

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic name: Finley, Eugene L., House

Other name/site number: 1123

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 208 Merchant

not for publication: N/A

City/town: Abilene

State: TX *County:* Taylor

code: 441 *zip code:* 79603

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

<i>Number of Resources within Property:</i>	<i>Contributing</i>	<i>Noncontributing</i>
	<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Texas

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Curtis Powell

2-12-92
Date

Signature of certifying official
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

entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

Arlene Byars

3/23/92

 determined eligible for the

National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the

National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

fu

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Description:

The Eugene L. Finley House is an eclectic 1-story frame residence incorporates a variety of stylistic detailing. The house features an asymmetrical plan and massing and displays elements associated with Victorian era, Bungalow and Classical Revival architecture. The house is in a predominately residential neighborhood a few blocks west of the downtown.

Perhaps the most distinctive features of the Finley House are its asymmetrical massing and its complex roof plan. Both are believed to be original according to Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps that indicate the house, in its present form, existed by 1915. (The 1907 maps show the lot on which the house stands was vacant at that time; therefore the dwelling was built between 1907 and 1915.)

A gable wing extends from the dwelling's core and is the most dominant feature of the front (east) elevation. Shed roofed porches on the north and south sides of the gable wing have short, squatty Ionic columns. Such columns are associated with Classical Revival architecture, which gained only marginal popularity in Abilene during the 20th century. The porches have turned wood balusters, suggestive of Victorian era traditions, and brick posts with cast stone caps, common on several of Abilene's earliest bungalows. A bellcast hipped roof caps the main section of the wood frame house.

A small 1-story frame garage is northwest of the main house. It maintains its integrity and is Contributing.

Statement of Significance:

The Eugene L. Finley House is an eclectic early 20th century residence that incorporates features from Victorian era, Bungalow, and Classical Revival, and architectural traditions. As one of the most unusual dwellings in Abilene, it is nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It was the home of rancher Eugene L. Finley who was one of several cattlemen who moved to Abilene because of the railroad. The building is associated with the historic context "The Railroad and Abilene's Development into a Wholesale and Distribution Center in West Texas, 1881-1939." The building is in good condition and retains its integrity.

The Eugene L. Finley House, built about 1910, exhibits many elements and characteristics typically associated with Victorian era dwellings built in the late 19th century. The asymmetrical plan and the use of various materials, for example, are generally seen on dwellings built many years before the Finley House. The prominently placed Ionic columns,

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National Park Service

dwellings built many years before the Finley House. The prominently placed Ionic columns,

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Continuation Sheet**

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Historic and Architectural Resources
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

however, are more common of Classical Revival traditions that enjoyed only marginal popularity in Abilene during the early 20th century. The use of brick posts with cast stone caps is common on several of Abilene's earliest bungalows. No other house in the city combines these architectural traditions in such a distinctive manner.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

x See bibliography for associated historic context.

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:

- x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- x Local government (City of Abilene Planning Department)
- University
- x Other -- Specify Repository: Abilene Preservation League

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	14	430160	3590560	B			
C				D			

Verbal Boundary Description:

Thomas Addition (4), Block 6, Lots 1, 2, and south 37' of 3

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the area that has been historically associated with the property and that retains its historic and architectural integrity.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (assisted by Amy E. Dase, Historian, THC staff)

Name/Title: David Moore, Historian
 Organization: Hardy Heck Moore
 Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande
 City or town: Austin

Date: June 1989; January 1992
 Telephone: 512/478-8014
 State: TX Zip: 78705

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Historic and Architectural Resources
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Universal Manufacturing Company Building
150 Locust
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest
Photograph 17 of 48

Abilene and Northern Company Depot
189 Locust
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast
Photograph 18 of 48

McMurry College Administration Building
McMurry College Campus
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
North oblique, camera facing south
Photograph 19 of 48

Eugene L. Finley House
208 Merchant
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest
Photograph 20 of 48

2/19/92

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Abilene MPS
TEXAS

COVER	Substantive Review	Date Listed
		12/18/91
92000225	1915 Taylor County Courthouse	3/23/92
92000193	Abilene Christian College Administration Building	5/23/92
91001811	Abilene Commercial Historic District	12/18/91
92000200	Abilene Fire Station No. 2	3/23/92
92000205	Abilene Street Railway Company Barn	3/23/92
92000191	Abilene and Northern Railway Company Depot <i>owned by</i>	3/23/92
92000214	Ackers, William and Mary, House	3/23/92
92000234	Blanton, Thomas L., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000229	Boyd--Hall House	3/23/92
92000206	Caldwell Hall <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000195	Cash, W. A. V., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000218	Castle, David S., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000211	Chambers, Samuel A., House	3/23/92
92000237	Davis, George R., House	3/23/92
92000199	Dillingham, O. D. and Ada, House	3/23/92
92000222	Dodd--Harkrider House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000204	Evans, J. W., House	3/23/92
92000228	Federal Building (<i>Now returned</i>)	Ret.
92000210	Finley, Eugene L., House	3/23/92
92000226	First Presbyterian Church <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000215	Fritz, David C. and Docia, House	3/23/92
92000192	Fulwiler, William J., House <i>owned by</i> <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000232	Goodloe, Albert S. and Ruth, House	3/23/92
92000207	Green, Roland A. D., House	3/23/92
92000236	Higginbotham, J. G., House	3/23/92
92000196	House at 1127 Ash Street	3/23/92
92000224	Hughes, Ed S., Company Warehouse	3/23/92
92000212	Jones, A. T., House	3/23/92
92000221	Lanius, C. A., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000194	Luce Hall <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000220	Magee, J. D., House	3/23/92
92000201	McDaniel, George W. and Lavina, House	3/23/92
92000219	McDonald Hall	3/23/92
92000209	McMurry College Administration Building <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000198	Minter, William A., House	3/23/92
92000216	Motz, Charles, House	3/23/92
92000230	Parramore, D. D., House	3/23/92
92000223	Radford, James M., Grocery Company Warehouse	3/23/92
92000231	Reading, Jhules, House	3/23/92
92000235	Roberts, Nathan J. and Nancy, House	3/23/92
92000233	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	3/23/92

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Finley, Eugene L., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Abilene MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Taylor

DATE RECEIVED: 2/19/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/06/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/22/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/04/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000210

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/23/92 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed Date



EUGENE L. FINLEY HOUSE
208 MERCHANT
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500625