United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Cypress Creek, Old Kyle Road, Henson Road, and Rio Bonito Road
City or town: Wimberley  State: Texas  County: Hays
Not for publication: □  Vicinity: □

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this □ 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 □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
□ national  □ statewide  □ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  □ A  □ B  □ C  □ D

State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title
__________________________________________
Date

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official
__________________________________________
Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

□ entered in the National Register
□ determined eligible for the National Register
□ determined not eligible for the National Register.
□ removed from the National Register
□ other, explain: ______________________________

Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action
5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3 (not counted in table above): John R. Dobie House (Resource 37) NR 1992; James C. Lane House (Resources 15A and 15B) NR 2010.

6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions:**
- COMMERCIAL/General store (mercantile/grocery), restaurant/cafés, professional (real estate office/artist’s studio)
- DOMESTIC/Single dwelling, rental cottage, motel, secondary structure (garage, outbuilding)
- GOVERNMENT/Post office, town hall
- TRANSPORTATION/Gas station, service station
- RELIGIOUS/Church, rectory

**Current Functions:**
- COMMERCIAL/Specialty store, restaurant/cafés/bar, professional (artist’s studio)
- DOMESTIC/Single dwelling, rental cottage, bed and breakfast, motel, secondary structure (garage, outbuilding)
- RELIGIOUS/Church, rectory

7. Description

**Architectural Classification:**
- LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: National Folk, One-part commercial block, One-story shop, Craftsman, Rustic, No style
- EARLY MODERN: Minimal Traditional
- MID-CENTURY MODERN RESIDENTIAL: Minimal Traditional, One-story shop
- MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL: One-part commercial block, Rustic
- LATE MODERN: No style

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Stone, wood, metal, concrete

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets x)
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Community Planning and Development; Architecture (all local)

Period of Significance: 1870-1973

Significant Dates: c.1874 (Pleasant Wimberley purchases mill); 1920 (RR 12 is graded and graveled); 1942 (RR 12 paved); 1945 (Wimberley listed in *Pageant Magazine*); 1964 (Market Days initiated)

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: James C. Lane; Odess Farris; J.D. Ragland, B.W. Forister

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets xx)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet xx)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- 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:
- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government: San Marcos Public Library, Wimberley Public Library
- University: University of Texas at Austin (Dolph Briscoe Center for American History)
- Other – Repository: Wimberly Institute of Cultures

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 17.3 Acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

(see continuation sheets X)

Verbal Boundary Description: (see continuation sheets X)

Boundary Justification: (see continuation sheets X)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Rebecca Wallisch, MS – Architectural Historian
Organization: Post Oak Preservation Solutions
Street & number: 2506 Little John Lane
City or Town: Austin         State: Texas         Zip Code: 78704
Email: Rebecca@postoakpreservation.com
Telephone: 512-766-7042
Date: June 27, 2023

Additional Documentation

Maps                     (see continuation sheets xx)
Additional items         (see continuation sheets xx)
Photographs              (see continuation sheets xx)
Photograph Log
Wimberley Downtown Historic District
Wimberley, Hays County, Texas
Photographer: Ellis Mumford-Russell, Irene Allender, Rebecca Wallisch
Date: January 14, 2022, and October 20, 2022

Photo 1
Streetscape along Ranch Road 12 at Wimberley square showing Resource 8A (left), facing northeast.

Photo 2
Streetscape along Wimberley square showing Resources 2-6 at right and Resource 11 at left, facing southwest.

Photo 3
Streetscape along Wimberley square showing Resources 2-6, from left, facing west.

Photo 4
Streetscape at Henson Road and Wimberley square showing Resources 11 and 12, facing northwest.

Photo 5
Streetscape along RR12 showing Resource 26 (left) and 32 (right), facing northwest.

Photo 6
Streetscape along RR 12 showing Resources 38 and 39, facing southeast.

Photo 7
Streetscape along alley showing Resources 1C-1E, facing east.

Photo 8
Resources 4, 5, and 6 from left to right, facing northwest.

Photo 9
Resource 7, facing southwest.

Photo 10
Resource 8A, facing northwest.

Photo 11
Resource 9A, facing northwest.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Photo 25
Resource 35, facing south.

Photo 26
Resource 36, facing south.

Photo 27
Resource 37, facing southwest.

Photo 28
Resource 39A (foreground) and 39B (background), facing northeast.

Photo 29
Resource 38, facing northeast.

Photo 30
Resource 43, facing northeast.

Photo 31
Representative non-historic-age infill (Resource 41), facing northeast.

Photo 32
Resource 42, facing northwest.

Photo 33
Resources 44A-44D, facing southwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Narrative Description

The Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District is primarily centered off Ranch Road (RR) 12 just south of Cypress Creek and north of Rio Bonito Road. Despite its name, the Wimberley Downtown Square is not laid out in a square or typical gridiron pattern, and parcel boundaries are irregularly shaped. The square is oriented in a northwest to southeast direction, with a slight jog to the northeast at present-day Old Kyle Road, following the alignment of present-day Ranch Road 12 (RR 12). The district encompasses the city’s historic commercial and residential core which originates in the late nineteenth century, continues through the development of the tourism industry in the early twentieth century, and extends through the rapid development of the post-war era. The historically rural, Hill Country community remained an unincorporated village until May 2000. The district is oriented in a northwest to southeast direction, nestled in a bend of Cypress Creek and north of the Blanco River, and consists of irregularly shaped lots. The small community grew organically throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the variety of building types, ages, building techniques, and irregular street and alley patterns, all lend the district the feeling of a quaint yet eclectic, rural, Hill Country town. Lush vegetation lines the north end of the district along Cypress Creek, with bald cypress, American sycamore, and live oak trees. Native vegetation is also located throughout the district between buildings and in landscaped medians.

The district contains 71 resources, 48 of which are contributing (including three NRHP-listed buildings: the J.C. Lane House and garage and the John R. Dobie House). Contributing resources also include one structure (Resource 18), which is the remaining primary façade of the former Forister’s Café, later Cypress Creek Café. Resources that currently serve a commercial function dominate the district, although many of the commercial buildings were formerly used for domestic purposes. Additionally, there are a number of transportation-related resources, including former gas and service stations, which have been converted to commercial or retail use. Other resource types include a church, motel, and rental cottages. Some resources retain their domestic use as single family dwellings. Buildings in the district consist of one and two-story wood, masonry, and CMU structures. The period of significance for the district begins in 1870 with the earliest known resource dating to the settlement era of the community. The period of significance ends in 1973 in accordance with the National Park Service 50-year cut-off for historic-age resources. The end date is justified as the community grew organically over a period of 100 years, from a small, rural community to a bustling tourism and recreation destination.

Resources within the district are associated with distinct periods of development, including the early settlement period, transportation improvements in the 1920s through 1940s which opened the region up to increased tourism, and the post-war era of rapid commercial development. The majority of resources were built during the period of significance (1870-1973) and have sufficient integrity to convey their historical associations with the development of the community or with the unique, vernacular architectural traditions of Wimberley. Alterations to buildings have been completed over time to accommodate the changing functions and requirements of a variety of commercial tenants. Nonetheless, many alterations were completed during the period of significance and reflect the fluctuating needs of the community.

Survey and Evaluation Methods

In the Spring of 2022, the City of Wimberley hired Post Oak Preservation Solutions, Inc. (Post Oak) to complete a reconnaissance-level survey of historic-age properties (built in or before 1973) within a determined City of Wimberley Survey Area. Post Oak and City staff identified a survey area roughly encompassing the City of Wimberley City Center Overlay (see Map 2) and extending to Farm to Market Road (RM) 3237 to the east. The reconnaissance-level survey was based on standards set in NPS National Register Bulletin 24, the THC’s Historic Resources Survey Manual (2016), and the Secretary of the Interior’s (SOI) Standards for Identification. The survey provided a basic inventory of all historic-age buildings, structures, sites, and objects within the survey area boundaries and recommendations for eligibility. The survey only examined above-ground resources and no archeological study was performed. It is possible that there are historically-significant archaeological resources extant within the survey area. Per the THC’s Historic Resources Survey Manual, each
Prior to conducting field survey, Post Oak conducted a preliminary desktop survey using Hays County Appraisal District (CAD) data, historic aerial photographs, a literature review, and Google Street View. Field maps and preliminary year-built dates were prepared based on available data. Vacant lots and new construction were evaluated in the field and noted on the survey map, but they were not photographed. Each historic-age resource was evaluated by architectural historians who exceed the SOI’s Professional Qualifications Standards for its eligibility as a contributing or non-contributing resource to a potential National Register historic district.

Survey data was used to help establish the boundaries of the Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District by identifying a significant concentration of contributing buildings united by physical development per the National Park Service’s Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties Bulletin.¹

Development of Historic Context

Due to the rural nature of the present-day community of Wimberley, and the fact that it remained an unincorporated settlement without defined city limits until the twenty-first century, available data on population, demographics, economics, and development is scarce. Although demographic data on the town is limited, it appears that the community of Wimberley was historically settled and occupied by White Anglo and Europeans, and available source material does not note any sizable minority populations in the area. U.S. Census Bureau data from 2020 indicates that the census block groups that encompass and surround the Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District are still predominantly (75% or greater) White, with smaller populations of Hispanic (7 to 21 percent), Black (less than zero percent), and Indian (1 percent) residents.²

The existing history of the town has been compiled through newspaper articles, oral histories, and other locally available source material. As is the nature of these sources, recollections of names, dates, and general information varies among sources. Where possible, the most commonly used or referenced facts are included, and discrepancies are noted. The most comprehensive history written about Wimberley is the book Wimberley, A Way of Life, written by long-time Wimberley resident, business owner, and journalist Linda Allen. Linda Allen worked for the Wimberley Chamber of Commerce and was a feature editor at the locally published Wimberley View. The book was commissioned by the Wimberley Village Library and Cultural Center Board of Directors.

Dating Historic Buildings

Despite extensive archival and background research, detailed historic aerial photographs, maps, and other records that are typically used to date historic buildings are scarce for the city of Wimberley. In determining construction dates for buildings located within the survey area boundary, a number of resources were consulted. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) had historic aerial photographs of Wimberley from 1953, 1958, and 1962. Historicaerials.com had historic aerial photographs from 1962, 1983, 1986, 1995, and several more recent aerials. The Hays County Central Appraisal District records were also consulted, although the accuracy of these records cannot always be verified. Newspaper articles, local histories, vertical files, tourist brochures, the Facebook Group ‘Wimberley Pics and Videos of the Past,’ oral histories, and conversations with Wimberley residents were all used to assist in forming an understanding

² TxDOT Community Impacts Assessment Tool, accessed April 7, 2023, https://txdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c5fba0c09b444eeeb1b519775cd604cb.
of the development of the buildings in the square. For properties or buildings where sources did not inform potential construction dates, SOI-qualified architectural historians used their professional judgement based on a building’s form, materials, method of construction, or architectural style (if any), to determine an approximate date of construction.

Contributing

Buildings that were determined to be contributing resources to the Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District are those that contribute to the district’s unique sense of time and place and were constructed during the period of significance (1870-1973). These buildings, either through their form, function, building type, or materials, can convey either their association with a significant theme in the square’s history or with the unique, vernacular building traditions of the small, Texas Hill Country town. However, due to the fact that the square developed over a period spanning more than 100 years, many of the buildings were altered to accommodate their changing needs and functions. Many of these alterations were completed during the period of significance and have thus gained significance in their own right as they embody the evolution or continuation of the square’s commercial development or reflect the town’s history throughout the twentieth century. Thus, alterations do not automatically disqualify a building’s potential status as a contributing resource.

Non-contributing

Non-contributing resources include those that were constructed after the period of significance (1870-1973). They also include resources who have extensive alterations that obscure their ability to convey their historical significance and are no longer recognizable for their original form, function, association, or building technique.

Survey Results

In the Spring of 2022, Post Oak conducted a survey of 106 parcels with historic-age and non-historic-age resources, as well as vacant parcels in the City of Wimberley. Preliminary eligibility determinations and potential NRHP district boundaries were identified. Representative contextual photographs of the surrounding area were also taken during the survey.

Post Oak surveyed a total of 137 resources in Wimberley. Of those, 73 were of historic-age, 52 were of non-historic-age, and 8 were vacant or contained parking lots. Four resources required additional research and were subsequently determined to be historic-age. In all, 60 contributing resources were identified as retaining integrity and being historic-age (constructed in and prior to 1973). Sixty-four resources were recommended non-contributing and were either non-historic-age or historic-age resources with severely diminished integrity.

Following the survey, Post Oak mapped all the surveyed resources and marked all those that were preliminarily determined contributing, non-contributing, or vacant lots using Google Earth. Based on this map, Post Oak was able to determine the highest concentration of contributing resources within the Wimberley Downtown Square historic district, which resulted in the present historic district boundary.

Location/Setting

The City of Wimberley is located in Hays County, approximately 25 miles southwest of the Texas capitol at Austin and approximately 45 miles northeast of San Antonio. Wimberley is located within the Texas Hill Country, a region in Central Texas without formally defined boundaries but generally located west of Austin, north of San Antonio, and east of the Pecos River within the Edwards Plateau and Balcones Escarpment. Known for its natural beauty, the area is characterized

by rugged limestone hills, natural springs, meandering rivers and streams, steep canyons, grasslands, and historically small, rural and semi-rural communities. Historically occupied by Native American tribes, including the Apache and Comanches, the region was sparsely developed in the mid-nineteenth century by White Anglo and European settlers who located their communities along area waterways. In Hays County, other Hill Country communities include Dripping Springs and Driftwood. Buda and San Marcos may have been considered Hill Country towns, however extensive development in recent years has rendered these areas more suburban and satellite cities than the rural or semi-rural community that is typically used to define Hill Country towns.

**General District Characteristics**

Within the Wimberley survey area, construction dates of historic-age buildings range from ca. 1870 to 1973. The area consists of one- and two-story domestic, commercial, transportation-related, and religious resources, constructed between the late nineteenth century and the 1970s. Due to the organic nature of the growth of the community, resource types are interspersed throughout the district.

None of the buildings within the Wimberley Downtown Square historic district are larger than two stories, lending the area a quaint, small-town feel. Lush, old growth cypress trees line Cypress Creek, and other native trees and plantings are interspersed throughout the square and on undeveloped lots. Due to the fact that the community was never serviced by a railroad, residents relied upon locally available building materials, and buildings within the district are largely simple, rustic structures devoid of overly decorative detailing. While some buildings were designed with modest stylistic elements that evoke prevailing trends in architecture and design preferences popular at the time of their construction, including Craftsmen and Minimal Traditional styles, a majority exhibit no distinct style or are representative of the unique vernacular building traditions of Wimberley.

Many buildings have modifications, such as window screens, exterior additions, replacement doors, and replacement siding; however, most modifications are typical of ongoing maintenance and did not result in a total loss of integrity to most historic-age buildings.

**Townsite**

Since the community was established in the mid-nineteenth century, the Wimberley Downtown Square has grown and changed organically over time. The square, believed to have been platted in the 1890s, experienced several fires throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries resulting in a conglomeration of buildings of various ages, construction methods, and architectural design. Furthermore, growth in the community and expansion of the tourism industry has resulted in many additions and alterations to historic buildings in the square, many of which have achieved significance in their own right. Detailed historic maps and aerial photographs of the original square are scarce, and thus some changes to the layout of the square are difficult to discern.

As previously noted, the Wimberley Downtown Square is not laid out in a gridiron pattern, but rather is oriented northwest to southeast with a slight jog at Old Kyle Road. The square begins just south of the RR 12 over Cypress Creek bridge.

An existing undated plat map of the square, likely ca. 1890, depicts Blanco Road (present RR 12) entering the town from the northwest to Cypress Creek (see Figure 2). South of the creek, the townsite consists of a rough grid with Main Street traveling southeast along present-day RR 12, bisecting the townsite, before making a 90 degree turn to the northeast where it continued out of town as the Road to Kyle and San Marcos (present-day Old Kyle Road). At the northwest end of

**naturalists/regions/hill-country.**

Section 7, Page 10
the square. Market Street ran perpendicular to Main Street bisecting it from southwest to northeast (present-day alley). West of Main Street, Viola Street (roughly present-day Oak Drive) and Thomas Boulevard (roughly Wimberley square) ran parallel to Main Street. East of Main Street, one large lot bounded by Main Street on the southwest, Market Street on the northwest, Saunders Street at the northeast, and Main Street on the southeast encompassed the John Saunders property. Irregular shaped lots were platted north and south of Main Street as the roadway left town towards Kyle and San Marcos.

Ranch Road 12 was historically a rough, dirt wagon trail that connected the community to San Marcos to the southeast. In the 1920s the roadway was hard surfaced with gravel, and later paved in the 1940s. Lack of available roadway maps makes dating of changes in the square difficult, however, Texas Highway Department maps from 1958 (updated to 1962) suggest that the Wimberley Downtown Square was largely in its current configuration by that time. Alterations to traffic flow to accommodate increased congestion occurred in the square throughout the mid to late twentieth century but did not drastically alter the layout or configuration of the square or the adjacent buildings. In the 1960s, concrete curbs and planted curbed areas were installed to restrict traffic flow and provide a safer environment for pedestrians in the Downtown square.

