

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100011558

Date Listed:

Property Name: Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

County: Linn

State: MO

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

SHERRY FREAR



Digitally signed by SHERRY FREAR

Date: 2025.03.20 12:51:59 -04'00'

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to clarify that the property includes two (2) contributing resources: a contributing building (the Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company building) and a contributing structure (the coal scale, currently infilled for safety); there are no noncontributing resources. As submitted, the nomination form states on page 5 of Section 7 that the scale contributes to the property, but it is incorrectly counted as noncontributing in the resource table in Section 5, page 2. This SLR is also issued to clarify that the name of the property is "Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company." Other names, most often "Gucker Coal," are used throughout Sections 7 and 8 to refer to the nominated property.

The MISSOURI SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Other names/site number J. Hemmings Mercantile Co.; Randolph Coal Company; Gucker Coal Company Office;
Hughes Oil Company

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 125 E. California

N/A

not for publication

City or town Marceline

N/A

vicinity

State Missouri Code 115 County Linn Zip Code 64658

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C D



February 3, 2025

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property

Linn, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/business

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: rectangular, hipped roof office

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Cement

walls: Plaster

roof: Asphalt

other: Stucco

☒ NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property

Linn, Missouri
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

☒ **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other. Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Areas of Significance

COMMERCE/business

Period of Significance

1924-1952

Significant Dates

1924; 1941

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hemmings, Joseph

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property

Linn, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.119

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 39.715793 -92.948407 3
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 Longitude: 4
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ed Comber
organization Midwest Preservation Group, LLC date 25 Sep 2023; 7 Feb 2024
street & number 6605 N. Brenda Lane telephone 7652125200
city or town Muncie state IN zip code 47304
e-mail midwestpreservationgroup@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
 - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property

Linn, Missouri
County and State

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
City or Vicinity: Marceline
County: Linn State: Missouri
Photographer: Ed Comber
Date
Photographed: 15 July 2023; 14 September 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo Log:

1 of 16: South Façade, facing north
2 of 16: East elevation, wide view, facing west
3 of 16: West elevation, facing east
4 of 16: North elevation, facing south
5 of 16: Scale area, filled in, facing south
6 of 16: Scale area in relation to office, facing west
7 of 16: View of southern border showing driveway, facing east
8 of 16: Wide view of property, facing northwest
9 of 16: North border, facing west
10 of 16: East boundary, facing south
11 of 16: West boundary, facing south
12 of 16: West wall, internal, facing west
13 of 16: North wall, internal, facing north
14 of 16: East wall, internal, facing east
15 of 16: South wall, internal, facing south
16 of 16: Historic scale, east wall, internal, facing east

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property

Linn, Missouri
County and State

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

- 1 of 23: Context Map
- 2 of 23: Location Map
- 3 of 23: Site Map
- 4 of 23: Blueprints
- 5 of 23: Photo Key
- 6 of 23: Historic photo of Gucker Coal Company office, 1940s
- 7 of 23: 1930 Sanborn Map showing site
- 8 of 23: 1939 Sanborn Map showing site
- 9 of 23: Gucker coal bid to city, unknown date
- 10 of 23: Log showing Gucker supplying Santa Fe Railroad and Santa Fe Lunchroom, unknown date
- 11 of 23: Santa Fe Lunchroom log showing coal delivery credits and debits, 1946
- 12 of 23: Undated photo of temporary wood coal bins, facing west from no name alley.
SOURCE: Michelle Lewis
- 13 of 23: Direction of Railroad Spur that Supplied Coal to Gucker to distribute.
- 14 of 23: Contract with Old Ben Coal Corporation, 1942
- 15 of 23: Historic window, external, facing east
- 16 of 22: Historic wood floor, internal
- 17 of 22: Heir Coal ad. Source: *The Marceline Journal*. 22 June 1906.
- 18 of 22: J. Hemmings Mercantile Co. Ad. Source: *Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 13 October 1924.
- 19 of 23: Randolph Coal Co. Ad. Source: *Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 13 October 1926.
- 20 of 23: Chariton Coal Mine Ad. Source: *The Marceline News*, 13 December 1940
- 21 of 23: Gucker Buys Building Ad
- 22 of 23: Gucker Bee-Veer Coal Ad. Source: *The Marceline News and Bucklin Herald*.
15 October 1948
- 23 of 23: Location of Heir Grocery Store. Current view. SOURCE: Google Maps, accessed 23 May 2024.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SUMMARY

The Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company office (currently known as the Gucker Coal Company office; pronounced “Gooker”), at 125 E. California Avenue in Marceline, Linn County, Missouri, sits one block east of Marceline’s downtown business district on E. California Avenue.

The building is a rectangular one-room office with a door on the south and on the east elevations. It is covered in stucco over a wood frame. The roof is hipped and covered with non-historic asphalt shingles. The property sits on .119 acres. Directly to the east, abutting the east wall of the office is the historic coal scale.

The interior contains remnants of the Gucker Coal Company, including the historic internal scales used in the business throughout the period of significance. The plaster walls are painted white. All plaster is historic except one area on the north wall that was plastered after repairs were made due to a leak. The non-historic plaster is also on a portion of the ceiling.

The historical integrity of the coal office is largely intact as can be seen in Figure 15. The general layout of the property—both the interior and exterior—and the lot’s size (which has not changed from the start of the period of significance)¹ maintain their historical integrity of location (it has not been moved), design (it maintains its one-room design), setting, materials (only minor changes have been made), workmanship; however, feeling, and association with the coal industry are lacking due to other missing resources.

The only other structure is the Howe Truck Co. coal scale on the east side of the coal office that has been filled in with dirt and gravel (Photos 1-2, 5-6). Landscaping exists at the eastern edge of the property.

While there have been alterations, the overall sense of time and place is evident. While it was operated as a coal company by four different companies between 1924 (when it was erected and the 1960s when the coal industry dried up in the area), its most significant period was between 1924 and 1941. Given its historic function and importance during the period of significance the Gucker Coal Co. building is locally significant under Criteria A: COMMERCE/business and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.²

¹ The 1930 and 1939 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Figures 19 and 20) show that the lot size and location have not changed since the building was erected.

² “Architectural Survey of Marceline (MO.): Final Report.” *Marceline Survey*. Commissioned by Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office. April 2018. Survey No. LI-AS-001-037.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property
Linn, Missouri

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SETTING

Figures 1-3, 6-8, 12; Photos 1-4, 7-11

The Gucker Coal Co. office shares its west border with the Marceline Carnegie Library to the west (Figures 1-3, 6-8; Photo 3). To its south, across E. California Ave. is Ripley Park. To its east, across an unnamed public access way, is the Santa Fe Depot, now known as Walt Disney's Hometown Museum. A green space is due east of the office building and continues to the unnamed alleyway acting as the properties east border. To its north is the "MFA Agri Services" complex.³ The south border of the property is the sidewalk, with Ripley Park to the south. Photos 1-4 illustrate these borders.

It's located one block east of the northern block of the downtown commercial district.

The Gucker Coal Company office is the only building that currently sits on the property (Figures 7-8; Photos 7-11); three other structures (temporary wooden coal bins, shed, and coal scales) have historically been on the property (Figure 6 and 12).⁴ It is situated in the southwest corner of its historical property. The current lot is the historical lot; there have been no changes to the boundaries.⁵ The site is generally flat. A cement sidewalk stretches from the public sidewalk to the front door of the office.

The office walkway is elevated about three (3) inches above the surrounding ground.

The external scales abut the east elevation and extend about three feet north beyond the east elevation wall. These have been filled in; however, the top of the cement borders of the scales are visible (Figures 2-3, 7-8 and 12; Photos 1 and 3).

Three trees and a modern utility junction line the east border of the property along a road without a name (Figures 1-3, Photo 10). A green space takes up approximately two-thirds of the space to the east of the office. The south border is the public sidewalk just beyond the landscaping (Figures 2-3, 7-8; Photo 7). The west elevation is delineated by old, used railroad ties laid to delineate the property line between the office and the Carnegie Library to the west (Photo 3). The north boundary runs from the west boundary near the library, along an east to west line past the non-historic storage building just to the north of the property. It ends at the unnamed road making up its east border (Figures 2-3).

A utility pole is in the northeast quadrant of the property.

³ "MFA" stands for "Missouri Farmers Association."

⁴ The temporary non-extant coal bins (Figure 10) were located along the alley facing the alley. The non-extant shed was near the northeast corner of the office building; it was not attached. The scales, as noted, are directly to the east of the building.

⁵ While the 1930 and 1930 Sanborn Maps show the coal bins extending onto Lot 21, Waddle, Tanjua. Recorder of Deeds for Linn County, Missouri, stated that the property never included Lot 21.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property
Linn, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The office building historically straddles Lots 17 and 18 (Figures 7-8). Lots 19-20 make up the rest of the property. At the time Hemmings owned it, he also had an easement “along the northerly side of the westerly end of lot 20 – 12 t. wide by 75 ft. long.”⁶

EXTERIOR

The Gucker Coal Company office is a single story, rectangular building measuring 18' x 14',⁷ with the east and west elevations being the longer sides. The external walls are covered in stucco painted white (Photos 1-4, 8-11). It has a hipped roof with non-historic asphalt shingles. A flat, un-detailed, wood cornice wraps around the top of each external elevation wall; it is painted green. The property is level. The historic scales (Photos 2 and 5) that abut the east elevation wall are filled in, but the tops of the scales' concrete walls are still evident. Non-historic gutters approximately 3 inches deep run the full length of the primary (south elevation) and secondary (east elevation) façades with a drainpipe affixed to the secondary façade. No gutter exists at the north or the west elevations (Photos 1-4, 8-11).⁸

South Elevation (Primary Façade)

The south elevation, which is the primary façade, is square. It is a concrete building covered in stucco painted white. There are two bays (Photo 1).

In the western bay, an historic wood door (not original) is set within a wooden frame with a wood lintel and a single light (Photo 1). It is elevated about 6 inches off a cement sidewalk (Photo 1). The remnants of the hinges where a historic screen door used to be on the left hinge jamb remain. The frame and wood lintel are painted green (Photo 1).

The door has three horizontal panels and a large upper window with the following phrases painted on it (Photo 1):

Gucker Coal Co.
Frank Gucker
Est. 1941

A cornice painted green runs the entire length of the façade under the roof overhang and above each window and door lintel. These lintels are wood and painted green.

The second bay, at the eastern side of the façade, contains a one-over-one window with historic wood sashes, sill and frame. The window has a wood lintel matching the lintel over the façade's historic door.

An historic bell system that rang when the company received a phone call is affixed to the upper left (west) corner of the soffit running the length of the façade.

⁶ Waddle, Tanjua. Recorder of Deeds, Linn County, Missouri, Interview. 17 August 2023.

⁷ Physically measured on 13 September 2023.

⁸ Compare Photo 1 with Figure 15. Gutters are different, plus there has been the addition of a downspout to the east wall.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

East Elevation

This elevation is divided into three bays (Photo 2).

The southernmost bay contains a window identical to those described above. A wire runs up the wall and travels along the soffit. A non-historic downspout hangs from the southernmost corner of the elevation (Photo 2). A non-historic gutters/eave trough runs the full length of the elevation's eave.

The central bay contains only a window identical to those described earlier. A wire is affixed to the cornice and drapes over the sash. No wiring travels into the interior because the building does not contain any electrical functions such as outlets or phone jacks.

