**NAME**

**COMMON:**
Landmark Inn Complex

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**
Vance Hotel

**LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
Southeast corner Florella and Florence

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Castroville

**STATE CODE:**
Texas 048

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY (Check One):**

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<th>District</th>
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**OWNERSHIP:**

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**ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:**

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**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

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<th>Entertainment</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Military</th>
<th>Religious</th>
<th>Scientific</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Other (Specify)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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**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

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Castroville

**STATE CODE:**
Texas 048

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
Medina County Courthouse

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

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<th>Hondo</th>
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<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
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**STATE CODE:**
Texas 048

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**
Historic American Buildings Survey

**DATE OF SURVEY:**
1936

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
Library of Congress

(See continuation sheet #1)
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)
6. (contd.)

Texas Architectural Survey
1964 State
Architecture Library
School of Architecture
The University of Texas
Austin, Texas 048

Texas State Historical Survey
1965 State
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 048
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.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [X] 19th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th 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
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Other

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 kitchen, 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)
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<td>SW</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.5 acres

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

STATE: [Space for Entry]
CODE: [Space for Entry]
COUNTY: [Space for Entry]
CODE: [Space for Entry]

STATE: [Space for Entry]
CODE: [Space for Entry]
COUNTY: [Space for Entry]
CODE: [Space for Entry]

STATE: [Space for Entry]
CODE: [Space for Entry]
COUNTY: [Space for Entry]
CODE: [Space for Entry]

STATE: [Space for Entry]
CODE: [Space for Entry]
COUNTY: [Space for Entry]
CODE: [Space for Entry]

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Wayne Bell, Project Director
Gary Hume, Architectural Historian

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

ADDRESS: 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 [Blank].

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name: [Signature]
Title: State Liaison Officer
Date: 9-7-71

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

[Signature]
Date: Jan 7, 1972

ATTEST:
Date: ____________

[Signature]
Date: Dec 10, 1971
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 descendants 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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**REVIEW**

Betsy, do you like "Landmark Inn?" No explanation of the name is given.

O.K. 9/8/71

Van Go 1971

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHAEOLOGIST**

**ARCHITECT**

**ASS. KEEPER**

**KEEPER**

**WRITER/EDITOR**

Could we use "Vance Hotel" instead?

Yes 9/24/71

**CHIEF, CAIP**

2 have stayed there.

Landmark Inn is a new name. 9/7/71

**EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR**

HABS, 1936

Federal Register Entry 2-72

Complied (Vance Hotel), Annual Edition Entry

Logged 1/7/72 Card 1/7/72

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER: 9/13/71.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Hon. Abraham Kagen, Jr.
NPS Number: 1-7-72

Title: Landmark Inn Complex

Loc.: Medina Co., Texas

Main Facade of Inn
NPS Number: 1-7-72
Title: Landmark Inn Complex
Loc.: Medina Co., Texas Mill on the Medina River
NPS Number 1-7-72

Title: Landmark Inn Complete

Loc. Medina Co., Texas S.E. elevation Showing double gallery and Courtyard
NPS Number 1-7-72
Title: Landmark Inn Complex
Loc. Medina Co., Texas Bath House
NPS Number 1-7-72

Title: Landmark Inn Complete

Loc. Medina Co., Texas South elevation of the Inn
NPS Number: 1-7-72

Title: Landmark Inn

Compleat

Loc.: Medina Co., Texas

Store wing of the

Inn

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Photocopy to

Publications

6/24/95
JE
# National Register of Historic Places
## Property Map Form

**(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)**

### 1. NAME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON:</th>
<th>Landmark Inn</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
<td>Vance Hotel</td>
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### 2. LOCATION

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### 3. MAP REFERENCE

- **SOURCE:** United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey
- **SCALE:** 1:24000
- **DATE:** 1955-56, 1958

### 4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
- 1. Property boundaries where required.
- 2. North arrow.
- 3. Latitude and longitude reference.

**Texas Map Reference #2998-231**

Lacoste, Texas
August 21, 1971

National Trust
Department of Historic Property
740-748 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Attention: Ralph Schwarz, Int. Dir.

Dear Mr. Schwarz:

We are very pleased to learn the Landmark Inn Complex is being considered for placement on the National Index as an Historic Landmark.

We are most anxious that it be approved in order that HUD funds can be made available to us for conservation, preservation and restoration of our heritage for future generations. Too much of the structural beauty and painstaking craftsmanship of our forebears has already been sacrificed to "progress."

We solicit your every endeavor toward helping us achieve our goals, assuring you of our sincere appreciation for your consideration.

Very truly,

Charlotte Lafferty
City Sec'y

1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. John H. Poerner
2602 Avenue "H"
Hondo, Texas 78861
September 14, 1971

Miss Charlotte Lafferty
City Secretary
City of Castroville
P.O. Box 479
Castroville, Texas 78009

Dear Miss Lafferty:

Your inquiry of August 21 addressed to Mr. Ralph Schwarz here at the National Trust has been referred to the Department of Field Services. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is not the official agency which recognizes properties throughout the United States under the National Historic Landmarks Program. I am referring your letter to Mr. Horace J. Sheely, Chief, National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, National Park Service, 801 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. It is this office within the Department of the Interior that administers the National Historic Landmarks Program. I'm enclosing a brochure on this program for your information.

Sincerely,

Russell V. Keune (Sgd.)

Russell V. Keune, AIA
Director
Field Services

Enclosure

RVK/bp

bcc: Mr. Horace J. Sheely, cc incoming
## ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

### STATE: TEXAS

**Date Entered:** JAN 7 1972

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</table>

### Also Notified

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

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

HR MCMean: mm 1/6/72