Currently, RR 12 is a two-lane thoroughfare that bisects the square. On the west side of RR 12, side streets (including an unnamed alley, Wimberley Square, and Henson Road) are all narrow roadways that accommodate one lane of traffic, some with parking on one or both sides. Sidewalks front some, but not all, commercial properties. At the northwest end of the square, a row of parking sits adjacent to a grassy overlook that looks out upon the lush, tree-lined Cypress Creek. Where RR 12 jogs in the center of the square, a triangular, planted median features a low stone wall with an affixed sign reading ‘Wimberly Square.’ On the east side of the square, the two-lane Old Kyle Road, lined with shops, businesses, and residences, features sidewalks along the north side of the street and limited sidewalk on the south side. RR 12 continues southeast and is a two-lane roadway lined with commercial properties.

**Property Types (function)**

**Domestic:** There are contributing 31 resources within the historic district boundary that either historically or currently function(ed) as domestic properties, ranging in date from ca. 1870 to ca. 1980 (see Table 1). Current or historic domestic resources include primary residences, secondary structures (garages, outbuildings), rental cottages, a former bed and breakfast, and a motel. A majority of these resources were constructed in the early to mid-twentieth century, although some date to the settlement period. When the town was first developed in the mid to late nineteenth century, residents of the community constructed residences with locally available materials including limestone and native cedar planed at the mill. With meager transportation routes and no railroad access, residences were constructed near the center of town and were typically small, gabled, wood frame folk buildings. The summer heat and lack of air conditioning meant that front porches were a common feature of early residential buildings, allowing occupants to enjoy a shaded, covered area to cool off on.

The earliest extant domestic resource within the historic district is the John Henry Saunders Homestead (Resource 9A). Constructed ca. 1870, the side gable folk house was constructed in the hall and parlor plan with clapboard siding and a chimney on the east elevation. In the 1930s several alterations were made to the house which included a shed roof front porch supported by battered masonry piers evoking a Craftsman influence, and a rear addition. Another settlement-era home within the district was constructed in 1892 for Charles and Susannah Cock. It was purchased by John R. and Martha Dobie in 1899. The central passage plan residence features board and batten siding and central shed roof front porch.

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4 Texas Highway Department, “General Highway Map - Hays County, Texas, 1958 (updated to 1962)”. Courtesy of the UT Austin Perry Castañeda Map Collection.
typical of turn of the century folk buildings (Resource 37).

In the 1920s RR 12 was graded and graveled, improving access to the small community of Wimberley. Increased transportation routes resulted in growth in the community, and numerous new residences were constructed in the 1920s through 1940s. The ability to move materials more easily via truck or automobile meant that these later homes were slightly larger than their predecessors. Nonetheless, the community still utilized local materials in their residential construction.

Residences constructed during the early twentieth century consisted of one or two-story I-House Folk (Resource 2), Massed-Plan Folk (Resource 9B), American four-square (Resource 33A), and Craftsman inspired bungalows (Resource 10A, 11, 15A, 30, 40, 43). In addition to modest Craftsman style residences, many domestic buildings within the district convey no distinct style, but rather are reflective of vernacular architecture traditions in Texas and the U.S., including Resources 1A, 1C, 20A, 20B, 22, and 29. Despite their lack of stylistic details, they reflect the town’s modest beginnings.

In the 1930s local barber turned builder J.C. Lane constructed several residences in the square using a unique “giraffe rock” style of Rustic masonry that utilized a variety of shades and textures of rough-cut rock, petrified wood, fossils, and shells.6 In 1935 Lane completed his first residence, a Craftsman style giraffe rock residence (Resource 15A) and a garage was later added in 1939 (Resource 15B). J.C. Lane’s house inspired a trend in local architecture that is evident in many other buildings in town. Lane went on to construct or assist with numerous other buildings in the district, including Resource 13, 16A, 18, 22, and likely others. He also constructed a two-story giraffe rock residence adjacent to his first home (Resource 16A) in the late 1930s as his family outgrew their original home.

When RR 12 was paved in the 1940s and additional roadways were completed through Wimberley, the tourism industry boomed. Developers took note of the opportunities in the idyllic small town and began buying up properties in the area for investment purposes. To accommodate the increased visitors, several rental cottages were completed in and adjacent to the Downtown Square. These include two ca. 1940 massed bungalows (Resources 20A and 20B) which were reflective of local and national building trends at the time. As the pace of growth in Wimberley, and particularly the tourism industry, increased in the 1960s and 1970s, additional tourist accommodations were constructed near the square. These include four ca. 1970s hexagonal rental cottages (Resources 44A-44D) with board and batten siding.

Due to continued growth, some of the historically domestic resources within and around Wimberley Downtown Square were later converted to commercial use. Some buildings experienced only modest modifications to accommodate their new use, including Resources 10B, 11, 35, 36, and 43, while others have undergone extensive renovations or additions, such as Resources 8C, 9B, 10A, and are better understood as commercial resources. These resources, many of which were altered during the period of significance, reflect the prolific commercial growth of the square in the post-war era. Furthermore, in the Wimberley spirit of making do with what was on hand, several of the commercial resources within the Downtown Square historic district appear to be residences that were relocated (see Moved Properties below).

Commercial: Commercial resources are the dominant resource type within the Wimberley Downtown Square historic district. Resources are concentrated along RR 12, Wimberley Square, Henson Road, and Old Kyle Road. Buildings that

6 Some existing architectural descriptions of ‘Giraffe Rock’ masonry are available, but they are largely concentrated on the Ozark region of Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. A comprehensive study of this type of masonry in Texas has not been completed to date. See “Ozark Architecture: Giraffe Houses,” at https://onlyinark.com/culture/ozark-architecture-giraffe-houses/ or “Stone Craft Architecture of the Southern Missouri Ozarks,” at https://thelibrary.org/lochist/periodicals/ozarkswatch/ow502r.htm, for more information.
Currently serve a commercial function within the district range in date from 1870 to the early 1970s. Commercial property types include one-part commercial buildings, including Resources 4, 5, 8A, 13, 17B, 26, and 40A. There are also a large number of former domestic buildings converted to commercial use within the period of significance (Resources 2, 1C, 8C, 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 11, 16A, 20A, 20B, 29, 33D, 35, 36, and 43). Commercial buildings within the square include those that were originally constructed as general merchandise stores, including the Saunders store and D'Spain store, and some served multiple functions including post office and town hall. Commercial resources also include several restaurants, cafes, and bars which cater to both local clientele and visiting tourists.

Several commercial buildings within the district are former gas and service stations that have been converted to commercial use (Resource 23, 27A, 31, 32), former municipal buildings converted to commercial use (Resources 14A, 14B), and one a former train station (Resource 16B) that was relocated and converted to a restaurant outside the period of significance. Additional commercial building types within the Wimberley Downtown Square historic district include a one-and-a-half story masonry commercial building (Resource 6), a long two-story row house of commercial buildings that appear to have been constructed using reclaimed building materials, and several one-story CMU retail spaces (Resources 26 and 40A).

A majority of the commercial buildings in the district currently function as restaurants or specialty shops that cater to tourists, including clothing boutiques, a plant store, wine, candy, and candle shops, and home goods.

One resource, the 1947 former Forister’s building and Cypress Creek Cafe (Resource 18), was burned in a fire in 2017 and only the primary (north) façade is extant. The façade has since been reinforced to prevent any further damage. The building was originally a two-story commercial business with giraffe-style masonry that includes petrified wood. It was built by J.C. Lane with local residents J.D. Ragland, Odess Farris, and B.W. Forister. The two-story porch has a ground-floor arcade with three arched openings. During its time as a café, the building was a gathering place for residents who routinely convened there to discuss local matters, play cards, or sit for a meal. The building is a significant landmark in the community and despite the loss of the body of the building, the main façade facing the square is still in good condition. The extant façade is a good example of the local tradition of giraffe rock construction and of the work of local builder J.C. Lane, and retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance under Criterion C as a structure, rather than a building. As a result, Resource 18 is included within the district as a contributing resource.

Transportation-related: Up until 1920, the small community of Wimberly was an off-the-beaten-path rural village only accessible via a crude wagon trail. The community was never served by a railroad, with the closest rail line being roughly 15 miles away in San Marcos. However, with the proliferation of the automobile in the early twentieth century, and subsequent grading and graveling of RR 12 in the 1920s, the community was almost overnight opened to automobile traffic. Visitors flocked to the bucolic Hill Country town from San Marcos, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, and from areas throughout the state. In subsequent decades, new roadways were improved or constructed through the Hill Country, and Wimberley became a crossroads for many of the area’s roadways. In order to accommodate the increased auto traffic, numerous gas and service stations opened along RR 12 and adjacent streets. One of the earliest gas stations in the square appears to have been located on the east end of Resource 8A adjacent to the Saunders’ store, although it eventually burned in a fire in 1939 and was later rebuilt. Additional gas stations within the historic district date between 1925 and 1950 (Resources 23, 27A, 31, 32).

Following the end of wartime restrictions wrought by World War I, the late 1910s saw automobile ownership in the state skyrocket. Around the same time, vast caches of oil were discovered throughout Texas and numerous oil companies

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Section 7, Page 13
were established in the state in the early twentieth century. Each oil company developed unique design criteria and marketing strategies to make their stations instantly recognizable to passing consumers. In Texas, gas stations typically adhered to national marketing trends for gas station form, design, materials, signage, and marketing. Design of gas stations was often influenced by national and regional trends in architecture, and many were designed in the forms and shapes popular with residential construction at the time.⁹

Resources 27A and 31 were both constructed ca. 1925 in the house with canopy form with masonry exteriors. Both evoke modest Craftsman style influences evident in their massing and form, in the tapered masonry piers used to support the canopies, and in the broad overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. Constructed ca. 1930, Resource 23 and is a cross gable masonry structure with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. Originally a Texaco, it is also in the house with canopy form with elements of the Rustic (rock) style. The main body of the building is side gabled, with a projecting front gable that historically formed the drive through canopy with pumps. Like many other resources within the historic district, the gas station was stylistically simple and unadorned, with random ashlar masonry siding characteristic of Wimberley vernacular architecture.

Resource 32 was originally constructed as a Humble Oil (later Exxon) gas and service station in 1950. Laid out in the oblong box with canopy form, it featured masonry siding, a flat roof adorned with jagged, uncut stones along the roofline, and large branded Humble signage. Drive-thru canopies and pumps were located on the south and east elevations at the west end of the building to take advantage of traffic traveling either direction on RR 12. The east end of the building had large overhead doors for servicing vehicles. Sometime in the 1970s a large, hipped roof was added to the building, and the building remained a gas station through the 1990s. Renovations currently underway appear to be removing the hipped roof from the original flat roof portion of the building.

The prevalence of numerous gas and service stations in Wimberley is indicative of the significant role that improved transportation networks through the community in the early to mid-twentieth century played in the subsequent commercial development of the Downtown square.

**Municipal:** There are two contributing buildings in the district that historically served a municipal function (Resources 7 and 14A), although they currently house businesses. Resource 7 served as the City Hall in the 1970s, although it was originally constructed in the 1920s as the D'Spain general store. Resource 14A is a masonry-clad former post office constructed in 1968 which is now used for retail space. Adjacent to the post office is a non-historic-age hexagonal mailbox station that was constructed in 1983 (Resource 18B) and later housed small businesses, but currently appears vacant.

**Religious:** There are two religious resources within the boundary: Wimberley Christian Church and rectory (Resources 39A and 39B). Resource 39A is the ca. 1910 T-plan church building that was moved to its current site from Hays City in 1925. Sometime in the mid-twentieth century, a cross gable rectory was constructed to the rear (east) of the main church building. Although the main church building was moved, it was the first permanent church building in Wimberley, and thus is the single surviving structure associated with early religious worship in the community. Furthermore, the building is significant for its association with the early twentieth century development of the community. Thus, Resource 39A qualifies for inclusion in the historic district and meets Criterion Consideration A: Religious Properties and Criterion Consideration B: Moved Properties.¹⁰ Further discussion of moved properties within the district is included below.

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¹⁰ National Park Service, Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, accessed November 28, 2022,
Moved properties: The small, historically rural, Hill Country community of Wimberly was founded by an industrious and resourceful group of White Anglo and European settlers that established and built businesses and homes out of local materials, using region’s waterways to power mills that planed lumber, ground corn and flour, and produced molasses. The community lacked reliable transportation networks until the 1920s, and thus area residents relied on subsistence farming and ranching and made do with the abundance of resources the surrounding area offered. Improved roadways in the 1920s through 1940s boosted the region’s ability to move goods into town, but the resourceful spirit of Wimberley remained throughout much of the twentieth century. Local businessmen taught themselves masonry and went on to construct many of the stone and wood buildings in the square themselves. Often, when an older building burned in a fire or was demolished, any remnant stones or wood materials were repurposed into future buildings. In the post-war era, the tourism industry continued to grow, necessitating the construction of new businesses, homes, and rental cottages. Many of the properties within the historic district boundary were established in the 1950s through 1970s. Wimberley residents once again turned to their history of resourceful re-use, and some of the buildings in the square that now function as commercial buildings were constructed during the period of significance using previous buildings or reclaimed materials. Other buildings, predominantly former residences, were moved from elsewhere in the community to serve as commercial buildings within the historic district. Buildings that were likely moved include Resources 1C, 1D, 2, 16B, and 39A.

In order for a moved property to be eligible for the NRHP, it must meet Criterion Consideration B: Moved Properties. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation outlines that under Criterion Consideration B, “a district in which only a small percentage of properties of typical buildings in the district were moved” does not need to meet Criterion Consideration B. Furthermore, resources that were moved within the period of significance also do not need to meet Criterion Consideration B. Thus, resources within the Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District that were moved within the period of significance and retain sufficient integrity to convey their historical associations or method of construction were included as contributing resources.

Table 1: Property Types within Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Type (Historic or Current Function)</th>
<th>Contributing (C) Resources in Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District</th>
<th># C</th>
<th>Non-contributing (NC) Resources in Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District</th>
<th># NC</th>
<th>Total # within district boundary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal</td>
<td>7, 14A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>39A, 39B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved Properties</td>
<td>1C, 1D, 2, 39A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16B, 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Some resources are listed in multiple categories due to a change in function over time.

*Denotes a building or structure individually listed on the NRHP


Architectural Styles/Forms

In addition to their classification by current or historic building function, buildings within the Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District are also identified by their prevailing architectural style or form. These classifications were derived from the National Park Service’s Bulletin 15, Virginia McAlester’s A Field Guide to American Houses (updated to 2013), Gottfried and Jennings American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors 1870-1960, and Richard Longstreth’s The Buildings of Main Street. Some buildings contain elements of one of more styles, including Craftsman style houses and commercial properties that also utilize Rustic (rock) construction techniques, while many exhibit no distinguishing style or form.

One-Part Commercial Block/One-story Shop: A one-part commercial block building is a single-story commercial building with a decorated storefront façade. One-part commercial block buildings typically range in construction date from the mid-nineteenth century through present-day and can display a wide array of architectural styles. A one-part commercial block is differentiated from the one-story shop, which is freestanding and features a pitched roof.12

National Folk: National Folk houses were typically constructed in the U.S. between ca. 1850 and ca. 1930. They include a variety of forms, ranging from the two-story I-house, pyramidal, hall and parlor plan, gable plan, or massed plan, among others. As sawn lumber became more available after the expansion of railroad systems, folk houses replaced earlier log or heavy hewn frame houses.13 National Folk houses are typically modest one or two-story, wood frame dwellings with minimal adornment.

Rustic: The NPS provides a good overview of the development and use of Rustic architecture in national parks beginning at the turn of the twentieth century in Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942, however this context is not directly applicable to the use of Rustic architecture in rural, domestic frameworks. Furthermore, published architectural style guides do not seem to offer a precise definition of Rustic architecture. Rustic architecture, although without a formal definition, is generally characterized as buildings and structures that utilize local and native materials, including wood and rock, often left in a rustic, uncut, or organic form with minimal tooling. In rural domestic or commercial settings, these Rustic buildings were typically born of necessity, either due to lack of access to building materials, or financial considerations furthered by the Great Depression. Rustic buildings and structures in rural, non-park settings are typically simplistic in form and design, with minimal detailing.

The terms rock and stone, although similar, carry different connotations. According to the Missouri Valley Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, in architectural classification the term rock refers to the use of fieldstone lacking any finishing or formal treatment. Stone, on the other hand, is typically quarried and refined blocks of stone.14 The term rock has been used to distinguish the distinct Rustic construction techniques that define local Wimberley architecture, often utilizing the abundant local material of found rock, including limestone and karst rock. In Wimberley, the lack of adequate transportation networks throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries required residents to utilize readily available materials, and thus untreated or rough-cut rock became a common construction material.

