

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**

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

*Historic name:* Wooten, Horace O., House

*Other name/site number:* 1418

**2. LOCATION**

*Street & number:* 242 Beech St.

*not for publication:* N/A

*City/town:* Abilene

*State:* TX    *County:* Taylor

*code:* 441    *zip code:* 79601

**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 J. 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 Byers*

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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*[Signature]*



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of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

## Description:

The Horace O. Wooten House is a 2 1/2-story residence that stands immediately west of Abilene's central business district. An eclectic house, it incorporates many different stylistic elements into its design. Overall, the house's basic form is suggestive of Prairie School architecture. Although original windows have been replaced and porch bays have been enclosed, the Wooten House retains its original massing and most of its significant architectural features.

Facing east onto Beech Street, the Wooten House occupies a large lot in the middle of Block 117. The house's form is boxy with a 1-story porch on the front (east) elevation and a 2-story setback wing on the south elevation topped with a low pitched hipped roof with broad, extended eaves. The house features wood frame construction with brick veneer exterior walls. A 1-story porch on the front has three inner bays with round arched openings that are suggestive of Classical Revival traditions. The middle bay projects slightly from the plane of the rest of the porch and has a pediment above the opening. An off center hipped roof dormer extends from the front facing slope of the main hipped roof. The main entrance is set within the center bay. The remainder of the porch bays are either enclosed with tinted fixed glass windows or are stuccoed. None of the house's original double hung wood windows remain, in their place are modern tinted glass windows.

A 1-story garage/apartment stands southwest of the house. This ancillary building has a hipped roof with clay tile covering similar to that on the main house. It also has been severely altered (the original windows, for example have been replaced) but it retains enough integrity to be Contributing.

## Statement of Significance:

The Horace O. Wooten House, built about 1920, is nominated under Criterion B in the area of Commerce, for its associations with one of Abilene's most important historical figures. Horace O. Wooten was one of three local businessmen who established wholesale operations that helped make Abilene a regional distribution center. Besides his wholesale grocery firm, which was headquartered at 101 Walnut Street, Wooten was involved in numerous other business activities, including the Wooten Hotel. 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.

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Horace O. Wooten was born June 15, 1865 in Tyler, Texas, and moved with his family to Buffalo Gap in Taylor County in 1879 when he was 14 years old. He later returned to Tyler to attend business school and eventually settled in Abilene. He married Lee Ella Hunt whose father operated a chicken ranch near Buffalo Gap and sold groceries on commission for a St. Louis firm. Wooten later started a grain business but in 1898 embarked on a new career. As noted in Cosby's book, "believing that Abilene would become the distributing center of a wide territory west of Fort Worth, [Wooten] backed his judgment [by] abandoning the grain business and entering the wholesale grocery field" (Cosby 1955:317).

The Horace O. Wooten Company originally operated out of a building on Pine Street but soon moved to its own building at North First and Walnut streets. This business was the foundation of Wooten's financial success and enabled him to make numerous other investments. He owned a number of local residential properties and was instrumental in financing the construction of the Roscoe, Snyder and Pacific Railroad. He also acquired large amounts of ranch lands, some of which later yielded oil. All of these projects made Wooten one of Abilene's leading businessmen. His death on December 2, 1947 made front page headlines in local newspapers.

Horace Wooten erected this house in about 1920 and lived there until his death in 1947. Funds for its construction no doubt came from the profits of his many business ventures and thus the house is symbolic of his lifelong success and prominence. The house is moderately altered, but retains enough integrity to be recognizable to its association with one of Abilene's most influential citizens and is the only residence associated with Wooten that survives in Abilene.

**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*

<i>A</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>430540</i>	<i>3590500</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>	<i>_____</i>

*Verbal Boundary Description:*

Abilene Original Townsite, Block 117, Lots 1 and 2

*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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Continuation Sheet

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Historic and Architectural Resources  
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

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Horace O. Wooten House

242 Beech  
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas  
Photographed by David Moore  
Winter 1989  
Negative with Texas Historical Commission  
East facade, camera facing west  
Photograph 5 of 48

William A. Minter House

340 Beech  
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas  
Photographed by David Moore  
Winter 1989  
Negative with Texas Historical Commission  
East facade, camera facing west  
Photograph 6 of 48

O.D. and Ada Dillingham House

1625 Belmont  
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas  
Photographed by David Moore  
Winter 1989  
Negative with Texas Historical Commission  
West facade, camera facing east  
Photograph 7 of 48

Abilene Fire Station Number 2

441 Butternut  
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas  
Photographed by David Moore  
Winter 1989  
Negative with Texas Historical Commission  
Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 8 of 48

2/19/92

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Abilene MPS  
TEXAS

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		Date Listed
92000095	Sayles Boulevard Historic District SR	<u>3/9/92</u>
92000213	Stith, William and Evla, House	<u>3/23/92</u>
92000203	Thomas, Oscar P., House	<u>3/23/92</u>
92000208	Universal Manufacturing Company Building	<u>3/23/92</u>
92000217	West Texas Utilities Company Power Plant	<u>3/23/92</u>
92000202	Williamson, E. D., House	<u>3/23/92</u>
92000238	Wooten, Horace O., Grocery Company Warehouse	<u>Substantive Review 3/23/92</u> S.A.
92000197	Wooten, Horace O., House	<u>3/23/92</u>
92000227	Zabloudil--Hendrick House	<u>Substantive Review 3/23/92</u> S.A.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wooten, Horace O., House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Abilene MPS  
NAME:

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: 92000197

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



CHRISTIAN HOMES  
OF ABILENE  
242 BEECH

HORACE O. WOOTEN HOUSE  
242 BEECH  
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 48

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500625