

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

| NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: | CONTRIBUTING | NONCONTRIBUTING |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| | 5 | 0 BUILDINGS |
| | 0 | 0 SITES |
| | 0 | 0 STRUCTURES |
| | 0 | 0 OBJECTS |
| | 5 | 0 TOTAL |

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC/hotel; COMMERCE/TRADE

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC/hotel; COMMERCE/TRADE

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: L-plan tourist court

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION STONE
WALLS STONE: sandstone; WOOD
ROOF METAL
OTHER GLASS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6).

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Section 7 Page 5

Texas Tourist Camp
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

DESCRIPTION

Built between 1927-1935, the Texas Tourist Camp consists of a collection of four 1-story and one 2-story wood and stone buildings that include a cafe, office/residence, 2 sets of cabins, and a service station. The complex sits on the southeast corner of 2.5 acres along what was originally the Meridian Highway, then Highway 2 (now Business Highway 81/287) in Decatur, Wise County, just north of the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex. Covered in assorted rock, primarily sandstone, and petrified wood, the buildings feature such details as arched porches and arched garage entrances, characterizing the complex as a group of early to mid 20th century roadside architecture buildings designed to service automobile travelers. Despite various modifications such as replacement of windows, sheet metal roofs, and the addition of handicap access ramps, the complex as a whole retains a high degree of historic and architectural integrity.

The Texas Tourist Camp in Decatur, Wise County, occupies the southeast corner of a 2.5 acre tract that borders north/south business US HWY 81/287 on the east and Hale Street on the south. The site slopes west into a valley which includes the beginning of the Ft. Worth branch of the Trinity River. Spanning some 172 feet from north to south, this complex of cafe, office/residence, and service station sits close to the highway and includes grassy areas, flower beds, and sidewalks (see site plan, Map-12).

The Texaco Petrified Wood Station (1927), some 64 feet to the northwest of the residence, represents the most unique feature of the complex. A 1-room frame building with attached canopy sitting on a pier and beam foundation, the south, east, and north facades of this building are faced with petrified wood. A grassy area surrounds the building on the south, west, and north sides. Large pieces of petrified wood on the canopy columns provide the building with a dramatic touch. An 18' x 3' red neon sign which reads "petrified wood station" cantilevers from the canopy over the outside driveway and is attached to a Texaco banjo style sign. Three recently installed 1940s Texaco pumps topped with lighted globes sit at the eastern most end of the canopy (see Photo 4). This station operated continuously from 1927 to December 1988. A 1994 renovation of the interior converted the station for use as a 1-room and 1 1/2 bath office.

The Texas Cafe (1929), a 2-story frame building covered in a sandstone veneer with a pier and beam foundation anchors one corner of the complex. The cafe fronts the highway on the east and has a single-hung aluminum window on the south, which was used by car hops from the 1930s to the 1950s. The hipped roof is covered in sheet metal. There is a 1-story cinderblock addition (1945) on the west end of the building. Large windows flanking the front door and large windows on the south, accented by red and white aluminum awnings, as well as a red and green neon Texas Cafe sign, attract the eye of the traveler (see Photo 2).

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Texas Tourist Camp
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

The lower level of the cafe includes a dining room, with a kitchen/storage/bathroom in the cinderblock addition. The second story originally served as living quarters for the manager and included three bedrooms and a bath. Today this area provides storage for the cafe. In November 1993, the cafe re-opened after being closed for thirty years.

The office/residence (1931) sits even with the cafe and close to the highway (see Photo 3). The building faces east and is north of the cafe, separated by some 22 feet of lawn. A small flower bed, with a petrified wood coping, sits close to the highway in this grassy area. The 1-story building consists of a modified rectangular frame building covered with a combination of rock/sandstone/petrified wood veneer on a pier and beam foundation. A combination hipped/gable roof was covered by sheet metal in 1989 because of leakage problems. The exterior of the building is characterized by two large, arched porches constructed primarily of petrified wood. One porch faces east, and the other faces north.