Bungalow: Bungalows are defined as one or one-and-half-story residences with small, massed footprints and minimal adornment. This building form was popularized in the U.S. in the early twentieth century and are typically gabled or

hipped roof structures with low or moderate sloping roofs. Bungalows are wood frame buildings often clad in clapboard siding, although other cladding materials were sometimes used. Many bungalows also exhibit Craftsman style details.\(^{15}\)

*Craftsman:* Most common between 1905 and 1930, although they continued to be constructed later, Craftsman style buildings are characterized by their low-pitched gable roofs, wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, full or partial-width porches supported by square or tapered columns, and one or one-and-a-half story massing.\(^{16}\) In Wimberley, Craftsman style architectural elements were used on both residential and commercial buildings, and many also utilized the Rustic rock technique characteristic of the community. In Wimberley, Craftsman style buildings were often modest, reflecting the humble, rural nature of the community. Craftsman homes in Wimberley utilized the local building tradition of masonry exteriors and are recognizable through their front porches supported by wood and stone tapered columns and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. A majority do not have extensive decorative flourishes, but rather their design is expressed through their form and materiality.

*Minimal Traditional:* Popular between the mid-1930s through 1960, Minimal Traditional residences are characterized by their small, massed footprint, low-pitched gable roofs with minimal overhang, and simplicity of design.\(^ {18}\) There are several resources within the district that evoke modest elements of the Minimal Traditional style (Resources 22 and 34). Minimal Traditional residences within the district include the 1945 side-gable residence constructed by J.C. Lane (Resource 22) with ashlar limestone exterior and yellow brick window surrounds and quoins. The residence is representative of Lane’s evolution in masonry technique in the mid-century. Resource 34 is ca. 1940 hipped roof residence with projecting gable front porch. Stylistic details of the residence are limited to some decorative wood trim on the front porch.

*No style:* Several buildings located within the proposed historic district boundaries exhibit no distinct architectural style or form, and thus have been categorized as no style.

*New Traditional:* Virginia McAlester defines New Traditional architecture as buildings constructed at the turn-of-the-millennium that sought inspiration from historical styles from the early twentieth century, including Neoclassical, Craftsman, and Prairie, among others.\(^ {19}\) New Traditional buildings are of recent construction and were completed outside the period of significance. Thus, all the New Traditional buildings within the proposed historic district boundaries are non-contributing resources.


Table 2: Styles/Forms within Wimberley Downtown Historic District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style/Form</th>
<th>Contributing (C) Resources in Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District</th>
<th># C</th>
<th>Non-contributing (NC) Resources in Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District</th>
<th># NC</th>
<th>Total # within district boundary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-part commercial block</td>
<td>Resources 4, 5, 6, 8A, 13, 14A, 17A, 26, 40</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3B, 8B, 19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-story shop</td>
<td>Resources 8A, 9C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Folk</td>
<td>Resources 1C, 2, 9A, 9B, 33A, 37*, 39A</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow</td>
<td>10C, 20A, 20B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craftsman</td>
<td>Resources 10A, 10B, 11, 15A*, 15B*, 16A, 27A, 31, 42, 43</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>Resources 8A, 11, 13, 10A, 10B, 15A*, 15B*, 16A, 18, 23, 27A, 31, 32, 35, 36, 42, 43</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Traditional</td>
<td>1A, 8C, 22, 29, 34, 35, 36, 39B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No style</td>
<td>40B, 40C, 44A, 44B, 44C, 44D</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1B, 1D, 1E, 3A, 14B, 20C, 24, 27B, 28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Traditional</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17B, 25, 33B, 33C, 33D, 38, 41</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Some resources are listed in multiple categories due to exhibiting more than one style or form.
*Denotes a building or structure individually listed on the NRHP
Integrity

Location: The Wimberley Downtown Square was historically laid out in a northwest to southeast orientation along the dirt wagon trail that led into town, later paved and designated RR 12. Located adjacent to Cypress Creek to the north and the Blanco River to the south, the town was ideally located within reach of two water sources, which allowed the operation of a mill that subsequently helped sustain the town and its growth. The creek and river also created a bucolic atmosphere with clear water and dense, lush vegetation along the waterways which ultimately resulted in the town’s reputation as a vacation destination, contributing to the town’s growth throughout the twentieth century. The square remains the heart of the community of Wimberley and continues to attract visitors. Thus, the district retains its integrity of location.

Setting: Although changes have occurred in the square over time, the setting of the Wimberley Downtown Square remains largely intact. Narrow streets and alleys recall the days when the town was traversed by horseback, and the meandering waterways lined with lush vegetation are still a hallmark of the Downtown Square. Although buildings along the square have been constructed over a period of 100 years, they have been constructed using similar materials, including wood and stone, that creates a continuity of appearance in the district and maintains the quaint, village-like setting.

Design: Some changes have occurred to the layout of the downtown square over time, including the addition of curbed areas in the 1960s to improve safety and traffic flow and to accommodate increased traffic. A series of fires throughout the twentieth century resulted in the demolition of several of the original buildings on the square, however, numerous buildings from the early settlement period of the town remain. Furthermore, a majority of the properties that were destroyed by fire were re-developed during the period of significance with an effort to remain consistent with the existing design, materials, massing, and architectural influences already present in the square, including stone facing, cypress, cedar, and wood accents, and corrugated metal roofs and awnings. Overall, the integrity of design is sufficiently intact to evoke a small, Hill Country village that has grown organically over time.

Materials: The use of native rock throughout the historic district, along with wood and corrugated or standing seam metal, has remained consistent throughout the development of the town and the district retains integrity of materials. While some buildings within the district have experienced alterations, including replacement windows, doors, or siding, many of the alterations were completed during the period of significance in order to maintain functionality or accommodate change in use. These alterations do not compromise the district as a whole to such a degree that it is no longer able to convey its integrity of materials.

Workmanship: The Wimberley Downtown Square retains numerous buildings that date to the early period of its development in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and are indicative of the local American folk vernacular. Many of the buildings within the historic district were constructed of native limestone and built by local craftsmen and builders. Resources 8A (1890 Saunders Store), 9A (ca. 1870s Saunders Home), 15A and 18B (1935 J.C. Lane House and 1939 garage), 16A (1935 J.C. Lane second house), among others, were constructed by resident masons using locally available materials and reflect the do-it-yourself pioneer spirit of many of the town’s early inhabitants. Subsequent building phases in the square reflect a continuation of the town’s traditional building techniques, and thus the square retains its integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: The narrow, curved streets and alleys recall the city’s organic development as a small, rural, isolated Hill Country community. The abundance of rock and stone structures constructed using native materials by local masons and builders evokes the construction traditions of the community. The square’s location along Cypress Creek with large, centuries old bald cypress and live oak trees contributes to the natural beauty and serenity of the setting. The square
remains the commercial core of the community, full of retail, restaurants, and domestic structures. The district’s integrity of feeling as an idyllic Hill Country town is intact.

_Association:_ Properties located within the historic district include those that date to the early development of the community, including the John Henry Saunders Homestead (Resource 9A), homes and commercial buildings constructed in the 1920s and 1930s by local masons and buildings (Resources 16A and 46), and numerous postwar commercial buildings that reflect the rapid commercial and recreational development of the community in the postwar era. The district’s association with the development of the small community, spanning over a century, is still legible.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Table 3: Inventory of Resources in the Historic District – Resource numbers corresponds to those on Map 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</th>
<th>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</th>
<th>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</th>
<th>C/NC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>14015 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1945</td>
<td>One-story, cross-gable bungalow with stone skirting, multi-pane sash windows, aluminum siding, and corrugated metal roof. Windows and doors have been replaced and a large rear (north) non-historic addition that houses the Creekhouse Café. Former residence that retains original massing and roof form.</td>
<td>One-story, cross-gable bungalow with stone skirting, multi-pane sash windows, aluminum siding, and corrugated metal roof. Windows and doors have been replaced and a large rear (north) non-historic addition that houses the Creekhouse Café. Former residence that retains original massing and roof form.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>14015 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 2015</td>
<td>Non-historic one-story building with unique roof form, cementitious siding, and vinyl windows.</td>
<td>Non-historic one-story building with unique roof form, cementitious siding, and vinyl windows.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>14015 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1925, moved ca. 1970</td>
<td>One-story folk house with clapboard siding and wood frame windows. Retains original massing and roof form. Windows and doors have been replaced. The porch appears to have been modified or partially infilled. Awnings added over side window, which was enlarged. This building may have been moved to its current location ca. 1970.</td>
<td>One-story folk house with clapboard siding and wood frame windows. Retains original massing and roof form. Windows and doors have been replaced. The porch appears to have been modified or partially infilled. Awnings added over side window, which was enlarged. This building may have been moved to its current location ca. 1970.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
<td>C/NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ![Picture 1](1D) | 1D | 14015 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18513  
Lat/Long: 29.996290°/ -98.097333° | Ca. 1970  
LATE MODERN  
No style | Long, two-story, row building which houses a series of retail shops. Features corrugated metal, wood, and stone siding and aluminum frame windows. Building retains original massing and shallow gable roof form. Building was likely constructed using reclaimed materials from previous buildings. Replacement windows and siding as well as the addition of fabric awnings.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Commerce/Business  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Farmloft, Creekside Vintage, Arloom | NC |
| ![Picture 2](1E) | 1E | 14015 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18513  
Lat/Long: 29.996380°/ -98.097227° | Ca. 1950  
MID-CENTURY MODERN  
NONRESIDENTIAL  
No style | Heavily-modified two-story building, possibly originally industrial. Some original stone siding, replacement windows, siding, roof, and doors and modified massing and openings as well as front addition.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Unknown  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Hill Country Collectibles | NC |
| ![Picture 3](2) | 2 | 116 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18383  
Lat/Long: 29.995764°/ -98.097567° | Ca. 1920, moved ca. 1970  
20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
National Folk (I-house) | Two-story I-house that retains original massing and roof form. Features horizontal wood siding, stone chimney and entrance steps, full-width, shed roof front porch, and metal roof. Windows, doors, and siding have been replaced. This building may have been moved to its current location.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Single dwelling  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Gypsy Market | C |
### Photograph 3A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</th>
<th>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</th>
<th>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</th>
<th>C/NC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>114 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676 Parcel ID: R18464 Lat/Long: 29.995873°/-98.097486°</td>
<td>1986 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS No style</td>
<td>One-story, rectangular, side gable building with vertical wood siding, projecting full-width front porch, and corrugated metal roof. Doors, windows, and porch railings appear to have been replaced. This building may have been moved to its current location. Historic Use(s)/Name(s): N/A Current Use/Name: Commerce/Artisans Co-op/ Senior Citizens Craft Shop</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Photograph 3B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</th>
<th>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</th>
<th>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</th>
<th>C/NC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>114 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676 Parcel ID: R18463 Lat/Long: 29.995959°/-98.097412°</td>
<td>Ca. 1985 POST MODERN One-part commercial block</td>
<td>One-story, two-bay commercial building with random ashlar limestone walls. Standing seam metal siding clads parapet wall above the shed-roof porch. Doors and windows have been replaced but appear to retain their original size and location. Historic Use(s)/Name(s): N/A Current Use/Name: Commerce/Texas Wine Tastings</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Photograph 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</th>
<th>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</th>
<th>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</th>
<th>C/NC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>112 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676 Parcel ID: R18396/ R18397 Lat/Long: 29.996026°/-98.097314°</td>
<td>1971 MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL One-part commercial block</td>
<td>One-story commercial building with stone siding and standing seam metal siding on parapet walls and projecting canopy. Canopy supported by wood posts. A plaque on the wall of this building says “1971 J.C. Burchfield EPH 2.20”. Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Commerce/Burchfield Barber Shop Current Use/Name: Commerce/Kamaway Market, Wimberley House of Silver</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Photograph" /></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>106 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1966</td>
<td>Small, one-story, single-bay commercial building with random ashlar limestone and a shed-roof porch with cedar posts. Standing seam metal siding clads the parapet. Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Photograph" /></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>104 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1966</td>
<td>One-half story commercial building exhibiting limestone cladding typical of Wimberley square. The flat parapet has red brick coping. Brick also forms transom headers. Window openings appear to be original but windows themselves have been replaced. Porch roof has also been replaced but is compatible. Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Commerce/Golden Spoon Restaurant (1960s), Dinner Bell (1970s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Photograph" /></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14011 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1925</td>
<td>One-story masonry commercial building with a broken-gable roof. Appears to have had an addition within the period of significance. A shed roof porch spans the primary elevation with a centered door flanked by display windows. Front elevation has random ashlar limestone likely added in the 1960s, while creek-facing (north) elevation has original 1920s giraffe-style masonry with brick forming window frames. Retains original windows. Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Commerce/D’Spain’s store (ca. 1920s), Forister’s (1930s), Municipal Building/Town Hall (1960s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>8A</td>
<td>14000 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>1890 with ca. 1940 addition LATE 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS One-part commercial block/ Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>Early settlement one-story commercial building with stone siding, original arched entrance, and stone parapet. The building burned ca. 1939 but the stone walls of the western portion of the building remained intact. The eastern portion was reconstructed at that time.</td>
<td>Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Commerce/Saunders’ Store (1890-1907); Post Office (1890-1930); Gas Station (1930s and 1940s); Trading Post (1940s and 1950s); Wimberley Pharmacy; Broken Arrow (1970s) Current Use/Name: Commerce/Blue Willow, Rancho Deluxe, Wall Street Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>14008 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1980 LATE MODERN One-part commercial block</td>
<td>One-story commercial building with symmetrical front façade featuring storefront windows and central entryway. False front parapet and projecting shed roof porch supported by cedar posts. The doors, windows, and siding have been replaced.</td>
<td>Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Commerce/Wimberley Stained Glass (2011) Current Use/Name: Commerce/Wooden Spoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8C</td>
<td>14004 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1950 MID-CENTURY MODERN RESIDENTIAL Minimal Traditional</td>
<td>One-story, side gable former residence with clapboard siding and projecting porch on north elevation. Has undergone several additions on the west elevation during the period of significance to convert to commercial use.</td>
<td>Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Domestic/Single dwelling; Commerce/La Tuna Restaurant, John Henry’s Restaurant Current Use/Name: Commerce/Chili’s on the Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
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<td>9A</td>
<td>14000B RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>1870 LATE 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS National Folk</td>
<td>On-story building with clapboard siding, full-width shed roof porch supported by battered wood posts on masonry piers, and fixed wood windows. Stone chimney on east elevation, standing seam metal roofing, and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. Some ca. 1930s alterations include front porch, which was originally projecting front gable with wood posts.</td>
<td><strong>Historic Use(s) /Name(s):</strong> Domestic/Saunders Home (1870-1907); Commerce/Dunlap House (1970s) <strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Commerce/Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9B</td>
<td>14000B RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1920 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS National Folk (American four-square)</td>
<td>Two-story, side gable, four-square building with clapboard siding, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, and double hung wood windows and wood doors. First floor storefront entry may have originally been a garage, but now features glazed entrance with sidelights.</td>
<td><strong>Historic Use(s) /Name(s):</strong> Domestic/Single dwelling; Commerce/Cottage on the Square Bed and Breakfast (2011) <strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Commerce/Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9C</td>
<td>101 Old Kyle Rd, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca.1950 MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL One-story shop</td>
<td>One-story, side gable building with corrugated metal roof and full-width, shed roof awning supported by masonry posts. Replacement horizontal siding, entrance door, and storefront windows. Several side and rear additions that were likely completed during the period of significance.</td>
<td><strong>Historic Use(s) /Name(s):</strong> Commerce/Clock Shop (1970s); Cypress Creek Antiques (2011) <strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Commerce/Gracious Ladies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