The northern bay holds an historic wood door and frame. The frame, lintel, and sill match the main entryway door on the south elevation wall. This door is different from the historic door of the south elevation. This door has a larger area about the windowpane and the bottom of the door is covered with a wood panel. The window light has the same painted phrases as seen on the primary façade's door. A non-historic screen door covers this door (Photo 2).

The wiring that starts in the utility box on the southern bay extends around two devices that keep it from hanging loose and travels to the northeast corner of the wall where it meets the underside of the roof overhang.

The historic scales about this elevation (Photos 5-6).

North Elevation

The elevation has the same white painted stucco and the cornice painted green running across the top of the wall under the eave. A non-historic security light is affixed near the northeast corner of the board (Photo 4). The elevation contains one window in the same style as seen on the south elevation: the same size, same style lintel, frame, sill, and lights (Photo 4). It is positioned slightly to the west of center in the wall.

West Elevation

The elevation has the same white painted stucco and cornice running across the top of the wall under the roof overhang. It is divided into two bays. Each bay contains a window identical to the owns listed above. The foundation was slightly exposed on this side showing a foundation of concrete (Photo 3).⁹

Roof

As noted above, the roof is a hipped roof with non-historic asphalt shingles. Non-historic eaves/gutters (see above) run the full length of the primary (south elevation) and secondary (east

⁹ Painting and work on the filling in the exposed foundation was completed in December 2023.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

elevation) façades with a drainpipe affixed to the secondary façade. No gutter exists at the north or the west elevations. These eave troughs and drainpipe were added later; the date is unknown. Compare Figure 6 with Photos 1-4 and 8.

INTERIOR

The interior is one room (Figures 4-5). It measures 17' 9" by 13' 6". There is no basement. Each internal plastered wall is covered with white paint (Photos 12-15). The historic green paint is obvious under the chipped off spots of the paint. The ceiling is plaster, also painted white, but in some areas the historic paint is seen. The historic windows are all the same as seen externally. They consist of wood trim, lintels, and sills of approximately 4 inches in width and sashes containing a single-pane one-over-one window (Figure 15; Photos 1-4 and 12-15). These are all painted white.

Historic wood trim painted white runs around the bottom of each wall. Both doors leading from the primary and secondary facades are framed by historic wood lintels, headers, and jambs. The door to the east has the bottom panel boarded over (Photo 18). It is lit primarily by sunlight coming through the doors and windows. The historic wood flooring is covered by linoleum laid in the 1950s (Figure 16).¹⁰ The subfloor can be seen in Photo 19; below it, somewhat exposed, is the historical wood flooring. A large swath of non-historic plaster covers parts of the north wall and the ceiling (Photo 13). The building was heated solely with a "warm morning stove using coal"; it was located near the north wall.¹¹ The historic scale is set against the east wall (Photo 14).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The first is the historic external scale (contributing) located immediately east of the building. This was used in conjunction with the historic internal scale located on the east wall of the building (Photos 1, 5-6). The concrete tops of the external scales are visible in Photos 2, 5, and 6. The entire functioning mechanism was buried intact for safety reasons after the area was no longer used for coal-related purposes.

ALTERATIONS

The following known alterations have been made to the property:¹²

- 1940s: Removal of historic semi-permanent coal bin used to store coal.
- 1940s: Shed removed.
- 1940s – late-1950s: Electricity installed and shut off.
- 1950s: A couple of lean-to sheds on the north side of the building where they stored shovels and similar equipment were removed.
- 1950s: Gutters installed.

¹⁰ Lewis, Michelle. Personal Interview. 27 July 2023.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² All alterations discussed are a result of speaking with the owner.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property
Linn, Missouri

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

- 1950s: Linoleum flooring installed over historic wood floor.
- Pre-1960s: Stovepipe the exited north wall (not at ceiling) removed.
- 1960s: Wood fence removed (was not original or historic)
- 1960s: Removal of three non-historic temporary coal bins used to store coal coming off the trains.
- Early-1960s: External Scales area filled in for safety reasons.
- 1970s: Plastering of the central portion of north wall and a section of the ceiling. Required due to water damage from a leaking roof.
- Late 1980s: Security lights installed in upper west corner of the south elevation wall because the city wanted lighting for the library.
- Prior to 1990: Roof shingles replaced multiple times. No records of exact dates.
- 2003: A memorial stone was placed in the second cement block north of the public sidewalk (Figure 21). It reads:

GUCKER COAL CO.

Established September 1941

Dedicated November 8, 2003

In Loving Memory of Frank & Inez (Hoskins) Gucker

- December 2023: Repainting of the exterior and repairing of exposed foundation.
- Unknown: Addition of non-historic eaves troughs/gutters and drainpipes.

INTEGRITY

The Gucker Coal Company office building is in very good condition and its integrity remains largely intact.

The non-permanent wood coal bins and an outhouse (later converted to a shed) have been removed and the scales filled in until only the top concrete border of them is still visible.

The non-contributing, non-extant outhouse (Figures 7-8) fell into disrepair and was removed in the 1940s.

The second non-contributing non-extant resource are the coal bins (non-contributing) seen in the 1930 and 1939 Sanborn maps (Figures 7-8 and 12) were part of the property (the East half of Lots 17-20) during the POS; while the information on the easement in Lot 21 says westerly,¹³ the records may be wrong, since the bins extended through the northeast—not the northwest—corner of the property. The bins seen in the Sanborn Maps were wood as well; they were never concrete. Gucker replaced the old three-sided temporary wood bins with similar style ones after he purchased the property, situating them in the area seen in Figure 12. As noted, the bins were temporary. They did not require heavy equipment or dismantling to move. As seen, these were three-sided, wood, open-air bins with no top or bottom. They faced the unnamed alley where the rail spur was located (Figure 13).

¹³ Waddle.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property
Linn, Missouri

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

These alterations have some impact on the overall integrity of the property, but because the shed was a lean-to and never meant to be permanent and as the same goes for the bins (coal could have just as easily been dumped in piles on the side lawn), these two alterations are not as serious and damaging as the filling in the scales for safety reasons. Some loss of integrity, therefore, exists externally.

While there have been other minor alterations, primarily regular maintenance, none of these alterations have significantly negatively impacted the overall internal integrity of the property as discussed below. Painting, patching and other minor maintenance issues effect the look of the property, not the feel, setting or sense of place. Therefore, these maintenance alterations do not significantly impact integrity in a negative manner.

While the scales have been filled in the scale itself is fully intact; excavation of the structure would reveal such; thus, once the infill is removed, the site would recover more of its integrity regardless of the condition of the scales. As a result, the entire site maintains much of its historic look and feel.

Internally, the only major alterations to the building have been to the roof (not uncommon for any building) and the plastering of the north internal walls and ceiling to seal a leak, the resource remains as it was when there were no other structures (temporary like the coal bins or permanent like the scales and latrine).

Despite the alterations, “the overall sense of past time and place is evident.”¹⁴ The historic integrity of the office building is largely intact, with most internal features remaining historic. The general layout of the property both the interior and exterior retain their historical integrity of *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association* remain largely intact. The office sits exactly where it did during the period of significance. The design is unaltered; the layout is intact and recognizable to anyone who might look at a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The setting also remains largely intact despite the coal bins and an historic shed/latrine having been removed, the scales filled in, and non-historic landscaping added, because the two most important features of the property—the office and scales—remain intact *under* the infill. The material is largely historic; the internal and external walls, except for the plastering to prevent leaking, is historic). Otherwise, the windows, internal and external sills and lintels, the stucco and building materials (wood and concrete) are nearly all historic. The feeling is retained as well. The site is in its original place, exactly where it was when it was supporting Marceline’s coal industry.

¹⁴ *National Register Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, Cultural Resources. 1997, p. 4.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property Linn, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SUMMARY

The Gucker Coal Company building (formerly Marceline Mercantile and Randolph Coal Company), at 125 E. California Ave., Marceline, Linn County, Missouri, is the last extant property associated in any way with Marceline's coal industry. It is located one block east of the north end of the downtown commercial district. The Period of Significance is 1924 (the year the building was erected by Joseph Hemmings, a Marceline businessman who owned a mercantile store; the nominated property was opened as his mercantile office and as a coal office) until 1952 (the year Frank Gucker retired which is the same year the local coal industry had started to diminish to the point the new owners, the Hughes, switched almost exclusively to fuel oil and gasoline). 1941 is also significant because it is the year Mr. Gucker purchased the property from the Randolph Coal Company, a local businessman who first worked for Hemmings and then, at some unknown time, took over Hemmings' office and opened his coal supply company. Gucker continued selling both local and non-local coal to the city, township, the railroad, citizens and others. It qualifies for the NRHP under Criteria A: Commerce/business.

HISTORY OF MARCELINE

Marceline was founded in 1888, two months after the Atchison, Topeka, Santa Fe Railroad marked the area as a subdivision point for its new line from Kansas City to Chicago. Shortly after being incorporated, coal was discovered in various places around the city. The Marceline Coal and Mining Company was quickly founded, and two mines were opened—Mine No. 1 about a mile north of Marceline's downtown business district and Mine No. 2 approximately a mile southeast. Soon after, other veins of coal were found and mined. The coal industry is discussed more below.

MARCELINE'S COAL INDUSTRY & EVOLUTION OF COMMERCIAL COAL SALES

The importance of coal cannot be understated. Each community and state and the entire nation relied heavily on coal for heat and power and to keep commerce moving.

Marceline was a significant part of this national movement. In Missouri, coal mining started in the 1840s,¹⁵ but it wasn't until the 1880s that bituminous coal was discovered in Linn County.¹⁶ The first car of Marceline coal was loaded and shipped from a mine on Thursday, December 12, 1889, and "marked the beginning [sic] of the carbosiferous epoch in Marceline's history."¹⁷

It was soon discovered that the seam of coal ran between Bucklin (5.5 miles NNE of Marceline) and Marceline and was about 2' 4" to 3' thick.¹⁸ One report in the *Compendium* goes on to say, "Vast fields of coal are known to underlie this section of the state, and our Linn County mines

¹⁵ "History of Mining." *Missouri DNR*. Accessed 18 September 2023. <https://dnr.mo.gov/land-geology/mining-land-reclamation/history-mining>.

¹⁶ *Compendium of History and Biography of Linn County, Missouri*. 1912. Archive.org. Accessed 21 September 2023. https://archive.org/stream/compendiumofhist00chic/compendiumofhist00chic_djvu.txt.

¹⁷ Untitled. *The Marceline Mirror*, 19 Dec 19, 1889.

¹⁸ *Compendium*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

already produce each year about 80,000 tons. (The actual tonnage as shown by mine inspector's last report is 86,774, the value being \$187,913— Editor History.).”¹⁹ This is the vein all Marceline area/Marceline Township mines mined.

One report indicates that the Tebo bed is the vein being mined. By the 1890s there were two large shipping mines with short spurs from the Santa Fe railroad—Marceline Coal and Mining’s Mines No. 1 and 2. There was a third, smaller mine operated by the Landreth Coal Co. that did not have a spur. Furthermore, “Much of the product not sold locally is utilized by the railroad.”²⁰

This discovery led to multiple mines being sunk in and around Marceline, all of which supplied coal to consumers (commercial, private, homeowners, etc.).

