Texas Historical Commission

Post-Visit Guide
High School

Overview: Powering the Future, Preserving the Past

The Lawler family was integral in the preservation of Landmark Inn State Historic Site. J.T. Lawler was originally interested in the property so that he could convert the mill into a hydroelectric power plant, as he had done in Bryan, Tx and Sabinal, TX which were then sold at cost to those cities. The family renovated the hotel, and Ruth Lawler reopened it as Landmark Inn during WWII. Later, they would restore the neglected Vance House and use it as their primary residence. Before the Lawlers, the property had fallen into disrepair. Ruth and her family were directly responsible for saving this historic complex and preserving it for future generations of visitors. Through primary source investigations, students will unlock the motivations and measures taken by J.T. and Ruth to repair and renew the complex.

U.S. History Since 1877 TEKS

(17) Economics. The student understands the economic effects of government policies from World War II through the present. The student is expected to:

(A) describe the economic effects of World War II on the home front such as mobilization, the end of the Great Depression, rationing, and increased opportunity for women and minority employment.

(26) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of science, technology, and the free enterprise system on the economic development of the United States. The student is expected to:

(A) explain the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations such as electric power, telephone and satellite communications, petroleum-based products, steel production, and computers on the economic development of the United States.

(28) Social studies skills. The student understands how historians use historiography to interpret the past and applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including technology. The student is expected to:

(A) analyze primary and secondary sources such as maps, graphs, speeches, political cartoons, and artifacts to acquire information to answer historical questions;

(B) analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing and contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations, making predictions, drawing inferences, and drawing conclusions;

(C) apply the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple types of sources of evidence.

Advanced Placement U.S. History Themes/Learning Objectives

Work, Exchange, & Technology-3.0 Analyze how technological innovation has affected economic development and society.

Materials

- ★ Historical images for display/distribution
- ★ J.T. Lawler: "Electric Light Man" activity resources
- ★ Ruth Lawler: Preserving a Landmark activity resources

Vocabulary

hydroelectric: relating to the generation of electricity using flowing water

preservation: the activity of keeping something that is valued alive, intact, or free from damage or decay

Activity: Landmark Inn Visit

5 minutes

Ask students to reflect on their visit to the Landmark Inn by completing all columns of their **KWL chart**. Have students share their experiences including any new questions raised by the visit.

Investigation Activity: J.T. Lawler: "Electric Light Man"

40 minutes

Context: Jordan (J.T.) Lawler and his family were instrumental in the revitalization and preservation of Landmark Inn. Lawler, a member of Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive Party, wanted the public to have access to basic utilities like power and water. Lawler was originally interested in the Castroville property because he intended to convert the mill into a hydroelectric power plant, as he had done on other properties in Bryan, Texas and Sabinal, Texas. Soon after purchasing the Castroville property from Joseph Courand, Jr., he did just that. Lawler demolished the gin and converted the mill into a hydroelectric power plant, which provided areas of Castroville with electricity in 1927, a first for the city. In a San Antonio Express-News interview (Oct 24, 1981), J.T.'s sister Ruth remarked that the electricity came on only at dusk each day, except on Tuesdays, "so the ladies could use their new electric irons that day," on what was traditionally ironing day.

In the 1930s, a water rights dispute between Lawler and Courand came to a head. Courand sued Lawler for unpaid notes for the property, while Lawler countersued over misrepresentation during the sale of the land and the mill. When Courand executed the sale in 1925, he assured Lawler of access to unimpaired water rights on the Medina River, necessary to the success of Lawler's planned hydroelectric plant. After purchasing the property, Lawler discovered that Courand had signed an agreement with the Medina River Irrigation Company in 1913. The agreement had released the company from any damages or debts sustained by the mill as a result of the company's two irrigation dams built along the Medina above Castroville.

The courts found that Lawler's purchase of the land and mill had been compromised as his water rights were not secure. The flow of the Medina had decreased markedly by the late 1920s. Though Lawler did deliver the city's first electricity, it was not sustainable. In 1936, Lawler deeded the hydroelectric power plant to the San Antonio Public Service Company, but the company did not utilize the plant. As a result, the majority of machinery in the power plant, except for the turbine and thrust bearing, was sold as salvage during World War II. The Lawlers used the original stone mill building for storage.

Introduce the activity by reading and discussing this essential question with students:

> J.T. Lawler and his family had demonstrated earlier success in the electric power plant industry before moving to Castroville and establishing a hydroelectric plant at the Landmark Inn site. Based on his business and community involvement, should J.T. Lawler be considered a major figure in the Castroville community's history?

