

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

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

For NPS use only
received JAN 19 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel

and/or common Spring Cafe or Wunsche Bros. Cafe and Saloon

2. Location

street & number 103 Midway St. N/A not for publication

city, town Spring N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Harris code 201

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input 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 George Scott Mitchell

street & number c/o Wunsche Bros. Cafe and Saloon, P.O. Box 2745

city, town Spring N/A vicinity of state Texas 77383

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harris County Administration Building

street & number 1001 Preston

city, town Houston state Texas 77002

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel is a simple, two-story, weather-boarded edifice. The building represents a genre of vernacular commercial buildings extant in the western U.S. in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Because of their susceptibility to fire, modernization, and other hazards, relatively few buildings of this type remain intact. The present structure has been carefully rehabilitated and adapted for use as a saloon and cafe.

A rectangular, wooden-frame building on brick piers, the saloon is three bays wide and four deep. Sheet metal covers the gable roof of the main structure, as well as the shed roof which extends over the two-story gallery. Historic photos indicate that the roof was originally shingled. Simple, chamfered, square posts support the porch, while a wooden balustrade encloses the second-floor gallery. All walls are covered with clapboard siding.

The gable end on the main facade is broken by a projecting, rectangular, false front used for the main business sign. The gable peak projects above the false front, creating the effect of a pediment. Windows have double-hung wooden sashes with four-over-four lights on the second floor, and generally two-over-two lights on the first floor except for a fixed, four-pane window in the east bay of the ground floor front. The lower front window originally had a single wooden shutter. This window originally was like most other double-hung windows of the building, but was enlarged around 1920. There is a double door with overhead transom on the first-floor front, with a single door above.

The second floor of the east, side, elevation is characterized by four single windows having four-over-four lights. The first floor is similar, but has a double door with transom in lieu of the two frontmost windows; the southernmost window was apparently added at a later date. The west elevation also has four windows on each floor, although the rear first-story bay is occupied by a single door and adjacent small window covered by a recently added shed-type porch roof.

A simple, one-story, wooden addition with a flat roof and balustrade has been built onto the rear of the building for use as kitchen and toilets. It is deemed noncontributing. The addition's principal architectural features consist of a projecting double-window bay, each window of which has four-over-four lights, and two eight-light windows on its west wall. A wooden balustrade surmounts the addition, whose roof is reached by an exterior, metal staircase with landing. There is also a new, small, covered entranceway on the west side of the original part of the building. These additions do not detract excessively from the architectural or visual harmony of the saloon.

Exterior colors were matched to original paint found on the west entrance door of the first-floor front porch, and are light green with dark-green trim. The painted sign which is alleged to have been executed in the early 1900s by an artist from a traveling circus, has been approximated from a period photograph.

The first-floor interior consists of a large front room with barroom counters on the south and west sides, the remainder of the space being filled with tables. Towards

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date entered

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the rear, partition walls were added over the years to accommodate an added kitchen and rest rooms. The original interior stairwell has been retained on the west wall, but the partition which separated the stairs from the main room has been removed. The opening up of this space has not detracted from the building's visual integrity.

Interior walls are simply sheathed in horizontal, flat, planed planks, and the first-floor walls retain their original paint. The second floor mainly preserves its original configuration of rooms for boarders flanking a central hallway with a doorway at each end. Doorways into the boarding rooms have transoms and original screen doors. Three of the upstairs rooms have been combined for a banquet room, although portions of the original walls remain in place.

In the recent renovation, millwork for the bars on the first floor was executed with old heart pine. Floors were left in their unfinished state. Windows were reworked utilizing the original sashes, and most of the exterior siding was preserved. The building was also raised slightly. Clearly, an effort was made to retain the integrity and architectural simplicity of the structure.

The building is sited on a corner lot of approximately one-fourth acre, and is located across from the railroad tracks. There are no outbuildings on the lot, and landscaping is minimal except for a few large shade trees and planters to the west in a patio area with picnic tables for outdoor dining.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1902 **Builder/Architect** Wm. Wunsche, Sr., Ralph Hanks, Voress

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Bonin, Jim Burris

The Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel is now one of the oldest extant commercial structures in the Spring community. It survives on its original site. Erected by one of Spring's most distinguished pioneering families, the Wunsches, the building has served as a central gathering place since 1902. Its simple architectural elements, once common in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, now portray the pioneering spirit that helped develop the state. The current owner has renovated the structure for use as a restaurant and bar, and the saloon has become a focal point once again for this small community, which is some 25 miles north of Houston.