Early Marceline-Area Coal Mines that Supplied Coal Directly to Buyers Prior to POS

Between 1888 and 1923, Marceline had multiple mines. The largest during this time were Mine No. 1 and Mine No. 2 owned by Marceline Coal and Mining. Another mine, the Landreth Coal Company owned the eponymous Landreth Mine was listed as being in Brookfield, though it was only a mile westerly of Marceline. Two other mines were reported near Marceline during his time: Hier Coal Mine and Chariton Coal Mine, but these appear to not been in business long.

Marceline Coal and Mining Mine Nos. 1 (1889-1915) and 2 (1905- 1923)

Originally, the Kansas & Texas Coal Company purchased property to prospect for coal. This company operated until October of 1893; later that year, C. J. Devlin began operating it under the name of the Marceline Coal Company. He ran it until 1907, when he went broke during the 1907 Bankers' Panic or Knickerbocker Crisis. Devlin’s former Mines No. 1 and No. 2 went to the Marceline Coal & Mining Company after the properties were closed out in bankruptcy.

Throughout all the changes, Joseph Hemmings, who was appointed superintendent of Mine No. 1 in 1889 and Mine No. 2 when it opened in 1905, remained superintendent, “and under his masterful direction the properties are still yielding enormous quantities of fuel to drive the wheels of commerce.”²¹

In Marceline, Mine No. 1, located about one mile southeast of downtown Marceline near the Chariton County line (Figures 16-17, 20), opened in 1889²² and closed in May of 1915.²³ Mine No. 1’s coal “is largely used by the Santa Fe Railroad.”²⁴ In 1899 it employed 299 people.²⁵ This mine appears to have been purchased by Home Coal Co., a new building erected and reopened.

¹⁹ *Compendium*.

²⁰ “Coal Mining in Linn County.” *Rootsweb*. Accessed 19 September 2023.

https://mogenweb.org/adair/www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/_molinn/coalmine.html.

²¹ *Compendium*.

²² Untitled. *The Marceline Mirror*, 11 March 1892 and “The Early History of Marceline.” *The Marceline News*, 7 November 1930.

²³ “Mine No. 1 Shuts Down.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 21 May 1915.

²⁴ “Marceline’s Coal Mines: Inspectors’ Annual Report.” *The Marceline Mirror*, 21 February 1908.

²⁵ Untitled. *The Marceline Mirror*, 13 January 1899.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

That mining company is seen on the 1930 and 1939 Sanborn maps (Figures 18-19). The company supplied coal directly to the government of the City of Marceline. It is unknown if it supplied to other consumers, such as homeowners.

Mine No. 2,²⁶ located 1.25 mile north of downtown Marceline (Figures 15-17), opened in November 1905.²⁷ When Mine No. 1 closed in 1915, the Mine No. 2 owners purchased more land around their mine to expand, going from 5000 tons to 7000 tons a month, it ended up hiring an additional 50-60 men, increasing the payroll to about \$250,000 a year.²⁸ Soon after Mine No. 1 shut down, the Marceline Coal & Mining Company changed its name to Miners Co-Operative Coal Co.²⁹ The mine later changed hands, with the Jackson-Walker Coal Co. taking over and shuttering it in April of 1923 when they started “dismantling Mine No. 2, and much of the machinery [was shipped] to their mines in Illinois.”³⁰

In 1907, the state inspector’s annual report noted the company “capitalized for \$30,000.” that it owns 40 acres with “control under lease” of another 1200 acres around Marceline. On this land, the company runs two mines, both working a 27 inches thick coal seam. The combined output of the mines in 1905 totaled 80,371 tons of coal valued at \$167199.³¹

Further research is needed to determine if the coal from both mines were sold separately or if the coal sold to local consumers was combined and sold together.

Hier Coal Mine (1905- circa 1908)

News reports state a fourth nearby mine, Hier Coal Mine, was opened circa 1905, one mile east of Marceline on 80 acres owned by Hugh Green and run by James Hier. As noted above, Hier originally worked for Landreth Coal Mine. Hier employed 2-4 miners at this time and had an output of 847 tons of coal valued at \$2416.³² The inspector reports that when he visited it on 12 July 1907, he “found it idle, owing to a depressed local market” and the mine was full of water, making work difficult.³³ The company was run by the Hier brothers who owned Hier Bros. Grocery Store at 109 S. Kansas (Figures 17 and 23).³⁴ It appears they supplied directly from their mine.³⁵

²⁶ See Figure 11 for photo of this mine.

²⁷ “New Mine Ready for Work.” *The Marceline Mirror*, 17 November 1905.

²⁸ “Mine No. 2 to Make Big Increase in Force.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 21 April 1916.

²⁹ “City Council Let’s Coal Contract.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 5 March 1926.

³⁰ “J.H. Hemmings Buys Company Store.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 2 November 1923 and “Mine No. 2 Closed Down Temporarily.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 20 April 1923.

³¹ “Marceline’s Coal Mines.”

³² “Marceline Coal Mines.”

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Hier Coal Ad. *The Marceline News*, 22 June 1906.

³⁵ “Marceline Coal Mines.”

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property Linn, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

COAL SUPPLYING COMPANIES (MINES and COMMERCIAL)

As the coal industry picked up in Marceline, so did options for coal delivery.

Mines Supplying Coal During the POS

Several local mines existed during the POS (1924-1952) and most of them appear to have supplied coal to the community, though records are vague and it's unknown what the coal was used for or to whom it was most often sold (i.e., commercial, household, private, etc.).

Home Coal Co. Mine No. 2 (circa 1917 – post-1939)

This company took over the Marceline Coal and Mining Company's Mine No. 1 (Figures 15-17), 21) shortly after Marceline Coal and Mining shuttered its doors in 1915. The first ads for the company appear in 1917. The company mined there until at least 1939 (Figure 20). But no records exist discussing when it closed and why.

Landreth Mine (1889- post-1942)

Around 1889, J. L. Landreth, dropped a shaft with the aid of Rush Floyd and son Joseph, assisted by their neighbor, Mr. Anthony Eligman. The Landreth mine became the second coal mine in the Marceline vicinity.³⁶ The mine was originally referred to as the Landreth-Eligman Mine and, after two years in business, was reported to have ten miners, one of which was Jas. Hier, who was "in charge of the underground work." Landreth supplied domestic coal to the city, rather than shipping it elsewhere.³⁷

This coal mine was located one mile southwest of Marceline,³⁸ but not within the city limits of Marceline; therefore, it is not seen on the Sanborn maps. It was reported to be a successful and that Landreth sold almost exclusively to local consumers.³⁹ A 1907 inspection report indicates Landreth Coal Mine (not to be confused with the Landreth Coal Co. which supplied coal) employed 12-25 miners plus additional staff. Its 1907 output was 2,500 tons worth \$6875. The coal from this mine was "hailed in wagons to Marceline, where it is used for domestic purposes."⁴⁰ The mine was wrought with trouble. Several fires plagued it. For example, a major fire in the Landreth mine in 1934 shut it down for a while.⁴¹ A 1942 article indicates the mine had a fire in 1942 and that the repairs were quick, and the mine re-opened.⁴² The year the mine shut down is unknown.

³⁶ Landreth Coal Mine. *RootsWeb*. Accessed 22 September 2023.

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~sturnbo/folklore/files/landreth/coalmine.htm>.

³⁷ Untitled. *The Marceline Mirror*, 27 August 1891.

³⁸ "Marceline's Coal Mines."

³⁹ *Compendium*.

⁴⁰ "Marceline's Coal Mines."

⁴¹ "A \$10,000 Fire at The Landreth Mine." *The Marceline News and the Bucklin Herald*, 20 July 1934. This information is the same given in *The Magic City, Marceline, Missouri: Diamond Jubilee Celebration, June 29, to July 4, 1963*. Walsworth Pub., 1963.

⁴² "Fire at Landreth Mine." *The Marceline News and The Bucklin Herald*, 31 July 1942.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property Linn, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Chariton County Coal and Coke Company (1921- post-1940)

In 1921, The Chariton County Coal and Coke Company opened. By this time, only two other mines appear to have been operating both the Home and Landreth mines. Reports state the company “struck a thirty-inch vein of bituminous coal...one mile south of Marceline [in Chariton County]” and was mined primarily for commercial use.⁴³ This mine was a re-opening of an old mine shaft, the Mullen Coal Mine, that had been abandoned.⁴⁴ It operated until at least the late 1940s based on ads (Figure 20). Like the Landreth mine, it delivered to consumers directly from the mine.

Nearly all these coal mines supplied coal to various businesses and entities. A more in-depth discussion of coal delivery from and by these mines follows below.

By 1941 when Fred Gucker purchased the coal office from Randolph Coal Company, the Marceline area still had two coal mines operating in the vicinity— Landreth, Chariton County—and perhaps a third (Home Coal Co.). These mines employed over 100 people.⁴⁵

Non-Mine (Commercial) Coal Suppliers

During the period of significance, several coal supply companies dealt with the hauling of coal out of town. Randolph Coal, which occupied the property from 1924 until 1941, was the supplier out of the current building and then, after W. J. Randolph sold it to Fred Gucker, the Gucker Coal Company carried on the supply of coal to various entities in the city and township, including, but not limited to Marceline Township, the City of Marceline, the Santa Fe Railroad, the Masonic Lodge, and citizens for heating their businesses and homes.⁴⁶

The mine owners sold coal directly to the city⁴⁷ but later seemed to favor distributors like Randolph and later Gucker to move the coal by truck to other parts of the county. According to Lewis, the train would back into the spur running north to south located along the unnamed alley to the east of the property and coal would be unloaded into the temporary wood coal bins. Then crews from supply companies would pull into the property from the south (California Avenue), position themselves over the scales, and Gucker would load their trucks. The trucks would either back up into East California Avenue or travel forward and turn into the alley.⁴⁸ The spur has never been associated with the nominated property as it is in a public right-of-way.

To move the product, mine companies relied on not only their staff but smaller local companies to move the product. The three most short-lived companies where:

⁴³ “Struck a 30 Inch Vein of Soft Coal.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 26 August 1921.

⁴⁴ “Open the Old Mullen Coal Mine.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 1 October 1920. This is the first and last mention of this mine in the newspapers.

⁴⁵ “Industrial Survey of This City is Being Made.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 25 March 1927.

⁴⁶ See Figures 7-9.

⁴⁷ The city minutes for December 1910 show Marceline Coal and Mining Co. supplying “one Car coal” to the city for \$109.90. “City Council Minutes.” December 1910.

⁴⁸ Lewis, Michelle. Personal Interview. 27 July 2023.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property
Linn, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

- a) *Landreth Coal Co.*: For a short time, this coal company was known as Wine & Landreth Coal Co., later becoming S.A. Landreth Coal Co. until the Landreth Mine closed and S.A. Landreth took over control of the Chariton Coal Mine just south of Marceline.⁴⁹ The coal was sent directly from the mine to local users.⁵⁰ Based on ads in the Marceline newspaper, the delivery company was sometimes listed as “S.A. Landreth Coal Co.”, but usually as “Landreth Coal Co.”
- b) *Chariton Coal Co.*: Like the Landreth Coal Co., Chariton coal, based on ads in the local newspapers, seemed to primarily sell direct to consumers from its mine (Figure 20).⁵¹

It was typical during this time for coal suppliers to supply a variety of coals to their clients. The reason is that various coals work better in particular instances. Often, the company would contract with one brand, but continue to sell others. The following companies were no exception.