The interior of the residence is divided into one large room, which served as the office for the motor court and could be accessed through the north door. This room opens into a bedroom and a kitchen on the north and a bathroom and two small bedrooms on the south.

The Texas Tourist Courts cabins (1931-1935) sit some 45 feet to the west around a gravel courtyard behind the service station and office/residence. Two separate buildings form an L shape, consisting of one 2-cabin unit and one 3-cabin unit. Built on a pier and beam foundation with a sheet metal roof, the three cabin/garage (1931) is eighty-three feet long and faces east onto a gravel courtyard. Covered in assorted rock, the arched doorways and arched garage treatments distinguish this building. The 2 cabin/garage (1935) is forty-three feet long and faces north onto the same courtyard. Faced with sandstone, the arched garage entrances characterized the facade. Each of the five cabins feature a bedroom, closet, and bathroom.

By 1953, all of the buildings had been faced with either assorted rock, primarily sandstone, or petrified wood. When neon became a popular sign during the 1940s, three neon signs (Texas Cafe, Texas Tourist Courts cabins, and Texaco Petrified Wood Station) were added to mark the businesses. The site has been restored as close as economically feasible to the 1953 facade. The Texas Cafe was remodeled in 1992, and reopened in November, 1993, after having been closed for thirty years. The residence/office for the Texas Tourist Camp serves as an insurance office. The Texaco Petrified Wood Station has been rehabilitated complete with c. 1940s gasoline pumps. In 1995, the Texas Tourist Camp was remodeled for use as a cafe and office complex.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: G

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Commerce; Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1927 – 1953

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1927; 1929; 1931; 1935; 1953

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Boydston, E.F.; Boydston, Nolan

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-9).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-10).

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 (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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Texas Tourist Camp
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Texas Tourist Camp consists of the Texas Cafe, office/residence, Texas Tourist Courts cabins, and the Texaco Petrified Wood Station. Originally a campground begun in 1927 by local businessman E.F. Boydston, the camp grew during the 1930s to its current configuration of buildings designed to service automobile travelers. The period of significance extends from the date of construction to 1953, the date of the last exterior additions and also one of the final years of its prominence as a tourist court before construction of a highway by-pass in the early 1960s diverted traffic away from the complex, meeting Criteria Consideration G as a property that continues to achieve significance into a period less than fifty years before this nomination. Built in response to increasing automobile tourism in the 1920s as well as local needs, the Texas Tourist Camp represents an early example of its type in Decatur, meeting Criterion A in the area of Commerce at the local level of significance. The use of found materials such as assorted rocks, sandstone, and petrified wood in the veneers of the buildings represents trends in roadside architecture, meeting Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance.

Beginning with the mass production of automobiles in the early 1900s, the opportunity for mobility over long distances became a reality for many Americans. Ability to travel greater distances from home created the need for overnight accommodations. Initially motorists camped by the roadside at the end of the day. Gradually, many cities established free municipal campgrounds. However, by the mid 1920s, these camps charged fees to keep out undesirable elements. With municipal camping fees came the opportunity for entrepreneurs to establish smaller private camps, often connected with services such as refreshment stands and gasoline stations. Gradually camps gave way to small cabins or "shacks," complete with closets and bathrooms, which rented for nominal amounts. Motorists could conveniently park right next to their rooms. Arranged around spacious courtyards and positioned outside the crowded downtown areas, "tourist courts" offered a more relaxed atmosphere and were cheaper than hotels. By 1935, there were 9,800 tourist courts in the nation.

As tourist courts replaced camping, cafe food took the place of camp dinners and picnic lunches. Drive-in restaurants with curbside service made eating and automobiles synonymous. Automobile travel necessitated refueling, leading to the growth of gasoline stations. From 1921 to 1927, the number of gas stations mushroomed from 12,000 to 116,000 and to 143,000 by 1929.

