

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: Universal Manufacturing Company Building

Other name/site number: 5410

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 150 Locust st.

not for publication: N/A

City/town: Abilene

State: TX *County:* Taylor

code: 441 *zip code:* 79602

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

<i>Number of Resources within Property:</i>	<i>Contributing</i>	<i>Noncontributing</i>
	<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<u> 1 </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.
Courtis J. Russell

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

entered in the
National Register

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

Arlene J. ...

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]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Commerce/trade Sub: Warehouse

Current: Commerce/trade Sub: Warehouse

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Art Deco

Materials: *foundation* concrete
 walls brick
 roof asphalt
 other cast stone

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: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Area(s) of Significance: Commerce and Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1927-1939

Significant Dates: 1927

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: 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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7/8 Page 5Historic and Architectural Resources
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Description:

The Universal Manufacturing Company Building is an imposing, 2-story, industrial building that stands at the northwest corner of Locust and South Second streets. It is of reinforced concrete construction and has a brick veneer. The front (east) facade features a series of decorative elements similar to buttresses that divide the front into six bays. Each bay contains a double door entrance; three bays have a secondary single door entrance. Two smaller buttresses subdivide each bay and form a rhythmic vertical thrust for the multiple light windows. Covering the loading dock is a wood canopy, supported by metal poles. Above the canopy is the primary band of first floor windows that serve as clerestory lighting. Each of the second floor windows has an awning panel that opens in the middle of each bay. The decorative and crowning element of this building, however, is the patterned brick work and cast stone detailing in the parapet.

Statement of Significance:

The Universal Manufacturing Company Building, built in 1927, is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Commerce, for its associations with Abilene's development into a regional wholesale and distribution center. It is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as an excellent local example of an industrial building with Art Deco ornamentation. 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." Few local warehouses retain their integrity to such a high degree, and as a consequence, this building is symbolic of many others in the community.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Abilene experienced rapid growth, and increased settlement in the community and other parts of West Texas created tremendous opportunities for financial success. Many businessmen established wholesale operations in Abilene because of its railroads and its strategic geographic location. They used the railroad to transport their goods and built warehouses in close proximity to one of Abilene's three railroads.

Most local warehouses, such as this one, were built in a period spanning Abilene's rise to significance as a wholesale center, from the 1900s to the 1930s. The majority stand in the downtown's eastern section. This imposing warehouse is simple in form as its historic function would indicate, but exhibits decorative elements typical of Art Deco design. The crowning element of this building is the patterned brick work and cast stone detailing in the parapet. Few similar buildings have remained in a virtually unaltered state; the Universal Manufacturing Company Building is an exception.

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:

- State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government (City of Abilene Planning Department)
- University
- 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	431400	3590080	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Abilene Original Townsite, Block 16, Lots 16-18

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 5

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

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Abilene MPS

TEXAS

Section number _____ Page _____

		Date Listed
92000095	Sayles Boulevard Historic District <i>SR</i>	<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> <i>SR</i>
92000197	Wooten, Horace O., House	<u>3/23/92</u>
92000227	Zabloudil--Hendrick House	<u>Substantive Review 3/23/92</u> <i>SR</i>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Universal Manufacturing Company Building
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: 92000208

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



UNIVERSAL MANUFACTURING CO. BLDG.
150 LOCUST
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 17 of 48

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500625