The History of the Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company Office

After shuttering his large downtown Marceline J. Hemmings Mercantile & Supply Company store in 1924, Joseph Hemmings, the co-founder and superintendent of the Marceline Coal and Mining Co. and who is credited with selling the first lot in Marceline, opened this office at 125 E. California Avenue.⁵² Hemmings ran the Marceline Mercantile & Supply Co. out of a downtown office,⁵³ but decided to close it. He was granted a building permit to erect an office building on lots 17 and 18 in block 172, according to plans and specifications⁵⁴ and designed to “be a fireproof structure, build of brick with stuccoed walls inside and out” from which Hemming’s would use as his private office; it appears it acted as William (J. (W.J.) Randolph’s coal office (Figure 18), too. Randolph managed Hemmings Mercantile at the same time.⁵⁵

From this property Hemmings ran his own mercantile and coal supply company under the same name as his larger store until some point in the future Randolph opened his coal office, taking over Hemmings’ fuel delivery.⁵⁶ Over the course of years, ads show he sold “Marceline” coal (unknown source, but most likely from Mine No. 2 or Landreth), “Big Ben” / “Old Ben” (Illinois) coal, Miners Co-operative Coal Company (Mine No. 2) coal, Landreth (Brookfield, MO.) coal and Pennsylvania Anthracite (source unknown).

⁴⁹ “Stephen Landreth Funeral Services Held Monday.” *The Marceline News and Bucklin Herald*, 10 May 1962.

⁵⁰ Ads for S.A. Landreth Coal Company give no indication the coal is local despite being the operated of the Chariton County mine. Given the proximity of the mine to surrounding local areas, its most reasonable that it was moved by truck.

⁵¹ Chariton Coal Co. Ad. *The Marceline News and Bucklin Herald*, 13 December 1940.

⁵² “Joseph Hemmings Sold the First Lot.” *The Marceline News*, 14 June 1935.

⁵³ According to the 13 April 1909 City Council minutes, Hemmings’ mercantile company at one point supplied the city with coal, presumably from the mines for which he was superintendent. At this time, have as paid \$5.25. “City Council Minutes.” 13 April 1909.

⁵⁴ “Council Grants Building Permits.” *The Marceline Herald*, 20 June 1924. Rich Hoon, Marceline City Manager, indicated that the city had no formal zoning laws until 1980. All records prior that, therefore, are inconsistent. Most records are missing due to no formal laws. 13 December 2023.

⁵⁵ “BBuilding [sic] New Office.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 11 July 1924.

⁵⁶ There is a discrepancy here. County records do not show Randolph ever owning the property yet county records show him selling it to Gucker.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property
Linn, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

*Randolph Coal Co.*⁵⁷

In 1926, Randolph officially purchased Hemmings' company.⁵⁸ Ads started showing up in the local newspaper (advertising the W. J. Randolph Mercantile Co. showing the types of coals they offered, which included Marceline coal (Figure 19).

Randolph was a local businessman whose family owned several buildings and businesses in Marceline. The first business they owned, a brick and tiles manufacturing company, was operated by E.M. Randolph, W. J. Randolph's father.⁵⁹ Randolph also ran the family hotel.⁶⁰ He was the trustee of several businesses that were going out of business, such as a grocery store in 1927.⁶¹ In 1928, the company was also appointed distribution agent by the Home Coal Company running their mine southeast of downtown.⁶² The 1939 annual Marceline Township statement of disbursements published in the newspaper indicates Randolph Coal Company⁶³ was the sole supplier of coal to this township⁶⁴ and had supplied it with 1100 pounds of coal.⁶⁵ This deal was lucrative. The following year the city announced that it had accepted Home Coal Company's bid to be the sole coal supplier to the city.⁶⁶ While running the coal company, Randolph diversified into heating and cooling services as well, becoming a Green Colonial Air Conditioning and Heating System dealer.⁶⁷ Like other coal supply companies, Randolph also sold other brands, like Pennsylvania Anthracite and Old Ben (Illinois) (Figure 19).

The annual report from the City of Marceline shows that during his last year in business (1940), the Randolph Coal Co. was paid \$2.20 for supplying 1100 pounds of coal to the city; a second entry on this report lists a \$4.00 reimbursement for coal, no weight is given.⁶⁸ He sold the property to Frank Gucker around 3 October 1941 (Figure 21).⁶⁹

⁵⁷ A "trustee" is an individual put in charge of the assets of a failing business, not someone who has several failed businesses.

⁵⁸ "W.J. Randolph Buys Coal Office." *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 8 January 1926.

⁵⁹ "Marceline Locals." *The Marceline Journal*, 6 January 1898.

⁶⁰ "Old Timers' Here Still in Business." *The Marceline News*, 14 June 1935.

⁶¹ "To the Public." *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 17 September 1926.

⁶² "Notice." *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 7 September 1928. As noted before, records in Marceline are inconsistent at best. The length of this relationship is unknown and out of the scope of this nominations focus.

⁶³ More research is needed to determine when Randolph changed the name of his company.

⁶⁴ Marceline Township includes the City of Marceline and a great deal of the surrounding city. Thus, Randolph supplied all the municipal needs for the area, not just the city.

⁶⁵ "Annual Township Statement." *The Marceline News and The Bucklin Herald*, 7 April 1939.

⁶⁶ "City Will Buy Home Mined Coal." *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 22 March 1929. This is supported by the 4 November 1929 City Council minutes confirming the Home would be the sole supplier to the city.

⁶⁷ An ad in the 6 October 1939 edition of *The Marceline News and The Bucklin Herald* states this.

⁶⁸ "Annual Township Statement."

⁶⁹ An ad in the 3 October 1941 edition of *The Marceline News* confirms the Randolph coal company was sold (Figure 12). The sale is also referenced in "Frank Gucker Has Decided to Rest." *The Marceline News and The Bucklin Herald*, 11 July 1952.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

According to Linn County Recorder of Deeds information, Randolph never owned the property. Gucker purchased the property from Hemmings, not Randolph.⁷⁰

Gucker Coal Company

Like Hemmings and Randolph, Frank Gucker was an extremely important and integral part of Marceline's business and political environments as well, even before he purchased the Randolph Coal Company 1941 and changed the name to Gucker Coal Company.

After buying the Randolph Coal Company in 1941 (Figure 21),⁷¹ the Gucker Coal Company appears to have been the sole supplier of coal to the community, city and the Santa Fe depot. While the S.A. Landreth Coal Company existed at this same time, no evidence has been found to definitively claim that Landreth supplied coal to the city or to the railroad.

Like its owner, the Gucker Coal Company was active in the community. For example, the company participated in the World War II efforts by selling War Bonds and supplied one ton of Green Marked coal to one of Marceline's war bond auction events.⁷² Such involvement in the city meant that Gucker's company was helping move the city and the nation forward at the same time. While people bought bonds for the war, Gucker supplied free coal so those donating might still be able to afford to heat their homes.

Gucker's private records (See Figures 9-11) show he supplied coal to the City of Marceline (Figure 6), residences, and several major businesses in the city such as the Santa Fe Depot,⁷³ Marceline Post Office, the Masonic Lodge and others. The 1945 Annual Financial Statement for the Township of Marceline indicates the township paid him \$7.14 for an unspecified amount of coal.⁷⁴ The company's main customer base, though, were private citizens in the area,⁷⁵ whereas the only other company running at the time was doing business only with homeowners. Gucker was a Mark Twain Coal (Illinois), Eagle-Cherokee (Kansas) and Bee-Veer Coal (Figure 22), sourced from a mine south of Bevier, Missouri, 25 miles east of Marceline in Macon County. He had also contracted with Old Ben as a supplier (Figure 14) to diversify as others did before him.

Frank Gucker retired in 1952.⁷⁶ After his retirement, Glenn Hughes and his wife, Anna Margaret Gucker (Frank and Inez's daughter), leased the coal business.⁷⁷

⁷⁰ Waddle, Tanjua. Recorder of Deeds, Linn County, Missouri, Interview. 2 December 2023.

⁷¹ "Purchase Ad." This is confirmed by his granddaughter Michelle and in "Rites Wednesday for Frank Gucker." *The Marceline News and The Bucklin Herald*, 19 December 1952.

⁷² "A War Bond Auction Will Be Held Here Night of June 16." *The Marceline News*, 8 June 1945.

⁷³ His logs do not specify what the railroad and others used the coal for, just that they purchased directly from him.

⁷⁴ "Annual Financial Statement." *The Marceline News and the Bucklin Herald*, 6 April 1945.

⁷⁵ Lewis and the records indicate this is a true statement.

⁷⁶ "Frank Gucker."

⁷⁷ "Lease Gucker Coal Business." *The Marceline News and The Bucklin Herald*, 18 July 1952.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property Linn, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Hughes' Take Over and The End of the Period of Significance

The Hughes' took out an ad in the same 1952 issue that discussed Gucker's retirement to announce they had assumed daily operations and were keeping the Gucker Coal Company name. Due to the decline in the coal industry for several reasons, particularly in the Marceline area, the Hughes expanded the company to include Phillips 66⁷⁸ fuel oil and gas almost exclusively. The coal they did supply was Bee-Veer coal.⁷⁹ Because the Hughes switched to a focus on supplying a different fossil fuel primarily, the end of the POS is 1952, when they purchased the property, that happens to coincide with Gucker's retirement. The Hughes' continued running the coal company into the 1960s, well beyond the Period of Significance (1924-1952).

COMPARISONS

The Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company (now known as the Gucker Coal Company office) is the last recognizable extant remnant of the coal industry in any of its facets or branches of operations in Marceline.⁸⁰

All of the mines that sold coal to the community in some manner have been filled in and, though not a part of the commercial sales of coal, in 2022 the last coal chute was razed.

All the known sellers have closed and only one extant building exists: the Heir Grocery Store at 109 S. Kansas Avenue. This property, however, has undergone so many changes it is no longer recognizable as historic in any way and does not hold a grocery store anymore. Figure 23 illustrates the non-historic façade.

CONCLUSION

The Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company property extant remnant of the coal supply company—or of any part of the coal industry—in Marceline and Marceline Township.

While the coal companies that occupied this office (Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company, Randolph Coal Company and Gucker Coal Company) had local competition, the building and its property ultimately survived until now, outlasting all its competitors. No known remnants of other suppliers exist, making this property the last extant remnant of this aspect of the Marceline-area coal industry.

During its time in operation, the companies in it supplied both locally mined and imported coal to the city and township and to residents (domestic use). When the coal mines in the area began

⁷⁸ "The Hughes Oil Company Operated by Anna and Glenn Hughes." *The Marceline News and the Bucklin Herald*. 27 June 1963. An ad in the 14 May 1959 edition of the same newspaper shows the name had been changed by at least 1959.

⁷⁹ This information comes from the synthesis of various company ads.

⁸⁰ All Marceline area mines did direct sales to customers, often cutting out the middleman completely. Since they too were suppliers, the term "coal industry" has been used to include all suppliers, regardless of whether they mined too. Additionally, the scope of this research was focused on Marceline and its immediate surroundings.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

to shut down, the final owners during the POS pivoted and supplied out-of-town coal too to meet the demands of the area.