Begun in 1927, the Texas Tourist Camp represents an early example of roadside architecture in Decatur. A similar combination with gas station, cabins, and cafe was built on the northwest side of the town in 1941. Two other tourist courts, Blue Anchor Courts and Eighter From Decatur Courts, were built during the mid-1940s. The Texas Tourist Camp went through various stages from 1927 until 1945: from campground and service station, to cafe, office/residence/cabins/and service station. It grew from simple frame buildings to

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Texas Tourist Camp
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

elaborate veneer rock work with wind mills, arched entry ways, gazebos, and neon lights. The Texas Tourist Camp became a true delight for travelers as well as local citizens.

Development of the Texas Tourist Camp began in 1927 when Decatur businessman E.F. Boydston (12/2/1888 - 8/18/1945) purchased the property, originally a feed lot, from A.C. Hoyle in two transactions. Boydston purchased the first parcel, which faced US 81/287, on April 16, 1927, for three hundred dollars, and the second parcel on the corner of US 81/287 and Hale Avenue, on August 19, 1927, for one hundred dollars.

In 1927, Boydston built a shed and a Texaco gas station on the first parcel of land using \$1200 borrowed for materials and labor from C.D. Shamburger Lumber Company in Decatur (see Photos 5 and 6). Originally, travelers used the shed as a place to build a campfire before setting up a camp, hence the beginning of the Texas Tourist Camp. When the highway was widened in 1935, Boydston's son, Nolan Boydston, shortened the canopy of the gas station and faced the building with petrified wood collected from the nearby towns of Alvord and Bridgeport, Texas. The Boydston family operated this Texaco station continuously from 1927 until December, 1988.

The Texas Lunchroom, a 1-room wooden building, was constructed in 1929 and operated by the Boydstons until the widening of US 81/287 in 1935 when the cafe was moved back and renamed the Texas Cafe. At that time Nolan Boydston added second story living quarters and faced the building with sandstone, a popular building material of this era because of its availability and low cost. In 1945, the kitchen was moved out of the main dining area into a cinder block addition on the west end of the building. Between 1935 and 1955, the Texas Cafe had two operators (Walter Phillips, 1935-1946 and M.A. Lester, 1946-1955) followed by a series of operators until its closing in the early 1960s when the US 81/287 by-pass was built around Decatur. The cafe was particularly popular during World War II because families could eat without having to use their valuable food stamps. The cafe was also very lucky to stay open during these years since they were also subject to food rationing.

In November 1931, Boydston borrowed three hundred dollars for construction of cabins with garages, toilets, and closets. These cabins were later faced with rock. Now, instead of camping out in tents, travelers could spend the night in a comfortable cabin complete with bathroom and closets. The Texas Tourist Camp now became the Texas Tourist Courts. In 1935, an additional \$1650 was borrowed to convert the shed into the residence/office and to construct two additional cabins with garages faced with sandstone.

The years from 1946-1953 marked the boom years for this corner. Post-war production of cars and tires increased mobility and tourism. The "Texas," as it was known, was a popular hangout for high school students and Decatur Baptist College students and faculty. The building of the by-pass in the early 1960s caused the busy traffic to move west of Decatur, and the business slowly evaporated. The Texas Cafe closed about 1964. The station and cabins remained open only because they were owner operated. The cabins closed in the early

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Continuation Sheet

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Texas Tourist Camp
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

1970s with the death of E.F. Boydston's wife, and the station closed in 1988 when it became impossible to compete with the cheaper self-service gasoline stations.

This site represents a unique period in the economic history of towns and cities across the United States during the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. The development of the automobile in the early 20th century freed travelers from preset routes of railroad tracks. Travelers took to their automobiles and the auto-based American tourism business began. Tourist courts, like the Texas Tourist Camp, offered affordable places to eat, lodge, and refuel. Just like so many other businessmen across this country, E.F. Boydston identified a growing market and set out to service that market with a product.

