

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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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: Burton Farmers Gin
other names/site number: Burton Farmers Gin Association (Site No. 3)

2. Location

street & number: Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town: Burton N/A vicinity
state: Texas code: TX county: Washington code: 477 zip code: 77835

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Burton, 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.

Charles J. Russell April 30, 1991
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Autawietta Lee 6/11/91
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper fn Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Agriculture/Processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions):

No Style

Material (enter categories from instructions):

foundation: Wood

walls: Metal

roof: Metal

other:

Describe present and historic physical appearance. See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Industry

Period of Significance:

1914-1941

Significant Dates:

1914

1926

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Significant Person:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Weeren Brothers

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Burton Farmers Gin is a large 2- and 3-story, frame ginhouse clad in sheet metal. Near the commercial center of Burton, the gin plant has experienced alterations over time, usually in response to the evolution of the processing equipment and operation of the plant. Such changes are predictable, routine events for this type of resource (see Commercial Property Type, Subtype: Processing Facilities).

In 1914 when the new ginhouse was completed, it was a 2-story frame building with a reasonably uniform rectangular plan. It was sheltered by a gable roof, with a long shed-roof appendage on the east elevation and a smoke stack rising above. The shed roof sheltered the platform for cotton wagons, over which a suction duct was suspended. Windows were 6/6 wood sash, arranged fairly symmetrically on the upper floor of the east elevation.

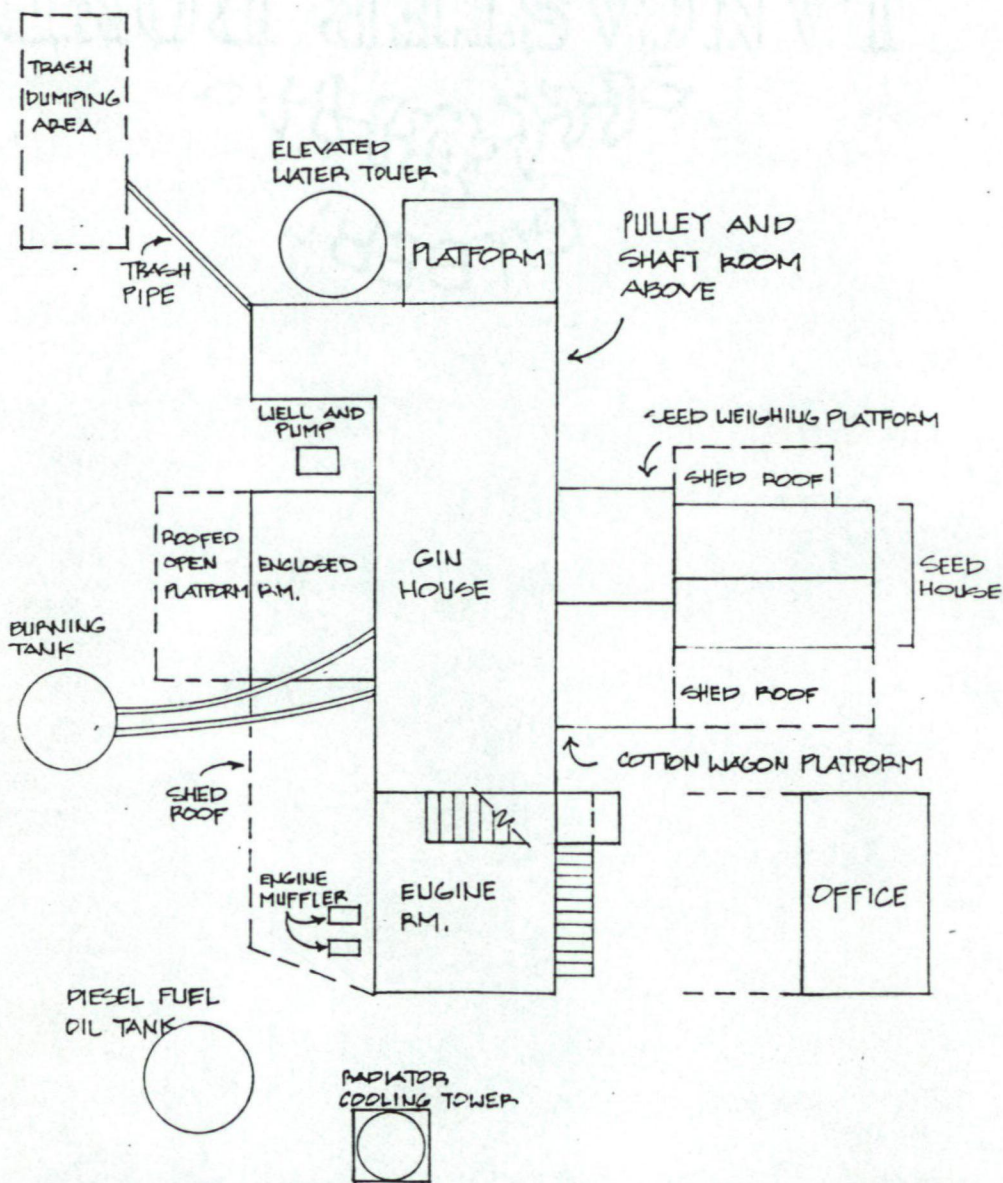
Periodic modification began soon after the plan was constructed, however, and the result is a complex, multiple-height roofline comprised of an assortment of shed and gabled-roof extensions. Exterior alterations have been numerous and include the addition of a coal house in 1919, an office over the south end of the building in 1925, extension of the roof on the northwest side in 1931, replacement of the old corn shed or seed house in 1923, elevation in 1961 of the central roof to accommodate a third story housing new dryers and ducts, and digging a new well on the west side of the gin at an unknown date.

