

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number All

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4. Name: <sup>✓</sup>Moore Grocery Company (~~Common name, King Feed Company~~)

Location: 101 South Edward Gary Street

Classification: Category - building; Ownership - private; Status - occupied;  
Accessible - yes, unrestricted; Present use - commercial.

Owner of property: Mrs. Lotha Mae King  
102 Norcrest  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site.

On the edge of the downtown area near the railroad tracks, is the Moore Grocery Company Building, now the King Feed Company. The one-story structure, with basement and mezzanine, is of buff brick which has been painted white on the exterior. The low gabled roof is masked on the west facade by a stepped parapet. A low, shed-roofed, porch is also on this side. On the south wall are a small office addition of brick, and a corrugated-metal dock room.

The north wall is pierced at ground level by seven basement vents. The five windows on the first floor have four-over-four lights, while the five windows on the second level have single panes. All openings are under segmental rowlock arches, and the windows are barred. Similar fenestration is found on the south wall, but is obscured by the dock addition. A large double door and a sliding door allow access. The west, entrance facade contains two sets of double doors under arched and barred transoms flanked by two similar windows with four-over-four lights. Between the doors is a modern plate-glass window.

Several features distinguish the interior. A wooden loft against the south wall is reached by a single flight of wooden stairs. Toward the store's rear is the original Otis Elevator on a rope and pulley system. It is still used. The office is enclosed within the southeast corner and embellished with beaded ceilings and other wood finishes, and the metal addition is the original floor scale. There, one can read "Moore Grocery Co." painted on the sliding door. Wooden floors, lack of temperature control, and the musty odor of feed and plants enhance the early 20th century atmosphere.

Alterations have been few. An unobtrusive, low, clay-brick room was added to the rear by Mr. Moore. The aforementioned additions all appear to have been built shortly after the erection of the main structure. The plate glass window and three aluminum doors are the only noticeable modern changes.

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Significance: Period - 1900- ; Areas of significance - commerce;  
Specific dates - 1913.

In some towns, there are buildings that encapsulate a certain aspect of local history. In San Marcos, the building at 101 South Edward Gary portrays early 20th century, middle-class commerce. It housed the Moore Grocery Company and is presently home to the King Feed Company. Neither business has obscured the original fixtures or the stately utilitarian design, which is the best preserved of its type and period in town.

John. M. Moore had the store built in 1913. His wholesale grocery company competed with the only other similar outfit, the Southern Grocery Company. A 1918 fire, rumored to have been set to hide stolen rationed goods, destroyed the latter store. Moore employed several salesmen to sell staples, canned goods, candy, dried fruit, and general merchandise to local and area retailers. Occasionally he sold to institutions such as the Austin State Hospital and the State Blind School. The company seems to have dealt in all types of necessities except highly perishable fruits and vegetables. Upstairs, tires and tubes were for sale. Deliveries arrived via railroad and unloaded at the spur that ran alongside the building. Bulk items were repackaged for sale to retailers. Moore added a room to the rear to contain low wire-mesh tables for drying and/or storing fruit and stocks of matches. The fire wall between this room and the main building recently saved the store from complete destruction by arson.

After a brief period as the Groce-Wearden Grocery Company, the building was sold in 1955 to Clarence T. King, who moved his feed business there. Remaining in place are the original Otis Elevator, the floor scale, wood floors, and sliding doors. The entire atmosphere is reminiscent of the decades when these businesses were central to the community.

**Bibliography:**

San Marcos Record, October 8, 1959.

Lotha Mae King, unpublished written material, March 1982. On file at San Marcos Public Library.

Interview with Bess Moore Hopson, July 7, 1982.

Geographical data: Acreage - less than one acre  
UTM reference - 14 / 602570 / 3305970

Verbal Boundary Description - Original Town Site, Block 6, Lot 5. Behind the building there are large feed hoppers and a modern cinder-block, lawn-mower shop. On the south is a parking lot. Although these are under the same ownership, they do not add to the nominated building's significance and are on different lots and detached from the main building. Therefore, they are not included in the legal description.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Moore Grocery Company (San Marcos MRA)  
Hays County  
TEXAS

Working No. 7-14-83  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84  
Date Due: 8/21/83 - 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"/> 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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**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  
#4. Moore Grocery Company

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

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.  
Photo 17 of 150.