Today the roadside is no longer a frontier for experimentation where the small businessman can be successful. "Mom and Pop" businesses are relics of a previous time or are more avocations than serious business ventures. Consequently, the diversity and energy of the American roadside has basically disappeared. The rise of corporate America brought the standardization of roadside businesses creating what some have called "placelessness." Thus the preservation of tourist courts serves as a reminder of the individuality, ingenuity, and resourcefulness that truly identifies the spirit of America. The Texas Tourist Camp qualifies for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A as an early local example of this type of commercial operation and under Criterion C for its reflection of early 20th century trends in roadside architecture.

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Section 9 Page 10

Texas Tourist Camp
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

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- _____. The Tourist: Travel in Twentieth Century North America. University of Nebraska Press, 1985.
- Jennings, Jan. Roadside America: The Automobile in Design and Culture. Iowa: Iowa State University Press for the Society of Commercial Archeology, 1990.
- Jones, Dwayne. "A Place Like Home: The Rise and Fall of the Tourist Camp in Texas." The Medallion (March 1990) : 3-5.
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- Margolies, John. Pump and Circumstance: Glory Days of the Gas Station. A Balfinch Press Book/Little, Brown and Company, 1993.
- Mechanic's Lien Records of Wise County Texas, II, III.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 2.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 1 14 632700 3677320

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-11)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-11)

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Jamie Wise, THC Architectural Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Nancy Boydston Rosendahl

ORGANIZATION: N/A

DATE: July 1995/March 1997

STREET & NUMBER: 302 South Miller Street

TELEPHONE: 817-627-5216

CITY OR TOWN: Decatur

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 76234

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-12)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-13)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheet Figure-14 through Figure-16)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Nancy and James Rosendahl

STREET & NUMBER: 302 South Miller Street

TELEPHONE: 817-627-5216

CITY OR TOWN: Decatur

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 76234

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 11

Texas Tourist Camp
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The following described tract of land situated in the City of Decatur and being part of a 3041 acre tract out of the A.J.Walker survey: BEGINNING at a point in the West Boundary line of the Meridian Highway at the intersection of the North line off Hale Avenue. THENCE West with North boundary line of Hale Avenue 58' varas to the Southeast corner of a lot owned by A.C. Hoyl. THENCE North 67' varas to the Northeast corner of same. Thence East 35' varas to West boundary line of Meridian Highway. THENCE South 18' East with said Highway 71' varas to the PLACE OF BEGINNING, containing 55/100 of an acre more or less.

