

1402

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Floore Country Store

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: John T. Floore Country Store, Floore's

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 14492 Old Bandera Road

CITY OR TOWN: Helotes

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Bexar

CODE: 029

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

VICINITY: N/A

ZIP CODE: 78023-1131

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 ( nationally) ( statewide) ( locally). ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

10/26/05  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
    See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
    See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action  
12.6.05

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Private

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>	
	1	0	<b>BUILDINGS</b>
	0	0	<b>SITES</b>
	1	3	<b>STRUCTURES</b>
	0	0	<b>OBJECTS</b>
	2	3	<b>TOTAL</b>

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** NA

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** RECREATION AND CULTURE: music facility = dancehall  
COMMERCE/ TRADE: department store = general store

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** RECREATION AND CULTURE: music facility = dancehall

**7. DESCRIPTION**

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** NO STYLE

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
WALLS CONCRETE, WOOD, ASBESTOS  
ROOF METAL  
OTHER METAL; GLASS

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-7).

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Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar County, Texas

Located in downtown Helotes, Texas, the Floore Country Store is a 1-story, 6,700 square foot, concrete masonry building constructed in 1946. The simple concrete block building is painted bright green and has a low-pitched, corrugated metal shed roof. The roof is supported by open bar joists that rest on the exterior walls and a row of six-inch steel columns through the center of the interior. A flat metal canopy extends out over the front elevation creating a porch across half the building. The building itself and the canopy frame are covered with signage, some of which is original and has become a defining feature of the building. Additions to the building include a flat-roofed, wood-frame, asbestos-shingled room added to the southeast corner in the 1950's, and a 38-square-foot, wood foyer built out from the main entrance. To the rear (east) of the building is an enormous patio area with a dance floor and outdoor performance stage. This outdoor area contains the other contributing resource: the original outdoor stage. Located along the southern boundary of the property, the stage is a simple wood structure with a roof and a small dressing room behind it. A larger wood and metal shed roof and stage surrounds this small stage this newer addition is a non contributing structure. Two non-contributing freestanding wood service bars are located at the north end of the outdoor area. Despite the additions to the primary building and to the stage and outdoor patio areas, the Floore Country Store retains a high degree of integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The town of Helotes is located approximately twenty miles northwest of San Antonio in central Texas. The Floore Country Store faces west onto Old Bandera Road at the northern end of the Helotes downtown business district. The approximately one acre site is bounded on the north by Floore Drive, to the east by Hwy 16, and to the south by a property occupied by a limestone building dating to the early development of Helotes. The property is dotted with pecan and live oak trees. Across old Bandera Road, several acres of open ranch land reinforce the feeling of being in a small Texas town.

The front façade of the building is oriented lengthwise along the west property line. Nose-in parking occupies the transitional area and creates a buffer between Old Bandera Road and the store. The rectangular 1-story, 6,700 square foot, concrete masonry building is utilitarian in design with minimal ornamentation. The concrete block walls are painted bright green and eight pane, steel casement windows with fixed 2 pane transoms are present on every elevation.

The west, or front elevation, is shaded by a metal canopy that begins at the south corner of the building and stretches north to a point a little less than half the length of the building. The canopy extends out over a concrete porch that is 5'-6" wide and is accessed from the parking area via two concrete steps. The canopy is supported by thin, metal, pipe columns braced by an intermediate horizontal metal pipe. The primary sign for the building stretches across the canopy reading "Floore Country Store" in large, black block letters, with the words 'Bar, Café, Dance,' on the left and 'Meats, Groceries, Real Estate' on the right, and Coca Cola logos at the outer edges of the sign. This sign is original to the building and can be seen in a photograph of the store's grand opening in 1946. Over the years, other signs have proliferated across the front of the store advertising everything from "The World's Best Homemade Tamales" to "Willie Nelson, every Sat. night." Nine pairs of the steel casement windows 16" above the foundation floor, 3' wide, and 5' high punctuate the elevation regular intervals. Seven of these windows are located north of the porch. There is a limestone chimney between the sixth and seventh windows. Underneath the porch canopy from north to south there is a window, the enclosed entry foyer, a pair of casement windows, a set of paneled wood double doors with glass sashes, and a garage door opening covered by a wire mesh cage. The casement pair directly north of the chimney has been covered with a piece of plywood and contains an air-conditioning unit. All the other windows on this façade remain intact and operable. The double entrance doors into Floore's are enclosed by a 5'-6" by 7' wood frame, wood paneled foyer with a wood screen door on

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the south side. While not original to the building's construction, this addition is typical in shape and material to foyers found at the entrances to country stores throughout rural Texas. The south end of the front façade is dedicated to the service areas (storage, kitchen, and office). The porch canopy extends beyond the building to the south and covers two coolers; a smaller commercial ice storage bin and a large walk-in cooler that abuts the south side of the building. This cooler anchors the south corner of the front façade and is original to the building.

The south façade of the building is anchored at the west corner by the side wall of the walk-in cooler. In front of the cooler, the electrical panel boxes for the building are arrayed along a framework of wooden columns. Four pairs of casement windows are spaced evenly across this façade. With the exception of the westernmost window, each casement pair has been modified to contain either a swamp cooler or air-conditioning window unit. Extending 25 feet from the east end of this elevation is a flat-roofed, wood-frame addition with asbestos shingles. The south elevation of the addition consists of a door on the west end, closest to the main building with two aluminum windows to the east. This 575 square foot room was constructed in the 1950's and serves as a green room for visiting musicians. A cedar plank and metal privacy fence hides the addition from the parking lot and begins the back yard area.

