

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch Engineering Structure (41HY164)

and/or common Thompson's Irrigating and Milling Ditch; Cape Gin Company Canal

2. Location

street & number 400 ft. south of Interstate 35, immediately southeast
of San Marcos city limits N/A not for publication

city, town San Marcos ☒ vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Texas code 048 county Hays code 209

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John J. Stokes/J. R. Thornton et al.

street & number 1122 Sequin Highway/P.O. Box 649 Stokes (512) 353-1900
Thornton (512) 392-3941

city, town San Marcos (both) ☒ vicinity of state Texas 78666

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hays County Courthouse

street & number

city, town San Marcos state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (see continuation sheet) has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

REPRESENTATION OF EXISTING SURVEYS

- (1) Official Texas Historical Marker List
1978
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas
- (2) Archeological Site Records
1983
Texas Archeological Research Laboratory
University of Texas, Austin
- (3) Historic Sites Inventory
1985
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch Engineering Structure includes a stone and wooden dam, a hand-excavated ditch 1,850 feet long, and a concrete wheel pit and machinery platform. The dam is situated on the San Marcos River, approximately 1.3 miles below the San Marcos Springs. Water power channeled by the dam and ditch was used between 1850 and 1942 to turn an overshot waterwheel, and later a turbine, to run a grist mill, a sawmill, a shingle machine and a cotton gin. Today the engineering structures in the river survive, but all associated mills, gins, outbuildings, and residences have been destroyed by fires and modern subdivision development. The engineering structures have been continually repaired and improved since their initial construction to the present.

Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch were constructed to harness water power from the San Marcos River, a tributary of the Guadalupe River. The major source for the San Marcos River is the San Marcos Springs, which issue from the riverbed on the northeast edge of the city of San Marcos, about 1.3 miles upstream from Thompson Dam. Over 200 springs contribute to the flow, with a total average discharge of 4,300 liters per second (Brune 1981: 224).

The San Marcos Springs are associated with the Balcones fault zone which marks the contact between the permeable Edwards limestone and the more impervious Austin chalk and Taylor marl. This geologic boundary is also marked by a change in vegetation and soils. West of the city of San Marcos, soils are shallow, and a juniper-oak hill country vegetation is present. East of San Marcos (where Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch are located), deep soils are common and a short-grass prairie is found, with woodlands limited to the river bottoms. Both of these vegetational zones provided materials for processing at Thompson/Cape mill and gin; from the western hills, juniper was logged for the sawmill and shingle machine, and from the eastern prairies, wheat, corn and cotton were harvested and processed at the mill and gin.

The rates of flow of Salado Springs and Salado Creek are affected by the extremely variable precipitation found in Central Texas. In this region, annual precipitation has varied more than 25% above or below normal in 14 out of the past 30 years (Carr 1967: 9). Under such a climatic regime, irrigation is often required for successful farming. Water control structures such as the Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch are therefore constructed to accommodate a wide range of conditions from drought to flooding.

The Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch was surveyed by the staff of the Texas Historical Commission in 1981 and 1984. The site consists of three components: the dam, the ditch, and the wheel pit and machinery platform (see plan of structure). Constructed in 1867 on the San Marcos River to divert water to a manmade ditch, the dam is approximately 130 feet long and 9 feet high (Taylor 1904: 37) and is of wood and rock construction. The core of the dam consists of cypress wood frames (see photograph No. 2) sunk into the riverbed and filled with gravel from the Blanco River (Rich and Wyatt 1978: 8). More stones piled upstream from the dam serve to reinforce the structure. Recently, additional reinforcement has been added to the dam, and on the downstream side, several small steel I beams help shore up the wooden structure. The entire dam has been covered with chain-link mesh fastened down by metal pins (see photograph No. 1). Although the loose rocks which make up the structure are held in place by this recent reinforcement, the original historic structure is not compromised.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The dam creates a pond on the San Marcos River which extends for about 2,640 feet upstream, and is an average 100 feet wide. The pond's holding capacity has been estimated at 2,500,000 cubic feet of water which cover an area of approximately 6 acres along the river course (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A:77-78). The pond is not included in the nominated area.