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Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#4. Moore Grocery Company

Photo by Marian Oles, June, 1982.  
Negative property of Marian Oles, Studio II.

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.  
Photo 18 of 150.

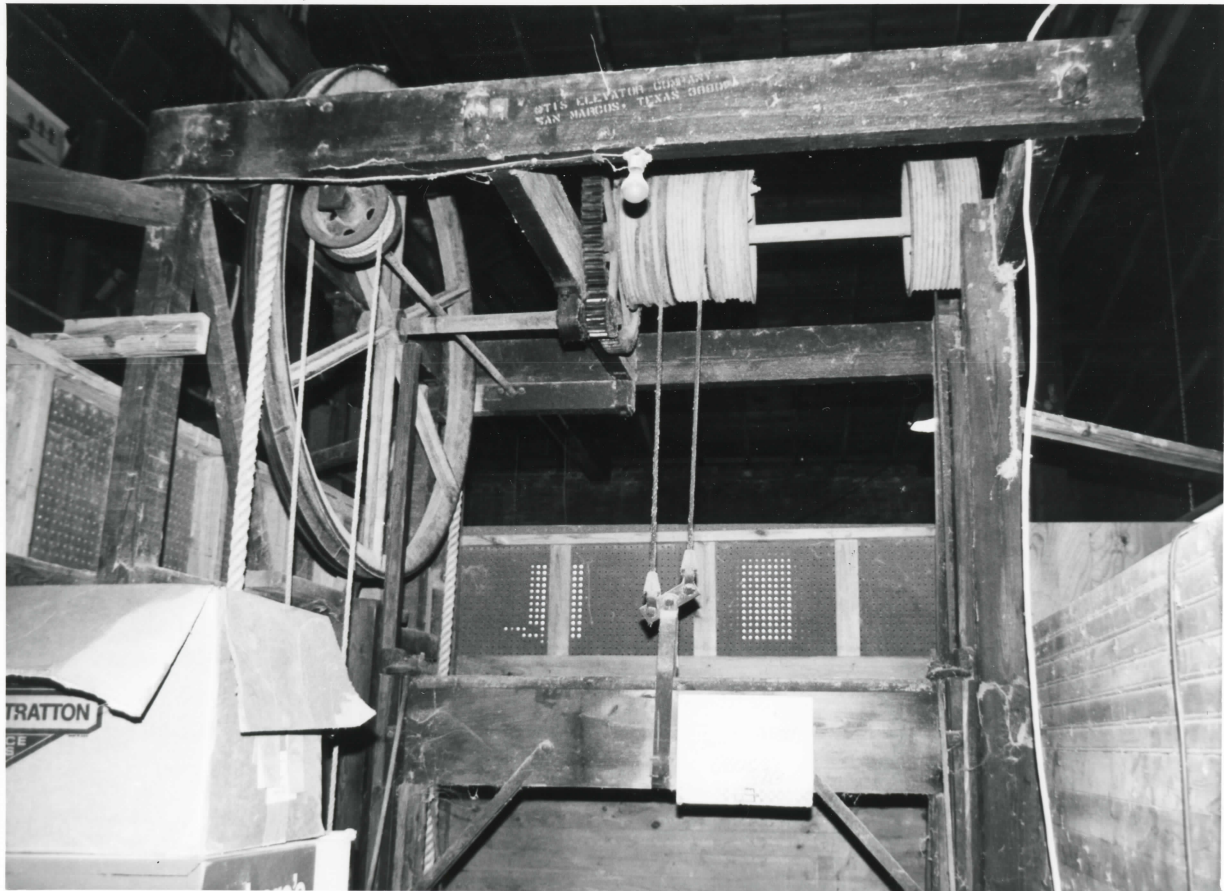




Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#4. Moore Grocery Company

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

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.  
Photo 19 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#4. Moore Grocery Company

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

Interior - detail of Otis elevator.  
Photo 20 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853