The east façade of Floore's looks out over the enormous outdoor patio, dance floor, and elevated stage that occupy the rest of the site. The green room addition marks the south corner of this façade and fenestration includes four aluminum, single-hung windows spaced evenly across its width. This addition covers the first 23 feet of the east elevation although the original wall remains intact behind it. To the west of the addition, a covered porch, 11 feet wide, extends the length of the building. Constructed of corrugated metal on 2 by 6 wood rafters supported by 4 by 4 wood posts, this porch area shelters a plywood bar on the south end and an elevated wood deck on the east end. Fenestration includes two pairs of single pane casement windows, measuring 2 feet high by 3 feet long located closest to the addition, two pairs of the typical casement windows south of steel double doors which mark the access and egress between Floore's and the outdoor patio area, four additional pairs of casement windows to the north of the doors and a single door at the north end. All windows on this elevation of the original building are intact. Between the two casement windows located furthest north, is a small wood-frame, wood-paneled storage shed that was added to the original building in recent years. The east elevation view of this shed is fairly well hidden by the "century" tree, a live oak that stands before it.

The north façade of the building stands fairly high above the ground since the property gently slopes from south to north. Five pairs of casement windows punctuate this elevation at regular intervals. While three of the five window pairs are intact, a pane of glass is missing in the easternmost casement pair and the casement pair next to it has been modified to fit a fan. Also to be found at this end of the building is all of the air-conditioning equipment. While the handlers and units are hidden behind a wood privacy fence, four large sheet metal supply ducts crawl up this side of the building and onto the roof obscuring a clear view of the north elevation.

The interior of the building is divided into two areas: approximately two-thirds is public space, while one-third on the south end is devoted to a storage area, kitchen, private restrooms, office and the green room addition. The interior has an occupancy capacity of 400 people and is mostly open with a dance floor surrounded by seating areas. At the north end of the room is a raised wood stage measuring 15 feet by 24 feet, and at the other end is the bar and restrooms. The concrete slab of the foundation is exposed as is the bar joist system of the roof. Cowboy hats, boots, and mementos from visitors hang from the joists.

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On the east wall of the store, above a pair of double doors leading to the patio, is a sign that encourages visitors to "Dine and Dance on the Largest Patio in the South – No Cover Charge". Situated to the east of the primary structure, this outdoor area occupies the remainder of the site and was constructed several years after the opening of Floore's in response to the ever-increasing crowds. This outdoor area contains the other contributing resource on the site: the original outdoor performance stage located along the southern boundary of the property. Approximately 425 square feet, this structure is defined by a simple wood framed shed roof supported at either end by wood boxed columns and includes a small dressing room behind the rear wall. This small stage is now surrounded by a lower stage on the front and sides. A metal shed roof supported by a steel beam and column, open-air structure covers both stage areas. The original stage remains intact however and reads as a stage within a larger structure.

Directly in front of and to the north of the stage is a large concrete slab that serves as a dance floor. The dance floor is surrounded by seating areas comprised of row after row of picnic tables along its northern and eastern edges. In the last two or three years, a large wooden deck and two additional outdoor service bars have been constructed along the north boundary line of the property extending the capacity of the patio area. The expansive, new deck compensates for the gentle downward slope of the site and allows for patrons sitting in this area to have a good view of the stage. The two additional service bars are free standing, open sided, wood structures with metal shed roofs. Ground surface materials include crushed granite in the original seating area, and asphalt paving between the building and the dance floor and between the north side of the building and the property line. The outdoor patio area can accommodate up to 2,000 people.

Despite the small additions to the original building and the development of the outdoor patio area, the overall integrity of the site remains intact. This integrity is evidenced by the clear and unaltered state of the original materials of concrete masonry units, flat roof supported by open bar joists, the exposed concrete floor and the intact steel casement windows. The small additions include the entrance foyer at the main doors on the west façade, and the storage shed on the east façade. Individually, neither of these additions occupies more than 40 square feet and they are built of materials that, while complimenting the original materials, do not try to match them. This distinction in materials allows for an understanding of the evolution of the building. The green room addition, located at the rear southeast corner, while more substantial in square footage, is also constructed in a style and of materials that distinguish it from the original building. In terms of the outdoor patio, the materials and building form of the original performance stage are intact and the enlargement of the stage area and subsequent open-air roof structure do not detract from a clear understanding of the architectural timeline of the property. The Floore Country Store retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to a high degree.

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Entertainment/Recreation

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1946-1955

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1946

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:**

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:**

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** John T. Floore

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-11).

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-12).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

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

**PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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Floore Country Store  
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The 1946 Floore Country Store is named for its builder and proprietor, John T. Floore. At the onset of World War, II Floore moved to Helotes and acquired property off of Old Bandera Road on which he later constructed a dance hall, country store and cafe. Significant to the surrounding community as a gathering place, it has served over the years as the birthplace for many local institutions. The old-fashioned country store soon became a popular dance hall for more than just the immediate community. The dance hall became a steppingstone for burgeoning country musicians as well as a stopover for well-established artists. The Floore Country Store is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A in the area of entertainment and recreation, at the local level of significance.

The town of Helotes, which means "green roasting ear of corn", is located in Bexar County. The area was first populated by Hispanic settlers and native Indian groups.<sup>1</sup> During the early nineteenth century, Anglo settlers from southern states and Europe began to make their homes in the region known as Texas. Life in Texas was not easy for the first settlers, tensions between the native Indian groups, the Mexican population, and the Anglo settlers created the "Wild West" frontier environment that characterized early Texas.