The ditch is the most extensive of the structures at this site (see plan for structure). It is approximately 1,850 feet long, and has a series of pronounced bends. The ditch carries water diverted by the dam in a southerly direction to the wheel pit at the southernmost point of the ditch. The earthen ditch, which has been reinforced along its lower reaches with concrete walls (see plan), was 10 feet wide, 3 feet deep, and had a capacity of 333 1/2 cubic feet per second (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A:13) when originally constructed. In 1866 and 1867, the upstream section of the ditch was enlarged through additional hand excavation to achieve a width of 30 feet for the remaining 1400 feet (Rich and Wyatt 1978:7). By 1914, the ditch was described in legal records as having "... a width of ap. 17 feet at bottom... 30 feet wide with an average depth of 7 feet for a distance of 400 feet 20 feet wide an average depth of 6.52 feet for 1,487 feet with a .0028 slope capacity 681.78 cubic feet per second" (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A:99, 104).

The earliest concrete reinforcements to the ditch were made at the upper end, near the dam, and probably date to 1899 (Rich and Wyatt (1978:20). This concrete was made from the lime from the nearby limestone hill country and gravel from the Blanco River. By 1914, Exhibit A in John Cape's irrigation petition (see plan view of structure) shows concrete lining the upper end of the ditch near the dam and head gates, as well as an extensive area on the west side of the ditch for the southernmost 587 feet. In 1984, the extent of the concrete lining still matches very well what is shown on Cape's 1914 map. A concrete sidewalk was added to the bank along the concrete-lined channel in 1981, but its simple form (see photograph No. 5) does not compromise the design of the ditch.

Several water-control structures, two headgates and a wasteway, are present in or alongside the ditch. Wasteway construction probably dates to the time of the ditch's construction in the 1850s (see Rich and Wyatt 1978:6). The headgates are made of concrete and at one time had wooden gates set into their upper surfaces. The upper gate (see photograph No. 3) is located about 30 feet downstream from the dam, while the lower gate is about 330 feet above the wheel pit. The headgates once served two functions when closed: they impounded water, thus increasing the hydraulic head, and they prevented water from flowing into the machinery, serving as a shut-off mechanism. The headgates appear to be essentially unmodified since their original construction, although deep water hinders a close examination.

The wasteway is located about 525 feet above the wheel pit, on the south side of the ditch; it is composed of a sluice gate and two ditches (see plan view of structure). The wasteway ditches were dug at the time as the original ditch (1850) but are shallower, although their exact dimensions are unknown. They are of earthen construction, and lead from the main ditch west to the San Marcos River, serving to carry excess water back into the river during periods of high flow, or when the machinery is not in use. The sluice gate it

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

of concrete, and is approximately 7 feet across. A wooden gate once controlled the passage of water into the wasteway ditches, but is now gone; a low waterfall about 7 feet high is created during periods of high flow. The sluice gate was extensively damaged in 1981 by a flood, but was reconstructed in that same year by the landowner (see photograph No. 4), who followed the original form in the reconstruction.

The wheel pit and machinery platform (see photograph No. 6) is the working part of this structure, and therefore has undergone the most extensive modification over its 92-year history. The original wooden wheel was "a very large waterwheel of the seventy-five efficiency overshot type. The wheel was reinforced at strategic points with metal" (Rich and Wyatt 1978:6). Such a vertical waterwheel would require a horizontal axle (Storck and Teague 1952:94), but no such axle was evident in 1984. It appears that all evidence of the earliest waterwheel was removed in the course of later improvements.

