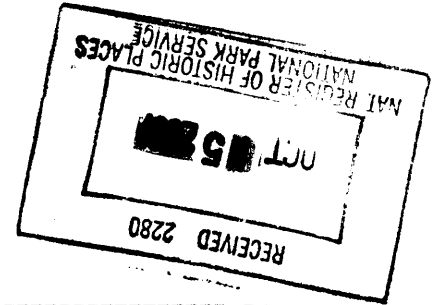


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

*Resub
00-1027*



=====

1. Name of Property

historic name **Moore Store**

other names/site number **Moore Brothers General Store**

=====

2. Location

street & number **14770 Oak Street** not for publication **N/A**
city or town **Magnolia Springs** vicinity **N/A**
state **Alabama** code **AL** county **Baldwin** code **003** zip code **36555**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

8/31/01

Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Beth Boland 11/28/01
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Commerce

Period of Significance 1923-1951

Significant Dates 1923

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
=====

9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 1

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 16 | 425960 | 3363300 | 3 | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Devereaux Bemis & Trina Binkley, AHC Reviewer

organization _____ date April 2001

street & number 200 Summerville Ct., #82A telephone 334-208-7281

city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36607

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Charlie Houser

street & number P. O. Box 201 telephone 334-965-3174

city or town Magnolia Springs state AL zip code 36555

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Moore Store
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama
county and State

=====

Narrative Description:

The Moore Store consists of the original 1923 store/garage with recent and mid-century additions: the adjacent circa 1955 post office attached by a recessed hyphen that connects to a 1999 addition to the rear of the store/garage. Despite these additions, the store still retains good integrity and visually reads as an independent, historic building. The one-story store/garage was constructed in 1923 to replace an earlier store that burned in 1914. The building served two purposes: a general store and a service station. The building was designed to house the store on the right side (west) with a smaller space on the left (the rear walls of the garage space did not fully extend the length of the store) for the garage. This use is distinguished on the front façade with the entry and display window fenestration on the right side and a single opening on the left. During the 1998 and 1999 restoration, the circa 1955 post office (which had been abandoned for these purposes years ago) was connected to the store by a deeply recessed, clay tile hyphen and a concrete block rear addition was attached to the rear for warehouse, cooler/freezer, and kitchen space, a necessity to make the project work. The recent restoration and addition work followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the owners used the federal tax credits. The rear addition, while good sized, was designed to defer to the historic building and the hyphen worked very well, nearly disappearing from sight from the road.

This commercial building is constructed of locally made hollow clay tiles and has a low-pitched roof behind a parapet with simple coping. The front façade storefront had been altered in the 1960s with replacement windows and doors; however, the overall openings were relatively intact (based upon the attached circa 1930 photograph). During the restoration the owners put back appropriate windows and doors so that the storefront now reads as such: the main entrance/historic store entrance consists of a pair of doors flanked by wood display windows each with transoms above; the garage entry (previously altered with the addition of a clay tile bulkhead) consists of a pair of fixed wood display windows; a flat awning was added to reflect the historic one that was removed in recent years. The parapet/coping on the side elevations are stepped and each side wall has fixed clerestory windows. The rear addition is recessed six inches from the historic wall plane and is constructed of concrete block (except for the rear freezer) in deference to the historic building. The front wall of the clay tile hyphen is attached to the rear wall/corner of the garage and is approximately 28 feet from the front façade of the store/garage. The front wall of the hyphen extends across and is attached to the rear of the old post office building. The post office is a one-story, frame building with weatherboard and composite siding, side-gable crimped metal roof, paired 3:1 wood windows, and an off-set entrance with an adjacent pair of windows (on the eastern side of the front facade) under a front-facing gable.

The interior of the store/garage has been restored to its historic appearance with very few changes. The store and garage spaces are separated by a tile wall. This wall contained an opening that was enlarged during the restoration. The open spaces, original concrete floors, exposed tile walls, and 10 ½' ceiling (it had been dropped at one point) were maintained. Again additions were added to the rear of the store and garage spaces to house freezer/cooler units, produce storage, a warehouse, and the kitchen/deli area. The addition at the rear of the store and behind the garage and hyphen (bathrooms and service areas) did not alter the original rear walls: these additions were attached directly to the building and existing openings used (see plan).