Texas Music

The social environment in Texas has been influenced by the blending of cultural traditions dating back to this early settlement period. Settlers from the southern states brought slaves, and the influx of European immigrants, included mainly Germans and Czechs. These settlers brought a diverse tradition of song, both religious and secular, and storytelling from their homelands.<sup>2</sup> The spread of people and cultures throughout Texas has made possible the hybridization of musical forms such as Tejano, polka, blues, conjunto (a mix of European polkas and traditional Mexican music), jazz, swing, zydeco (the music of French-speaking blacks combined with elements of rhythm and blues) gospel, rock and roll and country.<sup>3</sup> The ability of musicians in Texas to incorporate and adapt new themes and styles into their own musical and lyrical backgrounds created a unique musical environment in the state.

In the early period of settlement music was generally played on guitars, banjos, and fiddles, instruments often brought by settlers from their native homelands.<sup>4</sup> The of these instruments allowed for the spread of musical influences. Guitars and fiddles were carried by cowboys and ranch hands of the nineteenth century and were welcome accompaniments on the long and arduous trail rides. Songs and stories were shared around campfires and the influence of this early tradition of music and story telling remains in the music of Texas today.<sup>5</sup>

Texas music also enjoyed an informal setting relative to other parts of the county where music was found primarily in religious settings.<sup>6</sup> Attitudes toward interpretation and hybridization were more relaxed. Lively and sometimes all night dances were part of a soothing remedy for the harsh conditions many early cowboys, ranch hands and farmers endured in

<sup>1</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "HELOTES, TX," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/HH/hlh38.html> (accessed May 6, 2005).

<sup>2</sup> Jay Brakefield, "Texas Music: Its Roots, Its Evolution." *Texas Almanac 2004-2005*, 3 May 2005 <<http://www.texasalmanac.com/>>.

<sup>3</sup> Brakefield 2004-2005.

<sup>4</sup> Brakefield 2004-2005.

<sup>5</sup> "What is Texas Music," *Texas Rebel Radio*, 2005. 5 May 2005 <<http://www.texasrebelradio.com/texasmusic.htm>>.

<sup>6</sup> "Music: Texas Country Roots."

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Texas during the mid to late nineteenth century.<sup>7</sup> Musicians would cater their repertoire to the crowd and atmosphere on any given night. The notion that the venue dictates the music has been an enduring aspect of Texas music.<sup>8</sup> This open experimentation and development of new forms has helped create a truly "Texas style" of Country music.

"Western" music, as it is known today, has its roots in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with cowboy singers incorporating aspects of Western Swing into their music.<sup>9</sup> Texas music history is saturated with famous names and influential persons who contributed to the development and advancement of the style. Tex Ritter was one of the first singing cowboys, Jimmie Rodgers, otherwise known as the "Father of Country Music" although not a native Texan, lived in Texas and contributed greatly to the country music world. Bob Wills, often credited as being the "Father of Western Swing," adapted the styles of country, blues, soul, jazz, pop, Latin flare and many others into a truly Texas style of music. Beginning in the 1930s Wills formed two influential bands that helped cement Texas' early music scene: The Light Crust Doughboys, and the Texas Playboys. Ernest Tubbs adapted a new style of Honky Tonk which was a louder and more amplified version than what was known at the time. Another example of Texas musical fusion is Adolph Hofner, a bandleader from the 1930s whose career lasted into the '90s. Born in the Czech community of Praha in South Texas, Hofner incorporated elements of western swing, Tex-Mex, Czech polka, into his music.<sup>10</sup> One of the more recent trends in Country and Western music to come out of Texas is the "Outlaw" brand of country music. This progressive style of Country and Western music emerged in the early 1970's in reaction to the rhinestone glitter of Nashville's Country and Western scene dominant at the time.

Floore Country Store

The Floore Country Store harkens back to the days when the dance hall was the only means of entertainment for a small community. Prior to the advent of motion pictures the dance hall was the center of public and social activity in many small towns<sup>11</sup>. Although intrinsically rural these dance halls would rely on the urban populations in Texas for increased patronage. It was through these venues that much of Texas' music was developed and spread, from Country and Western, Czech polka, Latin conjunto, and African influenced blues and jazz.

John T. Floore, founder and long proprietor of Floore's Country Store, was born on August 4, 1898 in the small town of Troup, Smith County, Texas. Floore spent most of his life in south and central Texas and worked for a period for Interstate Theaters in San Antonio. It was there he developed a knack for promotions and talent scouting.<sup>12</sup> In 1928, Floore became manager for the Majestic Theater, also in San Antonio. As work slowed at onset of World War II, he relocated to the town of Helotes fifteen miles to the northwest.

<sup>7</sup> Geronimo Treviño III, *Dance Halls and Last Calls: The History of Texas Country Music*, (Plano: Republic of Texas Press, 2002) Introduction.

<sup>8</sup> Joe Nick Patoski, *Get Your Groove Back: A New Book On Dance Halls Explains Why Texans Are Itching' To Go Boot-Scootin'*, (Texas Monthly: August 2002).

<sup>9</sup> "Music: Texas Country Roots," Texas Folklife Resources, 2003, 5 May 2005 <[http://www.texasfolklife.org/t\\_roots.html](http://www.texasfolklife.org/t_roots.html)>.

<sup>10</sup> Brakefield 2004-2005.

<sup>11</sup> Treviño Introduction.

<sup>12</sup> "John T. Floore Dies," (Helotes Echo, 1975) 1 & 7.