Distribute or display **Documents A-F** and the **document analysis organizer**. Preview each resource and address any challenges. Explain that the task is to examine each document to determine how it may or may not provide support for answering the essential question above. Students may work on the activity individually or in pairs. Share responses when completed making sure students explain how the specific documents did or did not address the essential question.

Investigation Activity: Ruth Lawler: Preserving a Landmark

30 minutes

Context: Ruth Curry Lawler, sister to Jordan (J.T.) Lawler, was born in 1900 in New Orleans but moved with her family to Texas as they pursued new business opportunities. While the family lived in San Antonio, Ruth began her involvement in historic preservation by being active in the San Antonio Conservation Society. In 1927, when the Lawler family moved to Castroville, Ruth brought her preservationist ideals and applied them to the family's historic property and the surrounding town. She was greatly inspired by the 1936 Texas Centennial, which celebrated one hundred years of Texas' independence and history.

The first-known recognition of Ruth's preservation work came on September 9, 1944 from the Historic Building Foundation, which later merged with the Conservation Society of San Antonio (CSSA). She received another award from the CSSA for her preservation of the Landmark Inn site in 1963.

Aided by Ruth's tireless civic work, Castroville has been recognized as both a national and a Texas historic district. Most significantly for this site, Ruth's hard work renewed and sustained the Landmark Inn which was opened to the public as an historic site in 1981.

In the late 1950s, Ruth and her brother J.T. moved into the Vance House. J.T. died in 1970. Ruth lived in the home until her death in 1990.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), passed by the U.S. Congress in 1966, created the National Register of Historic Places, which is the United States' official list of places considered to be significant to the nation's history. Ruth Lawler was instrumental in the nomination of the Landmark Inn in 1971, and it was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

The process for being placed on the National Register of Historic Places is as follows: A nomination form must be filled out in accordance with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the National Parks Service's (NPS) guidelines. Once submitted, the nomination form is reviewed by THC National Register staff and if considered worthy of a registration, is then submitted to the State Board of Review for consideration. The board determines whether the property meets the National Register criteria and if so, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) submits the nomination to the NPS. If NPS approves the recommendation, it is submitted to the Keeper of the National Register at NPS and is then posted in the Federal Register.

Distribute or display the **NHPA resource document.** Preview the document to address any challenges. Ask:

- What is the intent and purpose of this document? (see b2)
- Why did Congress decide to make this a legislative act? (see b3)
- Why is historic preservation still important? (answers will vary)_

Distribute or display the 1971 National Register application for Landmark Inn and the National Register worksheet. Preview each document to address any challenges. Students may work on the activity individually or in pairs. Share responses when completed.

Answer Key

1. **What government agency administers the National Register of Historic Places?** NPS under the Department of the Interior
2. **Under what name was the nominated property submitted?** Landmark Inn Complex
3. **How was the property classified?** a building
4. **For what period and area(s) of significance was Landmark Inn nominated?** 19th century architecture
5. **At the time of the nomination, what was the condition of the property?** Excellent
6. **At the time of the nomination, was the property open to the public?** It was restricted.
7. **What information does the nomination form give about the status of the mill area?** It is to be given to the city of Castroville
8. **What section of the nomination form tells you that the property was less than ten acres?** Geographical data #10

9. **What materials were used to construct the buildings?** limestone, adobe-type mortar, white-washed lime plaste
10. **How was the bath house involved in the Civil War?** lead that lined the tank was melted to use for Confederate bullets
11. **What information does the nomination form give about Cesar Monod's role in the Castroville community?** He was elected mayor in 1852
12. **What was the Vance Hotel famous for, according to the nomination form?** a stone bath house located in the courtyard
13. **What information does the nomination form give about John Vance's role in the Castroville community?** He was postmaster from 1867 to 1878.
14. **What issue in the nomination form do the reviews have a written discussion about?** What to call/name the property
15. **On what date was the Landmark Inn Complex entered into the National Register of Historic Places?** January 7, 1972

Extend the discussion with these suggested questions:

- How have preservation efforts benefitted the Castroville community as a whole?
- How can heritage tourism contribute to a community's success? ("Heritage tourism" is defined as "traveling with the primary purpose of exploring the history and heritage of a place)
- How does Landmark Inn reflect the spirit of the nation, as mentioned in the NHPA?