Around 1900, two 48-inch Leffel turbines were installed, which generated 78 horsepower (Taylor 1904:37). By 1914, these had been replaced by a 35-inch Samson water turbine (Rich and Wyatt 1978:24; Hays County Irrigation Book, Volume A:104). It is not known if this latest turbine is still attached to the spindle observed in 1984 (see photograph No. 7), since rapid movement of water around the spindle makes an examination impossible under current high-water conditions.

The concrete machinery platform and wheel pit housing the turbine are constructed of concrete reinforced with iron. This platform and wheel pit probably date to the early 20th century, the period during which the waterwheel was replaced by turbines. The foundation for the main machinery stretches from bank to bank, measuring 20 feet long and five feet wide. The head and the spindle of the turbine are still present, and are mounted on the foundation through an iron plate (see photograph No. 8). An iron gear mounted near the head of the spindle probably served to transfer the motion generated by the turbine to other machinery.

The machinery platform marks the place where water from the ditch flows back into the San Marcos River. Originally, a vent was probably located in the lower part of the foundation to allow water flowing from the turbine vanes to exit from the wheel pit. This vent is now closed, for water flows over the top edge of the wheel pit, causing a 14-foot waterfall (see photograph No. 6), creating a hydraulic head that has been measured at 14.5 feet (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A:104).

A number of small, poured, concrete support blocks, associated with the platform for large machinery, are found both on the machinery foundation and on the adjacent bank. Most of the small foundation blocks have metal reinforcements and appear to date to the same period as the large platform, i.e., the early 20th century. The original function of each support block is unknown.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

Many structures and machines were once associated with the waterwheel or turbine, but are no longer present. During the Thompson occupation (1850-1909), an irrigation system of hollow cypress logs, a rip saw, a shingle machine, a millhouse, a wheelhouse, a cotton gin and an office were present (Rich and Wyatt 1978:5, 6, 18). The Cape occupation (1909-1942) involved the construction and use of a number of structures, including a cotton gin building and warehouse (Rich and Wyatt 1978:25). All of the associated structures and machinery have been removed, with the exception of one warehouse covered with corrugated metal which was built by 1936 (see advertisement and photographs). This building is not included in the nominated area. The area where the gin and office stood has been deeply disturbed by bulldozing, so that no significant archeological deposits of these structures remain. The houses, outbuildings and fields of the Thompson and Cape plantations were once located at a greater distance to the east of the wheel pit. This area has been extensively disturbed by subdivision construction, and the older structures were moved or razed. Thus the dam, ditch, and wheel pit/machinery platform are the only structures over 50 years old remaining from the Thompson and Cape eras.

The engineering structures included in this nomination maintain their historic integrity, but have been "kept up, by repairs and changes and improvements in construction, from time to time, perpetually, until the present day" (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A:79). They thus represent a composite of engineering techniques dating between 1850 and 1942. The wasteway and headgates have remained essentially unmodified since the 1850s, while the dam is a reconstruction made in 1867; the ditch and wheel pit probably date to the 1914 Cape rebuilding, while the sluice gate was reconstructed (according to the 1850 design) in 1981.

At present, the Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch have been stabilized, and are maintained in a park-like area that is informally accessible to the public. Although it seems likely that areas adjacent to the park will be developed as the city of San Marcos expands, this will not directly affect the present structures, since they are located at a low elevation near or in the water.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