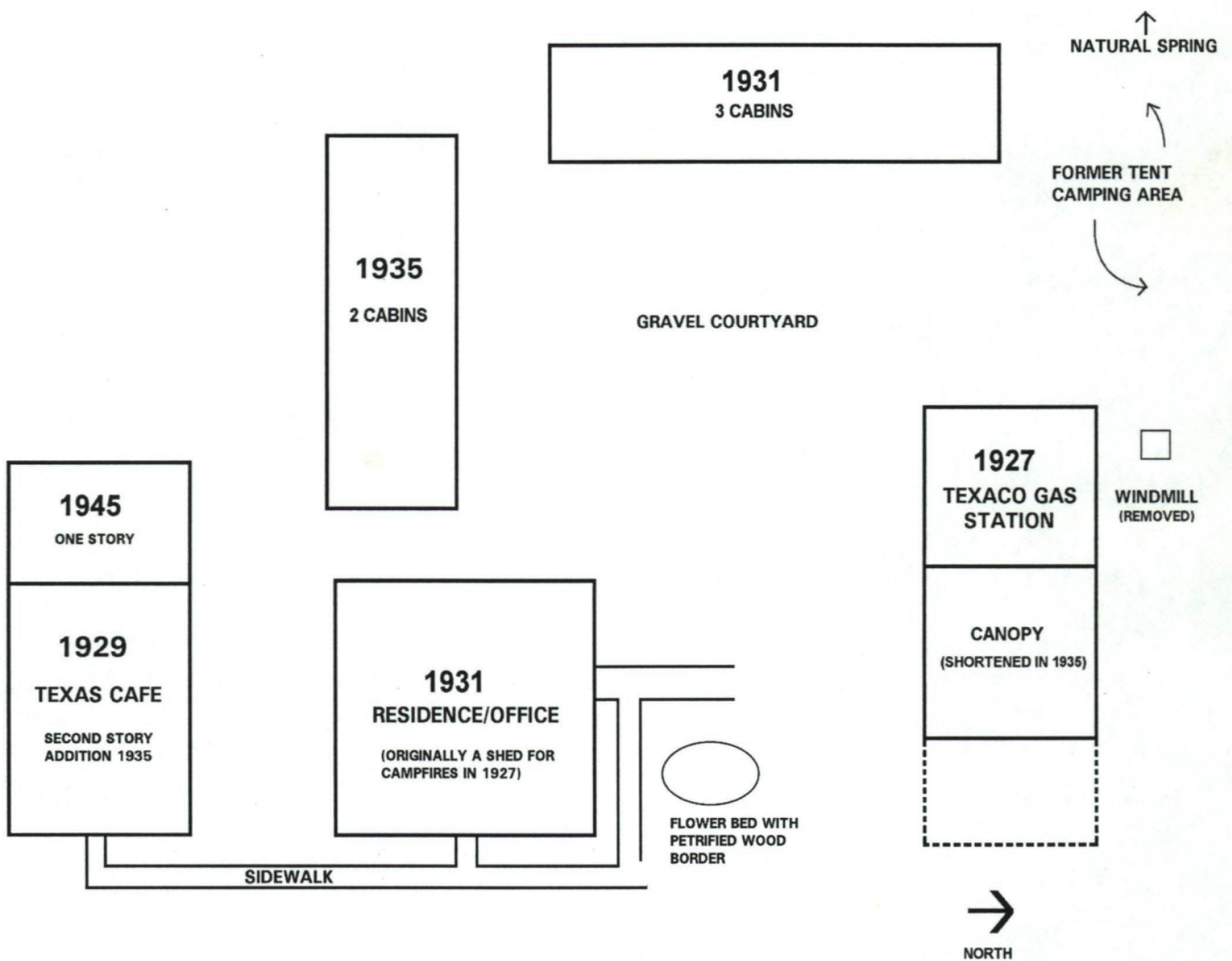
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated tract includes all property and resources associated with the Texas Tourist Camp during the period of significance that retain their architectural and historic integrity.

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U.S. HIGHWAY 81/287 (WIDENED IN 1935)
(FORMERLY THE MERIDIAN HIGHWAY, LATER HWY.2)

NOT TO SCALE

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 13

Texas Tourist Camp
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

PHOTO INVENTORY

Texas Tourist Camp
900-904 U.S. Hwy 81/287 South
Decatur, Wise County, Texas

All photos by Nancy Boydston Rosendahl, July 1995, except historic photos

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Photo 1 of 10 | Oblique view of northeast elevations of Texas Tourist Camp Camera facing southwest |
| Photo 1 of 10 | Oblique view of northeast elevation of cafe Camera facing southwest |
| Photo 2 of 10 | Frontal view of east facade of office/residence Camera facing west |
| Photo 4 of 10 | Oblique view of northeast elevation of cabins Camera facing southwest |
| Photo 5 of 10 | Oblique view of gas station before application of petrified wood, c. 1927-1928 Camera facing southwest |
| Photo 6 of 10 | Oblique view of residence before application of stone, c. 1929 Camera facing northwest |
| Photo 7 of 10 | Oblique view of east and north elevations of cabins, c. 1935 Camera facing southwest |
| Photo 8 of 10 | Oblique view of gas station, c. 1935 Camera facing northwest |
| Photo 9 of 10 | Oblique view of office/residence, c. 1935 Camera facing northwest |
| Photo 10 of 10 | Aerial view of Texas Tourist Camp, c. 1954 |

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Figure Page 16



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Texas Tourist Camp

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Wise

DATE RECEIVED: 4/22/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/06/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/06/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000477