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<tr>
<th>Photograph</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10A</td>
<td></td>
<td>107 Old Kyle Rd, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1925 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS Craftsman/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>The rear, cross gable portion of the building features random rubble siding, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, paired four-over-four wood frame windows and was historically a modest, Craftsman style residence. A front (south), cross gable addition was added to the building in the 1950s and has board and batten siding, overhanging eaves, banks of aluminum frame windows, and shed roof. Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Single dwelling; Commerce/Bibb’s Real Estate, Hinnenkamp Realtors Current Use/Name: Commerce/In Style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10B</td>
<td></td>
<td>107 Old Kyle Rd, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1925 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS Craftsman/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>One-story, front gable building with random rubble masonry, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, wood frame windows, and glazed, multi-pane, double doors with sidelights. Alterations appear to include replacement sidelights and corrugated metal roof. Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Secondary structure Current Use/Name: Commerce/Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10C</td>
<td></td>
<td>107 Old Kyle Rd, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1925 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS Bungalow</td>
<td>One-story, board and batten domestic building with flat roof, and rear porch supported by cedar posts. Features wood frame screen doors and aluminum windows. Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Secondary structure Current Use/Name: Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
<td>C/NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>201 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676 Parcel ID: R18404 Lat/Long: 29.995651°/98.097347°</td>
<td>Ca. 1945 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS Craftsman/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>Prominent one-story commercial building with giraffe-style masonry that includes petrified wood, coral, and fossils. The gabled roof has asbestos tile, and the original, large masonry chimney remains. Most window openings and original windows remain though at least one opening has been infilled and some windows replaced. There was an addition on the rear, but it is compatible with the building. Historic Use(s) /Name(s): Domestic/Single dwelling; Commerce/Claudia’s (1980s) Current Use/Name: Commerce/ Kiss the Cook Kitchen Shop</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>303 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676 Parcel ID: R18567 Lat/Long: 29.995710°/98.097168°</td>
<td>Ca. 1950 MID-CENTURY MODERN RESIDENTIAL Minimal Traditional</td>
<td>One-story vernacular house with a broken gable roof and stucco siding. The house has been altered extensively including replacement siding, windows, and doors and modified door and window openings. There are also several additions. It does not retain integrity. Historic Use(s) /Name(s): Domestic/Single dwelling; Commerce/ Kimberley’s Wimberley Restaurant Current Use/Name: Commerce/ Marco’s Italian</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>101-A Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676 Parcel ID: R18398 Lat/Long: 29.995930°/98.096887°</td>
<td>1967 MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL One-part commercial block/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>Prominent, one-story, one-part commercial building with random ashlar limestone masonry walls and a shaped parapet. A shed-roof porch with square masonry piers wraps the building. Windows have been replaced in original openings. Historic Use(s) /Name(s): Commerce/Sac-N-Pac Superette (1960s); Clyde Callaway’s Hill Country Superette (1970s); Woolseys (1980s) Current Use/Name: Commerce/Wimberley Cafe</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>Photograph</td>
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<td>Address/ Parcel ID/ Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/ Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
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<td><img src="image1" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>14A</td>
<td>100 Oak DR, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td><strong>MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL</strong> One-part commercial block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>14B</td>
<td>100 Oak DR, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td><strong>POST MODERN</strong> No style/Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>15A</td>
<td>306 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td><strong>20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS</strong> Craftsman/Rustic (rock)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Historic Use/Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>15B</td>
<td>306 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18499&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995570°/-98.096764°</td>
<td>Ca. 1939&lt;br&gt;20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS&lt;br&gt;Craftsman/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>One-story, front gable, secondary domestic building with random rubble stone exterior, overhanging eaves, multi-pane, glazed, double doors on the north elevation and ca. 1950 shed roof addition on the south elevation with multi-pane windows. Originally functioned as a detached garage and was constructed by the second owner, Susie Danforth. Additional alterations include replacement standing seam metal roof. Listed on the NRHP.</td>
<td>Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Garage&lt;br&gt;Current Use/Name: Domestic/Secondary structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16A</td>
<td>310 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18429&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995730°/-98.096636°</td>
<td>1938&lt;br&gt;20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS&lt;br&gt;Craftsman/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>Two-story residence with pyramidal roof, giraffe rock exterior, projecting arched front entrance, and large stone chimney on the primary (north) façade.</td>
<td>Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Single dwelling (James C. Lane House 1935); Commerce/Doubltree Antiques&lt;br&gt;Current Use/Name: Commerce/Aunt Jennie’s Attic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16B</td>
<td>310 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18428&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995840°/-98.096543°</td>
<td>Moved to current location ca. 1990.&lt;br&gt;LATE 19TH &amp; 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS&lt;br&gt;National Folk</td>
<td>One-story rectangular structure now used as a restaurant. The building was formerly a train station that was moved to its current location. The building retains original, large, two-over-two double-hung windows though porch design has been altered and some window openings on the side elevation have been modified.</td>
<td>Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Transportation/Train Station&lt;br&gt;Current Use/Name: Commerce/Longleaf Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
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<td>Address/ Parcel ID/ Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/ Style or Form</td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="" /></td>
<td>17A</td>
<td>314 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: N/A&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995928°/ -98.096451°</td>
<td>Ca. 1950&lt;br&gt;MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL&lt;br&gt;One-part commercial block</td>
<td>One-story, one-part commercial block with distinctive limestone masonry walls. Limestone porch posts appear to have been modified and doors and windows, while original openings, have been replaced. Parapet has been modified but overall massing is intact.</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="" /></td>
<td>17B</td>
<td>315 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: N/A&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995928°/ -98.096451°</td>
<td>Ca. 2003&lt;br&gt;POST-MODERN&lt;br&gt;New Traditional</td>
<td>Addition to Resource 17A with limestone cladding, central entrance with glazed, wood frame, double entrance doors, flat roof awning, Quoins at the building corners, and broad wood cornice with corbels. Connected internally and externally with Resource 17A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="" /></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>320 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R132436&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.996054°/ -98.096264°</td>
<td>1947&lt;br&gt;20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS&lt;br&gt;Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>Originally a two-story commercial building with giraffe-style masonry that includes petrified wood. Built by J.C. Lane, J.D. Ragland, Odess Farris, and B.W. Forister. The two-story porch has a ground-floor arcade with three arched openings. The exterior of the building was burned in a fire in 2017. The primary (north) facing façade remains intact. Despite the loss of the structure, the main façade facing the square is still in good condition.</td>
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<td>Photograph</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>110 Oak DR, Wimberley, TX 78676 &lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18546 &lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995212°/-98.096829°</td>
<td>Ca. 1980 &lt;br&gt;LATE MODERN &lt;br&gt;One-part Commercial Block</td>
<td>One-story, U-shaped, modest Midcentury Modern motel building with distinctive masonry cladding on the lower half of exterior walls. Siding and windows have been replaced and privacy screens added to all windows. Signage has also been added to the exterior. Building retains its original form and massing. &lt;br&gt;<strong>Historic Use(s) /Name(s):</strong> Domestic/Motel &lt;br&gt;<strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Domestic/Square Inn</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>20A</td>
<td>107 Oak DR, Wimberley, TX 78676 &lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: N/A &lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995327°/-98.096473°</td>
<td>Ca. 1940 &lt;br&gt;20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS &lt;br&gt;Bungalow</td>
<td>One-story, front gable bungalow with horizontal wood siding, paired four-over-four wood frame windows, and standing seam metal roof. Door and door surround have been replaced as has the roof. A wood-frame ADA ramp and porch have been added to the front. &lt;br&gt;<strong>Historic Use(s) /Name(s):</strong> Domestic/Rental cottage &lt;br&gt;<strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Commerce/Cypress Creek Lavender</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20B</td>
<td>107 Oak DR, Wimberley, TX 78676 &lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: N/A &lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995454°/-98.096550°</td>
<td>Ca. 1940 &lt;br&gt;20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS &lt;br&gt;Bungalow</td>
<td>One-story, front gable bungalow with horizontal wood siding, paired four-over-four wood frame windows, and standing seam metal roof. Door and door surround were replaced as was the roof. A faux masonry chimney was added to the side elevation. &lt;br&gt;<strong>Historic Use(s) /Name(s):</strong> Domestic/Rental cottage &lt;br&gt;<strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Domestic/Bungalows on the Square</td>
<td>C</td>
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### Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>20C</td>
<td>103 Oak DR, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Unknown STRUCTURE No style</td>
<td>Historic-age train caboose that has been relocated to the property and placed on a section of railroad track.</td>
<td>NC (structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>314 Wimberley Square, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1950 MID-CENTURY MODERN RESIDENTIAL Unknown</td>
<td>This building was inaccessible from the public right-of-way and obscured by adjacent buildings. Based on its roof form, it appears to be a side gable building with projecting cross gable entrance. An AirBNB listing for the property indicates it has horizontal siding with masonry skirting.</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>180 Oak DR, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>1945 MID-CENTURY MODERN RESIDENTIAL Minimal Traditional</td>
<td>One-story house built and occupied by J.C. Lane. Features random ashlar limestone walls with yellow brick forming window surrounds and quoins. Originally may have had a wood porch, which has been removed. It retains its original massing, wall materials, and door. Windows and roof appear to have been replaced. Rear, wood-frame addition completed during period of significance.</td>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Historic Use(s)/Name Current Use/Name</th>
<th>C/NC</th>
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</table>
| ![Image](image1.jpg) | 23 | 13915 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18401  
Lat/Long: 29.996175°/-98.096081° | Ca. 1930  
20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
Rustic (rock) | One-story, L-plan building with random ashlar cladding, projecting cross gable supported by wood posts, fixed windows with wood lintels, and limestone sills. Originally served as a gas station and the projecting front gable that historically housed the pumps was enclosed with storefront windows. Additional alterations include new windows and doors, rear addition, and replacement roof. Despite alterations, it is still legible as a former gas station.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Commerce/Transportation; Burdett Store and Texaco (1930s), Western Auto Store and Groceries (40s or 50s) Texaco (1970s or 80s); J.L. Higgins General Store (1980s)  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Cedar Chest | C |
| ![Image](image2.jpg) | 24 | 13911 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18400  
Lat/Long: 29.996148°/-98.095849° | Ca. 1990  
POST MODERN  
No style | Gambrel roof commercial building with vertical wood siding, coursed limestone skirting, standing seam metal roof, two separate business entrances consisting of door flanked by aluminum windows, shed roof addition on north elevation.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Commerce/The Wimberley Way (2011)  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Monster Treats; The Budaful Hiker | NC |
| ![Image](image3.jpg) | 25 | 13909 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18508  
Lat/Long: 29.996148°/-98.095849° | 1995  
POST MODERN  
New Traditional (Eclectic) | L-plan commercial building with wood siding, standing seam metal roof, and decorative wood and metal fencing surrounding the property.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): N/A  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Pitzer’s Fine Art | NC |
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<th>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</th>
<th>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</th>
<th>C/NC</th>
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</table>
| ![26](image) | 26 | 13901-A RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18480  
Lat/Long: 29.996049°/-98.095532° | Ca. 1965  
MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL  
One-part commercial block | One-story commercial building with painted CMU siding, symmetrical façade consisting of two entrances each flanked by fixed windows, shed roof awning that spans the entire building. Replacement doors, windows, and standing seam metal roof.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Commerce/Business  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/The Bazaar | C |
| ![27A](image) | 27A | 13811 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18434  
Lat/Long: 29.995924°/-98.095291° | Ca. 1925  
20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
Craftsman/Rustic (rock) | One-story, front gable former gas station with projecting front gable drive-through canopy supported by battered limestone posts. Building features random ashlar limestone siding fixed windows, and two glazed entrance doors. Original entrance has been infilled, possibly during the period of significance, and siding in the gable end is replacement. Additional alterations include replacement windows and doors and removal of gas pumps.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Transportation/Gas station (ca. 1920s); Café Marie (1980s)  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Art on 12 | C |
| ![27B](image) | 27B | 13811 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18434  
Lat/Long: 29.995758°/-98.095345° | 1998  
POST MODERN No style | Two-story gable building with vertical wood siding, limestone skirting, and standing seam metal roof.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): N/A  
Current Use/Name: Commerce | NC |
### Photograph 28

13801 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18437  
Lat/Long: 29.995804°/ -98.095153°  
Year Built/Period/Style or Form: Ca.1990 POST MODERN No style  
Description: This complex consists of a series of interconnected buildings and structures that were constructed using reclaimed historic buildings materials moved on site from other locations, in addition to modern materials.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): N/A  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Olde Towne Plaza Shopping Mall  
C/NC: NC

### Photograph 29

13709 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18419  
Lat/Long: 29.995770°/ -98.094727°  
Year Built/Period/Style or Form: Ca. 1940 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS Minimal Traditional  
Description: One-story, front gable former residence with horizontal siding, full-width, shed roof front porch supported by square wood posts, full-width side porch on the east elevation supported by cedar posts, and what appears to be a rear addition. The main façade features two entrances flanked on either side by single, wood frame windows. Additional alterations include replacement doors and windows  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Single dwelling or rental cottage  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Wild West Store  
C/NC: C

### Photograph 30

13701 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18507  
Lat/Long: 29.995532°/ -98.094409°  
Year Built/Period/Style or Form: Ca. 1925 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS Craftsman  
Description: One-story, front gable bungalow currently under renovation. The building features random ashlar siding, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, and masonry chimney on north elevation. Many exterior walls have been removed and doors and windows are being replaced. Large rear addition.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Single dwelling; Commerce/Dovetails (2009)  
Current Use/Name: N/A  
C/NC: NC
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</th>
<th>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</th>
<th>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</th>
<th>C/NC</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13619 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1925 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS Craftsman/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>One-story, cross hipped former gas station with random ashlar exterior, six-over-six wood frame windows, drive-through canopy supported by battered masonry piers, and overhanging eaves. Alterations include some replacement doors, roof, and side and rear additions (likely done within period of significance). A small masonry wall was also added between the drive-through columns. <strong>Historic Use(s) /Name (s):</strong> Transportation/Gas station <strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Commerce/Ranch Brand Wine &amp; Spirits</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>13904 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1950 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>One-story former gas station currently being renovated. Features random ashlar limestone siding and projecting flat roof canopies at southeast corner of the building. Hipped roof was added to the building ca. 1970. Additional alterations include new storefront windows and glazed entrance doors, replacement canopies and awnings over windows, and several rear additions. <strong>Historic Use(s) /Name (s):</strong> Transportation/Gas station (Philips 66/Humble/Exxon) <strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Commerce/Los Olivos Market, Broken Arrow Rock Shop</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>33A</td>
<td>13900 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1920 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS National Folk (Pyramidal Family/American four-square)</td>
<td>Two-story, massed, hipped roof residential building with full-width, shed roof front porch supported by square posts, replacement vinyl siding, boxed eaves, and aluminum windows. It appears some windows may have been infilled. <strong>Historic Use(s) /Name (s):</strong> Domestic/single dwelling <strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Domestic/Possible rental cottage</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
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| 33B        | 13900 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18425  
Lat/Long: 29.996289°/-98.094949° | Ca. 1980  
POST MODERN  
New Traditional (Log cabin) | One-story, side gable log cabin likely constructed using a log cabin kit. Features full-width front porch supported by wood posts, fixed windows, and single entrance.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Commerce  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Storage | NC |
| 33C        | 13900 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18425  
Lat/Long: 29.996227°/-98.094891° | Ca. 1980  
POST MODERN  
New Traditional (Log cabin) | One-story, side gable log cabin likely constructed using a log cabin kit. Features inset full-width front canopy, fixed windows, and single entrance.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Commerce/Business  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Storage | NC |
| 33D        | 13900 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18425  
Lat/Long: 29.996541°/-98.095115° | Ca. 1945  
20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
New Traditional (Craftsman) | One-story, cross gable, irregular plan building with extensive alterations that include vinyl siding, standing seam metal roof, removal of fenestration, replacement doors, and several additions. Exterior stone chimney appears to be only extant original feature.  
Historic Use(s)/Name(s): Domestic/Single dwelling  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/The Supper Club | NC |
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<th>Photograph</th>
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<th>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</th>
<th>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</th>
<th>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</th>
<th>C/NC</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>34</td>
<td>151 Old Kyle Hwy, Wimberley, TX 78676 &lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18606 &lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.996634°/-98.094810°</td>
<td>Ca. 1940&lt;br&gt;EARLY MODERN&lt;br&gt;Minimal Traditional</td>
<td>One-story, hipped roof residence with partial-width, projecting, front gable porch supported by wood posts with decorative wood trim with Victorian influence. Features asbestos siding, paired, double hung wood windows, and wood frame screen door and entry. Appears to be a rear addition completed within the period of significance. &lt;br&gt;Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Domestic/Single dwelling &lt;br&gt;Current Use/Name: Domestic/Single dwelling</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>220 Old Kyle Hwy, Wimberley, TX 78676 &lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18454 &lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.996668°/-98.094609°</td>
<td>Ca. 1950&lt;br&gt;MID-CENTURY MODERN RESIDENTIAL&lt;br&gt;Minimal Traditional/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>One-story, hipped roof bungalow with random ashlar masonry siding, small projecting front gable entrance porch supported by cedar posts, aluminum frame windows, and composite shingle roof. Alterations include replacement windows and front door. &lt;br&gt;Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Domestic/Single dwelling &lt;br&gt;Current Use/Name: Commerce/Cypress Creek Vacation</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>110 Old Kyle Hwy, Wimberley, TX 78676 &lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18565 &lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.996750°/-98.094120°</td>
<td>Ca. 1950&lt;br&gt;MID-CENTURY MODERN RESIDENTIAL&lt;br&gt;Minimal Traditional/Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>One-story, side gable residence with random ashlar masonry siding and prominent chimney adjacent to front entrance on north elevation. Single and paired windows, and overhanging eaves. A stone staircase leads to the main entrance. Windows and doors have been replaced but remain in their original locations, roof has also been replaced and some non-original awnings over windows. &lt;br&gt;Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Domestic/Single dwelling (Harris House) &lt;br&gt;Current Use/Name: Commerce/Three Little Birds Boutique</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/Style or Form</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Historic Use/Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>282 Old Kyle Hwy, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>Ca. 1892</td>
<td>19TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS</td>
<td>One-story, side gable residence features symmetrical façade with central entrance and shed roof front porch with chamfered wood porch supports and wood porch rail, clapboard siding, four-over-four wood windows with shutters, partially glazed entrance door, and replacement standing seam metal roof. A stone chimney is located on the east elevation. Siding was restored in kind, along with windows and porch elements. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed on the NRHP.</td>
<td>Domestic/Single dwelling (John R. Dobie House)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>13710 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>POST MODERN New Traditional (Territorial Revival)</td>
<td>Flat roof building with wrap-around porch supported by cedar posts, stucco siding, projecting wood vigas, and a series of glazed entrances and storefront windows.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39A</td>
<td>13706 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676</td>
<td>1910, moved ca. 1925</td>
<td>20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS</td>
<td>T-plan building with a projecting front gable entrance, double wood entrance doors flanked by stained glass windows. Vinyl, vertical board, and clapboard siding, broad overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, and some masonry skirting. A second entrance is on the east elevation with two double wood doors. Some replacement siding, porch elements, roof, and some new windows. There also appears to be a rear addition.</td>
<td>Religion/Wimberley Christian Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Photograph | # | Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long | Year Built/Period/Style or Form | Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name | C/NC
---|---|---|---|---|---
39B | 13706 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676
Parcel ID: R138184
Lat/Long: 29.996133°/-98.093597° | Ca. 1940
EARLY MODERN
Minimal Traditional | One-story, cross gable building that likely served as the rectory or clergy house. Features single and paired windows, horizontal siding, and large coursed masonry chimney on south elevation. Windows, roof, and siding appear to have been replaced. Retains original form, masonry chimney, overhanging eaves. Historic Use(s) /Name(s): Religion/Church Current Use/Name: Religion/Church | C
40A | 13620 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676
Parcel ID: R18385
Lat/Long: 29.995761°/-98.093712° | 1972
MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL One-part commercial block | One-story commercial building with two retail spaces. CMU construction with primary elevation clad with ashlar limestone masonry in a unique pattern. Concrete stoop lines the primary elevation with a modified porch awning. Some windows have been replaced. Historic Use(s) /Name(s): Commerce/Edward Jones; Water Treatment Systems (2011) Current Use/Name: Commerce/Cactus Coffee Shop; Delta Blues Hair Studio | C
40B | 13620 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676
Parcel ID: R18385
Lat/Long: 29.996133°/-98.093597° | 1972
MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL No style | One-story, side gable commercial building with brick veneer siding, fixed windows, and glazed entrance door. Some windows and doors may have been replaced. Historic Use(s) /Name(s): Commerce Current Use/Name: Commerce/Casa de Art Studio | C
### Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Address/ Parcel ID/ Lat Long</th>
<th>Year Built/Period/ Style or Form</th>
<th>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>40C</td>
<td>40C</td>
<td>13620 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18385&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.996038°/ -98.09396°</td>
<td>1972&lt;br&gt;MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL&lt;br&gt;No style</td>
<td>One-story, side gable commercial building with brick veneer siding, fixed windows, and glazed entrance door. Some windows and doors may have been replaced.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Historic Use(s) /Name (s):</strong> Commerce&lt;br&gt;<strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Commerce/Casa de Art Studio</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13600 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18442&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.995807°/ -98.093132°</td>
<td>2003&lt;br&gt;POST MODERN&lt;br&gt;New Traditional</td>
<td>Irregular plan shopping and retail center with wood and masonry siding, large storefront windows, and various ramps and entrances.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Historic Use(s) /Name (s):</strong> Commerce/Retail center&lt;br&gt;<strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Commerce/Retail center</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>151 Oldham St, Wimberley, TX 78676&lt;br&gt;Parcel ID: R18445&lt;br&gt;Lat/Long: 29.996209°/ -98.093015°</td>
<td>Ca. 1940&lt;br&gt;20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS&lt;br&gt;Craftsman/ Rustic (rock)</td>
<td>One-story, hipped roof Craftsman residence with random ashlar masonry exterior, grouped and paired one-over-one windows, partial-width, inset front porch supported by tapered wood posts on masonry piers, and masonry entrance steps. Some windows appear to have been replaced, a new roof, and a side (north) addition with compatible materials.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Historic Use(s) /Name (s):</strong> Domestic/Single dwelling&lt;br&gt;<strong>Current Use/Name:</strong> Domestic/Single dwelling</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>Photograph #</td>
<td>Address/ Parcel ID/ Lat Long</td>
<td>Year Built/Period/ Style or Form</td>
<td>Description Historic Use/Name Current Use/Name</td>
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| 43 | 13590 RR 12, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18413  
Lat/Long: 29.995546°/ -98.092817° | 1934  
20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
Craftsman/ Rustic (rock) | One-story bungalow with stone wall cladding and battered stone piers supporting the partial-width, gable-front porch. Retains original windows and doors. Small rear addition.  
Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Domestic/Single dwelling (Nolan Webb house)  
Current Use/Name: Commerce/Soul Society | C |
| 44A | 140 Oldham St, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18568  
Lat/Long: 29.995937°/ -98.092744° | Ca. 1970  
LATE MODERN  
No style | Hexagonal building with board and batten siding and aluminum windows with shutters. No discernable alterations.  
Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Domestic/Rental cottage  
Current Use/Name: Domestic/Rental cottage | C? |
| 44B | 140 Oldham St, Wimberley, TX 78676  
Parcel ID: R18568  
Lat/Long: 29.996032°/ -98.092707° | Ca. 1970  
LATE MODERN  
No style | Hexagonal building with board and batten siding and aluminum windows with shutters. No discernable alterations.  
Historic Use(s) /Name (s): Domestic/Rental cottage  
Current Use/Name: Domestic/Rental cottage | C |
### Photograph 44C
- **Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long**: 140 Oldham St, Wimberley, TX 78676, Parcel ID: R18568, Lat/Long: 29.995939°/-98.092568°
- **Year Built/Period/Style or Form**: Ca. 1970, LATE MODERN, No style
- **Description**: Hexagonal building with board and batten siding and aluminum windows with shutters. No discernable alterations.
- **Historic Use(s)/Name(s)**: Domestic/Rental cottage
- **Current Use/Name**: Domestic/Rental cottage
- **C/NC**: C