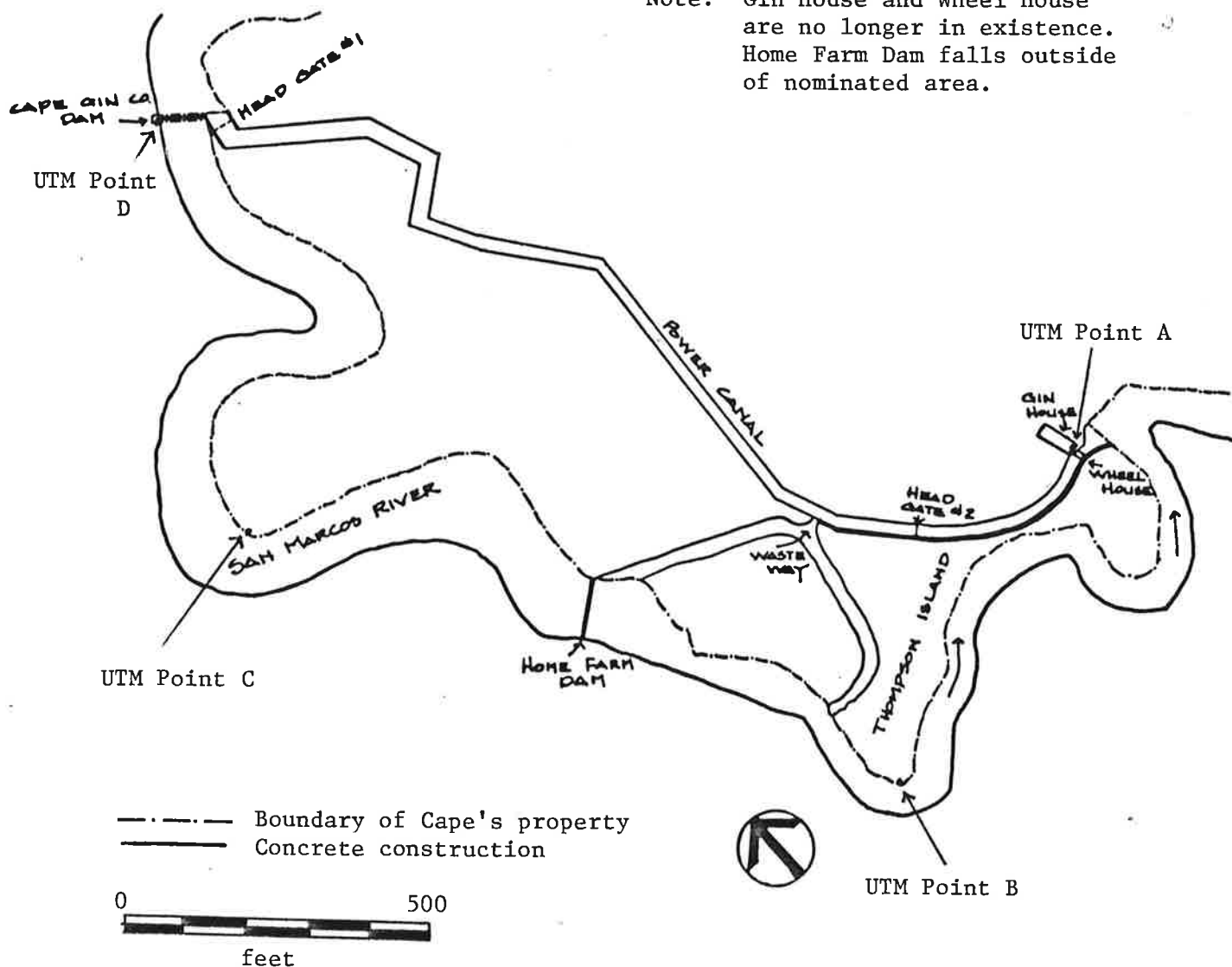
Item number 7

Page 4

THOMPSON/CAPE DAM AND DITCH
HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS
PLAN VIEW OF STRUCTURE

Drawn from Exhibit A of John Cape's
Irrigation Petition, 1914
Hays County Irrigation Book A, Plan No. 395

Note: Gin House and Wheel House
are no longer in existence.
Home Farm Dam falls outside
of nominated area.



8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1850-1942

Builder/Architect

unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch engineering structure is an important element in the history of milling in the state of Texas, reflecting the development of engineering techniques and the economic changes seen in the industry of milling through time. Its design is particularly suited to the extreme fluctuations in water flow characteristic of streams draining the Edwards Plateau. Further study of the hydraulics and construction of this mill complex may augment the information available on its design.