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Texas commercial district associated with automobile travel in Decatur, District evolved from (1927 to early 1950s) a campground to service station, cafe, and cabin complex on US 81/287. Retains high degree of integrity to its final years of operation and continues to convey its historical associations with local commerce (related to the rise of automobile use and ownership in mid-20th century) and historic architectural character.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept etc, CC.6

REVIEWER LMcCullen DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE 385-4635 DATE 5/30/97

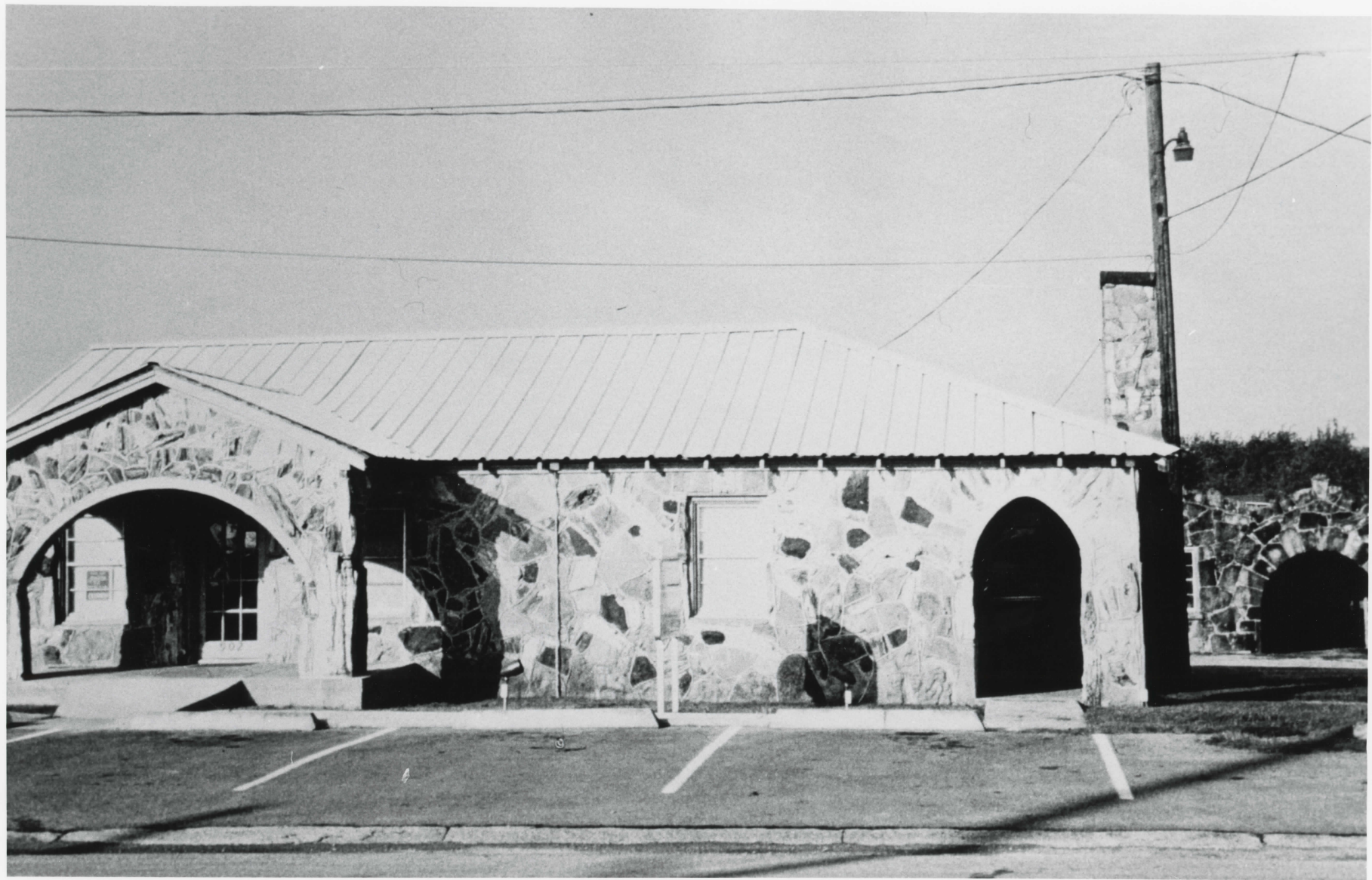
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments see attached SLR