### Photograph 44D
- **Address/Parcel ID/Lat Long**: 140 Oldham St, Wimberley, TX 78676, Parcel ID: R18568, Lat/Long: 29.996014°/-98.092592°
- **Year Built/Period/Style or Form**: Ca. 1970, LATE MODERN, No style
- **Description**: Hexagonal building with board and batten siding and aluminum windows with shutters. No discernable alterations.
- **Historic Use(s)/Name(s)**: Commerce/Rental cottage
- **Current Use/Name**: Commerce/Rental cottage
- **C/NC**: C
Statement of Significance

The Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District is a distinct collection of domestic, commercial, religious, and transportation-related resources that represent the continuity and evolution of vernacular architectural traditions in the small, historically rural, Hill Country town. The buildings also epitomize the dramatic development of the town from an isolated community that relied on the land and each other, to a booming destination for tourism and recreation. The district includes several wood and masonry buildings that date to the early settlement period in the late nineteenth century, Craftsman-inspired gas stations, residences, and commercial buildings that were constructed after the first roadway was graveled in the 1920s, and mid-century wood, masonry, and CMU shopping centers and rental cottages. The period of significance begins in 1870 with the earliest extant building within the district and extends to 1973 to encompass the substantial post-war growth in Wimberley and in accordance with NPS guidance.

The district encompasses the historic commercial and residential core of the community, located near the former mill site, which was instrumental to the town’s foundation, and adjacent to Cypress Creek, which provided both natural beauty and a necessary water source. Throughout the over 100 years spanning the period of significance RR 12, which bisects the square, has remained a major thoroughfare through Wimberley and the surrounding Hill Country, and continues to draw thousands of locals and visitors to the shops, restaurants, bars, and rental cottages on the square. The district is nominated under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Community Planning and Development as an excellent example of a quaint, Hill Country town in Central Texas that continues to function as the social and commercial heart of the community. The district is also eligible under Criterion C at the local level for its ability to convey the longstanding vernacular architectural traditions that have characterized the town for more than a century. Traditional materials, including native cedar and limestone, have been used on buildings consistently throughout the square. Buildings within the district are no more than two-stories and are minimally adorned, simple buildings that reflect the unassuming nature of the small town. Furthermore, in the 1930s, self-taught local builders developed a unique technique of giraffe rock masonry that was used on buildings throughout the square, and which evolved over time as aesthetic preferences changed in the post-war era.

Although some modern infill is prevalent within the district, and some resources have undergone minor alterations to accommodate the changing needs and functions of the buildings, the layout of the townsitie, height and massing of the buildings, construction materials, and minimalist vernacular aesthetic are all intact and are able to convey the district’s historic integrity.

Located in central Hays County, Texas, the City of Wimberley is traversed by Cypress Creek and the Blanco River. A gristmill was first established in the area in the mid-nineteenth century by William C. Winters, and the small settlement was subsequently named Winter’s Mill. The success of the mill, later acquired by John and Nancy Cude and then Pleasant Wimberley, supported the development of a community eventually known as Wimberley’s Mill. The climate, character, and bucolic natural setting of Wimberley, in addition to its proximity to San Marcos, San Antonio, and Austin, allowed the local economy to shift from milling to tourism in the early twentieth century. By the mid-to-late twentieth century, the tourism industry was the leading driver sustaining the community’s economy, centered around the Wimberley Downtown Square.

Criterion A: Community Planning and Development:

The chronological history of Wimberley, from settlement to the present day (2023), is very much the story of the development of a rural Texas Hill Country community that grew and even flourished despite the absence of a railroad, and the late introduction of paved highways and electrification.
Settlement of Hays County and Wimberley

Present-day Hays County has attracted settlers and visitors for thousands of years owing to its numerous springs, rivers, rolling hills, and lush trees. The Apache, Tonkawa, Comanche, Jumano, and Wichita tribes historically occupied the area, residing along creeks and rivers and subsisting off the land.\(^{20}\) Spanish missionaries explored the region at the turn of the eighteenth century and the first Anglo-American settlers arrived in Hays County in the 1830s when the Mexican government granted Thomas G. McGehee a league of land. Hays County was formed out of Travis County on March 1, 1848, and San Marcos, to the southeast of Wimberley, was designated as the county seat. The county’s population grew rapidly from 387 in 1850 to 2,216 in 1860 and communities were established across the county adjacent to rivers and transportation routes.\(^{21}\)

In the late 1840s Jacob de Cordova purchased 1,280 acres of the Amasa Turner Survey from William R. Baker, assignee of the Turner survey, including the land that encompassed present-day Wimberley.\(^{22}\) In 1855 Jacob de Cordova then sold the property to James Montgomery.\(^{23}\)

Elisha McCuistion constructed the first log cabin along Cypress Creek (then known as Jacob’s Well Creek) near present-day Blue Hole around 1856.\(^{24}\) Shortly thereafter, a small community named Glendale was established and settlers began arriving to the area from the Deep South in search of vast acreages of land to homestead.\(^{25}\) In the early 1850s (sources vary on dates), William Carver Winters arrived in Glendale, where roughly eight to ten families were already residing. As a veteran of the 1836 Battle of San Jacinto, the culmination of the Texas Revolution, Winters received some land in the area, where he built a small house, cultivated crops, and purchased a wooden sawmill on Cypress Creek.\(^{26}\) The mill helped the community process the abundant local lumber to construct new buildings, and settlers George and Will Willis built a small store. Glendale was subsequently renamed Winter’s Mill after the mill’s owner.\(^{27}\) The early years of settlement were harsh, with a grasshopper infestation and a long drought followed by severe flooding that washed out the mill in 1856. Winters moved to a location on higher ground, purchasing a 34-acre site from James Montgomery where he built a mill house, long millrace, and tailrace.\(^{28}\) Winters used the millrace to irrigate land adjacent to the river where he planted an orchard. The ca. 1856 Winters-Wimberley House is extant (outside the proposed historic district) and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (2002).\(^{30}\)

Early transportation networks to Wimberley were primitive, consisting of a rugged, hard-packed dirt road to San Marcos.\(^{31}\) Travelers had to pass through cattle gates, cross streams and rivers, and traverse steep hills to make the journey.\(^{32}\) The surrounding area was primarily made up of scattered communities whose economies relied on the abundant

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\[^{26}\] Some sources say that Wimberley was given the land in exchange for his service at the battle of San Jacinto, while other sources claim that Winters purchased the land.


\[^{30}\] For more information on William Carver Winters and the original mill site, see the National Register nomination form for the Winters-Wimberley House.


native timber, cedar charcoal, cattle, leather, cotton cultivation, and rock quarrying. The onset of the U.S. Civil War in the 1860s saw numerous settlers from the Deep South arriving in Texas, where land was abundant and less expensive, many of whom subsequently settled in Hays County.

William Winters died in 1864 and his son-in-law, John M. Cude, and wife Nancy Winters Cude, inherited the mill site. The village changed its name to Cude’s Mill and the mill complex grew to include a stone flour mill, French buhrstone grist mill, sawmill, shingle mill, molasses mill, and one-stand cotton gin powered by a 21-inch turbine type waterwheel. In the early 1870s, rancher and farmer Pleasant Wimberley, originally from North Carolina, surveyed the area and decided it would make an ideal new home for his family. Around 1874 (some sources say 1872) they purchased the mill complex and surrounding 200 acres from Cude for $8,000 in gold. Due to the importance of the operation, the community continued to be named after the mill owner and was changed to Wimberley’s Mill. Wimberley’s son Zachariah and grandson, Calvin Hickman Wimberley, worked alongside him to run the mill.

With Pleasant Wimberley’s assistance, a church and school were established shortly after, and there were roughly 47 students at the outset. The school building also housed early worship services for a variety of denominations. A post office officially established the town of “Wimberley” in 1880 and soon after a two-story town hall building was constructed on the west side of the square, which also served as the local precinct courthouse and as a meeting lodge for the Woodmen of the World (no longer extant).

Early residents of Wimberley constructed their homes adjacent to the Blanco River and Cypress Creek for easy access to water, although some wealthier residents dug wells on their properties. At that time, the small hamlet was home to approximately 140 families. In 1885, native Virginian John Henry Saunders purchased 1,000 acres in Wimberley, which included a ca. 1870 residence (Resource 9A) and wood frame store building on the town square. In 1890 John Saunders demolished the wood frame store and constructed the first stone building (Resource 8A) on the north side of the square, setting the tone for later construction in the area. The building was used as a general mercantile store and housed the town’s post office until 1939. Saunders became a key figure in the turn of the century community, serving at various times as postmaster, teacher, Hays County Commissioner, school trustee, member of the Masonic Lodge, photographer, and creator of the town’s first water system, in addition to his ranching, farming, and mercantile endeavors.

33 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 6.
35 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 8; Mattie Lou Schumann, The History of Wimberly, Texas (Thesis) (San Marcos, Texas: Southwest Texas State Teachers College, 1953), 15
36 Dorothy Wimberley Kerbow, “Wimberley, Pleasant.”
39 Dorothy Wimberley Kerbow, “Wimberley, TX”
44 Kerbow, Belle of the Blanco, 7.
45 Frances Stovall, et al., Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges, A History of San Marcos and Hays County for the Texas Sesquicentennial (San Marcos, TX: Hays County Historical Commission, 1986), 548.
It was around this time that John R. Dobie, originally from Scotland, and his wife Martha, arrived in the Texas Hill Country. The couple purchased 144 acres along Cypress Creek from the Baxter family, acreage which included a pristine swimming hole, later dubbed Blue Hole.\footnote{Wimberley Land Company, “Wimberley.”} The Dobies also bought a ca. 1892 home just east of the main roadway through town from James A. Wren, and later added additions to the building (Resource 39, NR 1992).\footnote{“John R. Dobie House,” Hays County, Texas, (National Park Service, 1992) Reference # 92001024.} In 1893 a small area located between Cypress Creek and the Blanco River was platted, known as the square, although in actuality it was an irregularly shaped area off the main wagon trail just south of Cypress Creek. In 1921 Allen D’Spain moved to Wimberley and purchased the old Saunders store and residence, must be retained, kept in good condition, and insured.\footnote{Clint Pace, “Wimberley Among Most Beautiful Places,” \textit{Austin American Statesman}, January 18, 1948, 1.} When C. Allie Saunders sold the property to D’Spain, the deed stipulated that all improvements on the property, specifically the Saunders store and residence, must be retained, kept in good condition, and insured.\footnote{Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 11.} In 1922 Jim Dobie constructed several business buildings in the square, including Resource 7, many of which he subsequently leased to other entrepreneurs.\footnote{Stovall, et al., \textit{Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges}, 561.} In 1922 Jim Dobie

During the 1880s, the shingle mill closed due to the lack of local cypress which had been aggressively harvested. The strength and flow of Cypress Creek had diminished by the following decade and the flour mill consequently closed. In 1900, the mill complex was converted to steam power and the mill house was rebuilt. In 1907 the Saunders family sold their home (Resource 9A) and store (Resource 8A) to A.Y. Oldham.\footnote{Stovall, et al., \textit{Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges}, 563.} In the early twentieth century, Wimberley remained a small, rural community nestled into the Hill Country. Despite the hardships of living in the relatively isolated community which lacked electricity or easy access to regional markets, Wimberley residents remained steadfast in their commitment to maintaining and growing the town.