William Alexander Thompson (1803-1879) had been a planter in Mississippi and Louisiana before moving to Texas in 1850. His original family plantation was in Caldwell County along the San Marcos River, where Thompson ran a gin powered by eight mules (Rich and Wyatt 1978: 2-4).

In 1850, William Alexander Thompson decided to build a mill along the San Marcos River, at a location adjacent to a 250-acre plot owned by Dr. Henry Ward Davis. An agreement was made among Thompson and Davis, and John Francis McGeehee, another early landowner, to allow Thompson to construct a dam at this location (Rich and Wyatt 1978: 1-4).

A ditch and wasteway were excavated, in late 1850, by hand with slave labor, using the saucer level method to assure a constant rate of decline (Rich and Wyatt 1978:5). The excavation of the ditch and wasteway isolated two areas of land which came to be known as Thompson's Islands (Rich and Wyatt 1978:6; see plan view of structure), while the ditch was named Thompson's Irrigating and Milling Ditch (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A: 13).

Cypress wood was used to construct a number of associated features, including an irrigation system of hollow cypress log pipes, several head gates, and a large waterwheel. The waterwheel became operational in late 1850, generating power for a gristmill, sawmill, shingle machine, and cotton gin. A wheelhouse, millhouse, and several bridges were soon constructed near the ditch (Rich and Wyatt 1978: 5-6).

In 1867, William Alexander Thompson purchased a 158-acre tract of land from Dr. Henry Ward Davis, thus obtaining clear title to the property on which the mill was located. At this same time, Thompson's son William Alexander, Jr., (1836-1913) formed a partnership with Dr. Henry Ward Davis and an adjoining landowner, Major S. R. McKie, which became Thompson-Davis and Company. The partnership conveyed to William Thompson, Jr., the right to replace the dam originally constructed across the San Marcos River in 1850. The new dam was constructed in 1867 and the ditch was widened in 1866 or 1867 (Rich and Wyatt 1978: 7-8). Shortly thereafter, William A. Thompson, Jr., built a small house adjacent to the ditch in view of the mill (Rich and Wyatt 1978: 9-10).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

William A. Thompson, Jr., became increasingly involved in the operation of the mill through several transactions. In 1868, he purchased 60 acres from his father out of the 159 acres located adjacent to the ditch. In 1869, he bought the quarter interest of his neighbor and partner Henry Ward Davis, including mill, gin and shingle machine and buildings (Rich and Wyatt 1978:10), while in 1872 William A. Thompson (senior) conveyed the remaining 98 acres of property adjacent to the ditch to his son (Rich and Wyatt 1978:11). In 1875 William A. Thompson, Jr., purchased the remaining quarter interest in the Thompson-Davis and Company partnership from Major S. R. McKie (Rich and Wyatt 1978:12). Thompson, Jr. built a larger home for his family in 1878, within view of the mill (Rich and Wyatt 1978: 14).

An act was passed in 1895 by the 24th legislature of Texas "to encourage irrigation and to provide for the right to the use of water" (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A:13), and William A Thompson, Jr., along with many other persons along the San Marcos River, filed for water rights (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A:12-15). About this time, William, Jr.'s son, William Hardeman Thompson (1875-1948) began to participate in the family business. In 1899, William H. Thompson added concrete reinforcement to the ditch in the areas of the headgates and dam (Rich and Wyatt 1978:20).

Financial troubles around 1905 caused the mill to be leased to Malone and Rylander (Rich and Wyatt 1978:20). Eventually the entire complex was sold to J. B. Motheral in July of 1909 (Rich and Wyatt 1978: 21). Four months later, the property was purchased by John Matthew Cape (1861-1933) (Rich and Wyatt 1978:24).