TEXAS TOURIST CAMP
900-904 U.S. HWY. 81/287 SOUTH
DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 10



TEXAS TOURIST CAMP
900-904 U.S. HWY 81/287 SOUTH
DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 10



TEXAS TOURIST CAMP

900-904 U.S. HWY. 81 / 287 SOUTH

DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 10



TEXAS TOURIST CAMP
900-904 U.S. HWY. 81/287 SOUTH
DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 10



TEXAS TOURIST CAMP
900-904 U.S. HWY. 81/287 SOUTH
DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 10



LUNCH ROOM

Coca-Cola

CURB SERVICE

LASS BOUTIQUE

6
TEXAS TOURIST CAMP

900-904 U.S. HWY. 81/287 SOUTH

DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 6 of 10



TEXAS TOURIST CAMP

900-904 U.S. HWY. 81/287 SOUTH

DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 7 of 10



TEXAS TOURIST CAMP
900-904 U.S. HWY. 81/287 SOUTH
DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 8 of 10



TEXAS TOURIST CAMP

900-904 U.S. HWY. 81/287 SOUTH

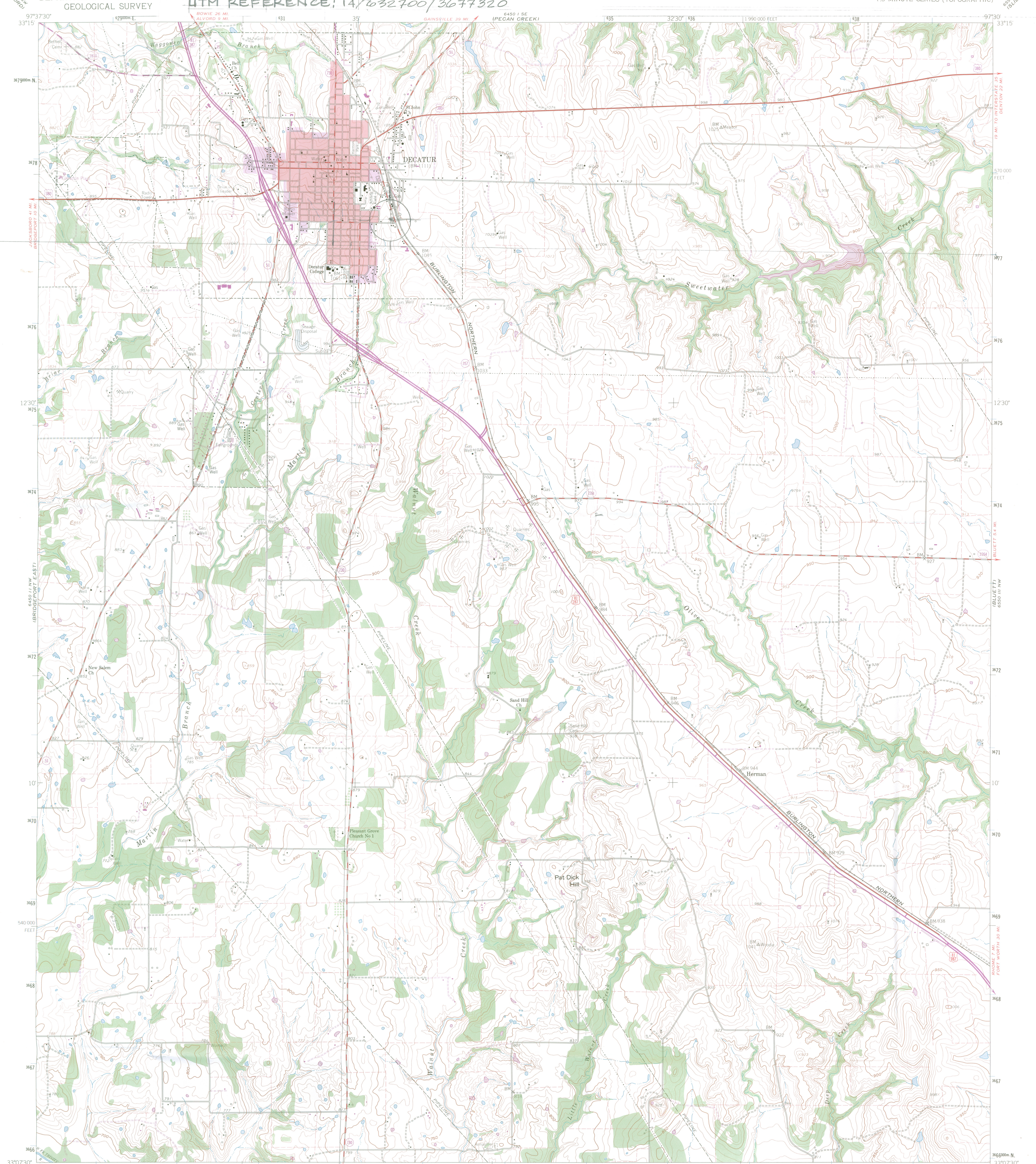
DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 9 of 10