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Since his arrival in Helotes, John T. Floore was an active and prominent member of the community. Floore, a man of great stature at 6'5", was known for his genial and friendly nature.<sup>13</sup> During the 1940s John and his wife Emelia Elizabeth ran a local grocery store, called The Red and White Store located down the street from the future site of the Floore Country Store.<sup>14</sup> Floore also helped to establish the first newspaper in the area and began the development of a new subdivision known as the Floore Subdivision, all prior to the construction of the Dance Hall and Café that bears his name today.<sup>15</sup>

As the war was subsiding in Europe, Floore set out to build a place of entertainment, recreation and activity for the citizens of Helotes and the surrounding San Antonio area. The grand opening of the Floore Country Store was held in 1946. Although it was not the first dance hall in Helotes (the first having been built by a man named Bert Hileman), it became an instant landmark in the local community. The atmosphere was small town Texas at its finest. Floore had talent for catering all types of crowds developed during his years as an entertainment promoter. Floore understood the importance of Helotes as a stopping point. The venue was between the rural hill country communities and the urban metropolis of San Antonio. He also understood the value of an entertainment venue at that time. There was reason to celebrate with soldiers returning home from the war, and the Floore Country Store provided the place.

The Floore Country Store evolved into not only a place of recreation and entertainment but also a community center and gathering place for the citizens of Helotes. Many of the region's early organizations such as the Northside Independent School District, the Helotes Lion's Club, the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, the local volunteer fire department were founded and chartered within the walls of the Floore Country Store.<sup>16</sup> Floore was not only an entertainment promoter he was one of the city's most influential philanthropists and entrepreneurs, which eventually earned him title of "Honorary Mayor". Many of the cities first widespread celebrations and festivals were all or in part attributed John T. Floore and his Country Store.<sup>17</sup>

John T. Floore was not only the owner but also architect and builder of the store. The building retains much of its original signage such as the "Floore Country Store" sign across the front of the building. Floore was well known for his humor as indicated by the proliferation of clever, self deprecating signage: "We may not be the world's worst but we keep trying," "Try our old tough steak and wilted vegetables," "Lookers welcome, especially good lookers."<sup>18</sup> Floore kept the same casual, down home tone in his interior décor. The 6,700 square foot establishment is adorned with decades of memorabilia. The interior retains the solid oak tables and chairs that have been bolted down since the days of John T. Floore. Christmas lights are strung year round giving off a warm glow. Rows of boots, hats, wagon wheels, ropes and etcetera are still in the same place that they have been for years. Many of these items belonged to famous visitors, while others are simply part of a multitude of donations from patrons.

The store became well known for its frequent visits from local, regional and national Country and Western musicians and Floore responded accordingly to its increasing success. After a suggestion from a performer, Floore constructed a large

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<sup>13</sup> Echo, "John T. Dies."

<sup>14</sup> JoAnn Gillis, Helotes Happenings, Martin and Valda Terry, p.117 and George and Ann Mabry, p.86.

<sup>15</sup> Treviño 113.

<sup>16</sup> Echo, "John T. Dies."

<sup>17</sup> Echo, "John T. Dies."

<sup>18</sup> Treviño 120.

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outdoor patio to accommodate the ever-increasing crowds. The patio, billed as the “Largest in the Southwest,” has a capacity of well over 2,000 fans in addition to the 400 that can be held inside the Dance Hall.<sup>19</sup>

Floore’s became a stop for musicians on the Country and Western circuit from Nashville to the West Coast. Like a cowboy’s life on the rodeo circuit many musicians have faced the arduous task of traveling from town to town in search of a place to perform. Although some performers had already achieved notoriety prior to playing Floore’s, many built their careers on the circuit, while others were destined to remain local favorites. Over the years Floore’s has played host to Country and Western legends such as Ernest Tubbs, Ray Price and his Cherokee Cowboys, Lefty Frizell, Hank Williams Sr. and Jr., Johnny Cash, Tammy Wynette, Waylon Jennings, Kitty Wells, Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys, Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard, and Loretta Lynn. Willie Nelson has had a particularly long and enduring relationship with the Floore Country Store and with Floore himself. He began playing regularly at Floore’s early in the 1960s, when he was still better known as a songwriter than singer. With his keen business sense and promotional skills, Floore helped further Willie Nelson’s career. They had a business arrangement in which Willie Nelson played at Floore’s once a month and nowhere else in the San Antonio area.<sup>20</sup> Floore also helped Nelson establish the original Willie Nelson Music Company. With a welcoming and constant venue at Floore’s, Willie was able to build up a fan base. Nelson immortalized John T. Floore in his song *Shotgun Willie*, saying ‘At 6 foot 5 John T was a helluva man.’ To this day a sign outside of Floore’s advertises “Willie Nelson Every Sat. Nite.”<sup>21</sup> Although Nelson usually only plays once or twice a year now, he has given permission for the sign to stay.

After more than twenty seven years, Floore, in relatively poor health, decided to sell the venue in 1973 to his long time friends and employees, Joe and Estella Algueseva. They, along with their daughter Lydia, kept the tradition of Floore’s alive until 1990. They then sold the business to Steve Laughlin, a resident of Helotes, who also understood significance of the store’s history and the importance of its future. With his family, Steve helped to maintain the legacy of Floore and the Alguesevas. The current owners, Terrance Casey and Jim McKinney, understand the need to preserve the tradition at Floore’s and have done so by investing in the preservation of the site. The longstanding tradition of great music in a great atmosphere with good food and good friends has been maintained of each by stores owners.

The Floore Country Store in Helotes, Texas has been a local landmark since it opened in 1946, and its popularity quickly spread throughout the region and state. The venue consistently draws crowds from San Antonio and beyond. The intimate and personal space at Floore’s has contributed greatly to its success over the years. Floore’s represents a building type that, once fairly prevalent, is slowly and quietly disappearing from the rural landscape of Texas – the country store and dance hall which once provided for locals and strangers alike, a sense of community and a place of fellowship. Since its inception in 1946 to the present day, Floore’s has upheld this tradition. The Floore Country Store is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A in the area of Entertainment and Recreation at the local level of significance.

<sup>19</sup> Treviño 116.

<sup>20</sup> Treviño 114.

<sup>21</sup> Katharyn Rodemann, Happy Trails: If Your Looking For A Cool Place To See Live Music, Then Head To Helotes And The John T. Floore Country Store (Texas Monthly, April 2004).

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Treviño III, Geronimo. "Floore Country Store." Dance Halls and Last Calls. Plano, TX: Republic of Texas Press, 2002. 113-121.

"What is Texas Music." Texas Rebel Radio. 2005. 5 May 2005 <<http://www.texasrebelradio.com/texasmusic.htm>>.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** Less than 1 acre (.93 acres)

<b>UTM REFERENCES</b>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	529963	3272067

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** Lots 25-27 Floore Subdivision, Helotes, Bexar County, Texas

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Nomination includes all property historically associated with the building

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME/TITLE:** Sue Ann Pemberton and Isabel Garcia, Mainstreet Architects  
With assistance from Hannah Vaughan, THC staff

**ORGANIZATION:** Mainstreet Architects

**DATE:** April 7, 2005

**STREET & NUMBER:** 133 West Mistletoe

**TELEPHONE:** (210) 732-9268

**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 78212

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheet Map-13 through Map-14)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-18)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets Figure-15 through Figure-17)

**PROPERTY OWNER**

**NAME:** Jim McKinney, Terrance M. Casey

**STREET & NUMBER:** 19126 Boca Del Mar

**TELEPHONE:** (210) 695-8827

**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 78258

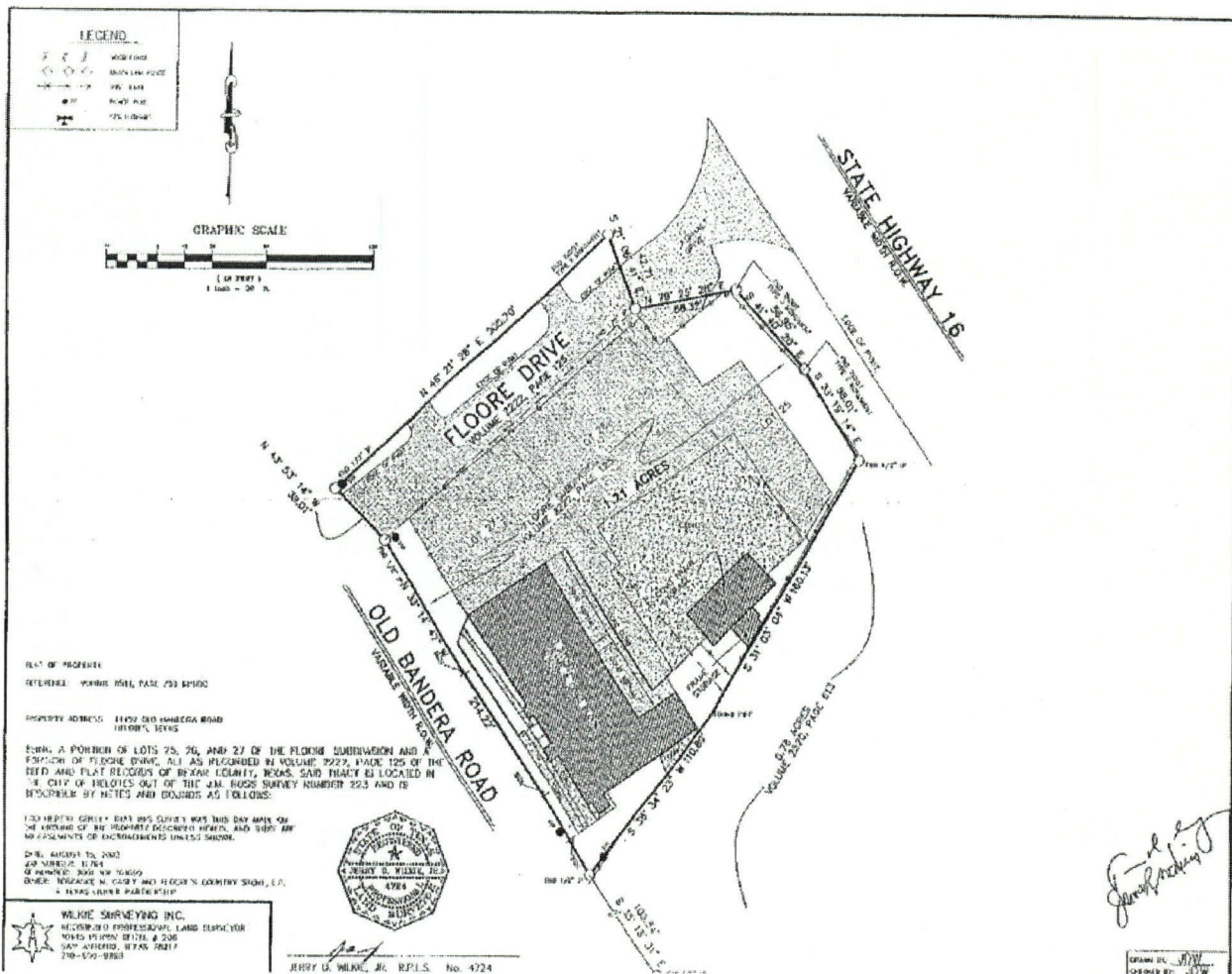
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 13

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar County, Texas

Map 1 Survey Map



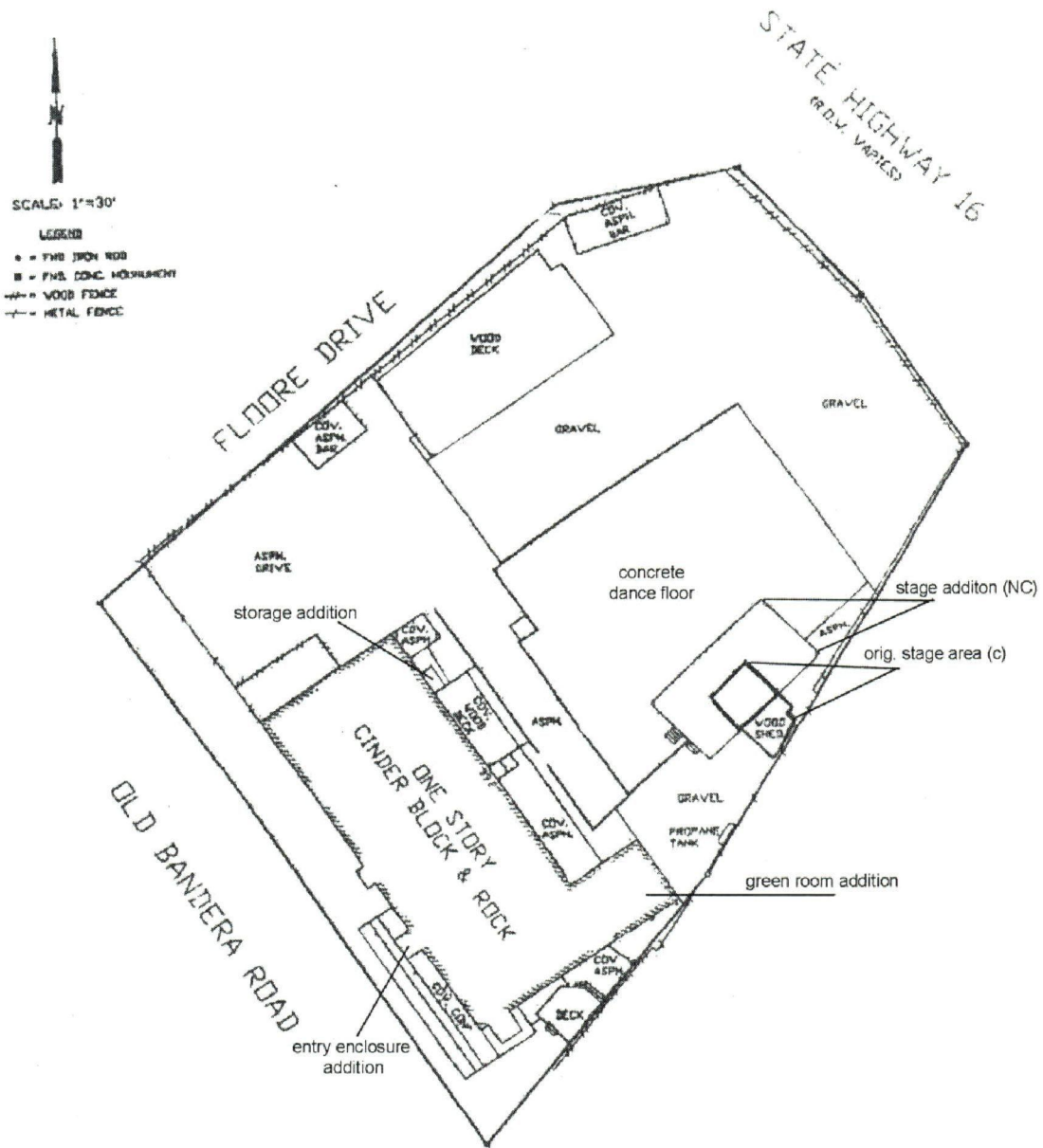
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 14

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar County, Texas

Map 2 Site Plan



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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section FIGURE Page 15

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar County, Texas

**Figure 1** Opening of Floore Country Store 1949



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

***National Register of Historic Places***  
***Continuation Sheet***

Section FIGURE Page 16

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar County, Texas

**Figure 2** John T. Floore and Willie Nelson (1972)



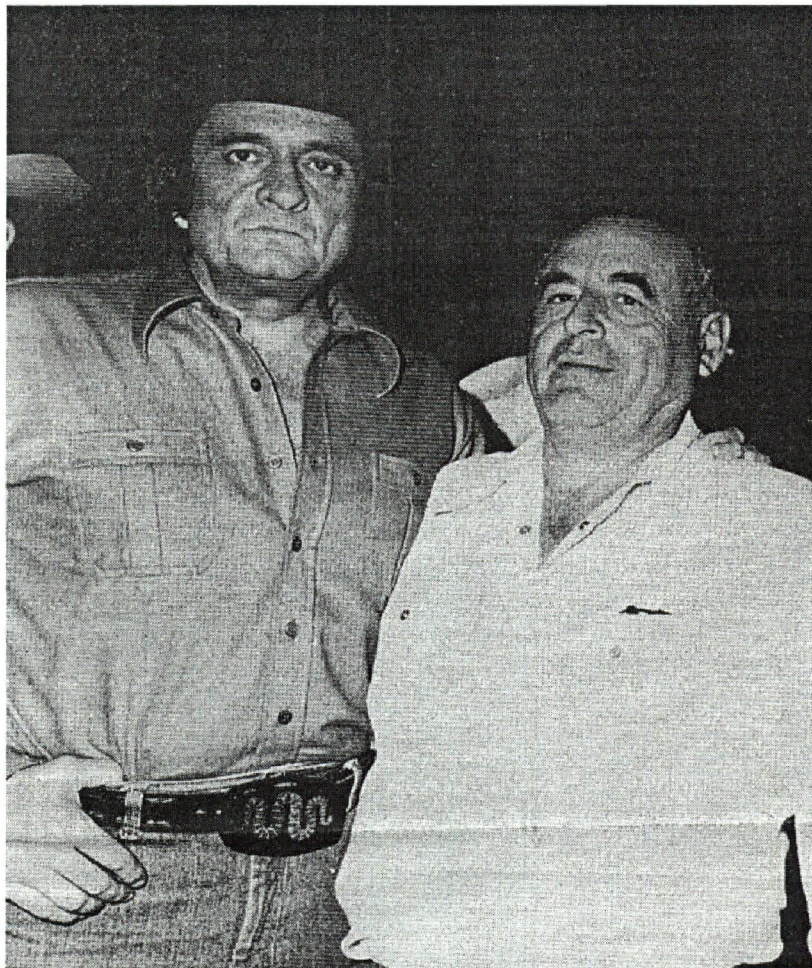
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

## ***National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet***

Section FIGURE Page 17

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar County, Texas

**Figure 3** Second owner Joe Algueseva and Johnny Cash (1978)



Playing Thaddeus Rose in the filming of a TV special—"Thaddeus Rose and Eddie"—Johnny Cash, left, buddies with Joe Algueseva—here playing himself as owner and operator of Floore Country Store. Helotes fans enjoyed the live show and hope to see the rerun on CBS this Spring.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 18

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar County, Texas

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**Photo Log**

Floore Country Store  
14492 Old Bandera Road  
Helotes, Bexar Co., TX  
Photographed by Lee Williams  
Spring 2005  
Negatives on file with property owner

Photo 1 of 7  
West elevation, camera facing east

Photo 2 of 7  
Signage on west elevation, camera facing northeast

Photo 3 of 7  
Northeast oblique, camera facing south

Photo 4 of 7  
Stage and patio, camera facing southeast

Photo 5 of 7  
Interior, camera facing southeast

Photo 6 of 7  
Green room interior, camera facing southeast

Photo 7 of 7  
Sign in front building, camera facing north

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Floore Country Store

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bexar

DATE RECEIVED: 10/28/05      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/21/05  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/06/05      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/05  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001402

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    12-6-05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

BAR  
CAFE  
DANCE

# FLOORE COUNTRY STORE

MEATS  
GROCERIES  
REAL ESTATE



**JOHN T.  
FLOORE**  
COUNTRYSTORE  
CAFE & HONK TONK

WORLD'S BEST HOMEMADE  
TAMALES BREAD SAUSAGE  
COUNTRY BUTTER EGGS  
EVERY THING NEARLY

IS IT/ WORLD FAMOUS  
**FLOORE**  
COUNTRY STORE  
DINE & DANCE

DANCE SAT. NIGHT  
BIG NAME COUNTRY  
WESTERN SWING BAND



OPEN

GARY P.  
HUNN  
James  
McHenry

FREE  
HONK TONK  
BALL

OPEN TO GO  
HOMEMADE  
SAUSAGE



UTSAPLW08/19/05 21 0 16 16

UTSAPL 08/19/05 21 0 16 16

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar Co., TX  
1 of 7

EAT DRINK & BE MERRY  
FOR TOMOROW YOU MAY DIET.

WILLIE  
NELSON  
EVERY  
SAT.  
NITE

BIG  
NAME  
&  
COUNTRY  
WESTERN  
SWING  
BAND  
SAT.  
9:00 PM.  
FREE  
DANCE  
SUN.  
6:00 PM.

FLOORE  
COUNTRY  
STORE  
DINE & DANCE  
CAFE

World's Best  
HOME MADE  
TAMALES  
SAUSAGE  
& BREAD

WORLD'S  
BEST  
HOM  
MAD  
BREA  
SAUSAG  
TAMALE

50  
YEARS  
= IN =  
HELOTES  
THERE  
MUST  
BE  
A  
REASON

THE ONE & ONLY  
FLOORE  
COUNTRY  
STORE  
DINE DANCE  
*Cafe*  
WORLD'S BEST  
HOME MADE  
BREAD-TAMALES  
SAUSAGE  
CAFE

IF  
YOUR'E  
GOING  
TO  
DRIVE  
YOUR  
OLD  
MAN  
TO  
DRINKING  
DRIVE  
HIM  
HERE!

CAFE  
"WORLD'S BEST"  
FOOD · DRINKS · DANCE



ELFR GROU  
WALDUP JAMES SA  
A. B. S. B. S. S. S. S. S.

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar Co., TX  
2 of 7



Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar Co., TX  
3 of 7



KJ\*97  
FM COUNTR

WELCOME TO  
FLOOR COUNTRY STORE



Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar Co., TX

4 of 7



Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar Co., TX  
5 of 7

SON  
TOR  
ARS

ea  
b

HT YOG  
FLOORS



VZSAP\_08/29/05 50' 0" 16" 16

Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar Co., TX  
6 of 7

**WILLIE  
NELSON  
EVERY  
SAT.  
NITE**

**BIG  
NAME  
&  
COUNTRY  
WESTERN  
SWING  
BAND  
SAT  
19**



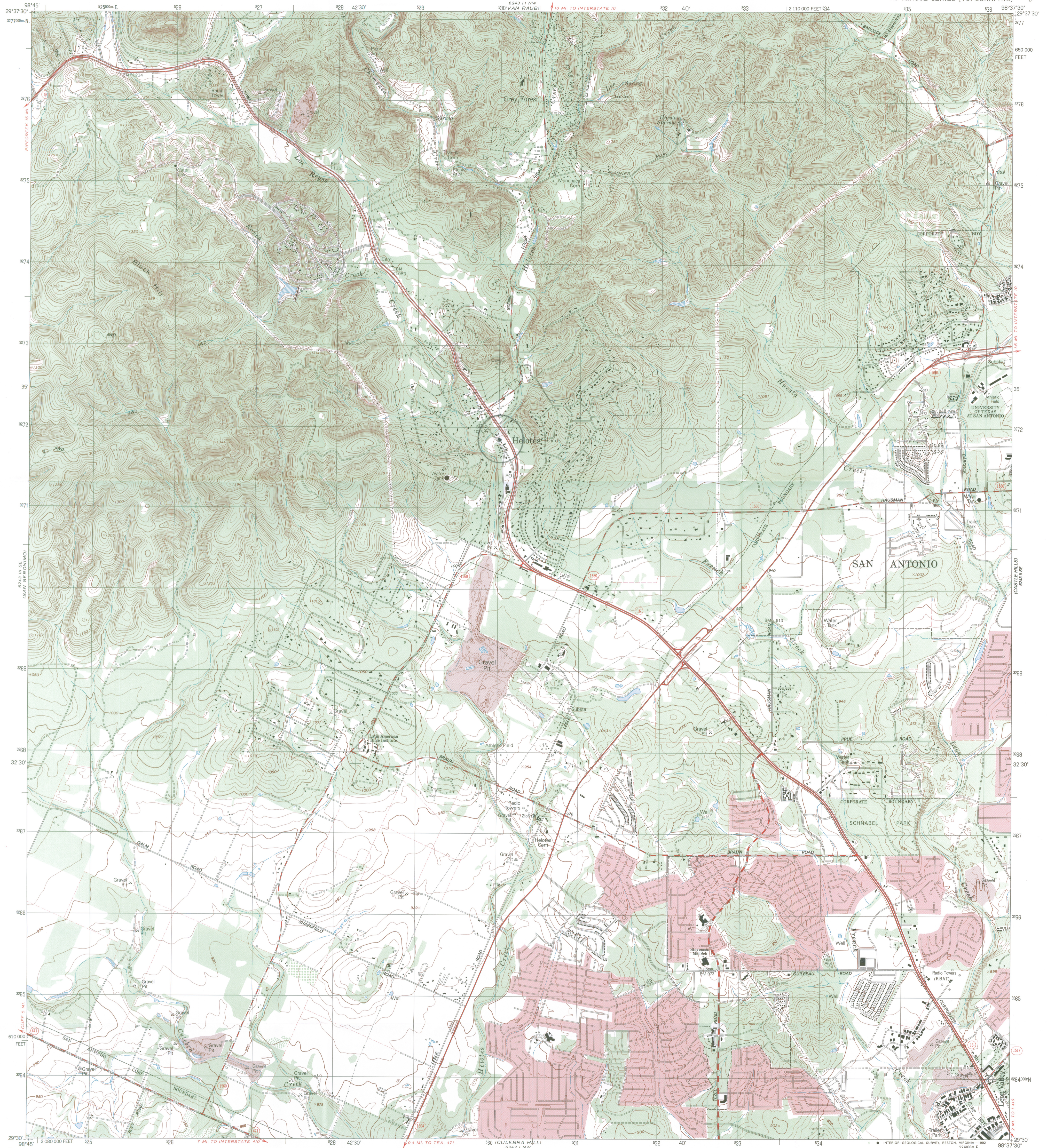
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Floore Country Store  
Helotes, Bexar Co., TX  
7 of 7

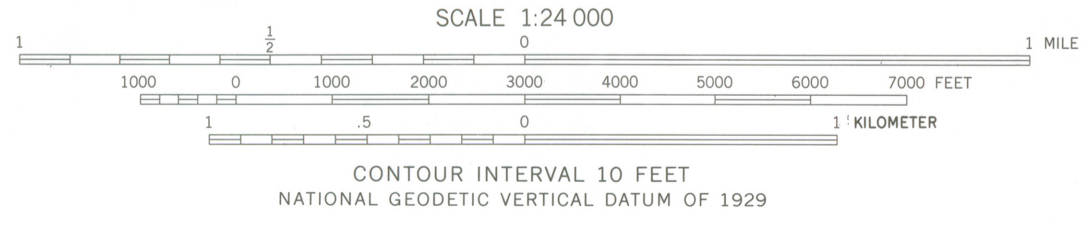
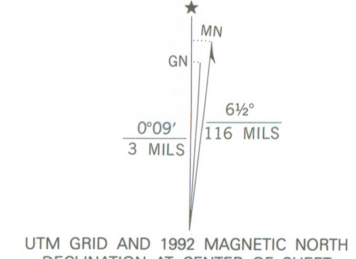
Floore Country Store  
 Helotes, Bexar Co, TX  
 UTM REF# 14/52963/3272067

UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HELOTES QUADRANGLE  
 TEXAS-BEXAR CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
 Compiled by Defense Mapping Agency from aerial photographs  
 taken 1952. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1986  
 Field checked 1986. Map edited 1992  
 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and  
 10 000-foot grid ticks: Texas Coordinate System, south central zone  
 (Lambert Conformal Conic). 1000-meter Universal Transverse  
 Mercator grid, zone 14  
 The difference between NAD 27 and North American Datum of  
 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5 minute intersections is given in USGS  
 Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



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

2998-112

HELOTES, TEX.  
 29098-E6-TF-024

1992

DMA 6243 II SW-SERIES V882



**TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

Rick Perry • *Governor*  
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*  
F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

TO: Janet Matthews, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Hannah Vaughan, Historian  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Floore Country Store, Helotes, Bexar Co., TX

DATE: October 26, 2005



The following materials are submitted regarding: The Floore Country Store

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form
__	Resubmitted nomination
__	Multiple Property nomination form
X	Photographs
X	USGS map
__	Correspondence
	Other:

COMMENTS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ SHPO requests substantive review
- \_\_\_\_\_ The enclosed owner objections (do\_\_) (do not\_\_) constitute a majority of property owners
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_