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains is good. Buried portions may contain information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Moore Store
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama
county and State

=====

Statement of Significance:

The Moore Store is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A for its commercial associations to the town of Magnolia Springs. The Moore Store is the oldest and lone survivor of a series of small general stores operated for the rural community of Magnolia Springs. Following a flood in 1914, the store was relocated from the River by the owners Arthur and George Holk. At the end of 1922, the new store was destroyed by fire and immediately rebuilt. Soon afterward, the Moore Brothers purchased it and operated the business well into the 1960s. With the spread of the automobile and the growing importance of the City of Foley, that town's supermarkets and dime stores replaced the need for the small rural general store, and it closed with the death of the last owner. The building went through a series of hands including an owner who used it as a motorcycle repair shop. The demise of that business left the building vacant and deterioration began.

Located at the main intersection before crossing the Magnolia River Bridge, the building along with the adjacent post office (closed) and the neighboring school (demolished) served as the nexus for the community. With the nearby churches and Community Center that have survived, the Moore Store has been, and is, the most identifiable historic resource in Magnolia Springs. Its strategic location and importance in daily life were major factors in the development of the area away from the residences on the River, and contributed to the expansion of the community. Its reuse as a store and restaurant has revitalized the building into the community. It has energized the decaying crossroads and brought attention to the historic building that the community was in the process of losing. Though in plan the additions seem large, there is little visual effect from public view as the rear faces a dense thicket, the post office side is shielded by trees, the other side wall reads as a linear continuation of the store, and the unobtrusive hyphen allowed the adjacent post office building to be reused.

Historical Summary

Magnolia Springs is located at the headwaters of the Magnolia River in the southwest quadrant of Baldwin County, Alabama. The Magnolia River flows into Weeks Bay, which empties into Mobile Bay. From earliest times, the community has been accessible by small sailing craft and steam packets. Due to its natural springs and the abundant fish and wildlife, the area attracted European settlers as early as the Spanish Colonial Period.

In 1800 the Spanish granted a tract of land including what would become Magnolia Springs to Joseph Collins. Collins operated several turpentine stills in the area and a small settlement surrounded them. In 1855, Collins transferred his lands to Kennedy, Moore and Company which continued the turpentine operation on a larger scale. Much of the manual labor was performed by slaves. During the Civil War, Union troops destroyed the turpentine stills and the local economy collapsed.

Prospects improved during the 1890s when Magnolia Springs began to attract the attention of winter-weary northerners. The warm climate, good fishing and peaceful setting became

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Moore Store
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama
county and State

=====

important assets. Brochures extolled the good life, "always cool in the shade, no matter how hot the sun shines. The influence of the saline breezes from the Gulf will bring you a good sharp appetite." (Rasmussen, "Rambling Notes") By 1892 there was a post office; and in 1894 a large parcel of land along and back from the River was subdivided into the Lyman's Addition to Magnolia Springs, creating 52 lots and several streets.

Oak Street became the major thoroughfare, though never more than a country lane. Visitors arrived in Foley by train and took the long buggy ride to the Springs. The true thoroughfare of the community remained the River, and all life centered on the water. The fronts of houses faced the River as people traveled more frequently by boat than by land. The small general stores that served the area were located on the River with one actually sited on a wharf near the mouth of Magnolia River.

A bridge was located near the headwaters of the River and adjacent to it was the Schindler Store. This store was sold to Nick Sawyer who eventually transferred title to Arthur and George Holk. During a high water in 1914, the store and warehouse were flooded. It was then the Holks moved to the current location. This store was destroyed by fire on December 28, 1922, and was immediately rebuilt. Soon thereafter, the new facility was purchased by Gray and Mack Moore and remained in the Moore family until it closed.

Located at the intersection of Oak Street and Baldwin County Road 40, the store is only a few blocks from US Highway 98. County Road 40 became the major artery for people coming to the River, the rich farm lands south of the River, and the east shore of Weeks Bay. The small community of Magnolia Springs developed to some extent as cross roads in an idyllic setting. The Moore Store developed not only to serve the Springs area but also those who were passing through. Sited near the now demolished school it played a major role as the corner store for the entire youthful population. Though Magnolia Springs is finding a third life as a bedroom and retirement community, the significant location of the Moore Store makes the site a landmark for the community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section **9 & 10** Page 4

Moore Store
name of property
Baldwin County, Alabama
county and State

=====

9. Bibliographical References

Bemis, Devereaux. "*Brunnell House, Magnolia Springs*," National Register Nomination 1994.