While one other coal supply companies existed (Landreth, Hier, Home (supplied straight from mine), and Chariton) at the same time during the POS (1924-1952) and some updates to the building, the removal of the outhouse, the filling-in of the external scales, the removal of the temporary wood coal bins, and some landscaping, the nominated property has survived with its integrity largely intact.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 18

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property
Linn County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 19

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property
Linn County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 20

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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“Mine No. 2 Closed Down Temporarily.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 20 April 1923.

“Mine No. 2 to Make Big Increase in Force.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 21 April 1916.

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Randolph Mercantile Ad, *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 29 October 1926

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 21

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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“W.J. Randolph Buys Coal Office.” *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 8 January 1926.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 22

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company
Name of Property
Linn County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Gucker Coal Company office sits one block east of Marceline's downtown business district on E. California Avenue. It sits on a 55 feet by 94 feet plot of land measuring .119 acres. Its PID is 20-09-32-002-010-006.00. Directly to the west of the lot is the Marceline Carnegie Library. To its south, across California is Ripley Park. To its east, across an unnamed public access way, is the Santa Fe Depot, currently known as Walt Disney's Hometown Museum. To its north is the MFA Agri Services complex.

The Linn County Record has the description as: East 55 ft of Lots 17-20 Block 172 (as well as an easement along the northerly side of the westerly end of lot 20 – 12 ft wide by 75 ft long). After Gucker purchased the lot the description is changed to East 55 ft of Lots 17-20 Block 172.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the building.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 23

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

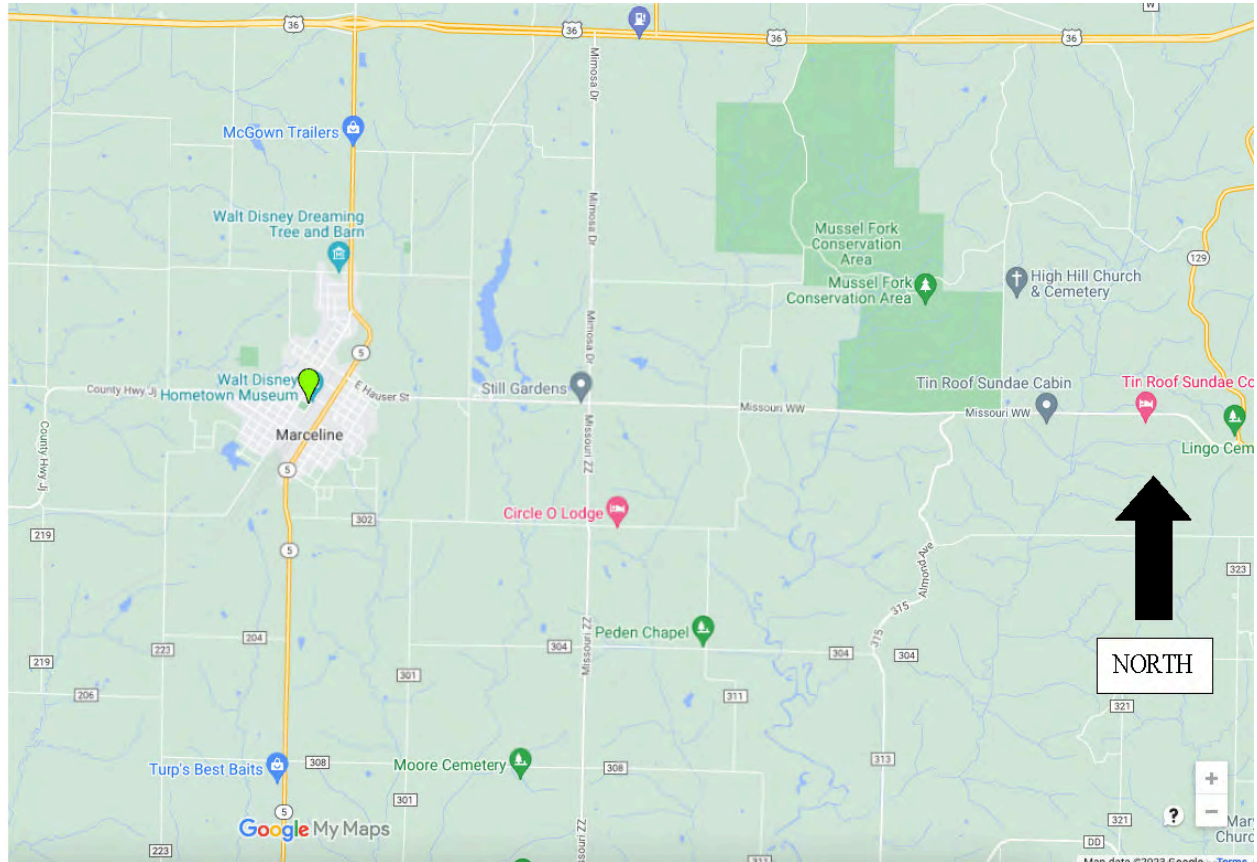


Figure 1: Context Map (Scale: 1 in. = 2000 ft.)
Longitude/Latitude: 39.715793, -92.948407
Source: Google Maps, accessed 19 September 2023

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 24

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 2: Location Map (Scale 1 in. = 100 ft.) -- Orange boundary denotes subject property.

Longitude/Latitude: 39.715793, -92.948407

Source: Google Maps, accessed 19 September 2023

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 25

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

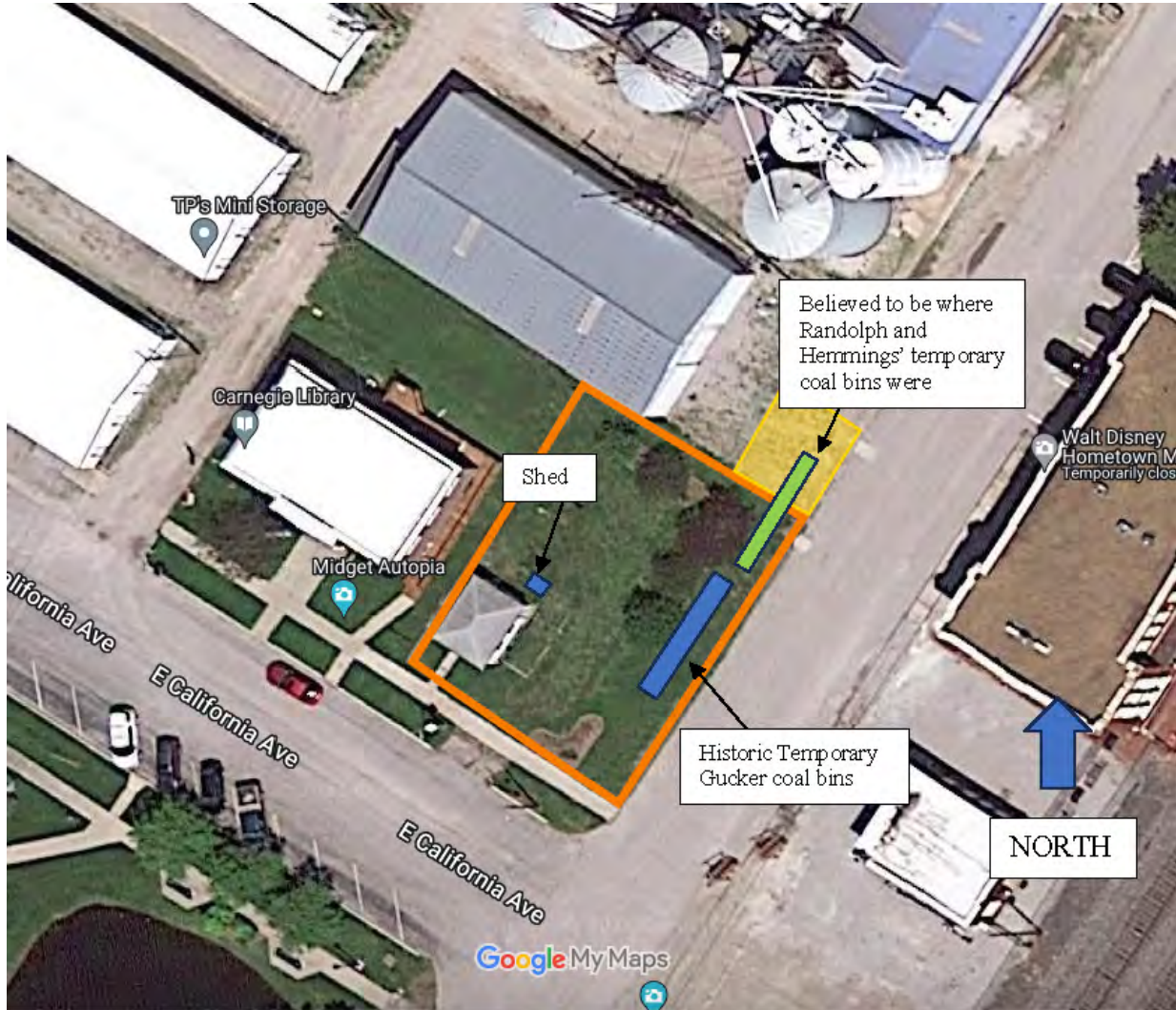


Figure 3: Site Map (Scale 1 in. = 50 ft.)
Longitude/Latitude: 39.715793, -92.948407
Source: Google Maps, accessed 2 Feb 2024