Carl Wunsche and his family immigrated to Texas from the Kingdom of Saxony ca. 1846, and settled in Spring where there were already a number of other Germans. Wunsche is listed in the 1950 U.S. Census as a "farmer." With the growth of the town and area, the family began a gin and gristmill operation, and eventually opened a sawmill. The population of Spring grew with the construction of Houston and the Great Northern Railroad (later named the I. and G.N., or International and Great Northern) from Houston to Spring in 1971. By 1902, with the addition of the Fort Worth and Brazos Valley line, Spring had become a major switchyard facility with 14 track yards and a roundhouse.

In 1902, Wunsche's family members erected the Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel to meet the increased need for accommodations for railroad employees. The Saloon, according to oral interviews with William (Willie) Wunsche, Jr., son of one of the builders, was erected in two months and utilized heart pine lumber from a local mill. The sign, which has been carefully replicated by the current owner, is said to have been painted by an artist with a traveling circus for \$25.

By 1910 the population of Spring had swollen to 1,200, and an opera house and a number of hotels and saloons catered to railroad employees. In 1923, however, the railroad (now the Missouri Pacific) moved the roundhouse from Spring to Houston, and the decline of Spring as a bustling railroad terminus began.

Over the years the Wunsche family contributed enormously to the development of Spring. In the 1850s and 1860s, Charles Wunsche amassed over 3,000 acres of local land. The site of the Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel was obtained by Charles Wunsche in 1862 as part of a 91-acre tract purchased for \$80 from the assignee of Wiley Smith. Mr. Smith had acquired a patent for this land from the State of Texas in 1861.

As major landowners, the Wunsches engaged in farming, the timber business, and other commercial endeavors. The first automobile dealership in the area was started by William and Earl Wunsche, the sons of Charles Wunsche, Jr. In the 1930s, the Wunsche family donated 11 acres of land for a school, where the Wunsche Middle School now stands. In all, seven generations of the Wunsche family have contributed to the development of Spring.

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Although the saloon remained in the ownership of the same family until 1982, from around 1916 on it was leased to various proprietors. The saloon closed during prohibition, and in the 1930s was leased as the Spring Cafe. It served hot meals and had boarding-house accommodations.

In 1950, a new proprietor, Viola Burke, leased the Spring Cafe, which became famous over the next three decades for its hamburgers and other fare. In 1982, Mrs. Burke's daughter closed the cafe when the building was sold by the Wunsche family, after 121 years of ownership, to G. Scott Mitchell. The building had fallen into substantial disrepair, but careful rehabilitation has made it a focal point of the community once again.

The roundhouse and other railroad buildings have been demolished or moved, leaving only the saloon as a structure with close ties to the railroading past. Other commercial buildings similar in style to the saloon have disappeared. Although several old-style buildings have been moved to Spring recently, the Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Spring that reflects the true history of the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

American Association of University Women, North Harris County Branch. The Heritage of North Harris County. 1977.

Cande, Robert E. "History of the Missouri Pacific Lines, Gulf Coast Lines, and Subsidiaries, International-Great Northern." Unpublished manuscript, Texas Room, Houston Public Library.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Spring, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5
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2	6	6	9	9	0
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3	3	2	9	8	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, and part of 4 in Block 9 of "Kelly" S/D in Wiley Smith Survey as outlined in purple on the accompanying map. (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 Minnette B. Boesel, Barrie M Scardino

organization Preservation Services date August 24, 1983

street & number 2230 Rice Boulevard telephone (713) 528-7129
(713) 528-1521

city or town Houston state Texas 77005

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 

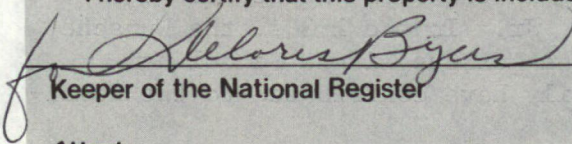
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12 Jan. 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/16/84


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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Item number 9

Page 1

Harris County Deed Records. Various years, 1850-1906.