Assessment

Evaluate student engagement and instructional activities for completeness and understanding.

Extension Activity: Preserving My Community

Encourage students to think about a property (house, building) in their community that is historically valuable and should be preserved for the enrichment of future generations. Students may want to first search the Spreadsheet of NRHP Listed Places available at http://www.nps.gov/nr/research/ to ensure that a chosen property is not already listed.

Have students work individually or in groups to research the property and develop a proposal presentation for the historic designation of the property that includes:

- at least three labeled photos of the property,
- a summary of the history of the property,
- short biographical summaries of any significant people associated with the property,
- an explanation of why and how the property is historically valuable to the community, and
- a map of the property.

If students wish to begin the process of submitting an actual NRHP nomination, they can find more information about starting the process on the National Register page of the THC website.

Resource Images: Ruth and J.T. Lawler

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: "Electric Light Man" Document A

The Northwestern Miller, vol. 85 (Miller Publishing Company, 1911), 773, made available by Google Books, accessed July 31, 2016, https://books.google.com/books?id=P31ZAAAAYAAJ&dq=lawler%20mill%20new%20orleans%2C%20la&pg=PA773#v=onepage&q&f=false.

Lawlers to Texas

Work has begun on the building of a 300-bbl mill at Bryan, Texas, by the H. T. Lawler Milling & Trading Co., of New Orleans. An electric lighting plant will be built in connecti. n with the mill. The equipment will be largely of machinery taken from the Lawler mill at New Orleans, which was condemned in order that the site might be used for levee purposes.

H. T. Lawler, Sr., and one of his sons will go to Bryan, the other son remaining in New Orleans, where the company will continue in the flour trade.

R. E. Sterling.

Kansas City, March 27.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: "Electric Light Man" Document B

Davis, Fletcher. The Hondo Anvil Herald. (Hondo, Tex.), Vol. 41, No. 20, Ed. 1 Saturday, December 11, 1926, newspaper, December 11, 1926; (https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth564555/m1/2/: accessed August 31, 2020), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu.

Our Castroville Page

Local, Personal and Business Items from This Busy Burg

CASTROVILLE, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DEC. 10, 1926.

ED. HUEHNER, Local Representative

News or business matter for this page for the week's issue should be submitted to Mr. Huehner or mailed direct to us at Hondo not later than Wednesday night of each week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hans were San Antonio visitors last Tuesday.

We were sorry to learn that Mr. Andrew Haby, of Riomedina, had the misfortune to fall from a Pecan tree one day last week and fracture two or three ribs, according to the report. We join his many friends in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fuos visited relatives and friends on Black Creek the middle of the week.

Mr. Lawler, the electric light man, returned from an extensive business trip to New Orleans Thursday.

a several day's visit to relatives and friends at the Alamo City Friday.

Mr. Geo. F. Gerdes of Hondo was in our midst Saturday on business bound.

Frank Tschirhart was a business visitor at Hondo Saturday.