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 26

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

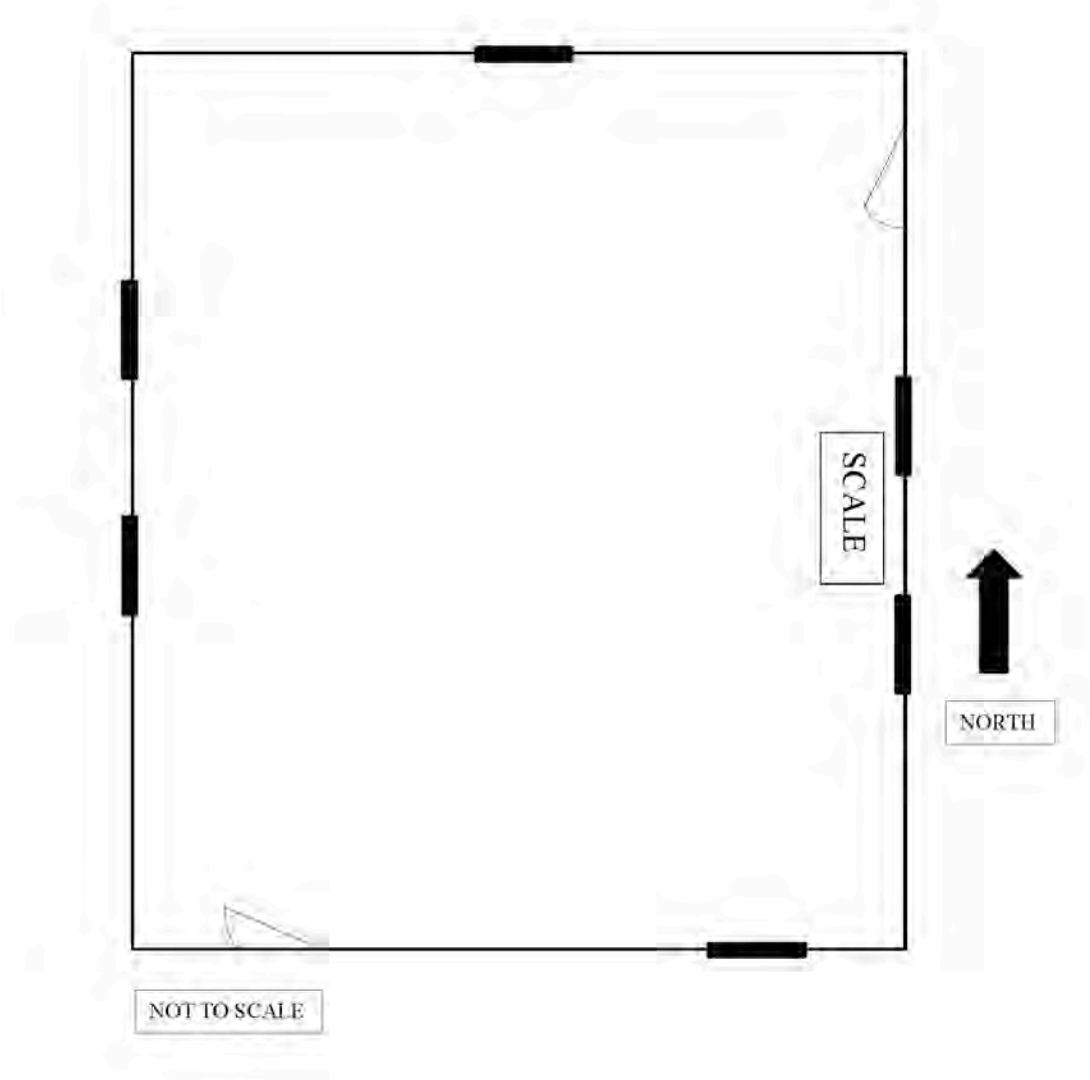


Figure 4: Current Layout

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 27

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

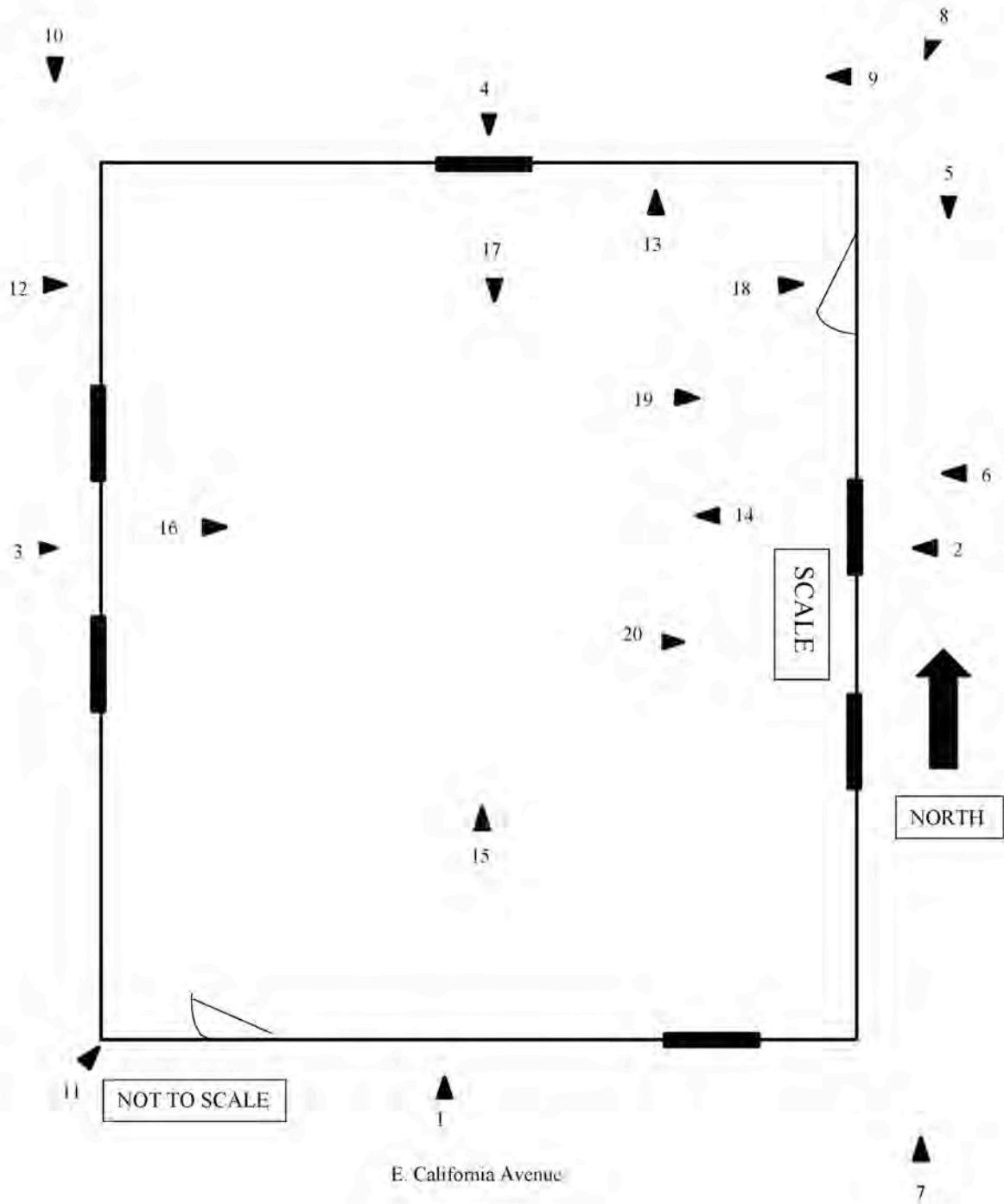


Figure 5: Photo Key

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 28

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 6: Historic photo of Gucker Coal Company office, 1940s
Source: Michelle Lewis, Current owner

