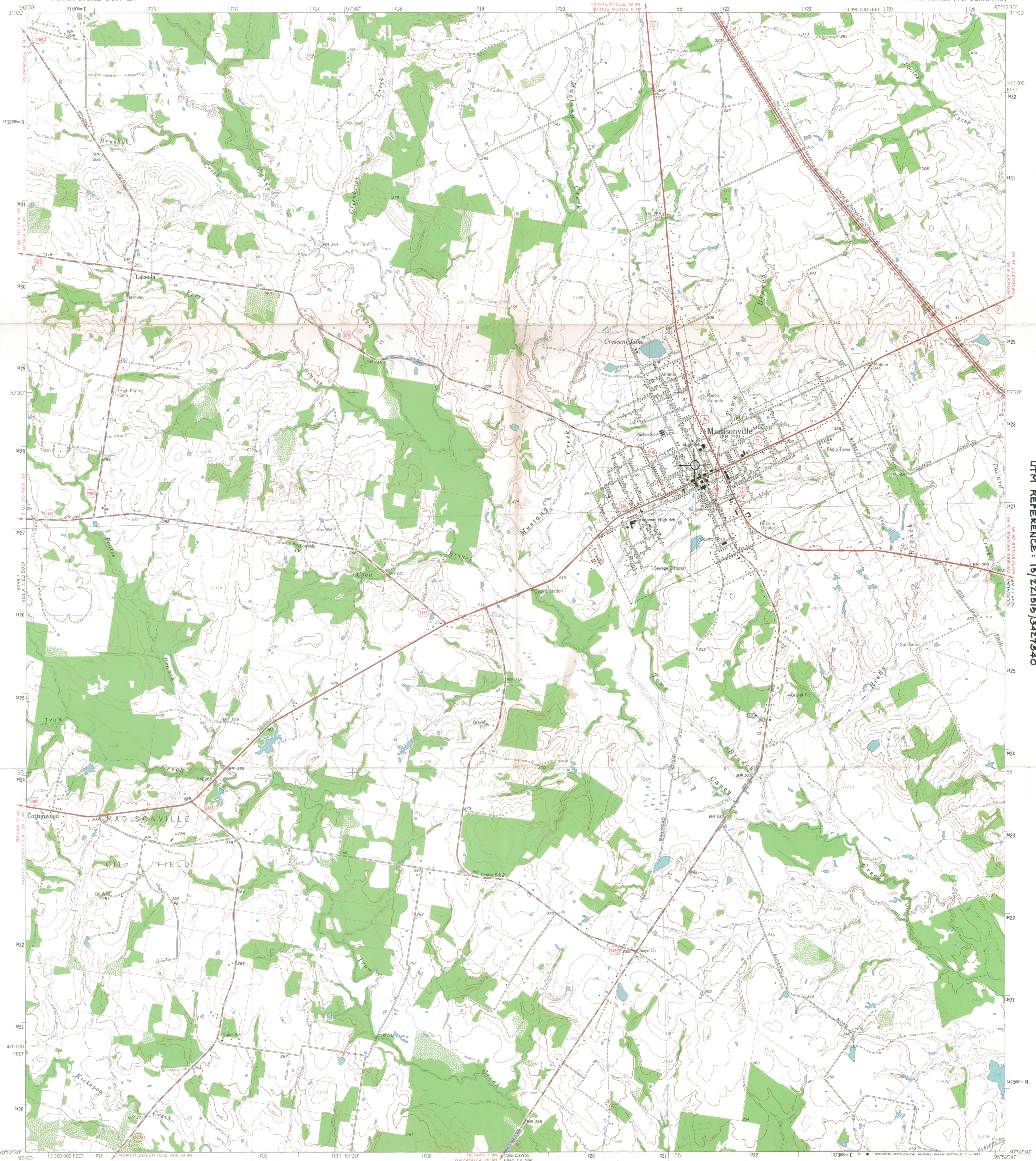
Negative property of Lew Potts, 800 S. Madison,  
Madisonville, Texas, 77864

Interior, Turret detail

Photo # 11 of 11

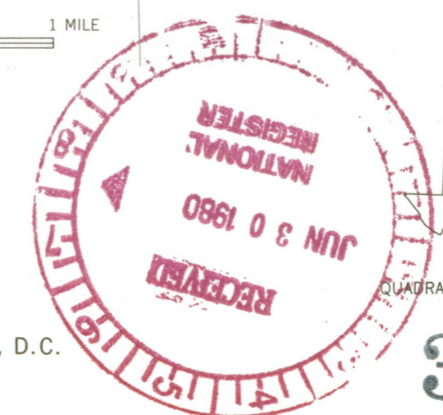
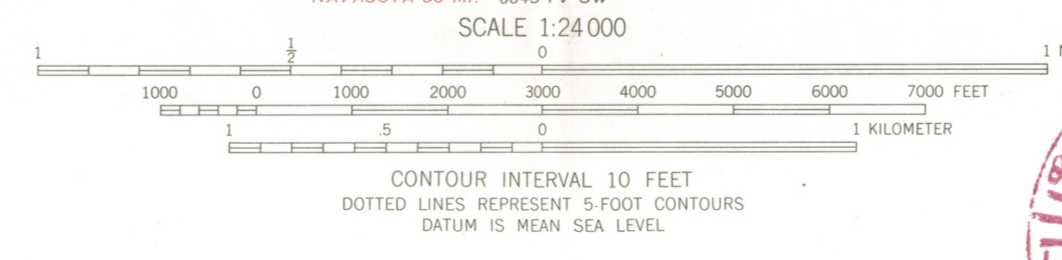
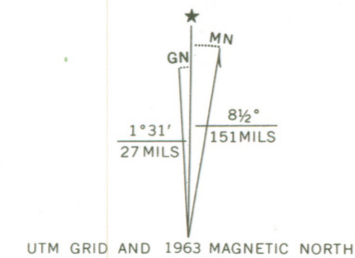
JUN 3 0 8 1980

SEP 8 1980



SHAPIRA HOTEL  
209 N. MADISON  
MADISONVILLE, MADISON COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 15JZZ1819J3427540

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3095-333

MADISONVILLE, TEXAS.  
N3052.5 - W9552.5/7.5  
1963  
AMS 6845 IV NW - SERIES V882

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      TEXAS

Date Entered      8/1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Foster House	Navasota vicinity Grimes County
Ximenes Chapel	San Antonio Bexar County
Methodist Church Concord	Carthage vicinity Panola County
Rogers-Drummond House	Mount Vernon vicinity Franklin County
Shapira Hotel	Madisonville Madison County

Also Notified

Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Lloyd Bentsen  
Honorable Charles Wilson  
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez  
Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas State Historical  
Commission  
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

NR

Byers/mjd      9/24/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.