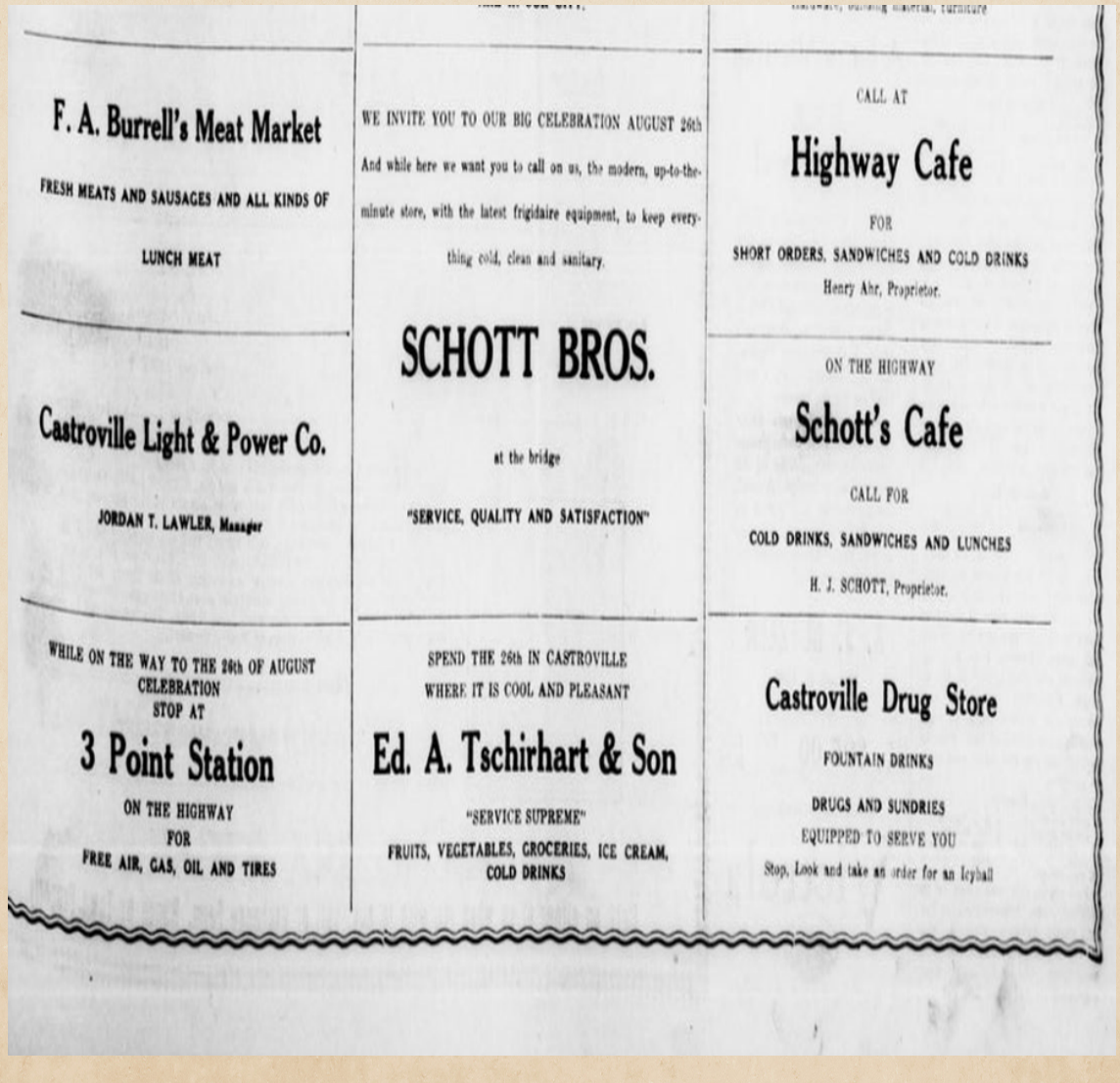
Mrs. Jacob Groff left Sunday afternoon for San Antonio to attend the funeral of both the late August Ahr, and son-in-law, Mr. Soucier. She will spend a few days with relatives nad friends in the city.

A number of relatives left Monday morning to attend the double funeral at San Antonio.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: "Electric Light Man" Document C

Davis, Fletcher. The Hondo Anvil Herald. (Hondo, Tex.), Vol. 43, No. 4, Ed. 1 Friday, August 17, 1928, newspaper, August 17, 1928; (https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth563279/m1/5/: accessed August 30, 2020), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu.



F. A. Burrell's Meat Market

FRESH MEATS AND SAUSAGES AND ALL KINDS OF

LUNCH MEAT

WE INVITE YOU TO OUR BIG CELEBRATION AUGUST 26th

And while here we want you to call on us, the modern, up-to-the-minute store, with the latest frigidaire equipment, to keep everything cold, clean and sanitary.

SCHOTT BROS.

at the bridge

"SERVICE, QUALITY AND SATISFACTION"

CALL AT

Highway Cafe

FOR

SHORT ORDERS, SANDWICHES AND COLD DRINKS

Henry Ahr, Proprietor.

Castroville Light & Power Co.

JORDAN T. LAWLER, Manager

ON THE HIGHWAY

Schott's Cafe

CALL FOR

COLD DRINKS, SANDWICHES AND LUNCHES

H. J. SCHOTT, Proprietor.

WHILE ON THE WAY TO THE 26th OF AUGUST CELEBRATION STOP AT

3 Point Station

ON THE HIGHWAY

FOR

FREE AIR, GAS, OIL AND TIRES

SPEND THE 26th IN CASTROVILLE

WHERE IT IS COOL AND PLEASANT

Ed. A. Tschirhart & Son

"SERVICE SUPREME"

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, GROCERIES, ICE CREAM, COLD DRINKS

Castroville Drug Store

FOUNTAIN DRINKS

DRUGS AND SUNDRIES

EQUIPPED TO SERVE YOU

Stop, Look and take an order for an Icyball

Lawler V. Courand, 28 S.W. 2nd 926 (Tex. Civ, App. 1930)

