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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 16 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Blue Bell Creameries Complex
other names/site number: #339

2. Location

street & number: 602 Creamery
city, town: Brenham
state: Texas code: 048 county: Washington code: 477
N/A not for publication
N/A vicinity
zip code: 77833

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Brenham, Texas
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Laurie J. Jannell
Signature of certifying official
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

9 Feb. 1990
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Patricia Andrews

3/29/90

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Agriculture/Processing

Agriculture/Processing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions):

Material (enter categories from instructions):

Art Moderne

foundation: Concrete

None

walls: Brick

Stucco

roof: Built-up

other: Metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[X] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

[] nationally [X] statewide [] locally

Applicable National Register Criteria [X] A [] B [] C [] D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) [] A [] B [] C [] D [] E [] F [] G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Period of Significance:

Significant Dates:

Agriculture

1907-1941

1911, c. 1935

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Significant Person:

Architect/Builder:

N/A

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

[X] See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Description

The Blue Bell Creameries Complex covers approximately one-half a city block in southeast Brenham along the north side of the Southern Pacific railroad tracks, formerly Houston and Texas Central Railway. The principal building for the creamery is a 1-story stuccoed building in an Art Moderne style on the western end of the block. Additions, secondary buildings, and processing and storage areas surround the principal building.

The Blue Bell Creameries Complex is in southeast Brenham bounded by South Kober (east), South Washington (west), and Creamery Streets (north) and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks (south), formerly the Houston and Texas Central Railway. The complex occupies the full half block with the principal building on the western half facing north. (See attached site plan.) With the exception of the small landscaped lawn in front of the principal building, no vegetation is on the site.

A 5-bay, 1-story stuccoed building in an Art Moderne style serves as the anchor to the complex. It is distinguished by a projecting 3-bay front curved back to connect to the mainblock. Multiple glass blocks highlight this curved section on both sides. The first and third bays of the projection have stepped parapets over a flat-roofed awning, clear light transom, and double doors with semi-circular lights and diagonal hand rails. The center bay consists of three sets of multi-light casement windows. Similar windows occupy the first and fifth bays of the main facade. Two stringcourses wrap around the building and define the top and bottom of the windows. A flat built-up roof covers this building.

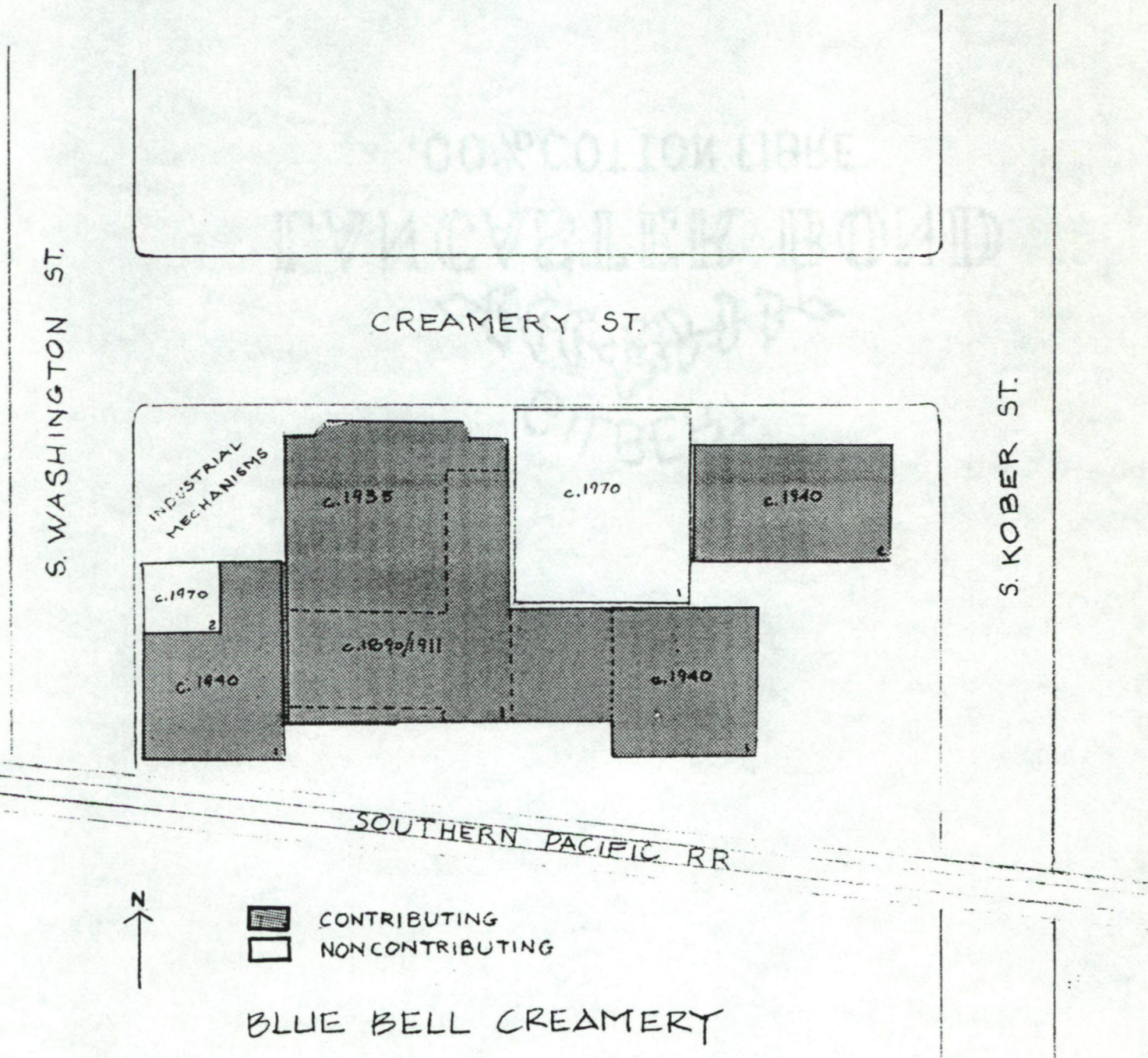
To the west of the principal building are connected industrial cylinders and pipes (northwest corner) and lofty 1-story metal siding building (southwest corner). To the east are a 1-story metal siding building, 2-story stuccoed utilitarian building (northeast corner), and 1-story shipping and receiving building (southeast corner). Assorted small storage and processing buildings (south) are connected on the south.

