

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: Radford, James M., Grocery Company Warehouse

Other name/site number: 5317

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 101 Oak 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not for publication: N/A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.

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
___ See continuation sheet.

Shelous Byers

Entered in the National Register

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): _____

for
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: Romanesque

<i>Materials: foundation</i>	brick
<i>walls</i>	brick
<i>roof</i>	asphalt
<i>other</i>	N/A

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 B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Area(s) of Significance: Commerce

Period(s) of Significance: 1907-1939

Significant Dates: 1907-1933

Significant Person(s): Radford, J.M.

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.

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of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Description:

The James M. Radford Grocery Warehouse is a 1-story brick, Romanesque inspired commercial building with a flat roof at the southwest corner of Oak and South First streets. The building has patterned and coursed polychromatic brick walls. Although altered and in need of repair, the building retains its integrity.

This exuberant expression of turn of the century mercantile aspirations is entered through a double door containing a 2-light panel on the northwest corner under a wide semicircular arch. A glass tympanum with multiple lights fills the arch. Flanking the entrance are two infilled round arched windows.

The west elevation has two segmental arched doorways, infilled with brick, and two segmental arched windows with limestone sills. Near the parapet are seven fixed glass, wood sash, clerestory windows accented by a wide, round, brick arch and a quarry-faced limestone sill. The parapet on this facade is very simple.

Seven wide, round arches on the north elevation form a continuous arcade, although they are infilled with brick and single light fixed windows. The parapet on this facade is decorated.

Statement of Significance:

The James M. Radford Grocery Company Warehouse is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Commerce, for its profound impact on the local economy and Abilene's development into a regional distribution center. The building served as the headquarters and base of operations of this very important wholesale concern and is associated with the historic context "The Railroad and Abilene's Development into a Wholesale and Distribution Center in West Texas, 1881-1939." It is also nominated under Criterion B in the area of Commerce, for its associations with James M. Radford, one of Abilene's most important business and civic leaders. The building displays noteworthy detailing and craftsmanship that distinguishes it from other historic warehouses in the city but post-World War II alterations detract from its architectural significance and, therefore, it is not being considered under Criterion C. Despite these changes, the building retains enough of its integrity to be recognizable to its period of significance.

The James M. Radford Grocery Company was one of three regionally important wholesale operations based in Abilene. Radford came to Abilene in 1883 and purchased the stock of a bankrupt grocery store that the Waldo brothers operated at the corner of South First and Oak streets. Radford opened his own grocery business at the same location and operated it as a retail establishment. He soon expanded into the wholesale business because, like Ed S. Hughes and, later, Horace O. Wooten, recognized Abilene's potential as a distribution center utilizing the

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of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

railroad to transport goods that were vital to the settlement of the region. Radford opened his first branch store in Colorado City and another in Cisco. He went on to establish a total of 24 branch facilities throughout West Texas and eastern New Mexico.

The building at 101 Oak was erected in 1907 on the site of the original wood frame store and it served as the headquarters and base of operations of Radford's regional commercial empire. The company claimed to be the largest wholesale grocery operation west of the Mississippi River. Although this claim has not been confirmed, the grocery was, without a doubt, a vital factor in the local economy and it played a pivotal role in Abilene's history and development. Radford's profits enabled him to construct more than 40 buildings in downtown Abilene, as well as numerous residences in the city.

Although he faced business competition from fellow Abilenians Ed S. Hughes and Horace O. Wooten, Radford was able to keep his perspective and is quoted as saying

Competition has been a word touted as a panacea for business. The old maxim that 'Competition is the life of business' is an economic error. Competition is frequently the death of business. Just why a bitter mercantile feud should exist between two intelligent men or two organizations producing or distributing the same products is difficult to understand (Cosby 1955:299).

Radford's unexpected death on July 4, 1933 marked the end of an important chapter in the local history and the entire city mourned the loss. His son Omar took control of the firm and continued its operation. In 1945, all stock and assets of the company were sold to a Sherman, Texas firm for a reported \$3 million, and the James M. Radford Grocery Company ceased to exist (Cosby 1955:296-299; Abilene Reporter-News James M. Radford clippings file).

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

Acreege of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	14	431180	3590160	B			
C				D			

Verbal Boundary Description:

Abilene Original Townsite, Block 4, Lots 4-12

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

James M. Radford Grocery Company Warehouse

101 Oak

Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Photographed by David Moore

Winter 1989

Negative with Texas Historical Commission

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast

Photograph 33 of 48

Ed S. Hughes Company Warehouse

135 Oak

Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Photographed by David Moore

Winter 1989

Negative with Texas Historical Commission

West facade, camera facing east

Photograph 34 of 48

1915 Taylor County Courthouse

301 Oak

Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Photographed by David Moore

Winter 1989

Negative with Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast

Photograph 35 of 48

First Presbyterian Church

402 Orange

Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Photographed by David Moore

Winter 1989

Negative with Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest

Photograph 36 of 48

2/19/92

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Abilene MPS
TEXAS

COVER	Date Listed
Substantive Review	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: Radford, James M., Grocery Company Warehouse

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: 92000223

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



JAMES M. RADFORD GROCERY CO. WAREHOUSE
101 OAK
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 33 of 48 *Impresso Warehouse*

*Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photo 34 of 70*

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500625