Houston Chronicle, April 2, 1980.

Landrum, Patsy. "History of the Sring Cafe." Unpublished manuscript on file with G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring, Texas, 1983.

North Harris County News, December 7, 1977.

Spring: Lofts and Lore. Spring High School South, Houston:1978.

Texas Gazeteer and Business Directory. Various years, 1882-1914.

U.S. Census. Harris County, Texas, 1850.

Interview with Wunsche, Wm. ("Willie") by Minnette Boesel, 1983.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

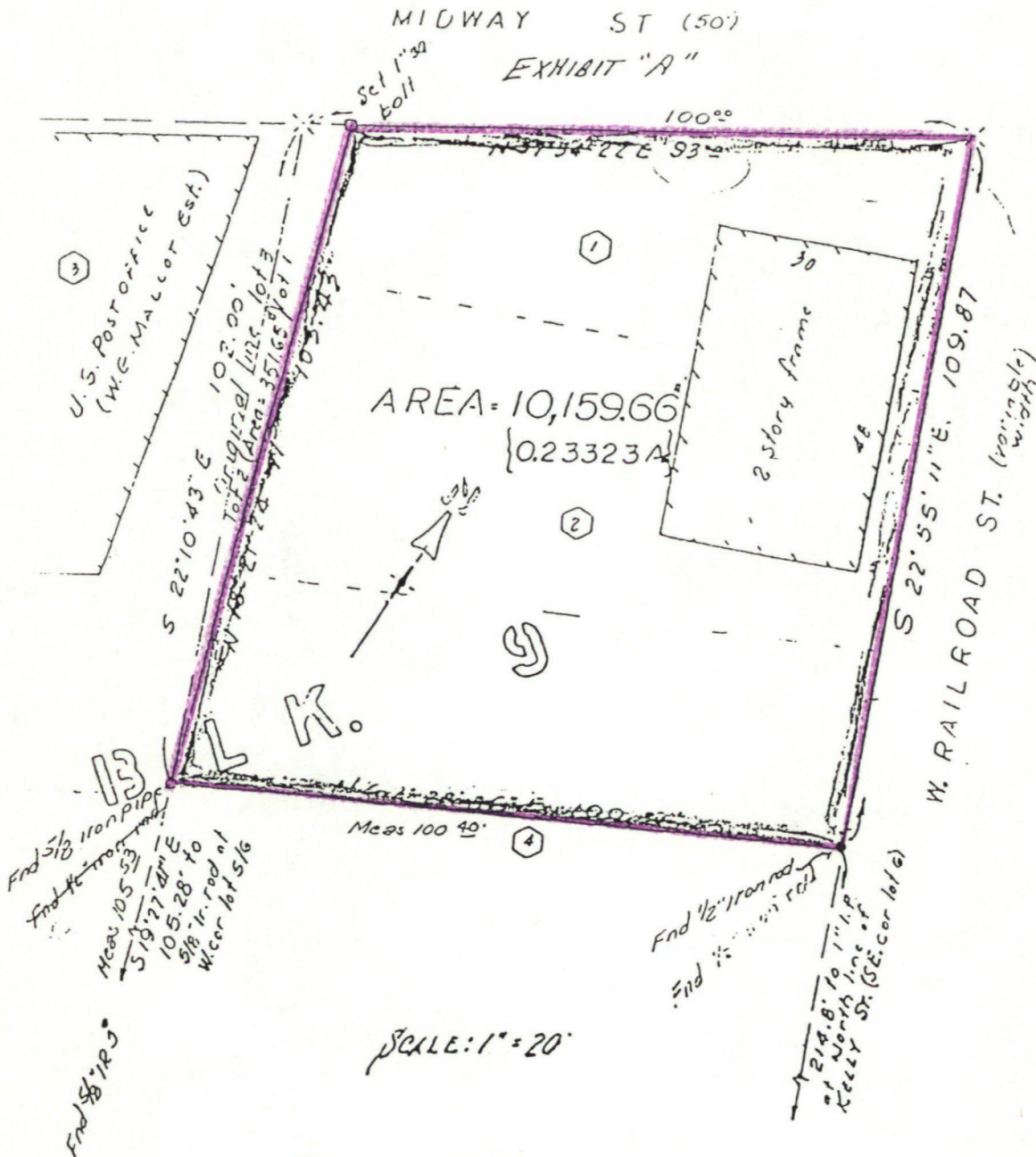
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
Harris County
TEXAS