The balance of the complex is largely devoid of architectural style and appears as a utilitarian and industrial-type facility.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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8. Significance

The Blue Bell Creameries Complex is eligible under Criterion A for its role as an agricultural processing facility. From humble beginnings at the turn of the century, Blue Bell has evolved into a major industry and is now considered to have a national reputation. The complex incorporates structures from the American Cotton Company from the late 19th Century and has grown to have a principal building in Art Moderne style (c. 1935), several 1- and 2-story utilitarian buildings (c. 1940), industrial mechanisms (c. 1950), and two large 1-story metal buildings (c. 1970). The property is associated with the local context "Community Development and Regional Expansion, 1870-1941."

The Blue Bell Creameries Complex is perhaps the best known of local agricultural processing facilities. It was established in 1907 as the Brenham Creamery Company to process excess cream from local dairies into butter. Ice cream became its main product in 1911.

The Blue Bell Creameries site has developed in proportion to its success. In 1911, the company purchased the site of the old American Cotton Company and adapted the buildings for new uses. A basic L-plan masonry building continued to be used until the 1930s when the Art Moderne building was added (this building does not appear on the 1931 Sanborn map, but does on the 1941). Other ancillary buildings and equipment were added through the years, but because of the nature of the building material and equipment exact dates are difficult to pinpoint. However, it appears that the principal building dates from around 1890 with the Art Moderne section built around 1935, two 1-story and one 2-story utilitarian buildings added around 1940, assorted industrial mechanisms constructed around 1950, and two large 1-story metal buildings built around 1970.

Although clearly a regional creamery through the mid 20th Century, Blue Bell's reputation and marketing did not become statewide until the 1960s and 1970s. Today, the creamery has a national reputation for its ice cream products.

The property is considered significant during the local context period 1870-1941 for establishing itself as the largest regional agricultural processing plant based in Brenham.

See context statement of more discussion on the Blue Bell Creameries.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

See bibliography of context statement.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: less than one

UTM References:

A 1/4 / 751/360 333 / 9920
Zone Easting Northing
C / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing
D / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: Wilson Addition, Block 35, City of Brenham, Texas

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the nominated property and entire city block that historically has been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet Association is considered to have ended in 1941 and includes the boundaries at that time which encompass four Contributing buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dwayne Jones/Preservation Planner date: 1984;1989
organization: (with assistance from Sally Victor) telephone: 512/463-6094
street & number: Texas Historical Commission state: TX zip code: 78701
city or town: Austin

2/16/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Brenham County MPS TEXAS Washington County

DATE LISTED

COVER

Substantive Review

- 1. Becker--Hildebrandt House
- 2. Blinn College Substantive Review
- 3. Blue Bell Creameries Complex Substantive Review
- 4. Brenham High School
- 5. Brenham High School Gymnasium
- 6. Brenham School
- 7. Brenham Water Works Substantive Review
- 8. Brockschmidt--Miller House
- 9. East Brenham Substantive Review
- 10. Holle, Edmund, House
- 11. Lenert, Dr. Robert, House
- 12. Matchett, Edgar, House
- 13. Mt. Zion Methodist Church Substantive Review
- 14. Reichardt--Low House
- 15. Santa Fe Railway Company Freight Depot Substantive Review
- 16. Schlenker, Almot, House
- 17. Schlenker--Kolwes House
- 18. Schuerenberg, F.W., House
- 19. Schuerenberg, R.A., House
- 20. Seelhorst, W.E., House

3/28/90

3/29/90

3/29/90

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Blue Bell Creameries Complex

MULTIPLE NAME: Brenham MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 2/16/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/27/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/15/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/02/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000468

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/29/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The complex of buildings associated with the Blue Bell Creameries is significant for its association with the largest regional agricultural plant based in Brenham, Texas. It developed and flourished during the community development and expansion time, 1870-1943. Although the period of significance is listed as 1907-1941, criterion consideration does not apply because the fabric (buildings) were constructed ^{starting} in the early 20th century, but the period of significance overlaps the 50-year period by one year.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept 1A
REVIEWER Antoinette A. Lee
DISCIPLINE History
DATE March 27, 1990

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___ count ___ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic ___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification
___ materials
___ descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTM's ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



BLUE BELL CREAMERIES (#339)

BRENHAM, TEXAS

DWAYNE JONES

OCTOBER 9, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE - TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING SOUTH WEST



BLUE BELL CREAMERIES (#339)

BRENHAM, TEXAS

DWAYNE JONES

OCTOBER 9, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE - TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING SOUTH-EAST

IMPAIRED
OR
CLEAR W.C.E

Blue Bell Ice Cream



BLUE BELL CREAMERIES (#339)

BRENHAM, TEXAS

DWAYNE JONES

OCTOBER 9, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE - TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING NORTH WEST



BLUE BELL CREAMERIES (#339)

BRENHAM, TEXAS

DWAYNE JONES

OCTOBER 9, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE - TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING NORTH WEST

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500628