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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Offenhauser Insurance Building is a three story brick structure with inset, arcaded walkways on the north and west sides of the structure. The structure, which is bounded on the east by Stateline Avenue, on the west by Pine Street, by Third Street on the north and Fourth Street on the south. The principal facade, or south elevation faces a triangular shaped space known as Offenhauser 'square' and now used for parking.

This structure, which is a 1901 building, incorporates an earlier late 1870s two-story brick structure into its fabric. This earlier 1870s bank structure occupied the central three bays of the south facade and the rhythm of the earlier fenestration was carried over into the 1901 rebuilding.

The first floor arch piers and east facade wall is of 5 concrete, scored in alternating wide and narrow horizontal bands.m From the spring line of the arcade to the molded tin entablature m and cornice, the fabric of the building is yellow brick.Windows on the second and third floors have segmental brick arches and z concrete lintels. A small round turret projects from the S structure at the southwest corner. The turret begins at the sill level of the second floor windows and extends beyond the cornice R and parapet of the main block, terminating in a conical standing C seam tin roof above a pressed-tin cornice. 0

The east facade, which has no inset arcade on the first floor level, originally had an inset two-arch wide gallery on the second floor which was accessible by a stairway opening on the south facade. The gallery was used as an official reviewing stand for parades and other civic functions.

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The east facade is the most unusual of the four elevations of the Offenhauser Insurance Building. A one-bay section on the north end is perpendicular to the north facade and a two-bay section on the south end of the facade is perpendicular to the south facade of the building. The north and south portions of the east elevation are parallel, but they are not in the same plane. Consequently, these two sections are joined by the oblique and angled wall which contains the reviewing stand.

While architecturally not an innovative structure, the Offenhauser Insurance Building is a visually pleasing small commercial structure, important to the history and development of Texarkana, and a pleasing contrast to its neighboring commercial structures. The building, once bounded by a public square to the north and to the south, is visually and actually, in the center of the downtown commercial district with the Insurance Building occupying an island-site surrounded by streets.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
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The site of the Offenhauser Building was first occupied by the First National Bank of Texarkana, Texas. This structure, an early two-story brick building was constructed in the late 1870s. The bank, however, failed a few years later and in 1894 the building was sold by the Board of Directors to Fredrick Wilhelm Offenhauser.

F.W.Offenhauser, the son of German immigrants, was born in Chillicothe, Ohio. He was employed as a dry goods clerk with the C.E.Haydon & Company in Shelbyville, Illinois. When Hayden and Company opened a branch store in Texarkana, Offenhauser moved to the new store. Offenhauser held a second job at this time with the firm of Best & Beard Insurance Agency. In the pretypewriter days, Offenhauser was employed to write their fire insurance policies because of his clear legible hand.

W.A.Kelsey, who was cashier of the short-lived First National Bank, formed a partnership with Offenhauser with Kelsey providing the financial backing. The new formed company began operating successfully on the second floor of the former First National Bank building. In 1888 Offenhauser bought out Kelsey's interest and for a short time John T. Owsley was a partner. However, from approximately 1890 onward the firm has operated under the name of F.W.Offenhauser and Company.

In 1901, permission was granted by the City Council of Texarkana for a third floor to be added and extended out over the sidewalk on Pine and Third Streets. In actual fact, the building was completely re-constructed at that time, with little more than the walls of the earlier Bank building remaining. Stylistically, the Offenhauser Insurance Building is an early twentieth century commercial structure.

The Offenhauser Insurance Building is located on a unique pie-shaped lot in the center of the Texarkana business district. This pivotal structure of the downtown area is bounded by Stateline Avenue on the east, Pine Street on the west, and between Third and Fourth Streets. Consequently the building is not attached to any other structure and has four street facades.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Bowie	
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(Number all entries)

8. continued

Because of the central location of the structure, the building is a vital part of the downtown city-scape and is visible from numerous vantage points. The Offenhauser Insurance Building, which is among the oldest structures of Texarkana, has been a city landmark closely connected with the history and development of the city.

Offenhauser and Company are in the process of presenting The Offenhauser Insurance Building to the city of Texarkana to be restored and used as a museum.