Working No. JAN 19 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85

Date Due: 2/16/84 — 3/4/84

Action: ACCEPT 2/16/84

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Condition | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | date _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

WUNSCHÉ BROS.
SALOON.

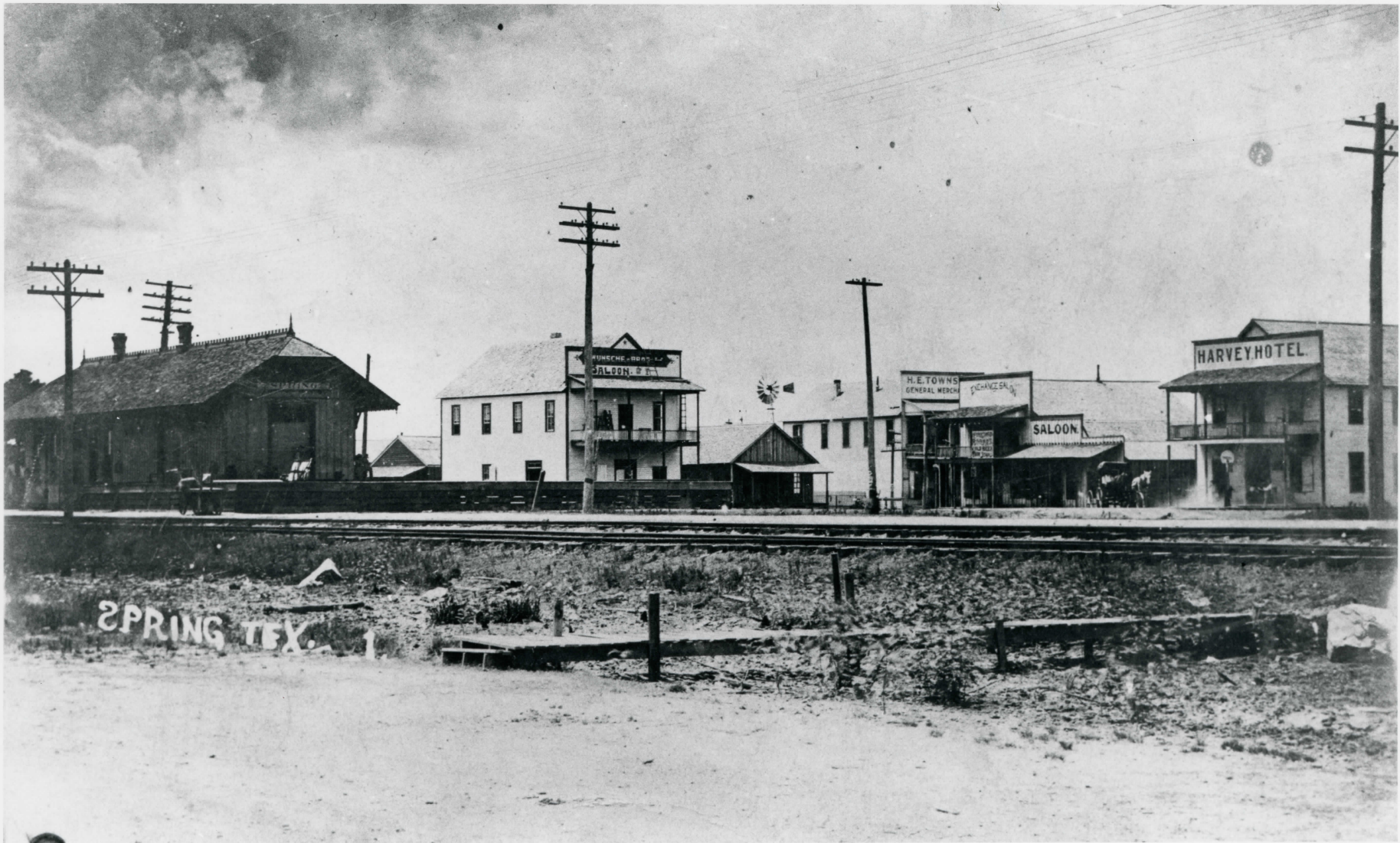


7
Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Harris County, Texas

Photographer unknown, ca. 1902, negative on file
with G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745,
Spring, Texas 77383

View of saloon front looking south.

Photo 1 of 10.



Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Harris County, Texas

Photographer unknown, ca. 1902, negative on file
with G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745,
Spring, Texas 77383

View of railroad depot and Spring business area
around 1902, looking southwest.

Photo 2 of 10



OLD
Coca-Cola
BOTTLE

Dr Pepper
LAWRENCE
RING CAFE LUNCHES HAMBURGERS
SANDWICHES & BEER Dr Pepper

HARDY ST

CLOSED

Bank of Cypress Fork

Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Harris County, Texas

Photograph 1982, negative on file with G. Scott
Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring, Texas 77383

View of main elevation before renovation, looking
southwest.

Photo 3 of 10



Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983, neg. on file with
G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring,
Texas, 77383

View of main facade after renovation, looking south.

Photo 4 of 10



Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Texas, Harris County

Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983, neg. on file with
G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring,
Texas, 77383

View of northeastern corner of saloon after renovation,
looking southwest.

Photo 5 of 10



7
Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
Spring, Harris County, Texas
103 Midway

Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983, Neg. on file with
G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring,
Texas 77383

View of rear after renovation, looking northwest.

Photo 6 of 10



Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983, neg. on file with
G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring,
Texas, 77383

Oblique view of western elevation, looking
southeast.

Photo 7 of 10

ERS
PRICE 25¢
150

TEA	60¢
COFFEE	60¢
SODA WATER	60¢
MILK	60¢
BEER	1.25
	1.50

DRINKIN' BUDGETS
FREE SODA WATER
FREE COFFEE
FREE MILK
FREE BEER
FREE SODA WATER
FREE COFFEE
FREE MILK
FREE BEER
FREE SODA WATER
FREE COFFEE
FREE MILK
FREE BEER

WEDGES
BATTLE FORD CANTON 4.00



Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983, neg. on file with
G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring,
Texas.

View of interior ground floor, southwest corner,
looking southwest.

Photo 8 of 10



7

Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Texas, Harris County

Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983, neg. on file with
G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring,
Texas 77383

View of stairs, ground floor, west wall.