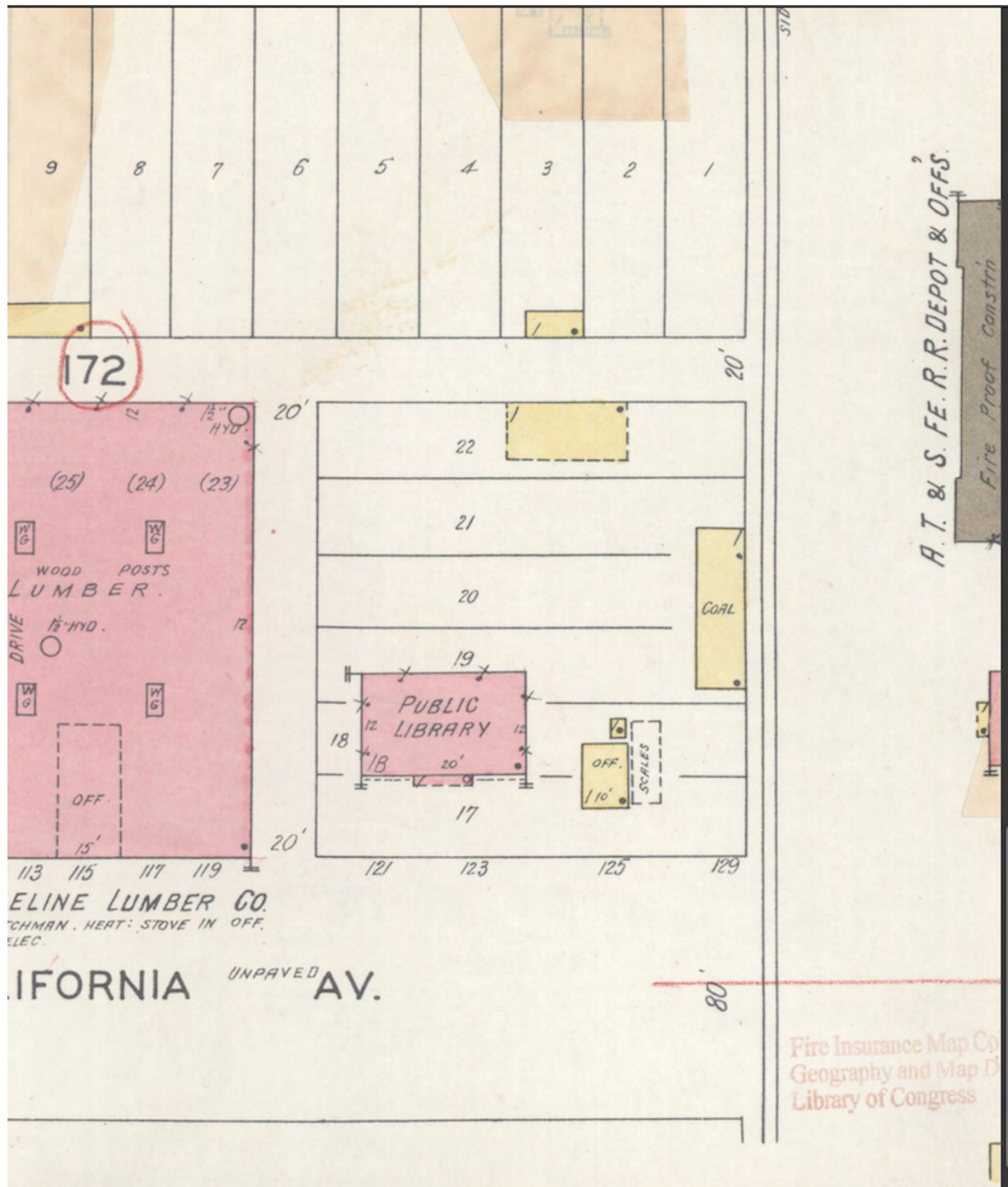
Section number Figures Page 29

Figure 7: 1930 Sanborn Map showing site

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 30

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

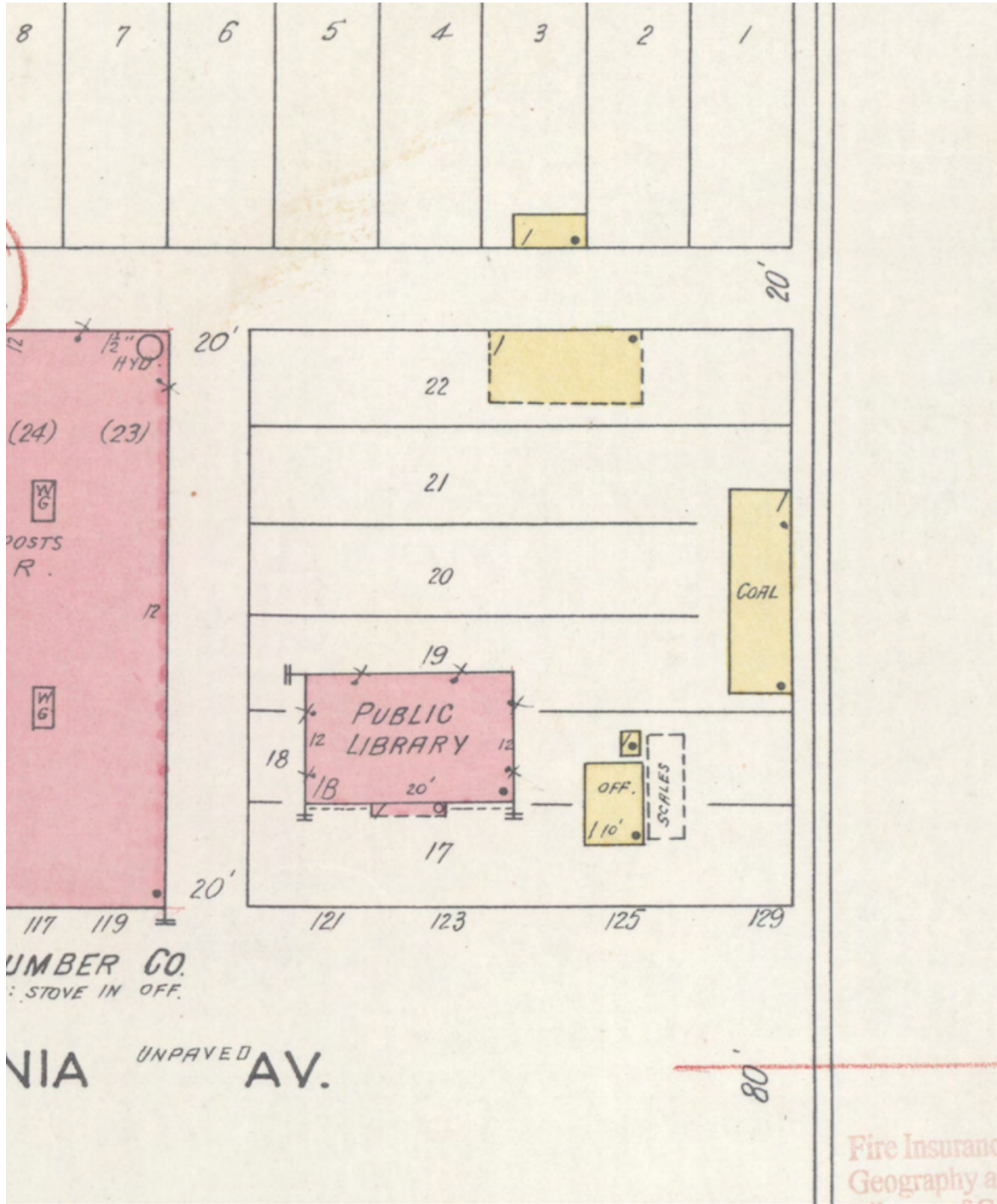


Figure 8: 1939 Sanborn Map close-up, showing site

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Figures Page 31

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

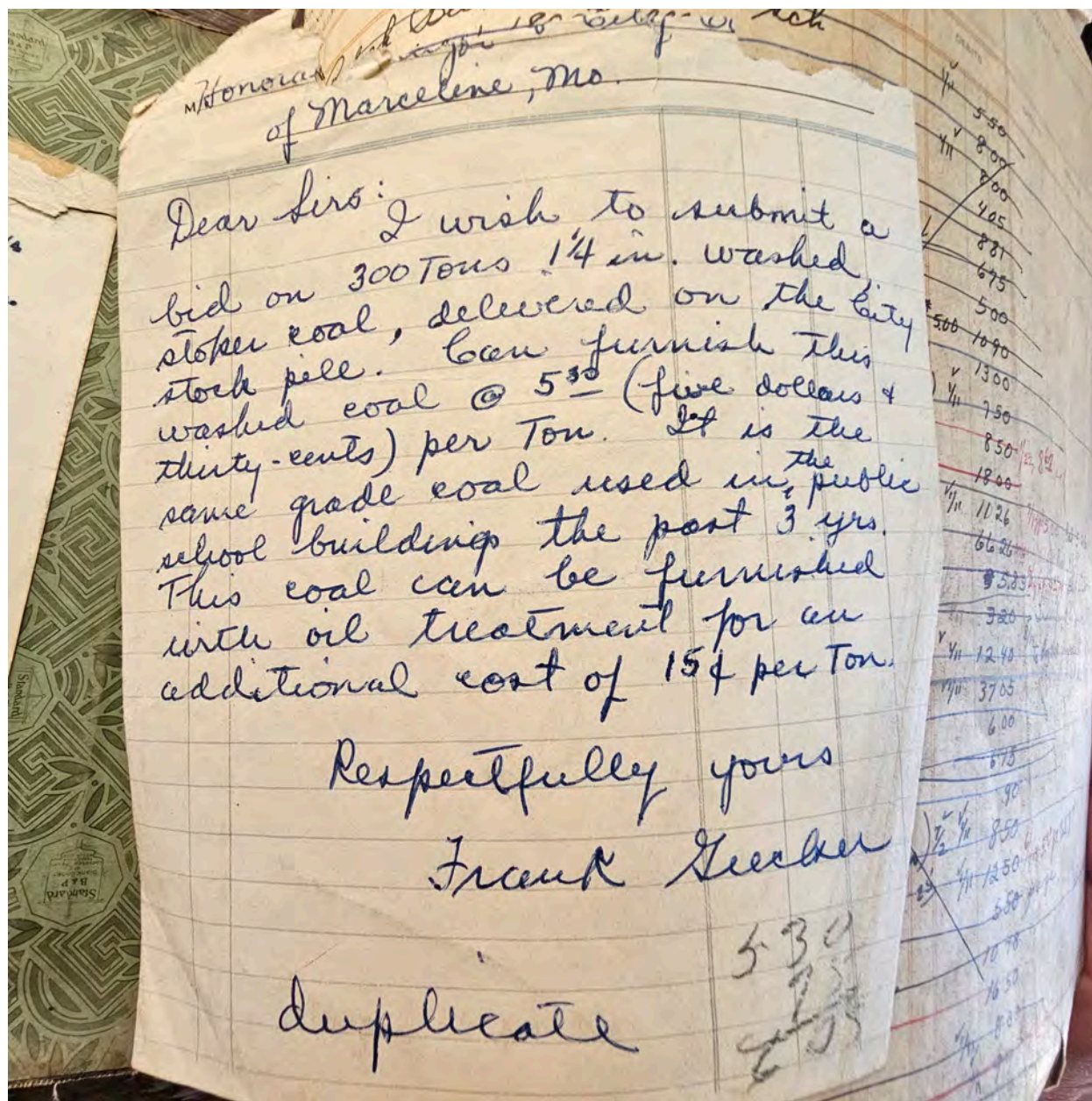


Figure 9: Gucker Bid, unknown date

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Figures Page 32

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn. Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	ITEMS	AMOUNT	CREDITS	BALANCE
	SANTA FE COUNTRY CLUB		1			
	SANTA FE LUNCH ROOM		2			
	SANTA FE RAILROAD		3			
	SANTUS, DON		4			
	SANTUS, JOSEPH		5			
	SAUNDERS, WILLIAM		6			
	SCHAEFFER, MRS ANN		7			
	SCHAEFFER, MRS ARTHUR		8			
	SCHAEFFER, MRS PHILLIP		9			
	SCHALL, MARCELLE PUBLIC		10			
	SCHUBS, ST. BONAVENTURE		11			
	SCHULING, CHARLES		12			
	SCHUPPE, MRS HARLEY		13			
	SCHUTTE, FRED H.		14			
	SCHUTTE, RICHARD		15			
	SCHUEFFER, MRS MARY		16			
	SCOTT, CLARENCE C.		17			
	SCOTT, ELAINE		18			
	SEALS, WILLIAM G.		19			
	SEARCY, W. C.		20			
	SEETAE, JAMES		21			
	SHARP, ELNER		22			
	SHEA, E. J.		23			
	SHELTON, CLYDE		24			
	SHEPSON, LEWIS		25			
	SHERMURY, JANE		26			
	SHERMURY, WILLIE		27			
	SHERVES, GLENN		28			
	SHUMAKER, CAROL		29			
	SHUPKINS, ROBERT		30			
	SIMPSON, MAUD		31			
	SMITH, C. W.		32			
	SLATER, ALLEN		33			
	SLAUGHTER, GUDYS		34			
	SLAUGHTER, GLENN		35			
	SMITH, MILTON		36			
	SLAUGHTER, JAMES, JR.		37			
	SLAUGHTER, WILLIAM		38			
	SMOLLEY, MRS ETNA		39			
	SMITH, CHARLES W.		40			
	SMITH, DOROTHY		41			
	SMITH, E. F.		42			
	SMITH, THOMAS E.		43			
	SMYTHE STORE		44			
	SNIDER, CLYDE		45			
	SNIDER, HEVRY		46			
	SNIDER, VICTOR		47			
	SNODGRASS, WILLIAM		48			
	SNOWDEN, CARLOS		49			
	SNOWDEN, CARLOS, JR.		50			
	SNOWDEN, DOE		51			
	SOLOMAN, JAMES		52			
	SOWERS, CARYTON		53			
	SPENCER, W. H. HAN		54			
	SPORER, BLAZ		55			
	SPORER, I. G.		56			

Figure 10: Log showing Gucker supplying Santa Fe Railroad and Santa Fe Lunchroom, unknown date.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 33

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ACCOUNT NO. 2
NAME SANTA FE LUNCH
ADDRESS Mrs. Laeshlie

SHEET NO. _____

DATE	ITEMS	FOLIO	V	DEBITS	CREDITS	BALANCE
Feb 25	2000 # Del.			825		
Mar 11	Hauling lumber & doors			100		
Mar 19	" "			866		
April 7	2100 # Del.			866		
" 20	2100 "			822		
May 10	2100 " sub. to interest			822		
" 14	2100 "			822		
June 4	2100 "			822		
" 20	2150 "			822		
July 11	2000 # Del.			822		
" "	2000 # Del.			822		
" 20	2250 " 312 @ 9 ⁵⁰			822		
" 22	2500 "			822		
Sept 24	4950 312 Del.			822		
Nov 13	2200 # Brickettes @ 9 ⁵⁰			822		
Jan 27	Hauling kindling			822		
	transferred to J. Laeshlie			100		