Bowie -Building 71, 2, 48,0009 2/25/1 RECEIPT NUMBE R 1/15/71 YES DATE OF RECEIPT DATA PAGE PHONO (S) 3171 ODESCRIPTION (S) MA DESCRIPTION (S) -ED 1/15/71 ok. 2/25/71 A Levyspep HISTORIAN ARCHITTECT OK ASST. KEEPER 2/20/7) ØK KEEPER 2-25-71 CHIEF, OAHF ad EDITORIAL IROCESSING, EDITOR Federal Register Entry 4/6/7/ Annual Edition Entry 2/25/7/ Logged Card WORKING NUI BEL 1, 15, 71.3 COMMENTS:



NPS Number 71-2-48-0009 Title: Offenhauser Building Dorthenest Correr PROPERTY OF THE MATIONAL PLANS

~	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	state Texas				
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Bowie				
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z	3. PHOTO REFERENCE					
	PHOTO CREDIT: TEXAS State Historical Survey	Committee				
ш	DATE OF PHOTO: December, 1970					
ш	NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee					
	4 IDENTIFICATION 108 W. 15th St., Austin, Texas 78711					
•	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.					
	Northwest corner of the Offenhaus	er Building				

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NPS Number 71-2-48-6009 Title: Offenhauser Building Loc. Benne Co, Sexas From the Southeast PROPERTY OF THE MATCHINE Landia Liny

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	state Texas				
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTO	RIC PLACES	COUNTY			
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NPS Number 71-2-218-6009 Fitle: Afferbauser Building 108. Downe Co, Jexas Cast elevation PROPERTY OF THE MATIGNAL REGISTER

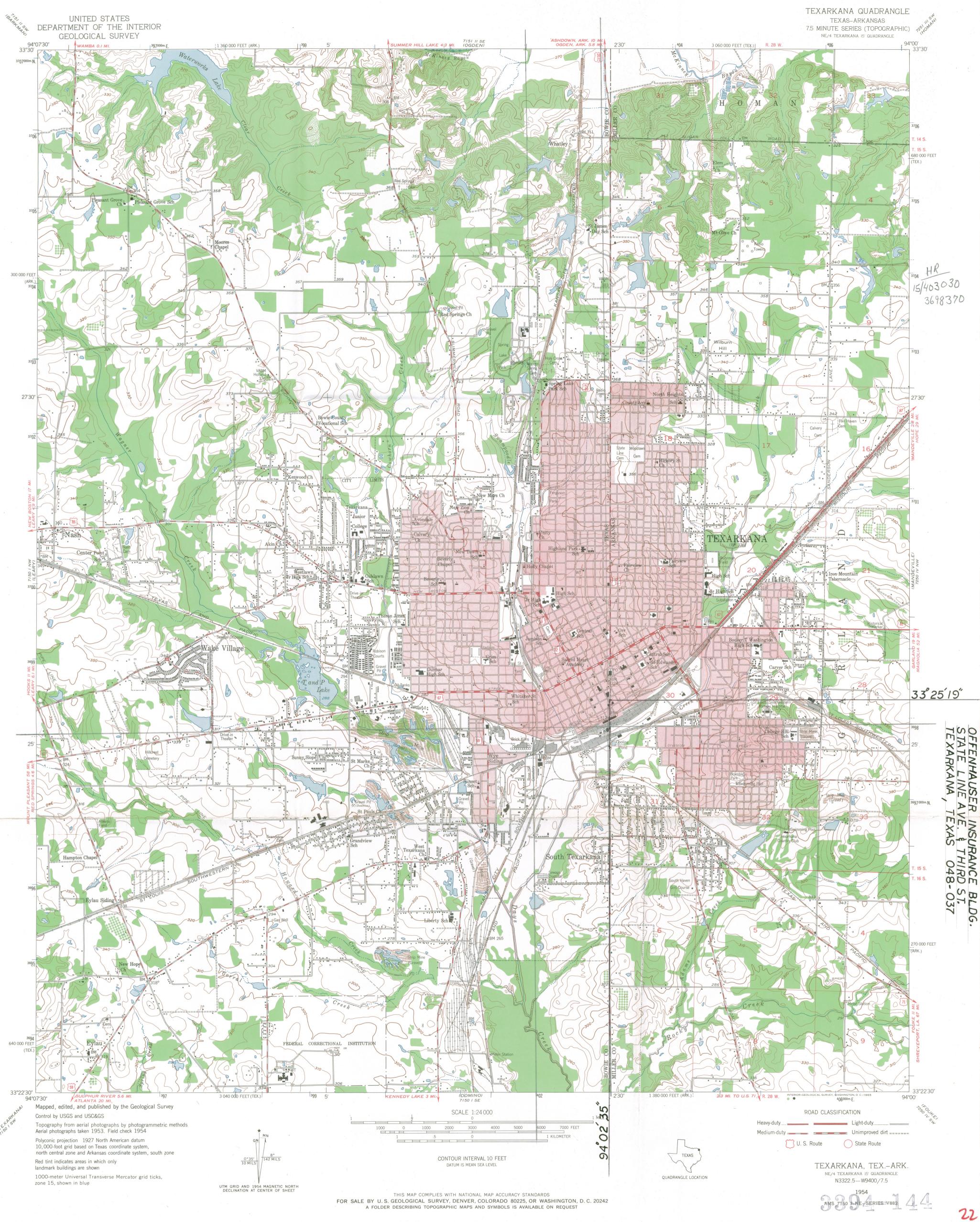
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			East elevation of O	ffenhauser	Building		