Processing equipment also evolved over time. An automatic bale press was added in 1921, followed by replacement of the original gin stands with five air blaststands between 1923 and 1925. In 1926, the original steam engine was replaced with a 125-HP Bessemer engine. A Moss Gardner lint cleaner was added to the plant in 1960, while a used 125-HP Allis Chalmers electric motor was acquired in 1962 from a nearby gin. Many of these components are extant in the plant.

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MAIN ST.

BURTON FARMERS GIN

NOT TO SCALE

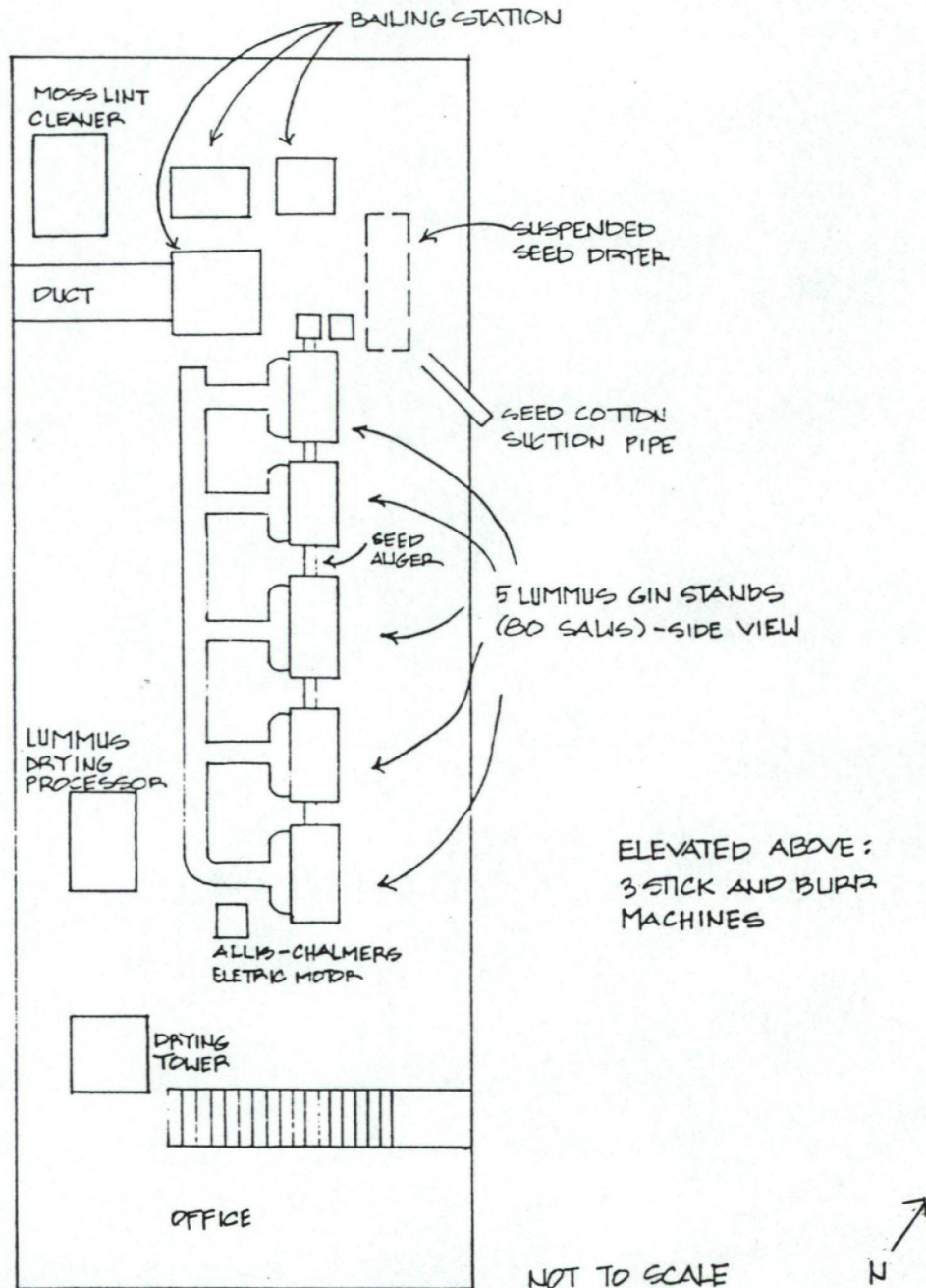
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BURTON FARMERS GIN (INTERIOR)

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The Burton Farmers Gin is the only example of the Gin Subtype of industrial properties nominated in Burton. A fine example of an early 20th century gin plant possessing a now rare and rich collection of processing equipment, the gin is nominated under Criteria A and C for its associations with the local contexts "Cotton Production in Rural Washington County, 1820-1941" and "Burton: a Trade, Transportation, and Processing Focus of Western, Agrarian Washington County, 1870-1941."