"*Magnolia Springs Cookbook*." Edited by Doris Rich. Magnolia Springs Community Association: Magnolia Springs, Alabama. 1992.

"*Magnolia Springs, Old Times and Potluck*." Edited by Doris Horder Rich. Magnolia Springs Community Association: Magnolia Springs, Alabama. 1987.

Rasmussen, Colonel E.L. "*Rambling Notes: Magnolia Springs*." Unpublished manuscript, 1963.

Sledge, John. "*Sunnyside Hotel, Magnolia Springs*," National Register Nomination. 1997.

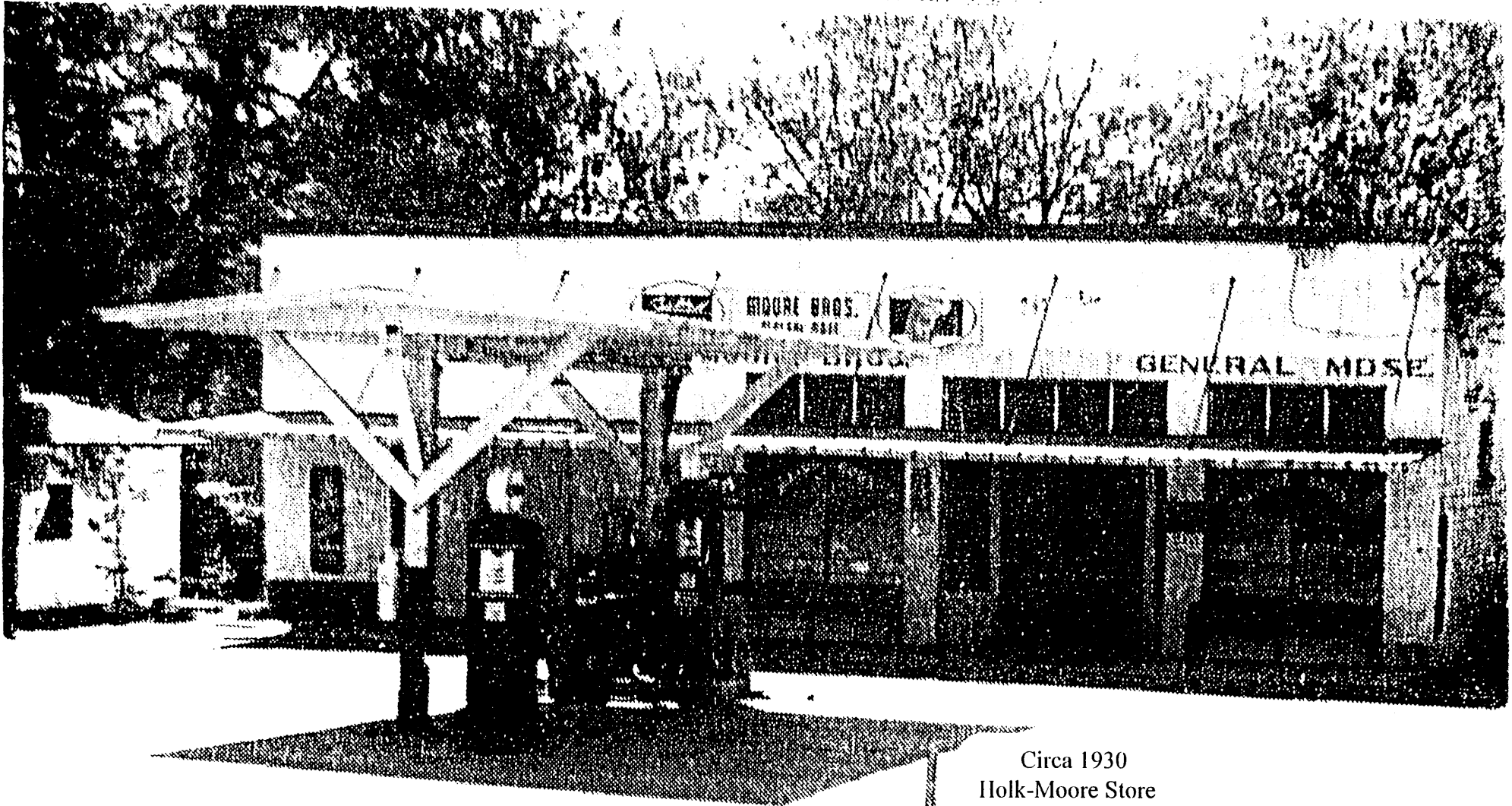
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

