

**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. 8

Historic Resources of Stamford

Stamford Historic Structures Survey Identification number, STA-043

Name of property- Old Bryant-Link Building/West Texas Utilities

Address of property- 120 S. Swenson

Owner of property- Thompson Jewelry

Owner's Address- c/o W.C. Thompson
P.O. Box 748
Stamford, TX 79553

Acreage- Less than one acre

Verbal Boundary Description- (Legal Description) Original Town;
Block 23, N. 10' of Lot 2, S. 18 1/3'
of Lot 3

UTM Coordinates- 14/424920/3645240

Description (altered, good condition)

The commercial structure at 120 S. Swenson is the most elaborate in the city. The elegance and attention to detail befitted the growing "empire" of the Bryant-Link retail chain, and it is prominently sited on the town square.

The Stamford headquarters and store is a one-story tile building with a prefabricated concrete facade. According to one of the Bryant heirs, the front facade was precast in San Antonio, shipped to the site, then installed.

The elaborate cast-concrete motifs of the facade are influenced by the Plateresque architecture. The presence of such an unusual style in Stamford is probably found in the San Antonio origins of the building. The building consists of two storefronts: one (presumably the former store), occupying approximately two-thirds of the frontage, and another, smaller store/office occupying the remaining third. The original storefront in the larger portion is unchanged, with dark metal bases and framing, original

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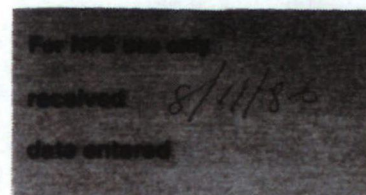
brass-stripped plate glass and glass-paneled doors. The entrance floor is covered in small mosaic tiles that include Maltese crosses, swastikas, and other symbols of unknown origin. The smaller storefront, while retaining the configuration of modern plate glass and aluminum have created an effect totally alien to the original receding fronts.

Significance: local level, architecture

The West Texas Utilities Building in Stamford is perhaps the city's most impressive architectural achievement, as well as a historically significant structure on both the local and regional levels. Built in 1928 for the Bryant-Link Company, one of Stamford's earliest and most successful commercial ventures, it remains one of the best and, perhaps, the only commercial example of the Plateresque style in the entire region.

The Bryant-Link Company began in Anson as a small farm-implements/dry-goods store in 1884. During 1900 the firm opened a store in Stamford and moved the company headquarters to the new city. The company prospered, and by the mid-1930s it owned stores in Stamford, Lamesa, Jayton, Post, and Spur. During the late 1920s, at the height of its prosperity, the company decided to construct a new and fashionable building on the site of their original large brick building. This structure was built during 1928 to house the company's home offices and its local dry-goods and department store operation.

The firm chose the popular Spanish Colonial Revival (Plateresque) style to portray a lavish and contemporary picture for the public. The entire 850-ft. front facade was made of precast concrete in San Antonio, then shipped to the site and installed on the new building. Since its construction it has remained one of Stamford's most noteworthy and unusual structures. After serving the Bryant-Link Company and other tenants for decades, the building was purchased by West Texas Utilities in 1973. After the remodeling of the interior and refurbishing of the exterior, basically in a sympathetic manner, the structure was ready to embark on its next half-century as a local landmark and viable commercial structure. It has served the West Texas Utilities Company well for over a decade and shows every sign of forging ahead into the next century with its original character and most of its fabric intact.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName 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	Melvin Byers 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	Melvin Byers 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	Melvin Byers 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	Melvin Byers 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	Melvin Byers 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

86002361

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Bryant--Link 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

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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: _____



Historic Resources of Stamford, Texas

Jones County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Don Abbe, neg. with Texas
Historical Commission, Austin

Property No. 8 (STA-043), Old Bryant-Link Bldg./
West Texas Utilities, 120 S. Swenson, looking W/NW
detail on main entry

Photo 18 of 41.

3-15A
4-15A



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

Property No. 8 (STA-043), Old Bryant-Link Bldg./
West Texas Utilities, 120 S. Swenson, looking W
detail on main entry

Photo 19 of 41.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000854