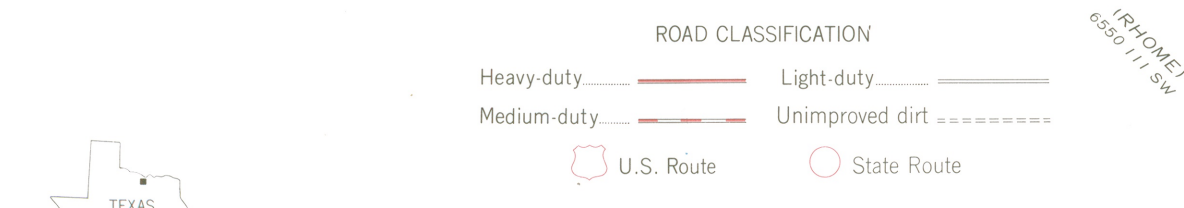
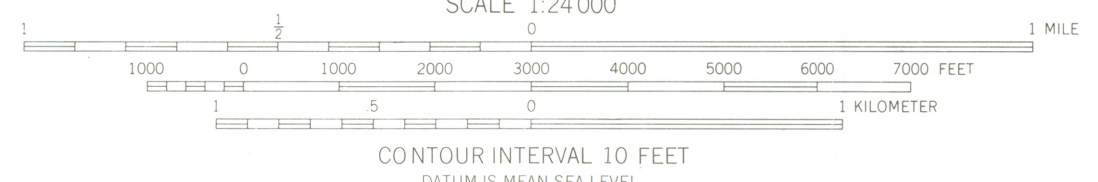
TEXAS TOURIST CAMP
900-904 U.S. HWY. 81 / 287 SOUTH
DECATUR, WISE CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 10 of 10



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
where generally visible on aerial photographs
This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1968 and 1972. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3397-214

DECATUR, TEX.
N3307 5--W9730/7.5
1960
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1972
AMS 6450 11 NE-SERIES V882



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Memorandum

TO: Carol Shull, Keeper of the National Register
FROM: Mary Dillman, THC Historian *Mary*
DATE: April 14, 1997
RE: Texas Tourist Camp, Decatur, Wise County



The enclosed nomination for the Texas Tourist Camp in Decatur, Wise County, Texas, has been in the works since 1995 and is the result of the efforts of Nancy Rosendahl, the current property owner and granddaughter of E.F. Boydston, original owner and builder.

One of the first such commercial operations in Decatur, the property supports listing under Criterion A at the local level of significance under the broad context of the development of tourist courts in America during the 1920s and 1930s, and under Criterion C as a good local example of trends in roadside architecture. The property was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1995. Staff feels the documentation supports listing as presented.