

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A11

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1. Name: Belger-Cahill Lime Kiln (San Marcos MRA)

Location: ~~On south side of~~ Lime Kiln Road, .35 mile northwest of intersection of Lime Kiln Road and Old Post Road.

Classification: Category - structure; Ownership - private; Status - unoccupied; Accessible - yes, restricted; Present use - other: historic site.

Owner of property: Dr. Stan Pinder	Mr. Richard Hardin
Vice-President of Operations	San Marcos Treatment Center
Brown Schools Treatment Centers	P.O. Box 768
P.O. Box 4008	San Marcos, Texas 78666
Austin, Texas 78756	

Description: Condition - fair; Unaltered; Original Site

The Belger-Cahill Lime Kiln is a freestanding structure of roughcut limestone blocks, built at the foot of a natural limestone outcrop. The kiln consists essentially of a rectangular chimney 14 ft. deep, 16 ft. wide, and 22 ft. high at its highest point. Extending from the chimney's front corners are two low stone walls, about 23 ft. long on the south and 16 ft. on the north, that seem to act as earth retainers. Within the chimney is a corbelled brick lining of beehive design. The lower course of blocks on the front seem to be part of the stone outcrop in situ.

The eastern face is pierced at ground level by a segmental arch of stone voussoirs, the opening of which is at a 45° angle from the higher chamber. It is reinforced with small iron rods. On the north face is a round-arched entrance of two brick rowlocks at a higher level (reflecting the hillside on which the kiln is built) than the eastern arch. The southern side is severely caved in, exposing the iron rods, but the inner chimney has not been breached. Horizontal weathered wooden braces wrap around the structure.

Several of the bricks can be seen to read "LACLEDE St. Louis". These are found not only within the chimney proper but also scattered at the site and along the old abandoned road that runs along the top of the outcrop. Another road runs below the outcrop.

Significance: Period - 1800-1899, 1900- ; Areas of Significance - archeology, history, industry. Specific dates - 1887

Important to any building boom is the availability of materials. The Belger-Cahill Lime Kiln, on the town's outskirts, helped make possible the physical prosperity San Marcos enjoyed at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. It is lucky and surprising that this artifact of a rustic industry has survived.

OTC
9/30/63
No. not justified

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Verbal reports not verified by written documentation or on-site evidence place the kiln's construction in 1856 and 1870. These reports may indicate the limestone seam had been known and used for many years. The 1887 date for the kiln itself is supported by the name "Laclede" which appears on the kiln's lining firebricks. Laclede of St. Louis, was active from about 1868 to 1907, when it consolidated to become Laclede-Christy, and was probably the leading firebrick manufacturer in the country.

J.J. Belger and J.D. Cahill, already experienced in the lime business, bought the land from Major W.O. Hutchison. The limestone belt they exploited was reported in 1887 as "one of the purest and best in the United States" but "their greatest achievement was their kiln for burning the lime". Production was 100 to 120 barrels per day. Great possibilities were predicted, including additional kilns and an I.& G.N.R.R. siding, but the seam was not as plentiful as had been thought and lime became as cheap to import as to make locally. By 1910, the kiln was inoperative.

However, before its demise the kiln had supplied mortar for numerous structures, including the courthouse, Coronal Institute, an 1890 public school, and the 1887 Hofheinz Hotel. A contemporary newspaper article predicted that farmers would use the kiln refuse for fertilizer and bug killer; presumably these uses were realized.

Bibliography:

The Hays County Times, Oct., 1897.

E. Joe Brackner, Jr. "The Old Lime Kiln of San Marcos", unpublished report, on file at San Marcos Public Library.

Historical Markers in Hays County 1907-1976, Compiled by Tula Townsend Wyatt, Sponsored by the Hays County Historical Commission, 1977, pp. 195-197.

Interview with Clara Louise Cape, June 24, 1982.

Geographical Data: Acreage - less than one.

UTM Reference - 14 / 603700 / 3307910

Verbal Boundary Description - The nominated property is enclosed within a chain-link fence measuring 45 ft. on the east and west and 50 ft. on the north and south. The center point of the eastern fence wall is about 52 ft. from the western edge of Lime Kiln Road at a point .35 mile from the intersection of Lime Kiln Road and Old Post Road, or 162 ft. north of Sink Creek. A qualified archeologist, E. Joe Brackner, Jr., has examined the site and determined that this is an appropriate boundary. Any associated materials found outside the boundary, such as bricks, will probably not be meaningfully related to their locations.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Belger-Cahill Lime Kiln (San Marcos MRA)
Hays County
TEXAS

Working No. 7-14-83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/28/83
Action: ACCEPT 8/26/83
 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

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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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 _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#1. Belger-Cahill Lime Kiln

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

East facade, camera facing west.
Photo 5 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#1. Belger-Cahill Lime Kiln

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

southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.
Photo 6 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#1. Belger-Cahill Lime Kiln

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

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.
Photo 7 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853