\textbf{Wimberley as Destination}

With the closest rail access nearly 15 miles away in San Marcos, early transportation in and out of Wimberley was arduous and few improvements were made to area roadways since the town’s inception. Travel between San Marcos and Wimberley could take an entire day on the treacherous road notorious for breaking wagon wheels.\footnote{Kerbow, \textit{Belle of the Blanco}, 5.} However, as local historian Dorothy Kerbow noted, “the invention of the automobile changed Wimberley forever.”\footnote{Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 12.} The proliferation of the automobile in the early twentieth century rendered the old wagon trail useless and new hard-surfaced roads were required to protect their tires. In 1921 Hays County initiated plans to complete a roadway to Wimberley from San Marcos, and within two years the new gravel roadway was complete. Its opening was celebrated when 100 cars traveled to Wimberley on State Highway 80 (SH 80).\footnote{Hays County Deed Records, Volume 91, Page 452, Callie M. Saunders to Sarah and Allen D’Spain, May 19, 1926.} The arrival of the first hard surface roadway to Wimberley paved the way for increased development in the small community. For the first time, Wimberley was easily accessible to the larger cities of San Marcos, San Antonio, Austin, and even Houston, and it began to advertise itself as an idyllic destination for recreation and tourism. The beauty and tranquility of the off-the-beaten-path community quickly traveled by word of mouth, and by the early 1920s many well-to-do residents of Texas’s larger cities began constructing summer homes or “camp houses” in the vicinity. These early vacation dwellings were rustic buildings with cedar walls, field stone, and wrapped-in screen porches. Local masons were hired to secure materials and construct the buildings.\footnote{Stovall, et al., \textit{Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges}, 564.}

\textit{The 1920s}

In 1921 Allen D’Spain moved to Wimberley and purchased the old Saunders store and residence. When Callie Saunders sold the property to D’Spain, the deed stipulated that all improvements on the property, specifically the Saunders store and residence, must be retained, kept in good condition, and insured.\footnote{Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 12.} D’Spain constructed several business buildings in the square, including Resource 7, many of which he subsequently leased to other entrepreneurs.\footnote{Hays County Deed Records, Volume 91, Page 452, Callie M. Saunders to Sarah and Allen D’Spain, May 19, 1926.} In 1922 Jim Dobie

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
    \bibitem{Bib1} Wimberley Land Company, “Wimberley.”
    \bibitem{Bib3} Clint Pace, “Wimberley Among Most Beautiful Places,” \textit{Austin American Statesman}, January 18, 1948, 1.
    \bibitem{Bib4} Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 11.
    \bibitem{Bib5} Stovall, et al., \textit{Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges}, 563.
    \bibitem{Bib6} Kerbow, \textit{Belle of the Blanco}, 5.
    \bibitem{Bib7} Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 12.
    \bibitem{Bib8} Hays County Deed Records, Volume 91, Page 452, Callie M. Saunders to Sarah and Allen D’Spain, May 19, 1926.
    \bibitem{Bib9} Stovall, et al., \textit{Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges}, 564.
\end{thebibliography}
bought his father’s property along Cypress Creek, northeast of the present-day square on Blue Hole Road. In the late 1920s, a group of “Wimberley weekenders” convinced Jim Dobie to construct a vehicular road out to the swimming hole (Blue Hole) on his property, and soon after the road was completed Jim charged 25 cents for admittance, and in the summer of 1928 his venture brought in $25 in profit.\(^{58}\)

As the economy of the town evolved, and cash crops and ranching replaced subsistence farming, the need for a mill declined. In 1924 or 1925 Wimberley’s mill shuttered and was eventually dismantled in 1934.\(^{59}\) A fire in the square in 1924 destroyed several of the early buildings, including the filling station located adjacent to Saunders’s store at the present-day location of Resource 8A.\(^{60}\) Although the Saunders’s store was damaged during the fire, a majority of the west side of the building’s exterior remained intact. Following the fire, a new commercial building was constructed adjacent to the Saunders’ store with random rubble stone facing designed to blend in seamlessly with the adjacent structure.

Throughout the early decades of settlement, Wimberley was home to numerous religious denominations and early services were held in the schoolhouse or outdoors along the creek or riverbanks. Occasionally, revivals, or camp meetings, were organized and settlers from the surrounding countryside traveled in covered wagons for a weekend of nondenominational services and community gatherings.\(^{61}\) In 1925, after Hays City lost its bid for county seat, a former Baptist church was dismantled and loaded into the back of Walter Harris’s truck and brought to Wimberley. T.J. Saunders donated land for the purpose of a Christian Church, and the building was reconstructed on its present site (Resource 39). However, since the community lacked a structure for other denominations the building was also used for Baptist, Methodist, and Mormon services.\(^{62}\)

In the 1920s, the Wimberley Downtown Square consisted of “Gordon Gilbert’s blacksmith shop, a small store where corn could be ground, another store that milled flour, [and] Cleave Mannis’ blacksmith shop.” Dr. Curry had opened a medical office on the square (possibly run out of the Dobie House – Resource 37) and Allen D’Spain operated his general merchandise store out of the Saunders building and resided in the Saunders homestead. Other businesses went on in town, but many were operated out of people’s homes, including furniture makers, tanners, saddle makers, and other trades.\(^{63}\)

Recreational development continued throughout the 1920s as residents from neighboring towns and cities arrived in Wimberley and set up tents along the river, sometimes for weeks on end. Recognizing the potential of the area’s natural beauty, in the late 1920s Leslie Harrison established Camp Wimberley (later Rio Bonito) roughly 0.3 mile southeast of the square along the Blanco River (outside the historic district). Several small, rustic stone cabins were erected along the river, although Harrison died before completing all his plans for the small resort. His widow subsequently sold the property, and it continues operating as a resort through the present-day.\(^{64}\)

The 1930s

As a remote village, Wimberley managed better than most places during the Great Depression, and many residents either continued or returned to their subsistence practices to get by. Unfortunately, gas rationing and the overall economic decline did see the tourism industry slow during this time, although it did not completely halt.\(^{65}\) By the early 1930s, Wimberley had already attracted a number of vacationers seeking to escape during the hot summer months, who built

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\(^{58}\) Wimberley Land Company, “Wimberley.”

\(^{59}\) “Wimberley Mills,” Official Texas Historical Marker.

\(^{60}\) Schumann, The History of Wimberly, Texas (Thesis), 35.

\(^{61}\) Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 139.

\(^{62}\) Kerbow, Belle of the Blanco, 3; Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 141.

\(^{63}\) Stovall, et al., Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges, 564.

\(^{64}\) Schumann, The History of Wimberly, Texas (Thesis), 45.

\(^{65}\) Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 12.
small summer lodges in the area. During that time, a summer camp for boy scouts and other organizations, known as Rio Blanco and later Camp Idlewhile, was also established in Wimberley.\textsuperscript{66} Wimberley advertised their local rodeo with wild cow milking, bronc riding, and calf roping. An ad for the rodeo noted that Wimberley was home to several gas and grocery stores, a barber shop, Dobie’s Big Blue pool, and Camp Wimberley with rental cottages.\textsuperscript{67} In 1936 there were reportedly three grocery stores, three filling stations, two barber shops, a post office, a café, and one hardware store.\textsuperscript{68}

In 1933 the Burdett family moved to Wimberley from San Marcos to start a family business. The family ran a small Texaco station (possibly adjacent to Saunders’ store) and soon after purchased much of the west side of the square. They demolished the old courthouse and masonic lodge building, along with Sid Pyland’s blacksmith shop, and constructed their Burdett’s Cash Grocery and Ranch House Café (roughly at the location of present-day Resource 13). The giraffe rock building was at first a one-story masonry structure, but a second story was later added for a family residence.\textsuperscript{69}

Throughout much of the 1930s, Wimberley was without electricity, and as a result, lacked indoor plumbing which required electric pumps.\textsuperscript{70} However, in 1936 President Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration, which urged private power companies to bring electricity to rural areas throughout the U.S. at an affordable rate. Congressman Lyndon Baines Johnson, keenly aware of the challenges in bringing electricity to the Texas Hill Country, assisted Wimberley residents in convincing local power companies to complete lines through the area.\textsuperscript{71} In 1938 the Texas Power and Light Company finally brought electricity to Wimberley.\textsuperscript{72} At that time, the community remained a rural village, with a handful of stores and less than 200 permanent residents.\textsuperscript{73}

The town continued its shift towards tourism to sustain its local economy, and more camps and cabins were constructed in the area to entice visitors. In 1938 Clarence and Pansy Burdett opened a girl’s camp along Cypress Creek. They constructed a recreation hall, dining hall, and a handful of cottages along the creek where they opened Camp Waloa north of the square.\textsuperscript{74} Newcomer Adelia Scudder arrived in Wimberley in the 1930s and later donated 10 acres of land along present-day RR 12 for the construction of a school, which was eventually completed in 1942.\textsuperscript{76} Scudder taught and served as the school principal, in addition to acting as an editor for the Wimberley Mill newspaper and the San Marcos Record.\textsuperscript{77}

In 1939 another fire hit the Wimberley Square, destroying or damaging some of the buildings, including the Saunders Store (Resource 8A). While much of the eastern portion of the building was fully destroyed, the Saunders building’s exterior fortunately remained intact, and the interior was reconstructed. In 1940 the Burdett’s sold their store to Adelia and Carl Scudder and moved to Blanco.\textsuperscript{78}

\textsuperscript{66} “225 Scouts Attend Rally Despite the Rain,” The Austin American Statesman, August 4, 1933, 12.
\textsuperscript{67} “Wimberley Rodeo,” The Austin American Statesman, June 23, 1933, 11.
\textsuperscript{68} “Wimberley Noted as Ranch Center, Retreat,” San Marcos Daily Record, September 25, 1936. Available at the San Marcos Public Library – Wimberly Vertical File.
\textsuperscript{69} Stovall, et al., Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges, 567.
\textsuperscript{70} Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 13.
\textsuperscript{71} Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 13.
\textsuperscript{72} Kerbow, Belle of the Blanco, 16.
\textsuperscript{73} Kerbow, Belle of the Blanco, 167. Based on other sources, this population count may be underrepresenting that population of the surrounding community.
\textsuperscript{74} Kerbow, Belle of the Blanco, 195-196.
\textsuperscript{75} Cox, Patrick, “Hard Times and Good Times Have Visited,” Wimberley Mill October 27, 1977, available at the San Marcos Public Library.
\textsuperscript{77} Jean Akridge Shand, Who, What, When and Where in Wimberley, Chautauqua Press, undated. Available at the San Marcos Public Library.
\textsuperscript{78} Kerbow, Belle of the Blanco, 196.
During the 1920s and 1930s, the community of Wimberley adeptly navigated the era’s economic hardships, relying on the abundance of the land for subsistence, constructions materials, and even capitalizing on its naturally beauty to bring a new industry to town, tourism. Forwardthinking residents urged their reticent neighbors to enroll in electric service and lobbied state officials for improved transportation networks. While many Hill Country towns, like nearby Driftwood, struggled to maintain their communities and economies during this era, the resourceful and enterprising nature of Wimberley residents was soon to pay dividends in subsequent decades.

The 1940s

By 1940, Wimberley was the juncture of several unimproved Hill Country roads and numerous gas stations were constructed to service visitors and passers-through (Resources 23, 27A, 31). Early gas stations in Wimberley were constructed in the house with canopy form and were clad in local rock which was a signature building style of the small town. The Texaco station (Resource 23) passed through many local hands after it was sold by the Burdett family, and it later housed Rena Dobie’s small café, Western Auto Store and Groceries, J.L. Higgins General Store, and is currently (2023) the Cedar Chest.

In the 1940s, the economy of Wimberley continued to evolve. Although the tourism industry had expanded, the area remained rural. The lumber industry had cleared the once abundant cedar timber from the landscape, and thus the wide expanses of land became useful for ranching. Angora goats were a commonly bred livestock, and most area residents continued subsistence farming.

In 1942 SH 80 was upgraded, paved, and designated Ranch Road (RR) 12 between San Marcos and Dripping Springs via Wimberley. Although efforts were made to make the road as smooth as possible, the rolling hills and meandering creeks required a winding roadway, and for those seeking to explore and enjoy the sweeping Hill Country views, a drive to Wimberley provided an adventure both at the destination, and on the journey. The paving of RR 12 was the catalyst for yet another boom period in the town.

The arrival of electricity and the upgrade of transportation networks resulted in significant changes in Wimberley, and increased settlement. According to local historian Linda Allen, “the new wave of settlers were, by and large, a distinguished lot. They brought with them a love for the country-side, a feeling of responsibility towards the town and its people, and a farsightedness—an eye towards the future.” Some of the folks who arrived in Wimberley in the 1940s included Parks and Louise Johnson, artist Buck Winn, and Raymond Czichos.

According to long-time Wimberley resident and journalist Linda Williams Allen, in those days:

The square was the gathering place on Saturdays, with the men sitting on benches in front of the Ranch House Café, talking and whittling; the women, leaning out of the windows of their cars, passing the time with each other. During the week, the older men who lived close enough to town took up residence on the benches outside the café and watched the world go by. Or they parked themselves at the “Moon table” beneath the oak tree outside the Texaco Station and shuffled dominoes.

81 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 20.
83 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 18.
84 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 18-19.
85 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 21.
In 1943 John Allen Boyle, an architect, and his family moved to Wimberley from Dallas. Boyle purchased the old Ranch House from the Scudder family, where he planned to build a furniture factory to provide jobs to the local community. Boyle renovated the Ranch House Café and in 1943 the business started its own “in-house” magazine, *The Wimberley Rancher*, which published the events and goings-on in town. The Ranch House Café (no longer extant) was renovated using the distinct techniques and aesthetics that characterized the Wimberley community.

The Ranch House Café epitomized Wimberley style. It had tables with rock bases and cedar slab tops. Cypress stumps were used for stools and cedar slabs, for benches… The Restaurant promoted a theme of commercial quaintness, a quaintness that was real enough in the 1940s, but a quaintness that somehow managed to linger on the surface long after the little gown gained some sophistication.”

During that time, Stuart and Sarah Penn Harris also arrived in town from Austin and purchased the Camp Waloa property across the creek and opposite the square from the former Burdett’s Store, where they subsequently operated a girl’s summer camp.

The onset of World War II (WWII) saw many young men in Wimberley enlist, while others went off to work in the newly opened Gary Air Base in San Marcos. More land was cleared for crop cultivation to boost the war effort, and the town hosted war bond drives, auctions, and fundraising dances. Issues of *The Wimberley Rancher* were mailed to the young men who were away from town on military duty, keeping them connected to their tight-knit community with articles on war bonds, the local rodeo, ranching and farming struggles, and transportation improvements.

Despite the abundance of newcomers to town in the 1940s, the community still retained its close-knit, small-town feel. Ranching was still common for Wimberley residents, and angora goats were driven between Wimberley and Dripping Springs through the square. Subsistence farming also persisted, as “the people were decidedly independent. Scratching a living out of the hard rocks and thin soil of the Hill County was not easy, and the ability to try to hang on, to keep your family fed, was highly prized.” In 1944 *The Wimberley Rancher* reported roughly 400 families in the area, although the Texas Almanac only reported 175 residents. In 1945 Hugh and Helen Saunders Dobbins purchased the old Saunders store (Resource 8A), which had been operated as a grocery store by Charlie and Ollie Oldham, and renamed it the Dobbins’ Trading Post. The Boyle family abruptly left Wimberley, and the *Wimberley Rancher* subsequently ceased publication. When the war ended in 1945, residents of Wimberley celebrated via an impromptu parade through the square.

Paving RR 12 and the arrival of electricity in the late 1930s and early 1940s allowed Wimberley to expand their recreational attractions in the mid-twentieth century. Additionally, the onset of WWII saw many families seeking vacations closer to home, and the Hill Country was an ideal destination for those in surrounding cities. As newcomers arrived in Wimberley, the make-up of the town began to slowly shift. The artists arriving in town created an informal arts community, while developers began establishing large resorts in the area. The end of WWII marked the beginning of a transformative period in Wimberley over the subsequent decades, although the community remained steadfast in preserving the unique character of the square as well as the spirit of the small-town atmosphere.