Cape's ownership began a new era in the history of the site. The entire machinery plant was rebuilt with extensive improvements (Rich and Wyatt 1978:24); the lower end of the ditch was stabilized with concrete. The waterwheel was removed, and a new wheel pit was constructed to house two turbines. An auxiliary 55 horsepower steam plant was also installed to supplement the power supply during periods of low water (Taylor 1904: 10, 37). This was situated at the gin house, which was located on the east bank of the ditch above the wheel pit (see plan view of structure). The new complex was known as the Cape Gin Company, and the ditch, the Cape Gin Company Canal (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A; 98-99). Cape continued to use the water for irrigation of 300 acres of land adjacent to the ditch that he owned, and he used the water power for grinding grain, as well as ginning and baling of cotton (Hays County Irrigation Book Volume A:78).

Horace Cape (1894-1964), the son of John, became the manager of the Cape Gin shortly after the plant was acquired. In 1914, the gin burned to the ground, and the plant was replaced with equipment made by the Star Manufacturing Company of Oklahoma. The gin was then purchased from the Continental Gin Company of Dallas (Rich and Wyatt 1978:24), burned again in 1936, and was replaced once more (Rich and Wyatt 1978:25). An advertisement of this period states that Cape's Gin was the "only modern up-to-date gin in Southwest Texas" (see continuation sheet no. 8 - 2).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Vol. 24

San Marcos, Hays County, Texas, Sept. 25, 1936

No. 52



A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT
A Reward and A Responsibility



"Where Service Is A
Pleasure and
Ginning Is An Art"

Our Belief . . .

in Hays County and its vast possibilities in the Cotton Industry throughout the many past seasons has been handsomely rewarded. We feel that we have received our share of the ginning over this section during the history of our business.

We are most grateful for the opportunity of serving you in our line. Your patronage is appreciated.

Only Modern Up-to-Date Gin
In Southwest Texas

Equipped to Gin
Any Type of Cotton

The J.M. Cape Estate
NEW GIN PLANT

Situated on Waters of San Marcos River, One Mile from
San Marcos, Texas, on Highway No. 80.

HORACE CAPE, Manager

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

In 1935 the Rural Electrification Act was passed, and inexpensive electrical power soon became widely available. In 1942, Cape's Gin was converted to electrical power, and the dam, ditch and turbines fell into disuse. Today the waterworks are preserved in a semipublic park, while water diverted from the San Marcos River still flows through the ditch, wasteways, and wheel pit.

The history of milling in the United States shows a development toward increasing efficiency in power produced relative to the theoretical power available (Taylor 1904: 102-103). Water power was first harnessed by water wheels, undershot wheels transmitting around 30% of available power, and overshot wheels transmitting about 60% (Storck and Teague 1952:110). The turbine represented a significant technological advance over the simple waterwheel, because it employs both the forces of impulse and reaction (Storck and Teague 1952: 111); its efficiency is generally 80% or better (Storck and Teague 1952: 112-114). Later developments involved supplementing water power with steam power, to compensate for a variable water supply (Taylor 1904: 10).

Jackson (1971: viii) has defined several broad periods in the history of Texas milling: the Indian and mission period, the colonization period, Westward migration, Civil War and Reconstruction, and early-day automation; each period is characterized by the persons constructing the mills and the types of mills that were built. The Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch engineering structure reflects the last three of these periods. A similar trajectory can be proposed along economic lines, in terms of the types of commodities processed by water power. During the early settlement period, sawmills were more urgently needed than gristmills (Storck and Teague 1952:146), because construction was an initial priority. Later years saw the prominence of gristmills, which were then superseded in abundance by water-powered cotton gins around the turn of the century.

The Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch Engineering Structure reflects the history of water milling and the economic history of the state of Texas. The waterworks at the mill evolved from the overshot wheel to the turbine; the commodities processed at the mill changed from lumber, shingles and flour to cotton. The dam and ditch complex is designed to compensate for extreme fluctuations in water flow, with its dam, several gates, and wasteways which alternately serve to impound and release water.

