

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JUL 14 1983

Continuation sheet

Item number All

Page 3

2. Name: San Marcos Milling Company

Location: ~~On Nicola Alley, one block east of LBJ Dr. and one block south of Mo-Pac railroad tracks.~~

Classification: Category - building; Ownership - private; Status - unoccupied;
Accessible - yes, restricted; Present use - commercial (storage).

Owner of Property: Mrs. Reuben H. Meeks
800 Bluebonnet Dr.
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - fair; Altered; Original Site.

What the San Marcos Milling Company building lacks in high-style details it possesses in scale. It is an L-shaped, two-story warehouse with basement, built of wood framing and covered with corrugated metal on the gabled roof and walls. The arms are both more than 100 ft. long, and at the gable peak the walls reach a height of almost 50 ft. Inside, windows with six-over-six lights are evident, but they are sheathed on the exterior with metal. Windows are on both levels; doors are found on all four major walls.

The basement is in disrepair, but retains some features from the dairy period, including an augur-operated, feed-distribution system. Insulation materials are stored on the first floor, which is basically intact. Part of the second floor has caved in from the weight of the cotton seed once stored there. However, this floor still has the dairy operator's apartment along the west wall, and the mill's sifting/grading operation, which sent various grades of grain directly from the stacked sifters through chutes to packing stations. The mechanism is in the eastern wing. A wooden floor and piano evidence the area in the northern wing where the Mexican-American populace held dances, in a section that probably had originally been offices and showrooms.

A one-story metal shed was added to the west wall when a railroad siding was installed. There are sheds within the ell's elbow and on the north wall also. Just to the northeast is an auxiliary wooden building. To its north is a brick building with a metal gabled roof for drying the furniture company's wood, known as the kiln house. Since these structures seem to be fairly contemporary with the mill building, they should be considered contributing.

Significance: Period - 1900- : Areas of significance - industry. Specific Dates - 1910.

The oldest known industrial building in San Marcos is still an impressive structure. Although not an example of a defined architectural style, its sheer mass makes it a dramatic addition to the landscape. Built as a furniture plant, the metal structure reached the height of success as the San Marcos Milling Company and as Nelson's Dairy.

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Physical remnants of these industries are still found within, and not only help illustrate their function but also amplify the importance they had for the town.

A 1910 newspaper reported construction of the Acme Manufacturing Company, whose main product was the Thompson Sanitary Showcase, for the "keeping and sale of cigars." The economy did not support the enterprise, however, and the company closed the next year. The building's next major period began in 1914, when the San Marcos Milling Company was organized by C.D. Lake and R.P. Lowman. Lake and his son-in-law installed the milling equipment and built the shed on the alley side to shelter grain wagons.

H. A. Nelson bought the property in 1922. He was the agriculture teacher at Southwest Texas Normal, and was deeply interested in starting the first Holstein dairy in the state. He acquired a herd in Wisconsin and rode with them in the boxcar all the way to Texas, milking them twice a day and giving away the milk at station stops. Nelson's dairy was successful. Milk was delivered twice a day, since refrigeration was limited to lowering the cans into a springfed vat, by a cart drawn by a draft horse. The cows were milked in the basement and the milk processed and bottled on the first floor, where feed was also stored. For a while, both the mill and the dairy operated in the building. The herd was sold in 1931. "San Marcos Milling Co., Flour Corn & Hay" is still visible on the south wall and very faintly on the east.

The local Mexican-American community held dances in the north end during the 1930s. H. Conrads, a cotton-seed breeder, used the building to store his product during that decade and the next. Since the 1950s, the warehouse has been used for long- and short-term storage of various goods.

Bibliography:

Interview with Marion Nelson Meeks, April 13, 1982.
Monograph written by Marion Meeks, July 15, 1982, on file at San Marcos Public Library.
San Marcos Leader, April 30, 1910.

Geographical data: Acreage - approximately one acre
UTM reference - 14 / 602520 / 3305330

Verbal Boundary Description - D. P. Hopkins Second Addition, parts of lots 15, 16, and 17. The nominated property forms a trapezoid with its base at the north edge of the Nicola Alley perpendicular to LBJ Street and measuring 158.33 ft. east to west; its eastern edge, at a 90° angle to the base, and measuring 277.77 ft. along the southern end of Edward Gary Street; the western boundary that extends, after a 90° turn from the western end of the base, to the intersection of two alleys; and the northern boundary, not parallel to the base, extending from the alley intersection to South Edward Gary. Includes main and auxiliary buildings, and immediate environs.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

San Marcos Milling Company (San Marcos MRA)
Hays County
TEXAS

Working No. 7-14-83
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/25/83
Action: ACCEPT
 RETURN 8/26/83
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

X 13. Other

- Maps *Please indicate on map location of property*
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed *Delores Byers* Date *8/26/83* Phone: _____

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

San Marcos Milling Company (San Marcos MRA)
Hays County
TEXAS

Working No. 7.14.83
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 12/10/83
Action: ACCEPT 12/11/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

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Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#2. San Marcos Milling Company

Photo by Lissa Anderson, July, 1982.
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

North facade, camera facing south.
Photo 8 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#2. San Marcos Milling Company

Photo by Lissa Anderson, January, 1983.
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.
Photo 9 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#2. San Marcos Milling Company

Photo by Lissa Anderson, July, 1982.
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.
Photo 10 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#2. San Marcos Milling Company

Photo by Lissa Anderson, July, 1982.
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

East facade of north wing, camera facing west.
Photo 11 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#2. San Marcos Milling Company

Photo by Lissa Anderson, July, 1982.
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Southeast oblique of kiln and auxiliary
structure, camera facing northwest.

Photo 12 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853