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Post-war Era Boom

The post-WWII era was a period of immense growth and change in the formerly small community of Wimberley. The tourism industry, which for a long time had been a passive industry, was on the precipice of becoming the prime driver of the region’s economy. In 1945, the national publication *Pageant Magazine* interviewed Parks Johnson, a former radio show host of Vox Pox, a popular program at that time. They asked him to list his 12 most beautiful places in the country and Johnson, who had recently relocated to Wimberley, included the town on the list and it quickly gained national recognition.92

No longer a hidden gem, Wimberley’s reputation as an oasis of beauty had spread far and wide. Real estate developers purchased vast acreage in the area to subdivide for summer homes and vacation rentals. As Linda Allen noted, “Wimberley was too pretty and too convenient to stay a secret forever.”93 These changes were met with both excitement at the idea of economic prosperity and increased job potential, and fear that the small, tight-knit community was about to be rapidly altered.94

In 1945 one of the area’s first developers, Aulgerina Lange, purchased 133 acres from John Dobie along present-day River Road and Green Acres Road to construct a home. As friends expressed their interest in moving to the community, Lange subdivided her property and sold off lots. She opened a real estate office on the square (Resource 17A) and purchased much of the south side of the square. Seeing her success, other real estate developers, including Ja Wahrnund, followed suit, buying and selling off acreage along present-day Flite Acres Road and River Road.95

In 1946 Ramond Czichos purchased seven acres of land along the then-unpaved River Road (outside the historic district), where he built his 7A Ranch. When 7A Ranch opened in 1947 it originally consisted of five guest cottages and a recreation building.96 That same year, Ed James of Houston bought the Ranch House Café from Allen Boyle, along with his large ranch north of the square (outside the historic district). He converted the ranch to a tourist resort, which he named Eagle Rock Ranch (later Woodcreek Resort) and eventually put several of the property’s rental cabins up for sale.97

As residential lots were being subdivided and sold throughout Wimberley in the 1940s, the community also expanded their commercial and recreational offerings. While rodeos had been held in Wimberley for decades, in 1945 or 1946 (sources vary) the inaugural VFW Community Stock Show and Rodeo was held in town and was attended by nearly 10,000 people.98 The rodeo became a popular community event that attracted participants and spectators from the surrounding region.99 Around the same time, the Avey brothers founded an outdoor, walk-in movie theater on Kyle Road just outside the square. In 1947 Bryan Forister, Sr. began construction on his Forister’s Café and Drug Store building at the site of a former horse lot in the Wimberley Downtown Square (Resource 18). Forister hired local masons J.C. Lane and J.D. Ragland to construct the building using a variety of rock and stone types, creating a mottled “giraffe” style masonry that echoed the nearby J.C. Lane homes.100

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99 Schumann, *The History of Wimberly, Texas (Thesis)*, 34.
By 1948, Wimberley had grown to approximately 650 permanent residents, including 111 students enrolled at the local school. The town had earned a state-wide reputation as a pastoral town whose offerings lay in its natural surroundings. Devoid of nightclubs, pubs, movie theaters (other than the outdoor theater), and liquor stores, its appeal lay in its setting and old-world charm.101 That year, during the high season, Wimberley’s tourism industry brought in a minimum of $750,000 to the local economy.102 An article on the front page of the Austin American Statesman titled “Wimberley Among Most Beautiful Places” noted that the roughly a dozen stores lined the parking area known as the square.103 That year that residents of Wimberley formed a Booster Club, with a focus on promoting the town’s future in the areas of retirement, tourism, and creating an artist’s community. As an unincorporated village with no local government, the Booster Club acted as an informal Chamber of Commerce, which it eventually evolved into.104

In 1948 Chester Franklin, County Commissioner, had the square paved to accommodate increased tourism. Local resident and real estate developer Ja Wahrmund lobbied the county to pave River Road adjacent to his property, and additional roads leading north out of town were also paved.105 Wahrmund subdivided large acreages along Cypress Creek and the Blanco River, creating the Wagon Wheel (1950s), Green Acres (1971), and Deer Run (1973) residential developments. The number of resorts and camps continued to grow, and by the late 1940s and 1950s destinations in town included Camp Wimberley, Rio Bonito Resort, Camp Merriam, Camp Savoy, and Little Arkansas. In the 1950s Carol Knolk established the Rocky River Ranch, a girl’s summer camp.106 Most the facilities consisted of rustic lodging with wood or stone structures, or campgrounds with minimal amenities. A majority of visitors and investors came to the region from Houston.107

The 1950s

In the 1950s the town secured funds to renovate their school building, however, in 1951 the building caught fire and burned down. Having already experienced numerous fires, the loss of the new school prompted the community to establish a volunteer fire department and rally together to rebuild the school. Two new churches were also constructed in Wimberley in the 1950s, making a total of four churches in the community (including Resource 23). The 1950s also saw several severe floods, followed by a five-year drought, and many ranchers in the area were forced to sell their herds, although angora goats and sheep continued to be raised.108 While electricity had come to town decades earlier, phone service was still unreliable, and locals, including Aulgerina Lange, went door to door recruiting residents to subscribe to phone service so the phone company would install a dial system in the area.109

In 1953 Wimberley boasted two grocery stores, Oldham’s Trading Post (Resource 8A), the Ranch House (now demolished), and Forister’s Drug Store and Café (Resource No 18). There were also four filling stations, three churches, a new school with cafeteria, lumber yard, open air theater, feed store, telephone office, three real estate offices, gift shop, and town hall.110 That year, historic aerial photographs show several roadways entering Wimberley, RR 12 and FM 2325 entering from the northwest and Old Kyle Road entering from the northeast. River Road followed the Blanco River out of

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102 Pace, “Wimberley Among Most Beautiful Places.”
103 Pace, “Wimberley Among Most Beautiful Places.”
104 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 36-37.
105 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 87.
108 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 40-41.
109 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 44.
town to the southwest, while RR 12 and Flite Acres Road left town towards San Marcos to the southeast.\textsuperscript{111} Despite the growth of transportation networks in the region, in Wimberley, all roads converged at the downtown square, making it an ideal location to fill up on gas, grab a bite, go shopping, or just stretch your legs.

In addition to the commercial, residential, and transportation growth of Wimberley in the post-war era, the Wimberley Booster Club was successful in attracting artists and creatives who subsequently established an arts community in town. Aulgerina Lange, who in addition to being a realtor was also an artist, founded an art club that met in her real estate office on the square. As the arts community expanded, in the late 1950s Lange connected two buildings on her lot by creating a rock façade to form the art gallery and studio, which saw 300 visitors its opening weekend (Resource 17A).\textsuperscript{112} Other artists who moved to Wimberley at that time included Fançois Rubitschong, Malcom “Mickey” Thurgood, and Nearle Follet.

The Booster Club was also successful in attracting retirees, who were enticed by the area’s natural beauty, slow pace of life, and affordability. The real estate and construction industry boomed in the 1950s, although it was still the early days of the vast development that would follow in the coming decades.\textsuperscript{113} As Allen aptly noted, “The post-war years brought a different kind of enthusiasm – the energy of recovery, of rebuilding. It established strongly the trends that make Wimberley what it is today.”\textsuperscript{114}

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, both longtime residents and newcomers to Wimberley showed a profound commitment to the town’s economic survival and success, although the definition of success often varied. The Booster Club (now Chamber of Commerce) achieved their mission to attract artists, retirees, and tourists to their community and numerous new residential subdivisions, businesses, and resorts opened in the Wimberly area in the post-war era. As the town flourished, residents maintained the characteristics of the community’s heart at the downtown square through the use of similar materials, massing, proportion, and setbacks.

\textit{The 1960s}

The town of Wimberley continued its extensive growth in the 1960s and 1970s. By the 1960s, the population of permanent residents in Wimberley had grown to an estimated 700.\textsuperscript{115} Despite ongoing change, the community remained close-knit, with a spirit of volunteerism, and numerous organizations were formed to bring citizens together, including the Wimberley Woman’s Club, the Wimberley Lion’s Club, and the Hill Country Recreation Association. The Recreation Association was founded by Sonny and Laurel Gold to promote youth activities and sports and successfully established the county’s first lighted ball field on the school grounds. Local sports teams would meet up at the Dinner Bell (formerly Forister’s Café – Resource 18) on the square following games for a burger.\textsuperscript{116}

During the 1960s, Jim Garner purchased the Wimberley Gallery (Resource 17A) from Aulgerina Lange and supported Wimberley’s amateur artists by hosting them in his gallery. The gallery was also a popular gathering place, where people stopped to chat, take art lessons, or even pay their phone bill. In the late 1960s, the Garner’s once again sold the gallery.\textsuperscript{117} In 1964 a group of local volunteers initiated the Wimberley Market Days, which originally consisted of vendors selling items such as pigs, rugs, and homemade food out of their pick-up trucks in the center of the square. At first, Market Days...

\textsuperscript{112} Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 46.
\textsuperscript{113} Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 47.
\textsuperscript{114} Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 37.
\textsuperscript{115} Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 49.
\textsuperscript{116} Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 60.
\textsuperscript{117} Allen, \textit{Wimberley a Way of Life}, 51.
was a small community event, where locals could gather and exchange home-made goods. Eventually, however, as the tourism industry expanded and the Wimberley Lion’s Club assumed leadership of Market Days in 1970, the growth of the event necessitated that it be relocated to the undeveloped west side of the square. In the late twentieth century, Wimberley Market Days expanded and eventually booths were constructed to house the numerous vendors, located north of the square off RM 3235 (outside the historic district boundary).^118

In 1965 yet another fire caused damage in the Wimberley Square, destroying the building that housed the Gay Harris wool, mohair, and feed storage and hardware store and Artie Montague’s gift shop (the former Ranch House building at the location of present-day Resource 13).^120 Following the fire, residents concerned about the rapid changes in the community, led by Ja Wahrmund, formed the Wimberley Restoration Association (WRA) to guide future development in the square. In 1966 the Chamber of Commerce (formerly the Booster Club) started the *Wimberley Mill* newspaper, which was financed nearly entirely by Wahrmund.

As the town’s role as a tourist destination continued to evolve, changes were required in traffic flow to ease the circulation and improve safety. In 1968 medians were added to the square which was initially met with some resistance from longtime residents.^123 The tourism industry itself had begun to shift too, as resorts became the preferred destination rather than rustic cabins or camp sites. Eagle Rock Ranch and 7-A Ranch and Pioneer Town both expanded their properties and added new amenities.

**The 1970s**

By 1970, the downtown square consisted of commercial properties with restaurants, antique stores, real estate offices, a post office, grocery stores, gift shops, and other retail.^124 As the square quickly became overcrowded, new businesses and shopping malls were constructed north of the square and large-scale events like Wimberley Fun Fest and Wimberley Market Days were relocated to accommodate increasing crowds. By 1973 the community had grown to approximately 3,000 residents living in the Wimberley area. Increased business kept young people in town and additional schools were constructed to meet the needs of the expanding student body.^125 That year, Forister’s Café closed, and the Dinner Bell, which had previously been housed at the north side of the square (Resource 6), relocated into the old Forister’s building (Resource 18), where it served as the hub of community life.^126 Sometime in the 1970s, the Dobie family sold the Blue Hole (outside the historic district) to a private Austin-based developer.^127

In 1976, following the sudden death of Ja Wahrmund who self-financed the *Wimberley Mill*, the newspaper ceased operation, leaving the *Wimberley View* as the only local news publication in town. That year, the first petition to incorporate was put to a vote, resulting in numerous debates about the proposed boundary of the town and ultimately, the petition was never finalized.^128

During 1970s and 1980s the town attracted log home builders, which became a booming industry, along with wineries and racehorse raising.^129 In the Wimberley square, small retail businesses came and went in the various commercial buildings.

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^124 Allen, *Wimberley a Way of Life*, 64.
^128 Allen, *Wimberley a Way of Life*, 82.
The 1960s and 1970s saw a continuation of the development train put into motion in Wimberley in the 1920s and 1930s, although it picked up significant speed. By the mid-1970s, Wimberley was recognized state-wide and nationally as an ideal tourist and recreation destination, which was reflected in the numerous rental cottages, businesses, shops, and events in and around the downtown square.

Modern Wimberley

The 1980s and 1990s

In the 1980s and 1990s Wimberley’s population was estimated at around 8,000 residents.130 In the 1980s, as the community continued to expand, land prices rose, access to water became an increasing concern, and locals debated between unfettered economic growth and the protecting the town’s unique character. In 1984 the issue of incorporation resurfaced, and when put to a vote, citizens of Wimberley overwhelmingly voted against incorporation, wanting to retain the town’s independence and freedom from government overreach. Around the same time citizens began expressing concerns about the changing “look” of Wimberley, exemplified by new lighted signs downtown that remained on late at night.131 Furthermore, commercial and retail development expanded beyond the downtown square, and by the late 1980s there were eight new shopping centers within two miles of the square.132 In the 1980s Clyde Callaway sold his grocery store (Resource 13) and it changed hands several times, before being purchased by Woolsey’s who made it an ice cream parlor, deli, and shopping center. The building later became home to the Wimberley Café. The loss of Callaway’s put an end to grocery shopping on the square, as numerous new large-scale grocery stores were opened elsewhere in town.133

In 1987 and 1995, the issue of incorporation was again raised, and again struck down. Tourism continued to sustain the community, and in 1988 Wimberley Market Days could see between 7,000 to 8,000 visitors in one day.134 Despite the growth of the town, in the 1990s, Wimberley remained an ideal Hill Country destination and hosted a number of annual events, including the Cypress Creek Café Jazz Weekend, the Village Square sidewalk sale, Cypress Creek Crawfish Boil, Wimberley Institute of Culture’s Sunday Social and Pie Contest, Cypress Creek Crawfish Boil, Wimberley Institute of Culture’s Sunday Social and Pie Contest, Art in Progress festival, “Hillaceous” Bicycle Race, in addition to Wimberley Market Days and the annual rodeo.135

Wimberley in the 21st Century

After several attempts in the latter part of the twentieth century, in 2000 Wimberley officially incorporated.136 Wimberley Market Days, with nearly 500 booths, is now one of the largest flea markets in Texas and draws in large crowds at its current location northwest of the Downtown Square.137 In 2017, yet another fire impacted the Wimberley Square when the

131 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 84.
132 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 88.
133 Allen, Wimberley a Way of Life, 31.
136 City of Wimberley, “Community,” accessed October 17, 2022, https://www.cityofwimberley.com/31/Community#:~:text=%22Wimberley%2C%22%20or%20the%20Wimberley,mail%20addressed%20to%20Wimberley%2C%20Texas.
137 Texas Artisan, “Wimberley Market Days.”
Forister’s building/Cypress Creek Café (Resource 18) burned. The original ca. 1945 giraffe stone façade that faces the square remains, although the remainder of the building was demolished.

Tourism and recreation are the primary economic forces in the small but growing community. The Wimberley Downtown Square continues to serve as the convergence of numerous Hill Country roads, which draws in visitors and contributes to the overall economy of the community. As of 2022, the community currently has an estimated 13,000 residents in the town and surrounding area.\footnote{City of Wimberley, “Community.”}

Few towns in the Texas Hill Country have experienced the same level of economic prosperity combined with managed growth as Wimberley, and fewer still (if any) have done it without access to a railroad. Furthermore, it appears that none, other than perhaps Fredericksburg in Gillespie County, Johnson City in Blanco County, and Kerrville in Guadalupe County, have leveraged their recreation and tourism potential as successfully. Many once-small Hill Country towns, due to their proximity to major city centers and the interstate, like New Braunfels in Comal County and Buda in Hays County, have succumbed to growth pressure and developed into bustling satellite cities or bedroom communities. However, despite the development interest in their community, the square is still occupied by local businesses and there are no franchises located in the Downtown Square. Building heights are no more than two stories, and although new buildings were added to the square throughout the post-war era, the community ensured that they maintained the overarching feeling associated with the town’s humble beginnings.

**Criterion C: Architecture**

**Wimberley Vernacular Architecture**

Wimberley residents have a long and storied tradition of subsisting off the land. This extended to the building and construction techniques of the town, born of necessity and determination. Although changes in technique and usage have occurred over the extended period of development in the Downtown Square, builders have long maintained the use of native materials, cypress, cedar, and limestone, in local building construction. The architecture of the Wimberley Downtown Square thus includes a unique collection of buildings and structures built over a period spanning more than 100 years that represent both the evolution and continuity of local vernacular building traditions in the small, Hill Country village.

**Settlement Era Architecture**

In the mid to late nineteenth century, the community of Glendale (later Wimberley) was a small settlement with a handful of families. Lack of reliable transportation or rail access meant that early settlers had to construct their homes and businesses with locally available materials. In the early years of settlement, buildings were crudely constructed using the abundant cedar timber that grew in the area, which was hewn at the mill. The ca. 1870 John Saunders home (Resource 9A) is the oldest extant wood building that remains in Wimberley Square. The Saunders family purchased the home in the late 1880s and resided there from 1888 to 1907. In the 1930s, the building underwent several renovations, including the addition of a Craftsman influenced full-width front porch addition supported by tapered wood columns on masonry piers, and a rear addition. Although the building has experienced some alterations, it still retains its National Folk architectural elements.

After purchasing their homestead property, John Saunders purchased an adjacent property from J.P. Laney, which at that time included a wood frame building. Saunders had the wood frame building demolished, using the remnant wood to
construct a bunkhouse for his son adjacent to their residence (possibly Resource 9B). Saunders enlisted local residents to help him build his mercantile store (Resource 8A). Rock for the building was quarried at the Shot Rock Hole on the Blanco River, led by Tony Rezzle with the assistance of Tom Reinhard. The pair hauled the stones via ox cart to the building site. Lime was burned on site in a large open-pit lime kiln, and Walter Estes, a tombstone carver, etched the cornerstones and built the arched entrance to the building. Nath Emory Hughes and Wyatt Brooks served as masons for the remaining structure, and Sam Tanner was tasked with mixing the mortar.

The John R. Dobie House (Resource 37) is another extant settlement era building within the historic district. Originally constructed in 1892 for Charles and Susannah Cock, it was purchased by John R. and Martha Dobie in 1899. The John R. Dobie House was constructed in the center passage plan, a later modification of the hall and parlor plan, and was originally set upon cedar piers, although some have since been upgraded to concrete as wood deteriorated. In the South, due to the relatively mild climate, large indoor spaces were not necessary, and thus early folk houses were compact, one-room deep residences, often with a front porch to provide shelter from the sun and rain. The house originally featured pine board and batten siding, cypress shingles, pine framed windows, doors, window screens, and shutters. Due to deterioration many of these original features were replaced over time with in-kind materials and the building was fully restored in 1990. A porch was added ca. 1900 with unadorned frieze, chamfered wood posts, and wood balustrade. The Dobie House was listed on the NRHP in 1992 and is Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL).

Early Twentieth Century Architecture

As the town experienced moderate growth in the early decades of the twentieth century, new buildings were constructed, and old buildings were demolished. A series of fires in the square throughout these early decades resulted in the demolition of structures, and residents re-used undamaged materials to construct new buildings. The arrival of the first hard-surfaced roadway to the community, later designated RR 12, in the 1920s, opened the area up to increased settlement and tourism. Furthermore, it allowed a more efficient means of moving goods into town, including building materials, and buildings constructed during this time were larger in size. A number of bungalows and Craftsman-inspired dwellings, gas stations, and commercial buildings were built, including Resources 7, 10A, 10B, and 23. Despite broader access to building materials, masonry remained a consistent favorite among Wimberley residents. Bungalows and Craftsman residences and commercial buildings constructed in Wimberley were simple structures that exhibited only modest design elements, evident in the broad overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, and Craftsman-inspired front porches or canopies supported by tapered columns. These buildings were reflective of the unpretentious, rural nature of the town, and their significance lies in their simplicity and the craftsmanship evident in the hand-stacked masonry.