Court of Civil Appeals of Texas, El Paso.
28 S.W.2d 926 (Tex. Civ. App. 1930)

⊞ LAWLER V. COURAND

LAWLER V. COURAND. • NO. 2422. • COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS OF TEXAS, EL PASO. • MAY 1, 1930. REHEARING DENIED MAY 29, 1930. •927 • APPEAL FROM DISTRICT COURT, MEDINA COUNTY; L. J. BRUCKS, JUDGE. SUIT BY JOSEPH COURAND AGAINST JORDAN T. LAWLER WHEREIN DEFENDANT FILED CROSS-ACTION. FROM THE JUDGMENT RENDERED, DEFENDANT APPEALS. REVERSED AND REMANDED.

Opinion.

On the 30th day of November, 1925, appellee Joseph Courand, by warranty deed conveyed to appellant, Jordan T. Lawler, the two lots of land described in the deed, "together with the dam and mill race in the Medina River, the water privileges and water rights, in Castroville, all as now enjoyed by the grantor herein," for and in consideration of the sum of $9,000; $2,000 paid at the time of the conveyance and $7,000 expressed in notes of $1,000 each, on time payments. Lawler made certain payments, parts of the consideration for the property conveyed to him, and declined to make further payment, and Courand brought this suit to enforce payment on the remaining six unpaid notes, and to foreclose the liens given to secure such payment.

As negativing the fact that Courand did not own unimpaired the water privileges and water rights at the time he conveyed to Lawler, and which he had formerly owned and enjoyed as owner of said land and as owner of said dam and millrace and user of said water from said river for mill purposes, Lawler introduced in evidence the following instrument in writing, duly executed and acknowledged by Courand on September 29th, 1913:

"The State of Texas

"County of Bexar

"Know all men by these presents: That I, Joseph Courand, of said State and County, for and in consideration of Eighteen Hundred Dollars ($1800.00) to me in hand paid by the Medina Valley Irrigation Company, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Colorado, have agreed and acquiesced in and by these presents, do agree, and acquiesce in the construction, maintenance and operation, in perpetuity by said Company and its assigns, of the two dams constructed by it across the Medina River above the town of Castroville and hereby release and discharge the said company from any and all claims for debt or damages sustained by me or existing in my favor, to me, my property and property rights on said river, heretofore or hereafter to be sustained or to accrue by reason or on account of such construction, operation and maintenance of said dams, and particularly from any and all damages to my mill property situated in the said town of Castroville.

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of September, 1913.

"[Signed] Joseph Courand."

The above instrument was filed for record and recorded November 25, 1927.

Appellant alleges that prior to and at the time of closing the deal for said property he stated to Courand that he was purchasing the property for the purpose of using the water power for manufacturing, generating, and making power and electrical current to be sold, etc., and that, for the purpose of inducing him to purchase the property, Courand stated to him, as a fact, that he (Courand) owned unimpaired the water rights and property rights accruing to him by reason of being a riparian owner and by reason of being the owner and of having constructed and used for more than fifty years the dam and millrace across the Medina river, and that said dam was in fact the oldest dam constructed on the Medina river; that he further stated as a fact that the flow of water was sufficient to operate the (water) wheel included in the sale and which had been installed about 1890, and had been sufficient during those years to operate said wheel; that the same was built and designated by its makers, naming them, for use in said mill and in connection with the flow of said river.

Without quoting the evidence, it is made to appear that a much less flow of water in the river comes down to appellee's dam at Castroville previous to and at the time of the trial than did come down in 1924 and 1925, materially decreasing the efficiency of the mill property, and that said decrease is caused by the use made of the water at the dams maintained and operated by irrigation company dams above Castroville. It is further made to appear that the company was and is at all times claiming the right of use of the water as against the appellant by reason of the instrument executed by Courand to the company. The record shows beyond question that the irrigation company is claiming the right of use of the water under the Courand instrument of September 29, 1913.

It seems quite clear to us: First, that Courand by his deed conveyed to Lawler his mill, milldam, and millrace, and for use in connection therewith conveyed his water privileges and water rights; second, that prior to his deed he had disposed of his water privileges and water rights; third, that the water privileges and water rights were necessary to a use in connection with the mill, milldam, and millrace; fourth, that by reason of the instrument of September 29, 1913, Courand's right to the use of the water for mill purposes was not unimpaired when he conveyed the water privileges and rights to Lawler; fifth, Courand by his deed, and representations to Lawler, testified to by Lawler but denied by Courand, led Lawler to believe that he was getting the water privileges and water rights.