NPS Number 71-2-48-0009 Title: Offenhauser Building Loc. <u>Bowie Co., Seras</u> From the southwest PROPERTY OF THE WATCHEL MASTER

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Texas
	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY
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z	1. NAME
0	COMMON: The Offenhauser Building
F	2. LOCATION
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∍	Stateline Avenue and 3rd Streets
R	Texarkana
-	STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
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z	3. PHOTO REFERENCE
	PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
ш	DATE OF PHOTO: December 1, 1970
ш	Negative Filed AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas, 78711
S	4. IDENTIFICATION
	Describe view, Direction, etc. View of Offenhauser Building from the southwest

		m 10-301 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARK SERV	STATE Texas		
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WRIGHT PATMAN FIRST DISTRICT STATE OF TEXAS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS: 2328 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING 20515

HOME ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1868, TEXARKANA, TEXAS 75501

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Mashington, D.C. 20515

November 11, 1970

COMMITTEES: BANKING AND CURRENCY, CHAIRMAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION, VICE CHAIRMAN SMALL BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Confirming telephone conversations with you and more recently with Dr. Bradford, in your absence, I will deeply appreciate your assistance and advice for the Texarkana Historical Society in connection with the Offenhauser Building in downtown Texarkana, which I understand will be recommended by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, as a fitting entry in the National Register of Historic Places. The Society is recently organized and has generated a tremendous amount of enthusiasm locally for this project. However, there are a number of procedural and technical questions for which your guidance at this time will be tremendously helpful.

Assuming that it would be most convenient for you to travel directly from Santa Fe to Dallas on the evening of December 4, or the morning of the 5th, it would be possible for you to arrive in Texarkana on Saturday, December 5, to stay the entire weekend if possible, or for whatever length of time is convenient and desirable. In this connection, Mr. Josh Morriss, Sr. has offered to pick you up in Dallas in the Offenhauser Company's private plane, which would take you to Texarkana in about 55 minutes flying time. The connections between Dallas and Texarkana are not always convenient and this would of course save your valuable time. I am also writing to Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee at Austin.