Unlike many other areas in Texas and the U.S., the economic downturn did not severely cripple the town of Wimberley. This was due to residents’ resourcefulness and ability to subsist off the land. Although construction of new buildings in the square slowed, it did not halt completely. Rather, residents and local builders took it upon themselves to source building materials and construct buildings by hand. Many of the early twentieth century buildings within the Wimberley Downtown Square exhibit elements of Rustic architecture, characterized by the use of rough, organic, local materials, particularly rock. While some sources list specific builders who established themselves in the community during the 1930s and 1940s, sources indicate that many residents assisted their friends and neighbors in the construction of new buildings.

139 Stovall, et al., Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges, 547.
142 “John R. Dobie House,” 7-1.
Local Builders and Masons

James C. Lane was a Wimberley resident and barber by trade, although he eventually earned a reputation as a self-taught builder. Originally born in Lockhart, he moved to Wimberley in 1926 with his wife Rebecca. In 1935 Lane completed his first residence, a Craftsman style giraffe rock residence (Resource 15A) with arched openings at the front porch. The property is surrounded by a unique masonry wall and an adjacent garage (Resource 15B) which were constructed in 1939. The James C. Lane house and garage were listed in the NRHP in 2010. Colloquially known as the Gingerbread House, the Lane house inspired a trend in local architecture that is evident in many other buildings in town. Lane and his wife collected a variety of stone and petrified wood from throughout Texas, which was used to create the distinct “giraffe rock” look of his buildings. Although “giraffe rock” was utilized throughout Texas and the South, Lane’s construction technique was unique in that his masonry exteriors were structural. Rather than adhering a masonry veneer to the structure, Lane mixed the rocks directly with concrete to form a solid wall. Lane constructed the building by hand using timber frames with poured concrete slabs and local rocks he had sourced from the adjacent Hill Country. The rocks were then hand-shaped and acted as structural units on the building. Over subsequent decades, Lane built several other “giraffe rock” buildings throughout town, including a two-story residence (Resource 16A) and the former Cypress Creek Café (Resource 18), among others.  

In the 1930s, the Burdett family set out to open Burdett’s Cash Grocery and Ranch House. They purchased the old Texaco station and store (possibly Resource 8A) and opened a grocery store and filling station there. Shortly after, the family purchased the west side of the square, demolished the houses and blacksmith shop, constructed their new one-story, and later two-story, building complex. Builders were noted as John E. Harris, Babe Roberts, Nolan Webb, Dave Crumley and J.C. Lane. Christine designed the building with varying-colored stones that she had collected from throughout Texas and hauled back to Wimberley. Houston Ellis and J.C. Lane were tasked with laying the stones. Unfortunately, the Burdett Store later burned in a fire in the 1960s. Odess Farris was another home-grown Wimberley mason and builder. Odess grew up in Wimberley and worked odd jobs, including laying gravel on the roads. In the mid-1930s, he built a house for a friend with stone, and after enjoying the experience continued as a stone mason, gathering his own rock, which many ranchers in the area sold for pennies. Farris helped build Storm Ranch house (outside the district) with J.D. Ragland, and worked with J.C. Lane on the Foristers Drug Store (Resource 18). Farris went on to help build many camp houses along the river used for summer dwellers.

Mid-century Architecture

In the 1940s, as RR 12 was paved and additional roadways were completed through the area, Wimberley went through another boom period. New residences and commercial buildings were constructed throughout the Downtown Square and along adjacent roadways. Residential buildings completed during this time were primarily one-story bungalows, some with Craftsman style influences, although these were typically modest and expressed through overhanging eaves and tapered porch supports. Many of the buildings adhered to the local vernacular architectural tradition of using stone siding (Resource 11, 35, 36, 42, and 43), while others were simple, affordable, wood frame structures. Commercial and transportation-related properties also largely adhered to this tradition. J.C. Lane continued experimenting with masonry techniques, adapting his designs to prevailing architectural trends. In 1945 he constructed a side-gable residence (Resource 22) with the form and minimalism characteristic of Minimal Traditional residences but utilized ashlar limestone masonry punctuated with yellow brick window and door surrounds and quoins. Resource 22 is indicative of the evolution

144 Kerbow, Belle of the Blanco, 167.  
of Wimberley vernacular architecture in the mid-century, which incorporated the streamlined aesthetic prevalent of the time period with the local masonry tradition.

In the post-war era, with materials and gas rationing over, Americans resumed travel and recreation, creating an increased need for housing and businesses in Wimberley. Residents of the town remained committed to the local building traditions that originated with the town’s settlement. As young men returned from military duty, many went back to school under the GI Bill and studied masonry, carpentry, and cabinet making at the Veterans Vocational Schools located in Wimberley and San Marcos. They then went on to construct many of the new homes in the numerous subdivisions being developed in Wimberley during the 1940s and 1950s. Charles Oldham, former county commissioner, left his post to join the house building industry in Wimberley and assisted with the construction of buildings throughout Wimberly in the post-war era. Charlie Oldham was instrumental in helping Raymond Czichos construct buildings on his new 7A Ranch property and on Ed James’s Eagle Rock Resort. John E. Harris and J.D. Ragland were other noted local masons.

In 1947 J.C. Lane, along with Odess Farris, J.D. Ragland, and B.W. Forister, completed construction on a two-story commercial and residential building on the square, Forister’s Café and Drug Store (Resource 18). The building incorporated Lane’s unique giraffe rock technique and featured a first-floor arcade with arched openings and second floor balcony which looked out upon the square. The building quickly became a local landmark and was the site of numerous community gatherings. The building continued to serve the community as the Dinner Bell, and later Cypress Creek Café, until it experienced a fire that destroyed the rear of the building in 2017. Despite the loss of much of the structure, the primary façade facing the square is still intact and retains sufficient integrity as a structure to convey the building techniques characteristic of Wimberley vernacular architecture.

In the 1960s, following the fire in the square that destroyed the Gay Harris feed store (formerly Burdett store), concerned residents, led by Ja Wahrmund, formed the Wimberley Restoration Association (WRA). Sensing the rapid changes wrought by post-war growth in Wimberley, the purpose of the WRA was to guide future development in the square. Chartered in 1966, the WRA was a corporation that purchased property in Downtown Wimberley Square, including the former Harris property, to ensure that subsequent development was in keeping with the character of the town. The WRA built a restaurant at the north end of the square (Golden Spoon – Resource 6) and the Sac-N-Pac building, completed in 1967 (Resource 13). WRA buildings, which also likely included Resources 4 and 5, were constructed with native limestone veneers in one and two-story commercial blocks. They utilized cedar posts to support awnings in keeping with the rustic feeling of the older buildings on the square. The WRA eventually dissolved in 1971, feeling they had achieved their mission of preserving the look and feel of the downtown area and enticing new businesses.

As the Wimberley Square continued to grow in the 1960s and 1970s, many of the buildings constructed in and around the square reflected the broader trends of post-war commercial construction, which saw the proliferation of strip malls and long, rectangular, shopping centers with flat or shed roofs that housed one or more commercial enterprises. Some of these buildings were minimalist CMU structures (Resource 26), others featured applied masonry veneers with distinctive patterns (Resource 40A), and some utilized reclaimed building materials (Resources 1C and 1D). These buildings are consistent with Wimberley’s long-standing traditions of simplicity, affordability, masonry as adornment, and re-use of building materials. Furthermore, as the tourism and the arts community flourished, new buildings and facilities were constructed on and near the square to house them, including art studios (Resources 40B and 40C) and unique rental cottages (Resources 44A-44D). During the late twentieth century, some commercial infill that was not consistent with the scale, design, materials, or minimalism that characterizes the Wimberley vernacular was built within the proposed historic district, particularly along RR 12 southeast of Old Kyle Road (Resources 38 and 41), but overall, they do not substantially detract from the square’s setting.

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147 Allen, *Wimberley a Way of Life*, 31
Wimberley’s Architectural Legacy

Architectural traditions in Wimberley were historically rooted in a strong sense of community. Neighbors and friends worked together to construct residences and commercial buildings throughout town. Self-taught builders took advantage of what they had on hand, utilizing locally sourced masonry and wood, or re-claiming materials from older structures that had burned or been demolished. Over time, the building forms and techniques evolved along with prevailing architectural trends, advances in technology, or the modern requirements of buildings, but throughout the long period of development in the Wimberley Square, the community remained steadfast in preserving the overarching elements and characteristics of the quaint Hill Country town. The buildings and structures within the proposed Wimberley Downtown Square historic district are a unique collection of modest, one- and two-story residential and commercial buildings that represent the town’s humble, rural beginnings and can-do spirit, and they have functioned as the heart of the community for over a century.

Conclusion

The Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District is an intact district containing primarily commercial and domestic buildings and some religious and transportation-related resources that represent the growth and development of Wimberley from its early founding through the mid- to late-twentieth century. The district contains a collection of buildings and structures that retain sufficient integrity and reflect the unique character of Wimberley’s architecture, native building materials, and commercial development. The historic district is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level for Community Planning and Development as a collection of buildings that reflect the history of development in the small, Hill Country town largely isolated due to lack of railroad and reliable road access until the early twentieth century. Following road improvements, the community was able to capitalize on its bucolic setting and proximity to the larger cities of Austin, San Antonio, San Marcos, and even Houston, to become a popular vacation and tourism destination in the mid-twentieth century. The historic district is also eligible for listing under Criterion C at the local level for Architecture as a unique example of vernacular architecture expressed through the use of local building materials including cypress and cedar, limestone, petrified wood, and fossils and the technique of giraffe-style masonry employed by local builders. The buildings are simple and modest structures that reflect the humble, rural history of the community. The period of significance for the historic district begins in 1870, representing the earliest identified resource, and goes through 1973 (the current 50-year point) to encompass mid-century commercial, tourism, and transportation-related development.
Bibliography


National Register of Historic Places


Newspapers

--- “225 Scouts Attend Rally Despite the Rain.” The Austin American Statesman, August 4, 1933, 12.
--- “Hays County Happenings,” Austin Daily Texan, April 22, 1975, 36.
--- “Wimberley Noted as Ranch Center, Retreat.” San Marcos Daily Record, September 25, 1936.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Section 10. Geographical Data

Google Earth, accessed July 18, 2023

Section 10, Page 66
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Coordinates

1. 29.996151°, -98.097945°
2. 29.996994°, -98.096017°
3. 29.996560°, -98.095815°
4. 29.997053°, -98.093473°
5. 29.996026°, -98.092414°
6. 29.995199°, -98.094025°
7. 29.995663°, -98.095844°
8. 29.994820°, -98.096754°

Verbal Boundary Description

- Beginning at the northwest corner of the lot line of Parcel ID #R18513 proceed in a northeasterly direction along the grassy overlook fronting Cypress Creek to the southern approach of the RR12 over Cypress Creek bridge;
- Northeast along the property boundary for Parcel ID #s R18380, R18424, and R18447 just south of Cypress Creek; thence south along the eastern property boundary for R18447 to Old Kyle Road;
- Northeast along the southern right-of-way of Old Kyle Road for approximately 0.14 mile until the eastern boundary of Parcel ID #R18478;
- Head in a southerly direction along eastern boundary of Parcel ID #R18478 until the northern boundary of Parcel ID #R18445, thence in an easterly across Oldham Street;
- Thence south along the eastern right-of-way of Oldham Street for approximately 78 feet to the northeast corner of Parcel ID #R18568, thence in a southeasterly direction for approximately 123 feet; thence southwest approximately 253 feet to the northern right-of-way of RR12;
- Thence northwest along the northern right-of-way of RR 12 for approximately 383 feet to the eastern property boundary of Property ID #R18417, then continuing northwest for approximately 610 feet to the vacant parking lot behind Resource 18 on Property ID #R132436;
- Thence southwest for approximately 300 feet to the western right-of-way of Oak Drive; thence southeast along the western right-of-way of Oak Drive for approximately 67 feet;
- Continuing northwest for approximately 612 feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the early settlement era community near the historic site of the original mill and includes early settlement era residential and commercial buildings. As the community continued to expand in the twentieth century, commercial, residential, and transportation related businesses were concentrated around the square, along Cypress Creek, and eventually along area roadways. The boundary encompasses the highest concentration of contributing resources within and adjacent to the square, which was historically and is currently the commercial heart of the community. Although historic properties are located outside the boundary, modern infill is interspersed throughout, diminishing the historic integrity. Thus, the proposed historic district boundary encompasses the highest concentration of intact historic resources associated with the nineteenth and twentieth century development of Wimberley.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Scale Boundary Map (west)
Scale Boundary Map (east)
Map 2. Post Oak Spring 2022 Historic Resources Survey Map showing preliminary determination of contributing resources – Aerial Map (Google Earth 2022). Nominated area is a subset of the survey area.
Map 3. Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District – Aerial Map (Google Earth – November 2022)
Map 4. Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District – Hays County Appraisal District Map showing parcel boundaries and parcel IDs (Hays CAD – November 2022). Proposed historic district boundary in yellow.
Map 5. Approximate boundary of Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District on THC Historic Sites Atlas showing Winters-Wimberley House historic district to the north, NRHP-listed properties within the district, and Official Texas Historical Markers (THC – November 2022).
Figures
Figure 1: 1877 General Land Office Map of Hays County showing Wimberley, courtesy of the Portal to Texas History
Figure 2: Undated plat map of the Wimberly Downtown Square, Hays County Plat Records Vol. 188, Page 640. Likely ca. 1890s.
Figure 3: 1958 aerial of Wimberley Downtown Square showing RM 3237 was non-existent at that time. Courtesy of USGS Earth Explorer.
Figure 4: 1962 Aerial photograph of Wimberley Downtown Square, courtesy of USGS Earth Explorer.
Figure 5. Wimberley Mill undated photograph. No longer extant. Courtesy of San Marcos Public Library.

Figure 6. Wimberley Downtown Square ca. 1900. (Note Saunders store [Resource 8A] at far right). Courtesy of San Marcos Public Library.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Figure 7. John R. Dobie House and family (Resource 39), undated photo courtesy of San Marcos Public Library.

Figure 8. Ca. 1930 photo of Wimberley Downtown Square. Resource 8A at far left and Resource 9A at right. Courtesy of Wimberley Institute of Cultures.
Figure 9. View of Wimberley Downtown Square following the 1939 fire that burned much of the interior of Saunders Store (Resource 8A) and the adjacent structure. Courtesy of Wimberley Institute of Cultures.

Figure 10. James C. Lane House (Resource 15) undated. Courtesy of Portal to Texas History.
Figure 11. Wimberley Art and Graft Galleries (Resource 17A) undated. Courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History – Wimberley Vertical File.

Figure 12. Pleasant Wimberley, courtesy of San Marcos Public Library.
Photograph Log
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District
Wimberley, Hays County, Texas
Photographed by Post Oak staff (Ellis Mumford-Russell, Irene Allender, Rebecca Wallisch)
Date: June 13 and 14, 2022 and October 20, 2022

Photo 1: Streetscape along Ranch Road 12 at Wimberley Square showing Resource 8A (left), facing northeast.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Photo 2: Streetscape along Wimberley square showing Resources 2-6 at right and Resource 11 at left, facing southwest.

Photo 3: Streetscape along Wimberley square showing Resources 2-6, from left, facing west.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Photo 4. Streetscape at Henson Road and Wimberley square showing Resources 11 and 12, facing northwest.

Photo 5. Streetscape along RR12 showing Resource 26 (left) and 32 (right), facing northwest.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Photo 6. Streetscape along RR 12 showing Resources 38 and 39, facing southeast.

Photo 7. Streetscape along alley showing Resources 1C-1E, facing east.
Photo 8. Resources 4, 5, and 6 from left to right, facing northwest.

Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Photo 10: Resource 8A, facing northwest.

Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Photo 12. Resource 10B (left) and 10A (right), facing northwest.

Photo 13. Resource 11, facing northwest.

![Photo 14. Resource 13, facing northwest.](image)


![Photo 15. Resource 14A, facing southwest.](image)

Photo 17. Resource 16A, facing south.
Photo 18. Resources 17B (left) and 17A (right), facing southeast.

Photo 19. Resource 18, facing southeast.
Photo 20. Resource 19, facing southwest.

Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas

Photo 22. Resource 22, facing southeast.

Photo 23. Resource 23, facing west.
Wimberley Downtown Square Historic District, Hays County, Texas


Photo 27. Resource 37, facing southwest.
Photo 28: Resource 39A (foreground) and 39B (background), facing northeast.

Photo 29. Resource 38, facing northeast.
Photo 30. Resource 43, facing northeast.

Photo 31. Representative non-historic-age infill (Resource 41), facing northeast.
Photo 32. Resource 42, facing northwest.

![Image of Resource 42 facing northwest]

Photo 33. Resources 44A-44D, facing southwest.

![Image of Resources 44A-44D facing southwest]