Although a number of small and large mill complexes are known to have existed across Texas (see Jackson 1971), many are now destroyed or dismantled, and few have been studied intensively. Only a few mill sites (one being McKinney Mill in Travis County) are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch Engineering Structure is one of the few sites that remains relatively intact; as such, it promises to provide information on the functioning of a dam and ditch system under a variety of flow regimes. An underwater examination of the dam, ditch, headgates and wheel pit (carried out under low-water conditions) could provide additional information on the construction of the components of the mill complex. Thus this site both embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction (National Register Criterion C), and is likely to yield information important in history (Criterion D).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brune, Gunnar, Springs of Texas, Vol. 1, Branch-Smith, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, 1981.
Carr, John T., The Climate and Physiography of Texas, Texas Water Development Board
Report 53, Austin, Texas, 1967. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 17 acres

Quadrangle name San Marcos South, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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3	3	0	4	5	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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3	3	0	4	4	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	4
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6	0	3	0	9	0
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3	3	0	4	7	4	0
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D

1	4
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6	0	3	2	0	0
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3	3	0	4	9	9	0
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E

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is shown on the plan of structure (see continuation sheet, Item 7, Page). UTM Point A is located on the east side of the site, at the north end of the machinery platform, where it meets the bank.. (see continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Ann Howard

National Register Department

organization Texas Historical Commission

date March 1985

street & number P.O. Box 12276

telephone (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin

state Texas

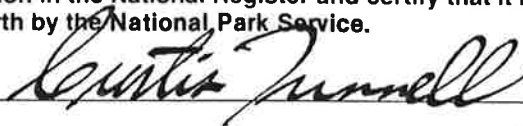
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12 April 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Rich, Kathryn Thompson and Tula Townsend Wyatt, Thompson's Islands, manuscript on file at the Research and Markers Department, Texas Historical Commission, Austin 1978.

Storck, John and Walter Dorwin Teague, Flour for Man's Bread: a History of Milling. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1952.

Taylor, Thomas Ulvan, The water powers of Texas, Water Supply and Irrigation Paper No. 105, United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 1904.

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For NPS use only

received

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description continued

From this point, the boundary follows the east edge of the machinery platform, then runs westward along the left bank of the San Marcos River for a distance of approximately 1100 feet to UTM Point B, located on the interior of a prominent bend in the river. From Point B, the boundary runs north-northwest along the left bank of the San Marcos River past the two wasteway outlets for a distance of approximately 1350 feet to UTM Point C, located on the interior of a prominent bend in the river. From Point C, the boundary proceeds along the left bank of the San Marcos River to the north-northeast for a distance of approximately 1000 feet to UTM Point D, on the northwest end of Thompson Dam, at the point where the dam meets the bank. The boundary then runs along the north edge of the dam to the east side of the millrace (a distance of about 100 feet), then it turns to the southeast, running along the northeast side of the ditch for a distance of 1850 feet to UTM Point A, the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The site boundary is drawn to include all of the water control structures related to the Thompson and Cape occupations, including the dam, headgates, sluice gate, ditch, wasteway, wheel pit, and machinery platform. It also includes the bodies of land created by the ditch construction, which are known locally as "Thompson's Islands." The boundary does not include the bed of the San Marcos River, where no structures related to the Thompson/Cape occupations are known to occur. It also excludes land to the east of the ditch, where buildings associated with the mill complex once were located, although all evidence of these buildings has been destroyed by recent construction. The boundaries of the site correspond with the property which was identified historically as the Cape Gin Company (see plan of structure).

HOMPSON/CAPE DAM AND DITCH ENGINEERING STRUCTURE (41+M64)
100 FT. SOUTH OF INTERST 35, IMMEDIATELY SOUTHEAST OF CITY LIMITS
SAN MARCOS, HAYS CO., TEXAS

JTM REFERENCE: 141A-603520/3304570 C-603090/3304740
B-603290/3304460 D-603200/3304990