Activity Resource: "Electric Light Man" Document E

Davis, Fletcher. The Hondo Anvil Herald. (Hondo, Tex.), Vol. 47, No. 32, Ed. 1 Friday, February 24, 1933, newspaper, February 24, 1933; Hondo, Texas. (https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth565148/m1/9/?q=lawler: accessed August 30, 2020), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, https://texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Hondo Public Library

PICK THE WINNER!

W. A. DANNELLEY.

JORDAN T. LAWLER.

MILTON M. WEST.

CHAS. R. TIPS.

Sample Democratic Ballot

I am a Democrat and pledge myself to support the nominee of this primary.

For Congress, 15th Congressional District:

MOULTON (Ty) COBB of Mission, Texas.

NOBLE G. COFER of Brownsville, Texas.

W. A. DANNELLY of Robstown, Texas.

GORDON GRIFFIN of Robstown, Texas.

JORDAN T. LAWLER of Carrizo Springs, Texas.

F. W. PULLIAM of Crystal City, Texas.

CHAS. R. TIPS of Three Rivers, Texas.

MILTON M. WEST of Brownsville, Texas.

HAL J. YORK of Hondo, Texas.

PICTURES OF

MOULTON (TY) COBB

HAL J. YORK.

NOT AVAILABLE.

FIRST PRIMARY TOMORROW.

FEBRUARY 24TH.

NOBLE G. COFER.

GORDON GRIFFIN.

F. W. PULLIAM.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: "Electric Light Man" Document F
1936 Hydroelectric Plant

Arthur W. Stewart, photographer, "NORTH ELEVATION (FRONT)-Quintle & Haass Mill, Millrace, Medina River, South of Florella Street, Castroville, Medina County, TX", photograph, May 14, 1936, Survey HABS TX-355, From Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division: Historic American Buildings Survey, accessed July 31, 2016, https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.tx0321.photos/?sp=1.

"Electric Light Man" Document Analysis Organizer

J.T. Lawler and his family had demonstrated earlier success in the electric power plant industry before moving to Castroville and establishing a hydroelectric plant at the Landmark Inn site. Based on his business and community involvement, should J.T. Lawler be considered a major figure in the Castroville community's history?

Document	Document Type	Main Infomation	How does this document support/ not support the essential question?
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			

Activity Resource: National Historic Preservation Act, 1966

Public Law 89-665, as amended
Section 1 (16 U.S.C. 470)

(a) This Act may be cited as the "National Historic Preservation Act."

(b) The Congress finds and declares that-

(1) the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage;

(2) the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people;

(3) historic properties significant to the Nation's heritage are being lost or substantially altered, often inadvertently, with increasing frequency;

(4) the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans;

(5) in the face of ever-increasing extensions of urban centers, highways and residential, commercial and industrial developments, the present governmental and nongovernmental historic preservation programs and activities are inadequate to ensure future generations a genuine opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the rich heritage of our Nation;

(6) the increased knowledge of our historic resources, the establishment of better means of identifying and administering them and the encouragement of their preservation will improve the planning and execution of federal and federally assisted projects and will assist economic growth and development; and

(7) although the major burdens of historic preservation have been borne and major efforts initiated by private agencies and individuals and both should continue to play a vital role, it is nevertheless necessary and appropriate for the Federal Government to accelerate its historic preservation programs and activities, to give maximum encouragement to agencies and individuals undertaking preservation by private means and to assist State and local governments and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States to expand and accelerate their historic preservation programs and activities.

Ruth Lawler: Preserving a Landmark

Use information from the Landmark Inn National Register Nomination Form to answer the questions.

1. What government agency administers the National Register of Historic Places?

2. Under what name was the nominated property submitted?

3. How was the property classified?

4. For what period and area(s) of significance was Landmark Inn nominated?

5. At the time of the nomination, what was the condition of the property?

6. At the time of the nomination, was the property open to the public?

7. What information does the nomination form give about the status of the mill area?

8. What section of the nomination form tells you that the property was less than ten acres?

9. What materials were used to construct the buildings?

10. How was the bath house involved in the Civil War?

11. What information does the nomination form give about Cesar Monod's role in the Castroville community?

12. What was the Vance Hotel famous for, according to the nomination form?

13. What information does the nomination form give about John Vance's role in the Castroville community?

14. What issue in the nomination form do the reviews have a written discussion about?

15. On what date was the Landmark Inn Complex entered into the National Register of Historic Places?

Activity Resource: Landmark Inn National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

Dist. 23, Rep. Abraham Kazen, Jr.

