

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:* Hughes, Ed S., Company Warehouse

*Other name/site number:* 5318

**2. LOCATION**

*Street & number:* 135 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*not for publication:* N/A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>
	__ 1 __	_____ <i>buildings</i>
	_____	_____ <i>sites</i>
	_____	_____ <i>structures</i>
	_____	_____ <i>objects</i>
	__ 1 __	__ 0 __ <i>Total</i>

*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 Jonell 2-12-92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
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.

   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

Entered in the National Register

Delouis Byers 3/23/92



**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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*Historic:* Commerce/trade                      Sub: Warehouse

*Current:* Commerce/trade                      Sub: Warehouse

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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*Architectural Classification:* Other: vernacular: warehouse, Classical Revival

*Materials:* *foundation*    brick; concrete  
                  *walls*                brick  
                  *roof*                    asphalt  
                  *other*                    N/A

*Describe present and historic physical appearance.*      x   See continuation sheet.

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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*Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:* locally

*Applicable National Register Criteria:* A, B, and C

*Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) :* N/A

*Area(s) of Significance:* Commerce and Architecture

*Period(s) of Significance:* c. 1919-1930

*Significant Dates:* c. 1919

*Significant Person(s):* Hughes, Ed S.

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

## Description:

The Ed S. Hughes Company Warehouse is a 1-story brick warehouse building with a rectangular plan and a hidden flat roof. The exterior walls are brick. Facing west onto Oak Street within the south section of Abilene's central business district, this building has changed little over the years and retains much of its historic character.

Bounded to the south by a 2-story warehouse and to the north by an alley, the rectangular Ed S. Hughes Company Warehouse is deeper than it is wide. The 3-bay front is symmetrically composed and has a large wood double door loading entrance set within the central bay. The outer bays are window openings but only the northern bay retains its wood 6/6 windows. The other window opening has been removed and covered with a sheet of plywood. The building has a three part parapet; the central section projects upwards. Buff colored brick is used near the base and along the top of the parapet, presenting a motif similar to a cornice with denticulated features. Modest detailing references Classical Revival design.

## Statement of Significance:

The Ed S. Hughes Company Warehouse, built about 1919, 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 nominated under Criterion A in the area of Commerce, for its role in the development of Abilene into a regional distribution center. The building is also nominated under Criterion B in the area of Commerce, for its associations with Hughes, a prominent local entrepreneur. Finally, the warehouse is nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as the best preserved building formerly used by the Ed S. Hughes Company that remains extant in Abilene. Few historic businesses in Abilene were as significant as the Ed S. Hughes Company, and this building is the best preserved building formerly used by the company still standing in Abilene.

Ed S. Hughes came to Abilene in 1882 soon after the town's founding. He began in the sheep and cattle trade but later became a partner in S.H. Leavell's hardware store, eventually becoming sole proprietor and expanding its operations. Hughes recognized Abilene's strategic location in West Texas and understood the railroad's role in transporting goods to the region. His business expanded into the wholesale trade and supplied hardware goods to cities throughout West Texas. The firm later sold heavy farm equipment, trucks and automobiles. Hughes also was involved in the Abilene and Southern Railway Company that opened new territories to local merchants. For many years he was president of Farmers and Merchants National Bank and was actively involved in numerous other business projects and endeavors.



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Historic and Architectural Resources  
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

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Despite his many business interests, the Ed S. Hughes Company remained the foundation of Hughes' commercial wealth. By the early 1920s, the firm owned a 4-story building on Oak Street, as well as five warehouses with a combined total of 83,000 square feet of storage space. The building at 135 Oak is the company's best preserved extant warehouse.

This imposing warehouse is simple in form as its historic function would indicate, but exhibits brick work and detailing in the parapet that add a decorative element reminiscent of Classical Revival symmetry and ornament. Few of the company's buildings have remained in a virtually unaltered state.

By the 1920s Hughes' business increasingly took him to New York City and he eventually moved there permanently. He was chairman of the board of the Philadelphia and Norfolk Steamship Company, president of the New York Canal and Great Lakes Corporation and president and treasurer of the Seaboard and Gulf Steamship Company. Although a resident of New York City, he still maintained a home in Abilene that once stood at the northwest corner of North First and Kirkwood streets. Hughes also kept his wholesale hardware operation but liquidated the business during the Great Depression. Hughes died on January 13, 1939 (Abilene Reporter-News April 8, 1956).

**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	430180	3590100	B			
C				D			

Verbal Boundary Description:

Abilene Original Townsite, block 4, Lots 13 and 14

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

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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

Date Listed

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: Hughes, Ed S., 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: 92000224

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





ED S. HUGHES CO. WAREHOUSE  
135 OAK  
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 34 of 48

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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