Gins were once a common sight in Washington County and in the state, although their numbers historically were small in comparison to other property types such as residences or commercial building. In cotton growing Washington County, however, they were well distributed throughout the county during the early and middle decades of the 20th century. The Texas Almanac lists approximately 4300 gins in Texas by 1912, and local residents cite the names and locations of several dozen gins in the county that survived into the 1930s.

Small towns in Washington County typically supported one or two gins during the early 20th century. Generally within the community or near it, gins closest to the railroad gained a competitive advantage over more distant ones. The latter, however, often survived if they were closer to the source of production. The arduous task of hauling cotton in a wagon over unimproved roads resulted in frequent placement of gins every few miles.

Burton is known to have supported at least four gins within the community, as well as several others in nearby rural areas of the county. Together the operational lifetimes of the four spanned at least the years 1885-1974. The earliest identified Burton gin, named the Knittel Gin for its prominent merchant owner, was operating by 1885. Adjacent to the railroad tracks on Indian Creek near the platted location of Commerce Street, the gin was later converted to an oil mill. The oil mill ceased operation in the early 1920s and was later demolished. The Wendt Gin operated east of the railroad tracks near the commercial district between about 1899 and the mid 1910s. Nearby, the Bauer Gin was operating at the site of the present feed mill by the late 19th century. The gin was renamed Knipstein & Co. upon sale of a partial interest in 1913 by William Bauer Sr., a locally prominent industrialist and merchant. C. Knipstein continued to operate the gin until 1948.

Like its 19th-century predecessors, the Burton Farmers Gin was along the railroad tracks in close proximity to the commercial district. Established by a group of local cotton growers who formed the Burton Farmers Gin Association in 1913, the gin began operation

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with the 1914 cotton season. The gin expanded its processing capacity by installing a larger engine and increasing the gin battery to five stands in the mid-1920s. The Burton Farmers Gin Association continued to operate the plant until 1974, making it the longest running gin in Burton to operate under the same management. The sole surviving example of its property type in this community, the gin compares favorably to the only other known survivor in Washington County, a brick ginhouse in Brenham. Retention of its full complement of equipment, however, increases the significance of the Burton Farmers Gin.

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 acre

UTM References:

A 1/4 /731 /700 334/0760
 Zone Easting Northing
 C // / / / /
 Zone Easting Northing

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: City of Burton. Block 27/Lots 4, 5, 9, 10

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification: Boundaries are those historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By (with Bruce Jensen, Architectural

name/title: Julie Strong Historian, THC)
 organization: for the Burton Heritage Society
 street & number: 4105 Duval Street
 city or town: Austin

date: July 1989; April 1991
 telephone: 512/454-0145
 state: TX zip code: 78751

5/6/91

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Burton MPS

Washington County, TEXAS

		Date Listed
COVER	Substantive Review	6/11/91
1. Burton Commercial Historic District	Substantive Review	6/11/91
2. Burton Farmers Gin	Substantive Review	6/11/91
3. Burton High School	Entered in the National Register	6/11/91
4. Hodge Drugstore	Substantive Review	6/11/91
5. Kneip--Bredthauer House	Entered in the National Register	6/11/91
6. Laas, Dr. Charles, House	Substantive Review	6/11/91
7. Neumann, William, House	Substantive Review	6/18/91
8. Nienstedt, Herbert, House	Entered in the National Register	6/11/91
9. Nienstedt, William, House	Substantive Review	6/11/91
10. Sanders, William Edward, House	Entered in the National Register	6/11/91
11. Wehring Shoe Shop and Residence	Substantive Review	6/11/91

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Burton Farmers Gin

MULTIPLE NAME: Burton MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/22/91
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/07/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/20/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000712

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6/11/91 DATE 5/22/91

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Burton Farmers Gin is significant as the sole surviving cotton gin in a community defined by the cotton industry. It includes a rare collection of equipment and machinery.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/A+C
REVIEWER Antonieta G. Lee
DISCIPLINE History
DATE 6/11/91

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 _____



BURTON FARMERS' GIN ASSOCIATION (SITE #3)

BURTON, TEXAS

Washington Co

JULIE STRONG

JULY 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE - TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING SOUTH

PHOTO 11 OF 18

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500629