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

Vice-President of Operations Brown Schools Treatment Centers P.O. Box 768

P.O. Box 4008

Austin, Texas 78756

Mr. Richard Hardin

San Marcos Treatment Center

San Marcos, Texas 78666

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 severly 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.

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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.

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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, 8/28/8 Action: ACCEPT 8/26/83
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT resubmission nomination by person or local government owner objection Federal Agency: _____ appeal ☐ NR decision Substantive Review: ☐ sample request appeal Reviewer's comments: Recom./Criteria_____ Reviewer _____ Discipline__ ____ see continuation sheet Nomination returned for: _____technical corrections cited below ____substantive reasons discussed below 1. Name 2. Location 3. Classification Ownership Status Present Use Category **Public Acquisition** Accessible 4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Description 6. Representation in Existing Surveys ☐ yes no Has this property been determined eligible? 7. Description Condition Check one Check one unaltered original site excellent deteriorated good ruins altered moved date_ unexposed fair Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance summary paragraph completeness ☐ clarity alterations/integrity dates boundary selection

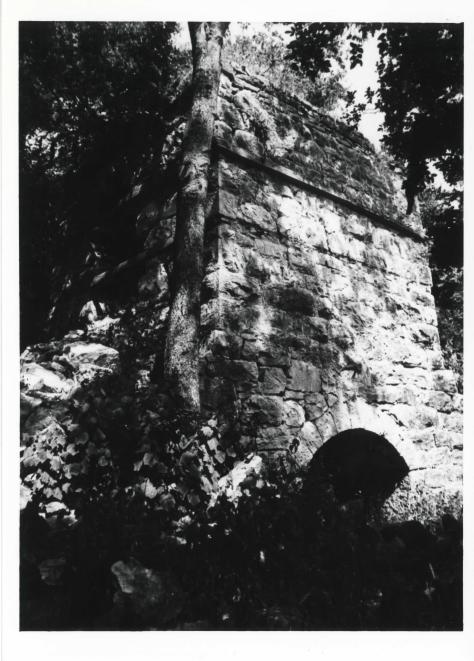
8. Significance	
Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below	
Specific dates Builder/Architect	
Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)	
	seige vigatili bing Kifn (San Mancos - RA)
summary paragraph	
☐ completeness ☐ clarity	
applicable criteria	
justification 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	eta.
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification	
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	
nationalstatelocal	
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 #1. Belger-Cahill Lime Kiln

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

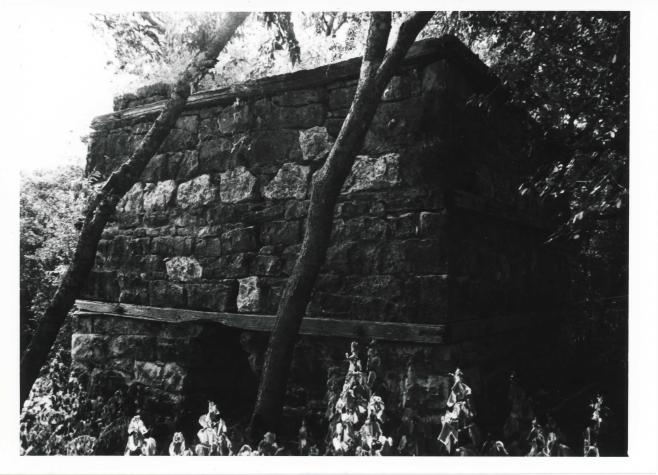
East facade, camera facing west. Photo 5 of 150.



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