

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received AUG 11 1986
date entered SEP 24 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number all

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Property No. 3

Historic Resources of Stamford

Stamford Historic Structures Survey Identification number, STA-010

Name of property- SMS Building/Berry Furniture

Address of property- 101 S. Wetherbee/210 E. McHarg

Owner of property- Swenson Ranches Partnership

Owner's Address- P.O. Box 551
Stamford, Texas 79553

Acreage- Less than one acre

Verbal Boundary Description- (Legal Description) Original Town;
Block 22, Lots 1, 2

UTM Coordinates- 14/425100/3645280

Description (altered, good condition)

The Swenson Land and Cattle Company Building contains both the Swenson offices and a retail lease space. Because frontage on the town square was potentially valuable to a commercial venture, the office portion is located at the eastern end of the building (facing E. McHarg) while the store faces S. Wetherbee.

The one-story and basement building is constructed of tile with stone veneer on the three facades readily visible, and brick veneer on the hidden south side. The stone came from nearby Lueders. The roof structure and floors are of wood.

The ornamentation on the building is restrained yet elegant, befitting the Swenson Company's status in the community. A simple cornice provides continuity between the office and retail portions of the building, as do the regularly spaced piers along the building. The retail facade is primarily glass, allowing easy viewing of merchandise in the show windows. One side bay originally contained an entrance with double glass-paneled doors. The other side bays originally consisted of two sheets of plate glass, topped by a wide wooden transom bar. The three-sectioned transoms

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(each section having three lites) in each bay included an operable, screened, central section. The original storefront was much like the sidebays, but included a recessed entry way. A simple awning and sign completed the commercial portion of the building.

The office section is more closed, in keeping with its less public function. Its three bays are covered in stone decorated in classical motifs. Two sections contain Palladian windows, while a door takes the place of the central window in the third bay. According to historic photos, the lintels of these windows match the height, width, and shape of the transom bars of the commercial section. The words "Swenson Land and Cattle Co." and "SMS Ranch" (using the reversed S and undulating M of the Swenson brand) are etched in the frieze.

Few changes have been made to the building since its construction. The Lueders stone has darkened considerably. The wooden office windows are now covered by metal-framed storm windows, and metal awnings have been placed over each door. Unfortunately, the original retail entryway has been filled in with stone and new aluminum and glass doors, while the transoms have been covered with corrugated metal. However, the outlines of the original entry are visible in the pressed-metal interior ceiling and can easily be reconstructed. Aside from this alteration, the basic structure of the building has not changed over the past five decades.

Significance: state level, architecture, ranching, 1927-Nichol and Campbell, architects; C.S. and C.B. Oats, contractors.

The Berry Furniture/Swenson (SMS) Land and Cattle Company Building is one of the most significant structures in the city. It is an architecturally sophisticated building, as well as the main local offices for the SMS Land and Cattle Company, Stamford's most historically significant commercial venture.

This building was constructed in 1927 and early 1928 to replace the original Stamford Townsite Company land sales office, built on this location in 1902. The new facility was designed to contain profit-making commercial space in the front two thirds of the building and to house the SMS Land and Cattle Company's local office in the rear third. The SMS Company felt that an expensive and durable structure was warranted, one that would uphold thier image as an important element in the local economy. Thus the company commissioned a sophisticated and unusual building. The entire project was a local affair, as the firm of Nichol and Campbell, Architects, of Abilene designed the structure while the contractors were C.S. and C.B. Oats, also of Abilene.

The Swenson Land and Cattle Company (SMS Ranches) is one of the great ranching enterprises in Texas. In the Handbook of Texas (1952), the four SMS ranches were said to occupy considerable portions of twelve counties in western Texas comprising more than 3000,000 acres. The SMS Building achieves statewide significance as the principal headquarters for many years of the Swenson Ranches.

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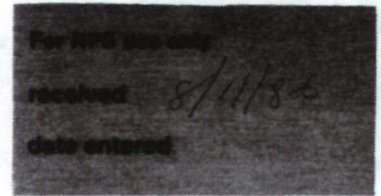
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The Berry Furniture/SMS Building is one of the most elaborately designed and finely crafted structures in the city. Its understated elegance reflects the SMS Company's conservative, yet impressive, economic and commercial position in the area. It is not a flamboyant building, but is exceedingly well built and full of details only apparent to the close and thoughtful observer. It is an important structure, not only in Stamford but in the region and state as well.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Stamford Multiple Resource Area
State Jones County, TEXAS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 11. House at 815 East Campbell | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byrum 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 12. Jackson, A.J., House | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrews 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86 |
| 13. Old Bryant--Link Building | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byrum 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 14. Old Penick--Hughes Company | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrews 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86 |
| 15. Old West Texas Utilities
Company | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byrum 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 16. Old Wooten, H.O., Grocery
Company | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrews 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86 |
| 17. SMS Building | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byrum 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 18. St. John's Methodist
Church | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrews 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86 |
| 19. Stamford City Hall | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melona Byrum 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 20. Swenson, A.J., House | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrews 9/24/86 |
| | | Attest | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

SMS
XMA Building (Stamford MRA)
Jones County
TEXAS

Working No. AUG 11 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 9/11/86 - 9/25/86
Action: ACCEPT 9-24-86
 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

(ASIS Building) Building
 Fairfax County
 VA 22031

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: _____



Historic Resources of Stamford, Texas
Jones County, Texas
Photo 1985 by Don Abbe, neg. with Texas
Historical Commission, Austin

Property No. 3 (STA-010), SMS Building/
Berry Furniture, looking NW

Photo 8 of 41.

2-2A



Historic Resources of Stamford, Texas
Jones County, Texas
Photo 1985 by Don Abbe, neg. with Texas
Historical Commission, Austin

Property No. 3 (STA-010), SMS Building/
Berry Furniture, looking SE

Photo 9 of 41.

02-1

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000854