Photo 9 of 10

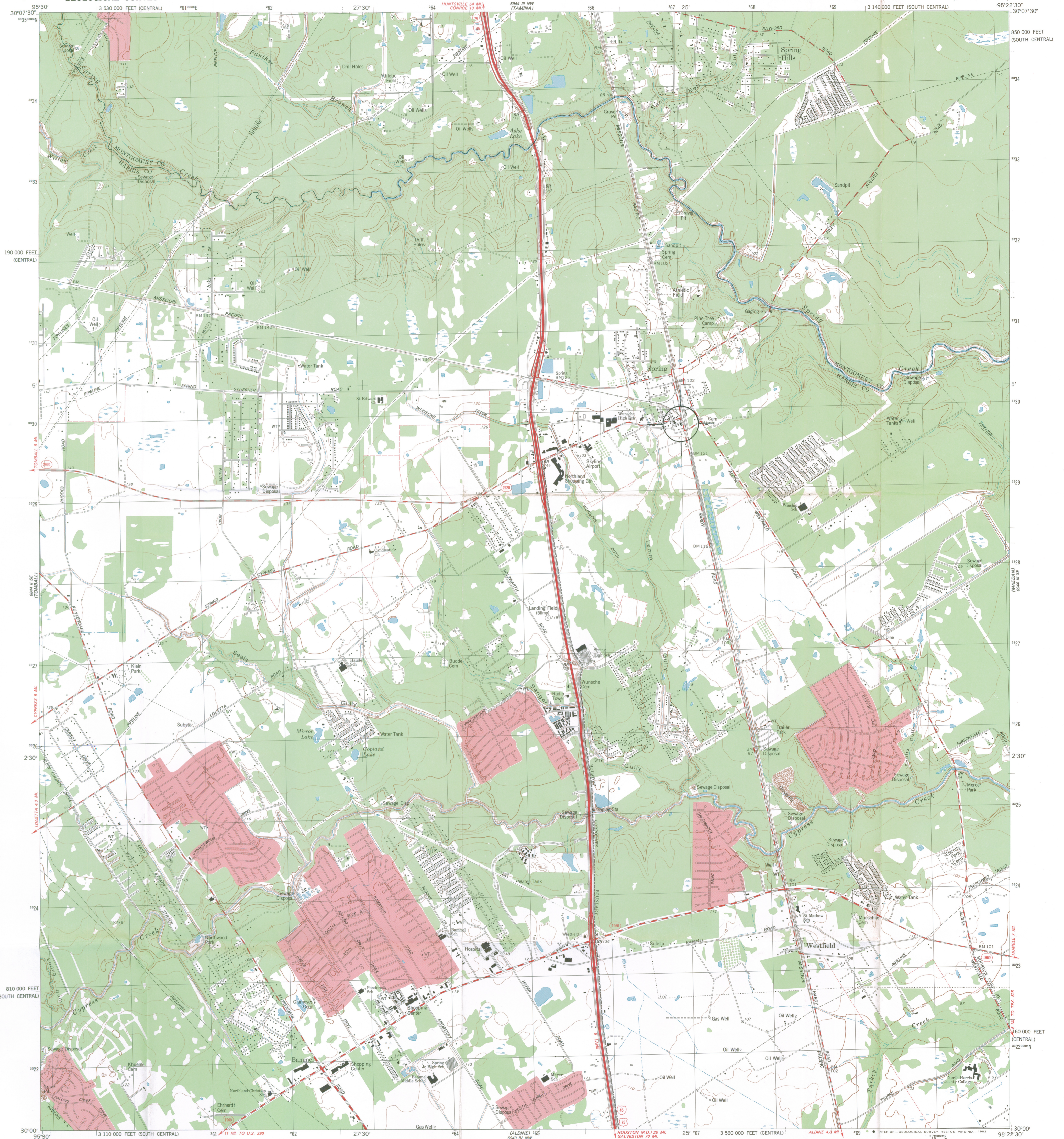


Wunsche Bros. Saloon and Hotel
103 Midway
Spring, Harris County, Texas

Photo by Minnette Boesel, 1983, neg. on file with
G. Scott Mitchell, P.O. Box 2745, Spring,
Texas, 77383

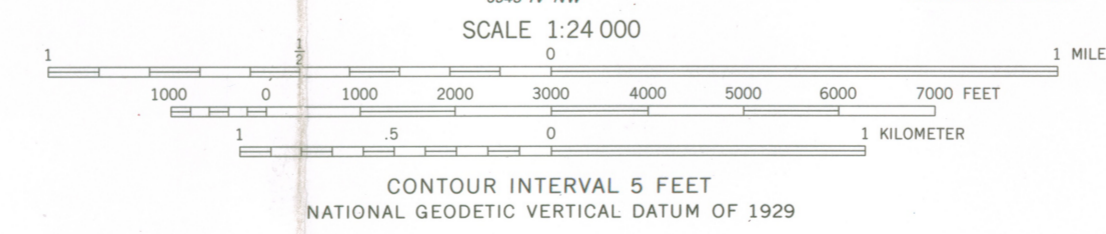
Main hallway, second floor, looking south.

Photo 10 of 10



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1976. Map edited 1982
Projection: Texas coordinate system, south central zone (Lambert conformal conic)
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Texas coordinate system, south central and central zones
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid zone 15 1927 North American datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 19 meters south and 22 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
1°13' 22 MILS
61° 116 MILS



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
SPRING, TEX.
N3000-W9522.5/7.5
1982
DMA 6944 III SW-SERIES V882