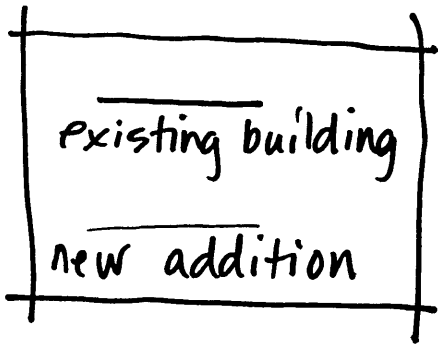
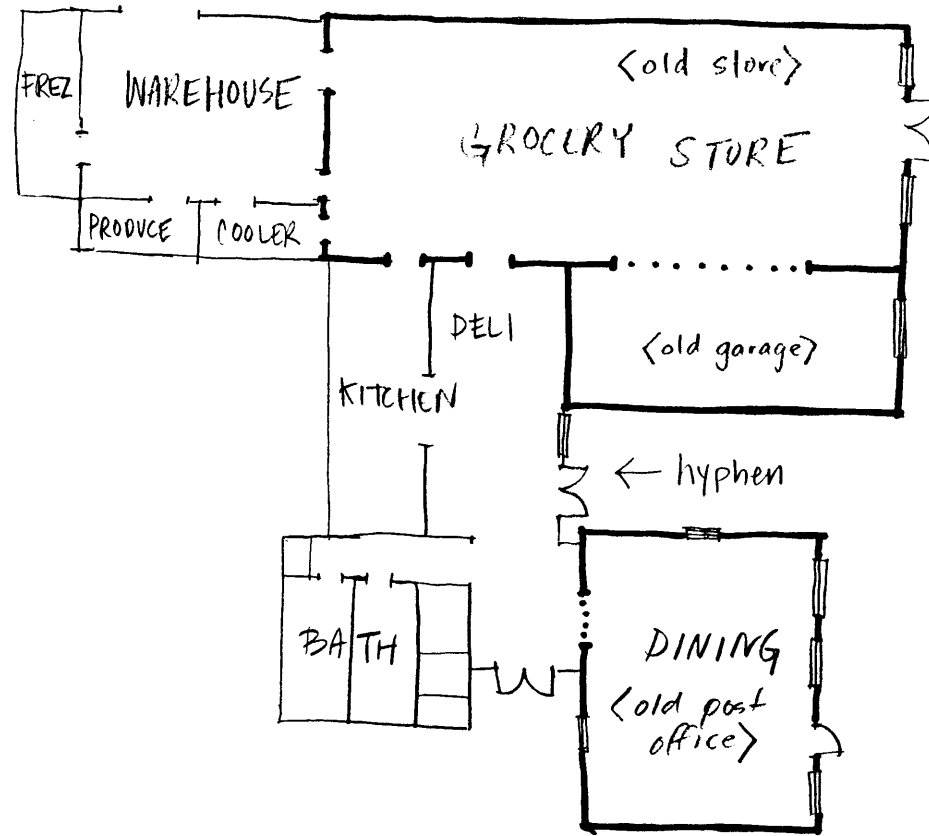
The Moore Store is located a 14770 Oak Street in Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County, Alabama as represented as lot 24, Lyman's Addition to Magnolia Springs in Deed Book U, page 135, Baldwin County Probate Records. The Moore Store comprises the building and the land in front to the road and in the rear to the next property line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains the building and the land historically associated with the Moore Store.



Circa 1930
Holk-Moore Store
14770 Oak Street, Magnolia Springs
Baldwin County, AL
Camera Facing S
Historic photograph of store



→
north

Moore Store
Magnolia Springs, Baldwin Co., AL
Floor Plan (not to scale)