MeC r3-1
1,2

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: TEXAS
COUNTY: Medina
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: 72.1.48.0002 DATE: 1/7/72

RECEIVED SEP 13 1971 NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Landmark Inn Complex

AND/OR HISTORIC: Vance Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Southeast corner Florella and Florence

CITY OR TOWN: Castroville

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Texas	048	Medina	325

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☐ Private ☒ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Miss Ruth C. Lawler (Mill area to be given to the City of

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 340 Castroville)

CITY OR TOWN	STATE	CODE
Castroville	Texas	048

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Medina County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN	STATE	CODE
Hondo	Texas	048

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN	STATE	CODE
Washington	DC	~~008~~ 11

(See continuation sheet #1)

STATE: COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER 72.1.48.0002 DATE 1/7/72

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: Landmark Inn National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form pg. 2

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Landmark Inn Complex is a series of cut limestone structures laid up with adobe-type mortar and covered with white-washed lime plaster. The solid stone walls of the buildings vary between eighteen and twenty-four inches thick.

The original structure built by Caesar Monad on the Landmark Inn property was a one-story stone structure with a separate kitchen building. This structure forms the first floor of the two-story hotel building. The Caesar Monad house and store, built circa 1850, was considerably enlarged by John Vance about 1854 when he made the Monad house and store into a two-story building and added a large, sixty-foot, one-story wing paralleling the Florella Street line of the property.

The Vance Hotel and store building has lime plaster finish on both exterior and interior walls. The hotel has six chambers on the upper level reached by an exterior stairway located in the inset double gallery on the south elevation. The first floor has three chambers and the store is housed in the sixty-foot long one-story wing. The double French-type doors which open onto Florella Street have a simplified Greek Revival entablature with a shallow pediment, crossets and a simple surround molding.

The front of the hotel and the store wing are almost flush with Florence and Florella streets. There is very simple architectural detail throughout the building. The main building has two end chimneys; one is connected to a corner fireplace in the northeast first floor chamber.

The two-story stone bath house has an exterior stair and balcony. According to tradition, the upper room, which served as a tank, was lined with lead. During the Civil War, this lead was melted to furnish bullets for use by the Confederates.

The kitchen, slightly to the west of the hotel building, is a simple one-story cut-stone structure with an end chimney.

On the same property, southeast of the hotel, is a one-and-a-half-story structure of plastered cut stone which John Vance built to house his family. The building has a raised basement used as storerooms. There is little architectural detailing on the residence. The building has a central hall plan with identical entranceways at the front, or north, elevation, and the south elevation. The entrance has single door with a low five-light-wide transom above. Small pilasters with capitals separate the three-light sidelights from the door. The rear doorway, which opens onto a wooden balcony, repeats the composition on the main doorway.

At the rear of the property, adjacent to the Medina River,

(See continuation sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: Landmark Inn National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form pg. 3

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Medina	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
72.1.48.0002	1/7/72

(Number all entries)

7. (contd.)

is a two-story cut stone structure which was constructed by G. L. Haas and Laurent Quintle about 1858. The handsomely simple two-story stone structure has an underground mill race from the dam on the Medina River. This mill which was operated by Haas and Quintle and later by John Vance also furnished the city of Castroville with its first electricity and power in 1927.

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GPO 901-082

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: Landmark Inn National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form pg. 4

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1846-48, 1854

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Landmark Inn, a famous and historic nineteenth century hotel in a remarkable Alsacian, early Texas town, is located at the east end of town, one-half block from the highway, near the Medina River bridge.

The first structure erected on the property known as Landmark Inn was a one-story stone edifice with a detached kithcen, built by Caesar Monad (or Monod) several years after the founding of Castroville. Monad, a French settler who became mayor of Castroville in 1852, purchased lot 1 of Block 1, Range 3 from Henri Castro in 1849 and lot 2 of the same block and range from Michele Simon in 1850. The structure which he erected was used as both a residence and a store.

In February, 1853, John Vance purchased lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Range 3 from Monad for $3,500. John Vance, born in New York in 1819, first settled in Little Rock, Arkansas, along with his brothers, James and William, and began a mercantile business. After several years, the three brothers moved to San Antonio and opened a general store on Alamo Plaza. John Vance withdrew from the partnership and, after independently operating a store for a time in San Antonio, he moved to Castroville.