TERMS _____
RATING _____
CREDIT LIMIT _____

1921 4-21-19
4548
4638 9-10-19
2926 6-19
2104 2-14-19
1045 1/2 paid

Figure 11: Santa Fe Lunchroom log showing coal delivery credits and debits, 1946

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 34

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

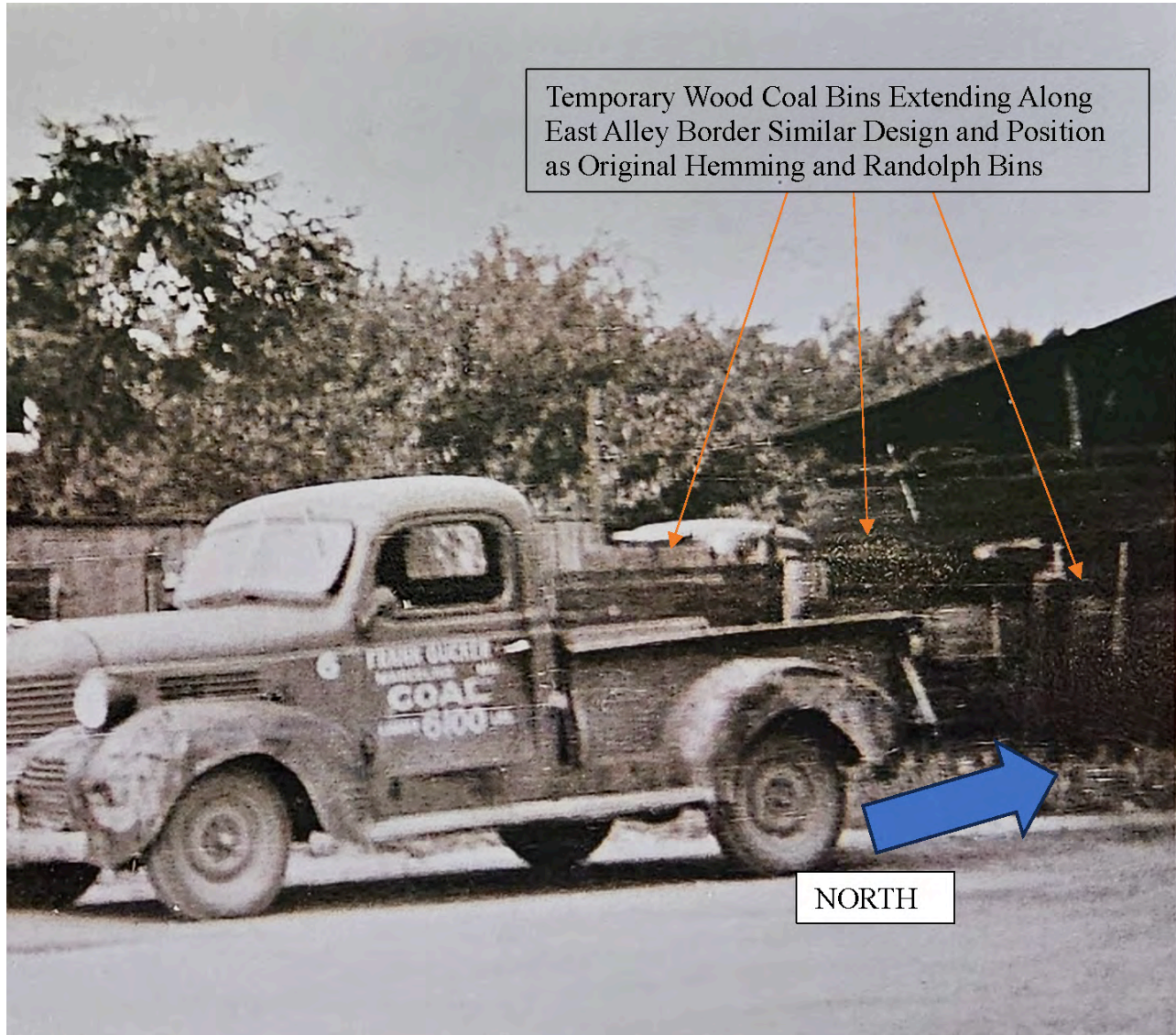


Figure 12: Undated photo of temporary wood coal bins, facing west from no name alley. Best historic photo available showing temporary coal bin. SOURCE: Michelle Lewis, 15 November 2023.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 35

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 13: Direction of Railroad Spur that Supplied Coal to Gucker to distribute.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Figures Page 36

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 14: Contract with Old Ben Coal Corporation, 30 October 1942

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 37

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 15: Historic window, external, facing east

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 38

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 16: Historic wood floor, internal (note historic floor and subfloor)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 39

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

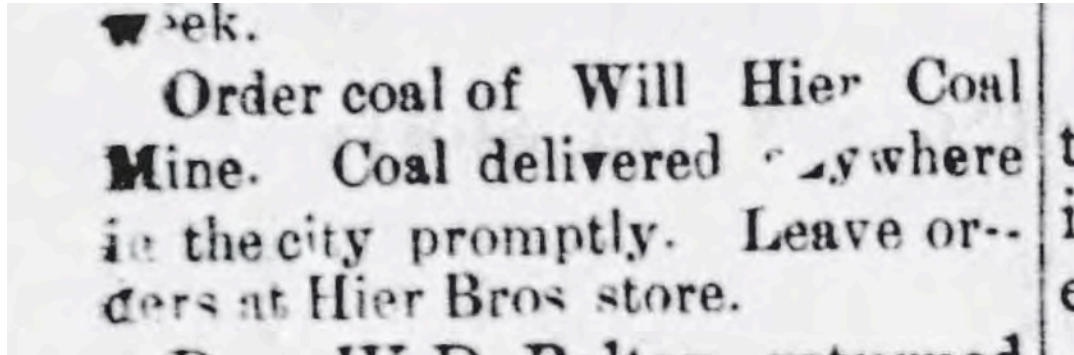


Figure 17: Heir Coal ad. Source: *The Marceline Journal*. 22 June 1906.

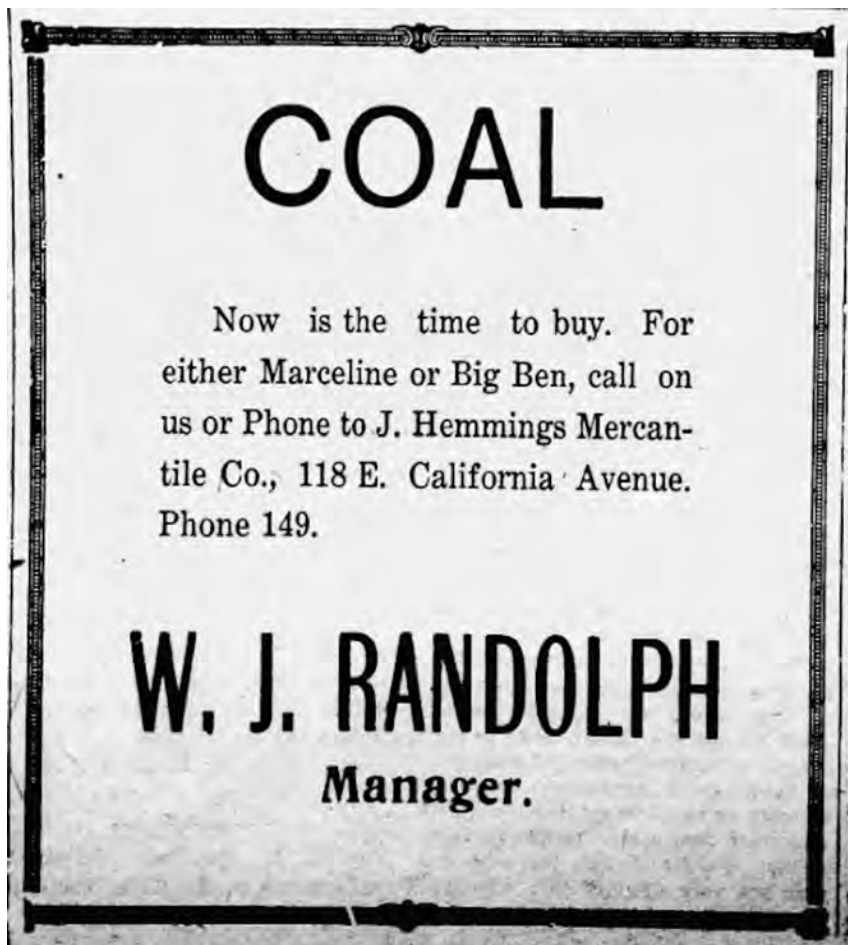


Figure 18: J. Hemmings Mercantile Coal Co. Ad. Source: *Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 13 October 1924.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 40

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

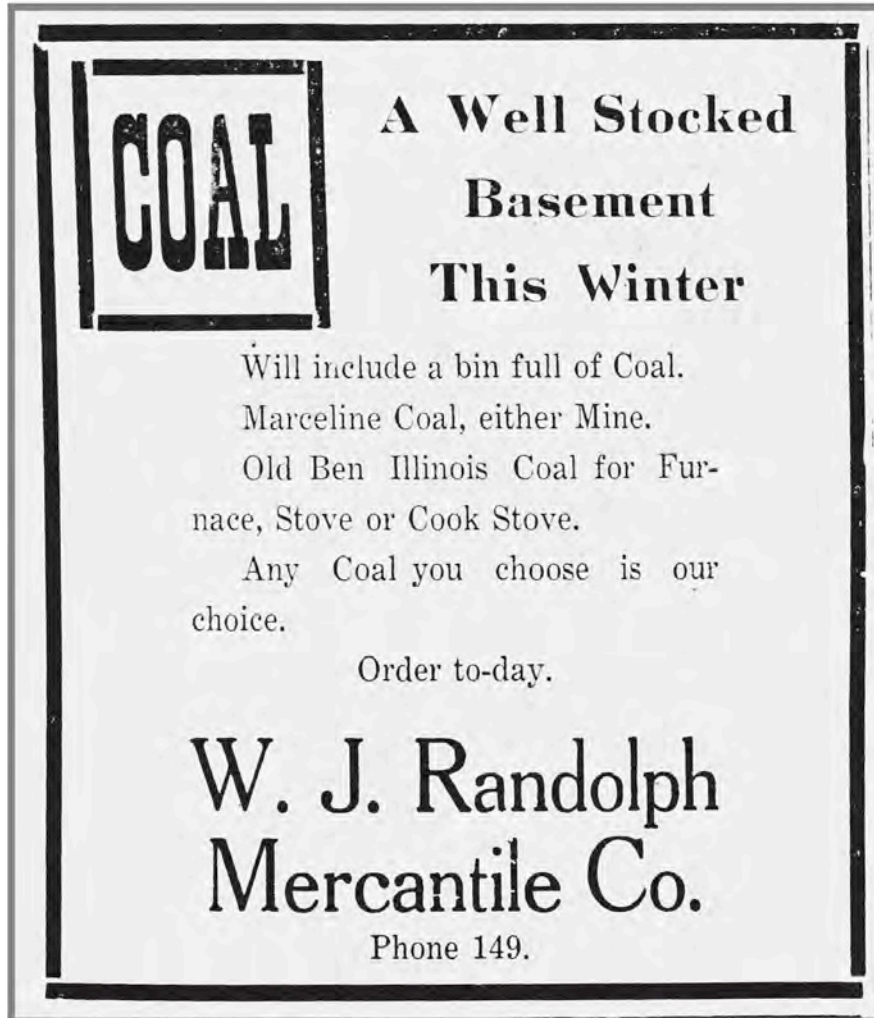


Figure 19: Randolph Mercantile Ad, *The Marceline Journal-Mirror*, 29 October 1926

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 41

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property


Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

A Welcome "Guest" EVERYWHERE



Chariton County Coal

Year after year, Marceline families look forward to a comfortable winter because they know Chariton Coal will be on the job—always delivering maximum warmth with the least effort and tending. Want MORE heat for LESS money this winter? Order Chariton Coal.

Chariton Coal Co.

STEVE LANDRETH, Mgr. Phone 20F11

Figure 20: Chariton Coal Mine Ad. Source: *The Marceline News*, 13 December 1940.

PLENTY OF COAL

We now have the following coal ready for immediate delivery:

- SCHEAFFER COAL ● BUCKLIN COAL
- BINKLEY 3x6 WASHED AND WAXED COAL

I have purchased the W. J. Randolph coal concern on East California street and will continue to operate it at that location.

We will buy your grain.
Your patronage will be appreciated.

Frank Gucker
Phone 149

Figure 21: Gucker Buys Building Ad, SOURCE: *The Marceline News*, 3 October 1941

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 42

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 22: Gucker Bee-Veer Coal Ad, Source: *The Marceline News and the Bucklin Herald*, 15 October 1948.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 43

Marceline Mercantile & Supply Company

Name of Property

Linn, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 23: Location of Heir Grocery Store. Current view.
SOURCE: Google Maps, accessed 23 May 2024.







