Mrs. Alex Sanderson, President of the Texarkana Historical Society, is of course writing direct to you, extending the invitation on behalf of the Society. Needless to say I deeply appreciate your fine cooperation and assistance, and I am at this time setting down the telephone numbers of Mrs. Sanderson in Texarkana and of Mr. Latimer in Austin, for your ready reference. Dr. William J. Murtagh November 11, 1970 Page 2 -

> Mrs. Sanderson - 501/774-6552 Mr. Latimer - 512/475-3092

Mrs. Sanderson would of course be very happy to make definite arrangements with Mr. Josh Morriss for the use of his plane if this is agreeable with you.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours, Staturen Wright Patman



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 801 19TH STREET NW. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34-HR

November 19, 1970

To: Assistant Director, Legislation Through: Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Well-A From: Keeper of the National Register Subject: Offenhauser Building; Texarkana, Texas

Congressman Wright Patman has had two telephone conversations with me and Dr. Bradford, Assistant Keeper, about the subject building. Mr. Patman has subsequently requested in writing a visit from the Keeper to advise the local group, as part of the prior travel committment to participate in the National Trust's Santa Fe conference. A letter has been drafted for the Director's signature, indicating this can be done December 2, the date most convenient with State and local persons involved.

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William J. Murtagh



NOV 2 5 1970 November 19, 1970

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To: Through:	Assistant Director, Legislation Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
From:	Keeper of the National Register
Subject:	Offenhauser Building; Texarkana, Texas

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William J. Murtagh (Sgd.)

William J. Murtagh

cc: LL - Mr. Melvin T HR

WJMurtagh:k1 11-19-70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Nor 25, 1970

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Hon. Whight Fatman Rouse of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Patmant

Thank you for your recent letter to Dr. Murtagh requesting his personal assistance and advice in Texarkana for the Texarkana Historical Society is connection with the Offenhauser Building in downtown Texarkana.

Dr. Hurtagh is conmitted to represent the Mational Park Service at a meeting of the Mational Trust for Mistoric Preservation in Santa Fe, New Mexico on December 3 and 4. He will be able to must with the Texarkana group on December 2, having flows to Dallas the evening before, and will be available at the convenience of Mr. Josh Morriss, to devote the day to the Mistorical Society's problem, until flight departure from Dallas to Santa Fe at 4:55 p.m. He will contact Mrs. Sanderson, President of the Society, as you suggested, for details and will coordinate his visit with the State Liaison Officer in Austin, Mr. Truett Latimer.

Thank you very such for your personal interest in this preservation project and for calling upon the Sational Park Service to assist

Sincerely yours,

(Sgo) Joe Holt Oest Director

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Wro. Alex G. Sanderson, President, Texarkana Historical Society 2220 Forrest Road, Texarkana, 75501 > Atkansa

Mr. Truatt Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 73711

Director, Southwest Region

LL - Mr. Melvin T HR

Note: All cc. w/cy inc. 11-20-70 BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

WJMurtagh:kl

WRIGHT PATMAN FIRST DISTRICT STATE OF TEXAS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS: 2328 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING 20515

HOME ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1868, TEXARKANA, TEXAS 75501

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

FEB 2 3 1971

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 18, 1971

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

With further reference to my letter of January 23, I will deeply appreciate any information you can give me at this time concerning the status of the Offenhauser Building application. I expect a delegation from Texarkana to visit my office next week, during their visit here to receive a national trophy for the City in this year's National Clean Up Contest, and it would be most helpful to have this information available if at all possible.

With many thanks, and kindest regards, I am

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COMMITTEES:

BANKING AND CURRENCY, CHAIRMAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION, VICE CHAIRMAN

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Feb 24

Dr Murtagh - Terry Wood gave me this letter over the phone Suggested you give him a call 180-3035 since it requires action.

Febr 18

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

With my thanks and kindest regards,

Sincerely yours Wright Patman

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FEB 2 5 1971

H30-HR

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

Dear Mr. Latimer:

We are pleased to inform you that the Offenhauser Insurance Building in Bowie County, Texas, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Lloyd Bentsen and John G. Tower and Representative Wright Patman are being informed. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for the property owner. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours, (Signed)

FEB 2 5 1971

Director

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register

cc:

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2/25/71

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

FEB 2 5 1971

N30-HR

HR

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN

Hon. Lloyd Bentsen United States Senate Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Bentsen:

We are pleased to inform you that the Offenhauser Insurance Building in Bowie County, Texas, has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator John G. Tower and Representative Wright Patman have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Misison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 76711, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the Hational Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Director

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register

FEB 2 5 1971

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

Also notified: Hon. John G. Tower

United States Senate Washington, D. C. Hon. Wright Patman House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

2/25/71

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3/11/2

2220 Forrest Road Texarkana, Arkansas March 5, 1971

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register U. S. Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

How delighted we in Texarkana are to learn that the Offenhauser Building has been accepted for listing in the National Register.