Vance considerably enlarged the Monad house and store by adding a second floor, a double gallery on the courtyard facade, and outbuildings. The additions, using native stone, followed the architectural style of the original house. The enlarged structure served as both a store and a hotel. "Vance Hotel" as the property was known for years, was an important stopping place for travelers to and from Mexico. Part of the hotel's renown came from an unusual feature for the time and place - a stone bath house, located in the courtyard.

Vance also operated a gristmill. This was housed in the two-story stone mill located behind the hotel property, adjacent to the Medina River. The mill property had been sold to G. L. Haas and Laurent Quintle by Henri Castro for $700. The dam, an underground mill race channel and the mill were constructed by Haas and Quintle. Sometime after 1858, Vance acquired the

(See continuation sheet #3)

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Medina	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
72.1.48.0002	1/7/72

(Number all entries)

8. (contd.)

mill. This mill also furnished Castroville with its first electricity and power in 1927.

In addition to the Vance Hotel, John Vance built a one-and-a-half-story stone structure on a raised basement to the rear of the hotel. This structure housed the Vance family on the main floor and the basement was used as a warehouse.

John Vance was postmaster from July 1, 1867, to June 30, 1878. The post office was located in the large first-floor room at the corner of Florence and Florella streets. Vance and his descendents owned the property until 1899. John T. Lawler purchased the property in 1925 and resided there until his death in 1970. The Landmark Inn complex is now owned by Miss Ruth Lawler, John T. Lawler's sister.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1965

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Activity Resource: Landmark Inn National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form pg. 6

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, D. B. Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century. University of Texas Press. Austin. 1966. pp. 73,74.

Bracken, Dorthy K. and M. Redway. Early Texas Homes. Southern Methodist University Press. Dallas. 1956. pp. 22,23.

Castroville's Historic Heritage. pamphlet. n.d. pp. 5,6.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	29 °	21 '	17 "	98	52	27
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

RECEIVED SEP 13 1971 NATIONAL REGISTER

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wayne Bell, Project Director
Gary Hume, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Texas State Historical Survey Committee — DATE: 8-6-71

STREET AND NUMBER: 108 W. 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Austin — STATE: Texas — CODE: 048

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name: Truett Latimer

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 9-7-71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JAN 7 1972

Date

ATTEST:

William Murtagh
Keeper of The National Register

DEC 10 1971

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GPO 801-087

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: Landmark Inn National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form pg. 7

72001308

RECEIPT — PROPERTY: Landmark Inn Complex — Medina — STATE: TEX.

DATE OF RECEIPT 9/13/71 — REGISTER NUMBER: 72.1.48.0002 — 1/7/72

	YES	NO	NUMBER
DATA PAGE	✓		
PHOTO (S)	✓		6
PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)	✓		
MAP (S)	✓		1
MAP DESCRIPTION (S)	✓		
LOGGED	✓		
ACKNOWLEDGE	✓		

1/7/72

RESUBMIT 9/14/71

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REVIEW	Betsy, do you like "Landmark Inn?" No explanation of the name is given.	OK means 9/22/71
HISTORIAN	O.K.	12/8/71 Vanzo
ARCHEOLOGIST		
ARCHITECT	Ok	Chamberlin 9-23-71
ASST. KEEPER	OK	Mullen 12-9-71
KEEPER	ok	Wm 12/10/71
WRITER/EDITOR	Could we use "Vance Hotel" instead? ok	J Marvin 9/22/71
CHIEF, OAHP	I have stayed there - Landmark Inn is a new name.	EWC 1-7-72
EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR	There is no photo of the Vance House; also the map seems to show only one bldg., yet there are clearly several in the complex. For this reason I suggest calling Landmark Inn Complex (Vance Hotel).	ok SD 9/23/71

HABS, 1936

Federal Register Entry 2-72 — Annual Edition Entry

Logged 1/7/72 — Card 1/7/72

COMMENTS: — WORKING NUMBER 9.13.71.1

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Hon. Abraham Kazen, Jr.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Activity Resource: Landmark Inn National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form pg. 8

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JAN 7 1972

Name	Location
Landmark Inn Complex	Castroville Medina County
Ursuline Convent	Galveston County Galveston

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.
Hon. Abraham Kazen, Jr.
Hon. Jack Brooks
Director, Southwest Region

HR MCMeans:mm 1/6/72

State Liaison Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Post Office Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION