

this date by
T.S.H.S.C.

Official Texas Historical Building Medallion
w/16"x 12" Interpretive Plate
Harrison County Location:
Marshall

GINOCCHIO HOTEL AND*
RESTAURANT*

3085

BUILT IN 1896 BY C.A.GINOCCHIO
TO SERVE THE TRANSCONTINENTAL
RAILWAY PASSENGER TRAFFIC TO
THE WEST. FOUR HUNDRED MEALS A
DAY WERE PROVIDED FOR TRAVELERS
STOPPING AT "GATEWAY TO TEXAS".
HOTEL WAS CONSIDERED LUXURIOUS.

A FINE EXAMPLE OF VICTORIAN
ARCHITECTURE. STAIRWAY OF CURLY
PINE IS UNIQUE. MANY ORIGINAL
FITTINGS ARE RETAINED.

FILE COPY. DO NOT REMOVE

Incise in a smoothed plate
here:

RESTORED 1969 BY CAMARGO CORP.
HOBART KEY, JR., PRES.
ELIZABETH FISHER KEY, VICE PRES.
GAINES BALDWIN, SECY. - TREAS.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1971***

*1/2" lettering
**3/8" lettering
***1/4" lettering

RECEIVED
READY FOR
NOV 30 1970

APPROVED
Truett Latimer
by Bob Wagon
11-27-70

SOUTHWELL ORDER
TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

APPLICATION FORM
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

3085

✓ County Harrison Town Marshall Date May 8, 1970

✓ This marker is for (Title or Subject) Giunocchio Hotel Building

✓ Marker is to be located Near Hotel Entrance ON The Building
(BE SPECIFIC AS TO ADDRESS, LOCATION OF SITE, MILES FROM CITY LIMITS, ETC.)

✓ Present Owner of Property Camargo Company

Address P.O. Box 1213, Marshall, Texas

✓ Who is responsible for Marker erection, Property maintenance? Camargo Company

H. Key Jr Mar, Pres.

✓ Who prepared the history? H. Key Jr

Address Hobart Key Jr P.O. Box 1213, Marshall, Texas

✓ Attach History with Reference Data for Authenticating this Subject (2-3 Pages) (In the case of a Building Medallion, answer questions on pages 3 & 4)

Attach the Suggested Inscription for the Marker
(Copy must meet State requirements; the Texas State Historical Survey Committee reserves the right to change the suggested inscription.)

If this is an Application for a Building Medallion, enclose current, glossy Picture of structure. (Application will NOT be approved, if picture is not included.)

✓ Do you desire to be contacted Re Final Inscription: Yes yes No _____

✓ Who is to be recognized as the Sponsor of this marker?

Name Harrison County Historical Society

Address Gzines Baldwin Pres. Box 329 Marshall, Tex

✓ This application has been submitted by: approved by Mr. Harkness by telephone
6-4-70 - J. M. J. J. J.

Name Hobart Key Jr

Address P.O. Box 1213 Marshall, Texas

✓ SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS: (Price of Marker Includes Freight)

SHIP TO Hobart Key Jr

P.O. Box 1213

Marshall, Texas, Texas

RECEIVED

MAY 11 1970

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY
COMMITTEE



OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS

- Design A 18" x 28"\$200.00
- Without post 175.00
(18 lines + title; 30 letters & spaces maximum per line of text; 22 for title)
- Design B 14" x 24"\$130.00
- Without Post 110.00
(11 lines + title; 24 letters & spaces maximum per line of text; 16 for title)
- Design C 20" x 20"\$160.00
- Without Post 140.00
(8 lines + title; 36 letters & spaces maximum per line of text; 24 for title)
- Design D 24" x 18"\$175.00
- Without Post 150.00
(6¾ lines + title; 45 letters & spaces maximum per line of Text; Name of city)
- Design E 27" x 42"\$400.00
- Without Post 375.00
(24 lines + title; 50 letters & spaces maximum per line of text; 35 for title)
- Tree Marker 12" x 15"\$ 60.00
- Without Post 40.00
(5 lines + title; 22 letters & spaces maximum per line of text; 15 for title)

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLIONS AND INTERPRETIVE PLATES

- Medallion with 14" x 9" Plate.....70.00
- With Post 85.00
(9 lines + title; 26 letters & spaces maximum per line of text; 19 for title)
- Medallion with 16" x 12" Plate 80.00
- With Post 95.00
(14 lines + title; 30 letters & spaces maximum per line of text; 23 for title)
- Medallions (for replacement only) 20.00

PLATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR MEDALLIONS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED

- 14" x 9" Plate 35.00
- 16" x 12 Plate 60.00
- CHECK HERE IF PLATE IS TO GO ON A POST

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL GRAVE MARKERS Complete with 7" Medallion and Mounting Bar

- 12" x 6" Plaque\$ 60.00
- 14" x 9" Plaque 70.00
- 16" x 12" Plaque..... 80.00
(Number of lines and letters — same as Historical Building Plates)
- CHECK HERE IF THIS IS TO SUPPLEMENT A GRAVE MARKER ALREADY IN PLACE. (If so, please submit a copy of the wording on the headstone.)

SCOTCHLITE HIGHWAY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- "Historical Markers in City" 24" x 24" (Black)
.....Quantity ordered\$25.00 each
- "Historical Markers in City" 24" x 24" (Green)
(To be placed on City Limits signs on Interstate Highways ONLY).
.....Quantity ordered\$25.00 each
- "Historical Route Sign" 18" x 22" (With directional Arrow).
.....Quantity ordered\$25.00 each
- Directional Arrow with 7" Medallion. Arrow can be pointed either way.
.....Quantity ordered\$12.50 each

PLASTIC PAPERWEIGHT

- With Replica of Marker\$25.00 each

Attach Check for the amount of your order made payable to THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION.

MAIL YOUR APPLICATION AND ORDER TO: Texas State Historical Survey Committee, P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

After your application has been approved, you will be notified, the inscription will be sent to you for your approval, and your order will be sent to the manufacturer, THE SOUTHWELL CO., P. O. Box 299, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78206.

Answer the following questions as accurately and completely as possible when ordering a:
TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLION AND INTERPRETIVE PLATE.

1. When was the structure built? (Exact date, if possible) 1896 [Completed]
2. If it took more than one year to build, when was it completed? 1893-1896
3. Who was the builder? C. A. Giracchio
4. What materials went into its construction? Foundation, 3' wide of squared Native Iron Stone, Brick Exterior 18"-20" walls, Heart Pine Timbers
5. Who was the architect (if known)? _____
6. What Architectural period can this structure be classified into? (Gothic, Victorian, Spanish, etc.)
Victorian
7. What distinguishing features, on exterior or interior does it have? Elaborate Curly Pine Staircase, Trim, Wainscot, 112 High Victorian Style.
8. Was the location of the structure significant when it was built? Yes. If so, how?
Station Hotel on Transcontinental Route of T+P [Middle Route]
9. Give details of the life of the builder, where he was from, why he settled here, what family he had, were they famous, etc. C. A. Giracchio, operated Restaurant + Food Service for T+P before it Built West from Marshall, Family, Wife + Daughter - NO Grandchildren
10. How many generations have lived in this structure? Hotel Since 1896
11. If a church or public building, give details and circumstances under which it was founded. To serve Passengers on the T+P, Ref. "Finest Hotel Between New Orleans and Denver"
12. If a business establishment, what was sold or produced here? N. A.
13. What is the timing of the structure in the community (the first one, etc)? Second large Hotel in Marshall [The Capital was the First]
14. Have famous people lived or visited here? Yes. Give details. Registers in Possession of Harrison County Historical Society - Governors, Judges, Senators Etc.
15. What events important to the area, region, or Texas have occurred here? John Barrymore, The actor, Contemporary AND Partner of Edwin Booth, (who shot Lincoln) was shot in front of The Building by a drunken Railway Guard who had insulted one of the actresses in Barrymore's Company

16. What is the present condition of structure? (Be specific) Completely Repaired, and Restored To Original Condition.

17. Does it need painting and/or repair? No

18. Has the structure been repaired, restored, remodeled or in any way altered from its original appearance? _____

If so, give details. Restored To Original Condition

Used as Private Club [The Exchange Club] and Public Restaurant.

19. If possible, submit a picture of the structure's original appearance. Enclosed [Present Day]

20. Who is responsible for its upkeep, today? (Give name and address) Carroll Co. P.O. Box 1213 Marshall, Tex

21. What is the current use of the structure (residence, museum, library, etc.)? Stock Exchange, Barber Shop, Smoking Parlor, Advertising Agency, Coffee Shop.

(If additional History on this structure has been prepared and is available, please submit with application form.)
etc, Private Clubs

restoration nears completion
cameron

MARSHALL---Due to open sometime in July is Marshall's historic 72-year old Ginocchio Hotel--a landmark to rail travelers for nearly three-quarters of a century and for many years the hub of social activity in the East Texas area.

The three-story cream-toned brick structure topped with two turrets at the north ~~side~~^(end) of the building and gabled window inserts in the slope of the east roof facing Washington Avenue, has been completely renovated, according to its owners The Camargo Realty and Development Co.

Architecturally and historically the building is of interest, for it is one of the sturdiest buildings in Marshall, and a portion on the west side was one of the first brick buildings erected in the city.

Hobart Key Jr., spokesman for the group composed of Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher Key, Clarence M. Ezell and Gaines Baldwin, said the restoration work, in progress nearly two years, "was a revelation to me, although I had known much about the old hotel."

C. G. Lancaster was the original contractor who built the main portion of the hotel beginning in 1896, and either he or Mr. Higgins erected the smaller building which forms the kitchen area of the hotel possibly in the early 1870's. This smaller, but very rugged building was ~~built~~ built for the Wells-Fargo Express Co., and ~~built~~ when the hotel was built was included as a part of that building. Lancaster is the contractor who built the

old courthouse in the center of Peter Whetstone Square in Marshall about 1900 and which now houses the Harrison County Historical Museum. He also built the Marshall Mill and Elevator structures in East Marshall.

Present-day contractors, under supervision of Hobart Key Jr., who acts as architect and supervisor, are A. T. Young, Charlie Farnham, ~~_____~~ Kelly Arnauld and Barney Woods. Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher Key is serving as supervisor of decoration.

Historically, the Ginocchio is linked with the shooting of John Barrymore in Marshall about 1895, although the hotel was not yet started. Charles A. Ginocchio, who had the hotel built, owned a restaurant and saloon, just a few yards East of the hotel site, where today there is a parking area shaded by large pecan trees. It was in this restaurant owned by Ginocchio, that John Barrymore sustained an arm wound when another member of the theatrical troupe was shot and killed by a Marshall man over a reported insult to a woman member of the troupe.

The extremely sturdy structure of the Ginocchio Hotel was revealed when present contractors went to work on it to begin the restoration. The foundation is of hand sawed native iron stone set 10 feet into the earth and topped with 20-inch thick brick walls. Only two other structures in the area are known to be built with the use of the hand sawed iron stone and these are the Josephine Davidson Memorial Chapel near Diana which was erected some 20 to 30 years ago, and the Old Stagecoach House north of Marshall on U. S. Highway 59, which probably was built in the 1840's.

The 20-inch thick walls of the Ginocchio extend to the third story roof-line. All the interior partition walls are also set on the iron stone foundation.

The cellar ^{has} ~~is~~ eight feet ^{of} head clearance and beams are 12 by 12 and six by 12, made up of two by 12's set on edge and bolted and strapped with metal. These supporting beams are 10 inches apart the full length of the building facing Washington Avenue. The beam supports and front columns of the building are of cast iron made in St. Louis, Mo., about 1883 and were of a stock pattern used extensively in Victorian-type buildings throughout the Southwest.

Where the canopy extends over the front sidewalk now, there was a continuous balcony along the East and North fronts of the building which was supported by cast iron Doric columns, and further decorated with iron banister. Access to the balcony was through a door on the second floor which is now walled up.

Transoms on the exterior of the building were ^{of} colored stained glass and a few of these still remain.

The entire downstairs floor is of tile laid on double floors four inches in thickness. The entire building, except the third floor, is finished with 36-inch high wainscoting of curly pine. By actual measurement there is over a mile of this remarkably beautiful wainscoting in the building--in the halls, and in the public rooms, ^{the stairway,} the lobby and upstairs lobby it is turned in extremely elaborate patterns.

The stairway is constructed entirely of this rare curly

persons at a time on long trestle tables set up on both lobbies and the ~~main~~ ball room. Since the train schedules allowed only a 45-minute stop, assembly-line methods were used to feed the passengers. These meals were served for 25 cents, and according to Hobart Key the meal was all a hungry person could eat.

At the rear of the Ginocchio complex is the oldest section of the hotel--the part first built as a Wells-Fargo office and later used as kitchen and pantry space--which use it will fulfill in its rejuvenated life. Several alleyways connected the rear of the hotel building and also the dining room area to the structure. In the pantry was a device known as a "rat proof" which consisted of a platform suspended from the ceiling by iron rods and capable of holding a ton of sugar, flour and other grocery staples. All meats and groceries ^{in large quantities} were kept in a ratproof basement in the East portion of the structure.

On the second floor will be the quarters for the Exchange Club, a private club styled along the lines of the British select clubs. On this floor will be the card rooms, ^{and} a bar opening off the upstairs lobby. The bar will feature in the old time Western manner, a centerpiece for the front bar created from the headboard of an old wood bedstead. This use of headboards came about in early days in the Western states because there were almost no experienced cabinet makers in these towns in the 1860's and 1870's and nearly all the bars were made from walnut beds ~~which~~ which were elaborately carved. In those days they were termed by sophisticated travelers as "bedroom bars." Elaborate stained glass was also typical of bars of that period.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher Key, one of the partners in this

NAME OF MARKER Ginocchio Hotel Building

TOWN Marshall, Tex., COUNTY Harrison
DATE 5-11-70

TO: TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

FROM: TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

On this date the Texas Historical Foundation received a donation for a Medallion w/14" x 9" Plate.

We ask to be advised by your Committee if the history is sufficient, the location satisfactory, and all other requirements set forth by the State have been met.

Jean

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Truett Latimer: Approved

T.L.
Initial

6-4-70
Date

Deolece Parmelee: (L)
Category

MARKER NAME Ginocchio Hotel Building

JOB# 3085

TOWN Marshall, Tex. COUNTY Harrison

DATE 5-11-70

MARKER Medallion w/16" x 12" Plate
SIZE

24.85
\$70.00

Hobart Key, Jr.

PRICE
94.85

SIGNER OF CHECK

PROCEDURE FOR MARKER APPLICATION

INITIAL DATE

<u>jc</u>	<u>5-11-70</u>
<u>jc</u>	<u>11-27-70</u>
<u>jc</u>	<u>5-11-70</u>
<u>J.H.</u>	<u>6-4-70</u>
<u>CL</u>	<u>6-10-70</u>
<u>SP</u>	<u>6-13-70</u>
<u>SP</u>	<u>6-18-70</u>
<u>two</u>	<u>7-6</u>
<u>CL</u>	<u>7-22-70</u>
<u>---</u>	
<u>jc</u>	<u>11-30-70</u>
<u>Carol T. D. Lammela</u>	<u>1-7-71</u>
<u>gms</u>	<u>1-8-71</u>
<u>mf</u>	<u>1-8-71</u>
<u>mf</u>	<u>1-8-71</u>
<u>mf</u>	<u>1-8-71</u>
<u>SO</u>	<u>1-22-71</u>

1. Application checked and dated
2. Check deposited
3. Folder checked and approved
4. Additional information sent for
5. Letter of approval sent, County Committee recording, labeling, listed in Current Marker Work *(Ask for better picture of the structure) Part 1.*
6. a. Inscription writer checkout
b. Inscription writer submit for approval
7. Sent for State Committee Approval
a. Date sent
b. Date approved
8. County approval letter sent, recorded for Marker Directory
9. Highway permission secured (if necessary)
10. Order to Southwell
11. Rubbing checked
12. Stencil cut
13. Rubbing letter sent, already sent - 6-4-70 certificate if necessary
14. News Release sent, sending copy to TSHSC Pres.
15. Extraneous material deleted, given to Architectural Historian
16. Folder filed in Completed Marker Work

Official Texas Historical Building Medallion MA
with 16" x 12" Interpretive Plate - 1-8-71 -
Harrison County - Marshall

GINOCCHIO HOTEL AND
RESTAURANT

BUILT IN 1896 BY C.A.GINOCCHIO

TO SERVE THE TRANSCONTINENTAL
RAILWAY PASSENGER TRAFFIC TO
THE WEST. FOUR HUNDRED MEALS A
DAY WERE PROVIDED FOR TRAVELERS
STOPPING AT "GATEWAY TO TEXAS".
HOTEL WAS CONSIDERED LUXURIOUS.

A FINE EXAMPLE OF VICTORIAN
ARCHITECTURE. STAIRWAY OF CURLY
PINE IS UNIQUE. MANY ORIGINAL
FITTINGS ARE RETAINED.

INCISE IN A SMOOTHED
PLATE HERE:

RESTORED 1969 BY CAMARGO CORP.
HOBART KEY, JR., PRES.
ELIZABETH FISHER KEY, VICE PRES.
GAINES BALDWIN, SECY. - TREAS.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1971

TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

BOX 12243 • CAPITOL STATION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 • PHONE GR5-3268

November 30, 1970

Mr. Bill Southwell, Jr.
The Southwell Company
P.O. Drawer 257
San Antonio, Texas 78208

3085

NO. _____

Re: Medallion#1408, with 16" x 12" Plate

Ginocchio Hotel and Restaurant
Marshall, TX
Harrison _____ County

Dear Mr. Southwell:

Enclosed is an application for Medallion#1408, with 16" x 12" Plate, Ginocchio Hotel and Restaurant, for the City of Marshall, Harrison County.

We would appreciate a rubbing of this inscription.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jean Chandler
Executive Secretary

GNA/s

Enclosure

SHIP TO: Hobart Key, Jr.
Marshall, TX 75670

Lufkin News
Lufkin, Texas

Harrison
JAN 17 1971

What Our Neighbors Are Doing

Hotel Receives Medallion

PS

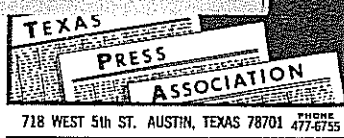
By LLOYD SCHENCK
Lufkin News Writer

GINOCCHIO HOTEL in Marshall has been designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. The Harrison County Historical Survey Committee sponsor the formal dedication ceremony when the Texas Historical Building Medallion is to be affixed to the building.

The Marshall News - Messenger recently carried a series of articles telling of the early history of the historic old building which has been carefully restored by the present owners, Camargo Corp.

The Ginocchio Hotel and Restaurant was built in 1896 by A. Ginocchio to serve the transcontinental railway passengers on their way to the West. Marshall in those days was known as "The Gateway to the West" and experienced travelers considered the hotel exceptionally luxurious. The building is considered one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture.

In restoring the building the present owners carefully retained the unusual stairway of curly pine, the original woodwork and the unique tile floor in the old lobby. Many of the original fittings and furnishings were also retained.



Marshall News-Messenger
Marshall, Texas

JAN 11 1971

Harrison

Ginocchio Hotel Is Landmark

The historic Ginocchio Hotel Building in Marshall has been recently named a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, it was announced by Charles R. Woodburn, president of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

As a result of meeting the state's requirements for this official designation, a Texas Historical Building Medallion with an interpretive plate, giving a capsule history of the structure, will be affixed to the building.

The dedication date for the marker will be announced by Mr. V. H. Hackney of Marshall, chairman of the Harrison County Historical Survey Committee. A certificate designating the building as a Recorded Landmark will be presented at the dedication ceremonies.

The inscription on the marker reads:

GINOCCHIO HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

Built in 1896 by C. A. Ginocchio to serve the transcontinental railway passenger traffic to the West. Four hundred meals a day were provided for travelers stopping at "Gateway to Texas." Hotel was considered luxurious.

A fine example of Victorian architecture. Stairway of curly pine is unique. Many original

fittings are retained.

RESTORED 1969 BY
CAMARGO CORP.
HOBART KEY, JR., PRES.
ELIZABETH FISHER KEY,
VICE PRES.
GAINES BALDWIN,
SECY.-TREAS.

RECORDED TEXAS
HISTORIC LANDMARK—1971

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee's program of preservation activities.

Demolition sought for landmark

Historic Ginocchio Hotel under threat of wrecking ball if buyer not secured

By JENNIFER PALLANICH
News Messenger

Preservationists hope a temporary delay will find time to buy a stay of demolition for the historic Ginocchio Hotel.

Hotel owners Karon and Morris O'Tyson, of Hot Springs, Ark., applied about two weeks ago for a permit to demolish the facility that sits across from the Marshall Depot at the end of North Washington Street.

"It is extremely important to our city" that the Ginocchio remain standing, said Mayor Audrey Kariel.

Because the hotel is registered locally, state and nationally for historic status it would be a loss for the city if it were torn down, she said.

"You put all those three things together, it's an important property," she said. "But being recognized as a landmark, as these properties are ... does not protect the property."

Locally, it can only delay a demolition. According to an ordinance used when the depot was threatened with demolition, private property owners may demolish a building.

"We cannot actually deny them the right to tear the property down," said City Planner Frank Johnson.

Kariel said if a buyer can be found for the hotel, it would not have to be torn down.

"I would love to see it back in operation as an inn with a restaurant and shops," she said. "That's what it should

be with the depot right next to it. It's natural."

With a decision from the Local Historic Landmark Preservation Committee set for next Friday after a public hearing on the demolition application, only delays can give an opportunity to find a buyer.

Johnson, who serves as staff support to the committee, said the agenda will list action on the request as a recommendation to deny the application, which would effectively delay demolition for 90 days. The committee could also ask City Commissioners to delay the demolition by another 120 days.

If both delays occur, it would be about seven months before the Ginocchio could be torn down.

The delays have worked before, Johnson noted.

"It served us perfectly for the depot," he said.

The public hearing, originally scheduled for Thursday, was postponed for a week because the O'Tysones were not properly notified of the meeting, Johnson said.

"I don't think they have a prospective buyer for the site," he said.

The couple had initially asked the preservation committee for local recognition.

"They knew the potential ramifications of that designation," Johnson said, noting those range from outside

See GINOCCHIO, Page 3A

GINOCCHIO

Owners want to raze historic landmark

Continued from Page 1A
changes to the structure to demolition requests. "They're simply acting now to get the process started."

Karon O'Tyson said the demolition request was a business decision.

"If the property sells, that's fine. That would be my preference," she said. "But if it does not sell, we'll take it down."

The hotel has been leased to Parola College for the last five years but was not used as intended

— for classrooms. That lease is up in about a month.

Mrs. O'Tyson said they have had plenty of time to think about the best course of action for the property they had run as a combination bed and breakfast and restaurant. The couple now operates a business in Arkansas, she said.

The public hearing will begin at 8 a.m. Feb. 6 in the conference room at City Hall.

Finding a way to save the historic Ginocchio

The loss of Marshall's historic Ginocchio Hotel would be devastating for the city, particularly in light of the fact that restoration on the Marshall Depot should be completed within the year.

Yet, as a story on the front page of today's newspaper suggests, the loss of this city's landmark is both real and distressingly imminent.

Fortunately, city ordinances are in place that could delay the destruction by up to seven months. That seven months, however, will go quickly if no buyer is found for the property. We could all be forced to watch history torn down before our eyes.

Still, we don't support the notion that — even in a case like the Ginocchio — government should have the right to tell people that they cannot tear down a building on their property. Indeed, if that notion is advanced now, a buyer will likely never be found for the hotel. No private party is going to want to be bound by that restriction.

We can only hope in cases of landmarks such as Ginocchio that the property owners are responsible and dedicated enough so that demolition is never even a consideration.

Not being real estate experts, we cannot understand why removing the hotel would make that piece of property more attractive. It seems to us that, especially with the juxtaposition with the remodeled depot, the hotel as is would be a property ripe for private development. Tearing down the building will come at a cost and will leave nothing but a bare spot of land with diminished, not enhanced, value. We don't understand this as a business decision but, then, we don't own the property.

Or maybe the demolition application is a way to get Marshall's attention, thus bring prospective buyers to the table. Certainly, the news has struck Marshall residents with shock and concern. Maybe the O'Tyson's really wouldn't tear it down, but only want action.

Unfortunately, this is not something on which the city can depend. We must take the word of owner Karon O'Tyson who says: "If the property sells, that's fine. That would be my preference. But if it does not sell, we'll take it down."

Our understanding is not needed for bulldozers to rake the property clean.

To be prudent, the city must move toward helping the O'Tyson's find a responsible buyer for the property. We must work as agents on the O'Tyson's' behalf in uncovering anyone who might have an interest in this historic landmark.

One thing we do know is that, once the Ginocchio is gone, that piece of history will be gone forever. It will just be another vacant lot we will tell our children about and say, "We wish you could have seen this when..."

THE GINOCCHIO HOTEL

The Ginocchio Hotel was built by C. A. Ginocchio, who came to Marshall in the early 1870's and operated a restaurant and saloon located about 60 feet East of the present Hotel building. As the Texas and Pacific Railway built West to Dallas and on to El Paso, Ginocchio prospered as the commissary agent for T&P Railway. In 1893 he began construction of his Hotel, which was completed in 1896. It was known as the finest hotel between New Orleans and Denver. Ginocchio operated another hotel in Fort Worth, also called the Ginocchio. He died in 1898 leaving a large fortune of more than \$100,000.00, most of which he left to the Catholic Church. He and his wife had one daughter, and both wife and daughter preceeded him in death. The Ginocchio tombs are among the most elaborate and attractive in the old Greenwood Cemetery here in Marshall.

The building was constructed to withstand the vibration of the trains which daily pass on the T&P main line only 60 feet away. The foundation was hand sawed native iron stone, walls three feet thick in the basement. On top of this was placed the outer walls of brick, manufactured in Marshall at the Higgins Brick Yard. These walls were 20 inches thick. The interior framework is all heart pine and cypress, double scantlings, beams of 8 and 12 ply 2 by 12's bolted and banded. Storm braces, sills, studs and plates are 2 x 12's. The walls were plastered throughout as were the ceilings. Floors were edge grain pine. The whole of the building was trimmed in the interior with curly pine wainscot of exceptional beauty and the stairway and Public rooms, as well as the Presidential Suite, elaborately decorated with scroll and bead work in high Victorian style.

There were 30 rooms on the second floor, and 10 on the third floor (these were never finished). Downstairs were store fronts, a cafe, the elaborate lobby, and a ballroom, dining room with wine closet, kitchen and pantry. 400 people from the trains were fed here daily. All the whole front of the building on the railroad side opened up by 10 sets of double doors, one in each opening, and the passengers entered through the whole front of the building to eat from trustle table

The property has been completely restored and once again serves the City of Marshall as was the intention of its builder.

The enclosed photograph shows the "Flying Scot" at the Hotel in late 1969. A sort of bonus included in the required photograph.

Trusting that this sketch will be suitable to the purposes of my application for a Historical Marker and Plate, I enclose herewith my check for \$70.00.

Yours very truly,

Hobart Key, Jr.
Hobart Key, Jr.

HK:mc

Source, County Records, Files of Marshall News Messenger, Key Family Papers.

RECEIVED
MAY 11 1970
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY
COMMITTEE