We are proceeding with plans for the Museum -- committees are being formed to start collecting items to be displayed which relate to the history in our area. A financial campaign is also under way to raise the necessary money for the operation of the Museum.

I hope that since you are the keeper of the records where our building is registered, it means a return trip to Texarkana for some reason. A cordial welcome is always extended.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Alex G. Sanderson President, Texarkana Historical Society and Museum

WRIGHT PATMAN FIRST DISTRICT STATE OF TEXAS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS: 2328 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING 20515

HOME ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1868, TEXARKANA, TEXAS 75501 Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 20, 1971

COMMITTEES: BANKING AND CURRENCY, CHAIRMAN JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION, CHAIRMAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, VICE CHAIRMAN

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As you know, the <u>Offenhauser Building at Texarkana</u> has been included through your kind efforts in the National Register of Historic Places. I will greatly appreciate further information at this time regarding any grant or loan programs that might be helpful in refurbishing this building.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Wright Patman



APR 2 2 1971

Hon. Wright Patman House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Patman:

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We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry of April 20 concerning the Offenhauser Building at Texarkana, Texas. We appreciate your interest in this matter and will provide you a reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.,

Director

FNP:FSMelvin:rmt: 4/22/71

Bowle Tx /

S. B rAD Ford 4/27 W MortAgh 4/27 R. Utley 4/29 7. Wood 5/4

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J. STEWANT 5/7 Thankson 5/10

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MAY 11 1971

Hon. Wright Pateson House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Fatmani

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry of April 20 concerning the Offenhauser Building at Texarkens, Texas.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915), as swended, suthorizes matching grants-in-aid to the States and to the National Trust for Historic Preservation of \$7 million in fiscal 1971, \$10 million in fiscal 1972, and \$15 million in fiscal 1973.

The fiscal year 1971 appropriation for the grants-in-aid program is \$5,980,000. In October 1970 the Secretary of the Interior apportioned \$2,185,631.75 to 41 States for historical survey and planning and \$1,042,023 to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Tenne received \$19,360,00. On March 11 an apportionment of \$2,323,762.22 was made to 40 States for acquisition and development projects. Tennas received \$111,902.31.

The grants-in-aid program is administered in each State through the cooperation of a State Limison Officer appointed by the Governor. In Texas this officer is Nr. Trustt Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

The State Ligison Officer submits applications for matching Federal sesistance for historic properties, in accordance with an approved State historic preservation plan. Texas' plan was approved on December 31, 1970. Also, to be eligible for assistance a property has to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. The State Ligison Officer makes nominations for the National Register. As you know, the Offenhauser Building was entered on the National Register on February 25, 1971. We suggest that further inquiry be directed to Mr. Latimer. The enclosed folder entitled "The National Register of Historic Places" describes the grants program on the warked page.

Your interest in the National Park Service and its programs is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas F. Flynn, Jr.

Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Survey Committee Post Office Box 12276 Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711)w/c of inc. Director, SW Region) LL - Mr. Melvin) T) HR)

FNP:SBradford:prp:5/3/71

(BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR)

5.4

PROPERTY Offenhauser Insurance Building, Texarkana Tex.

Date: 9/23/74

National Register property descriptions are being rewritten for entry in the cumulative 1976 National Register publication. In order to make certain that write-ups are correct, please provide the information indicated below within 10 days.^{*} The material should be forwarded directly to the Branch of Publications, National Register. ATTN: N. Rowland * Please let us know if additional time is needed.

1.	Name
2.	Location
3.	Ownership Is building still privately owned? city owned weekdays: 10 am - 4 pm
4.	Accessible to the public Yes: Sat. 10 am - 2 pm, Sun. 12 n- 3pm
5.	Present use Is it being used as a museum? yes
6.	Description (remodeled, restored?)
	The museum displays items of historical interest as
	Pell as exhibits on the archaeology and prehistory of the area.
7.	Photo
8.	Other

Thank you.

William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register