

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Texas

COUNTY:
Hays

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
NOV 8 1974



HB
Z 114
E 602080
N 3306220

1. NAME

COMMON:
First United Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
129 W. Hutchison

CITY OR TOWN:
San Marcos

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
10--J.J. Pickle

STATE: **Texas** CODE: **048** COUNTY: **Hays** CODE: **209**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes): <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
First United Methodist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
129 W. Hutchison.

CITY OR TOWN:
San Marcos

STATE:
Texas

CODE:
048

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hays County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
San Marcos

STATE:
Texas

CODE:
048

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Texas State Historical Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1974** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Texas Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN:
San Marcos

STATE:
Texas

CODE:
048

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

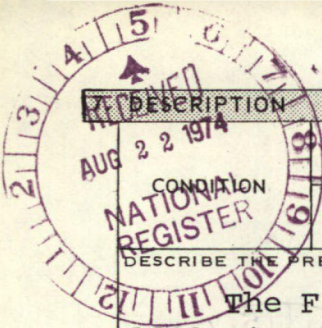
STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER
NOV 8 1974

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY



DESCRIPTION

		(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First United Methodist Church of San Marcos, built in 1893, is a white frame, cruciform Gothic Revival Church. Located on the northwest corner of Hutchison and Fredericksburg streets, the main facade faces south.

Narrow, triple round arched windows, the middle one being slightly larger, form the central portion of the main facade. Decorative panels create the base of the window framing. The remaining apertures have narrow lancet windows or lancet arched transoms over double doors.

A four-story bell tower crowned by a pyramidal roof and spire projects from the southeast corner of the main facade. The west and south sides of the tower contain double doors with lancet transoms. On the southwest corner a small pyramidal turret with spire, similar in proportion to the bell tower, rises from the roofline. The entrance on the first floor of this corner is inset, supported by a square post and embellished with brackets.

Large bays, created by the transepts, project at the east and west sides. In order to conform to the bayed proportions, each pitch of the roof forms two planes. At the rear a rectangular portion with truncated hipped roof encloses the sanctuary.

The steeply pitched roof creates tall gables over the front and rear facades and the transepts. The upper third of the gables on the main and rear facades are shingled, while the remaining portion has clapboard siding. A simple stick bargeboard further decorates these gables. The bayed transepts have gables with only clapboard siding, but the bargeboards in each have a more intricate and decorative pattern. Finials at the peak of each gable further embellishes them. In the center of the south gable is a circular stained glass window, while circular louvered openings exist in the east and west gables.

Accentuating the Gothic quality in the roofline are small triangulated, louvered openings, which project vertically from the steep pitch of the roof on the east and west.

Decorative cornice detail surrounds the main structure and brackets support the slightly overhanging eaves on the east and west facades.

There have been few alterations to the church in the past 80 years. In 1939 there was some remodeling done to the interior, including the twenty stained glass windows, given as memorials to the early builders. On the exterior the belfry was once open, but it is presently enclosed by louvered panels. In 1951 a Fellowship Hall was added at the west side of the church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1893

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

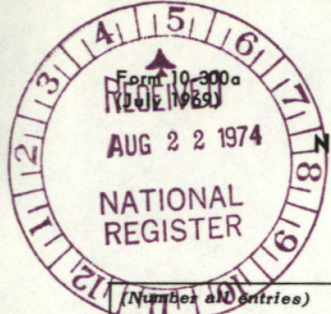
San Marcos, a central Texas city in Hays County, was named for its location on the headwaters of the San Marcos River. In 1851 William Lindsey, Ed Burleson, and Eli T. Merriman bought the Juan Martin Veramendi land grant of 1831 and laid out the town of San Marcos to serve the people who had begun to settle the area in the late 1840s. The historical background of the First United Methodist Church begins with the founding of the settlement at San Marcos. Many early settlers and town leaders were also responsible for founding the church.

One of the first settlers, John D. Pitts, had accompanied General Edward Burleson to the headwaters of the San Marcos River in 1847 and was so impressed with the surroundings that he decided to move his family to the newly formed settlement. Born in 1798, Pitts grew up in Georgia and married Eliza Davis in 1819. After serving one term in the Georgia legislature, Pitts decided to move his family to Texas in 1842. They settled first on an Austin County farm, then moved to Grimes County. In 1846 Pitts served as clerk of the first Legislature of the new State of Texas. It was during his term as clerk that he became enchanted with the area along the San Marcos River. In 1847, only a few months after settling in what is now San Marcos, Pitts organized the first Methodist Church in his cabin and invited his friend, Reverend Alfred B. F. Kerr to come from Seguin to preach to them. Governor George T. Wood appointed Pitts Adjutant-General in 1848 and for the next two years he and his family lived in Austin. The church, however, met in the Pitts cabin until a new structure was built in 1849.

Charter members of the first Methodist church included several members of the John D. Pitts family--their daughter, two brothers, and a sister-in-law--that had joined them in settling San Marcos. In addition, Michael Sessom, one of the earliest San Marcos residents, joined in founding the new church. Sessom had come to the area in 1835 with Henry McCulloch's Texas Ranger detachment and he and his wife had built the second home in the new town. He worked, thereafter, as the town

See Continuation Sheet # 1.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Hays	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 8 1974

8. Significance continued.

blacksmith. Two other founders, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McGehee, had moved to the area in 1846 and established the first farm in what is now Hays County.

The founding of Methodism was scarcely a decade old in Texas when the San Marcos congregation was formed. The scattered congregations were served by itinerant ministers over widely separated areas, thus San Marcos did not have a permanent minister until 1872 when San Marcos was designated the headquarters for a new district in the Conference. The founding minister of the San Marcos congregation in 1847 was 24 year old Alfred B. F. Kerr who served for two years at Seguin, Matagorda, Goliad, Rutersville and San Marcos. In 1849 he was appointed to a new position and left the city. Due to health reasons Kerr was later forced to give up the ministry and returned to San Marcos in 1876. With the incorporation of San Marcos in 1877, the popular Alfred Kerr was elected the first mayor and held that position until his death in 1881.

Another famous member of the San Marcos Methodist Church was Edward Burleson. Born in North Carolina in 1793, Burleson moved to Texas with his wife in 1830 and settled near Bastrop. By 1833 he was selected as a delegate to the Convention at San Felipe, in 1835 he was elected to succeed Stephen F. Austin as Colonel of the only regiment organized under Austin, and he fought in the battle of San Jacinto in 1836. Thereafter, Burleson was active in political affairs during the Republic years and early Statehood by serving as Vice President of the Texas Republic from 1841-1844, running unsuccessfully for President in 1844, and then participating as State Senator from 1846 until his death in 1851. Burleson and his family settled in San Marcos in 1848 at which time he joined the Methodist church.

For two years services were held at monthly intervals in John Pitts' cabin. From 1849-1855 the congregation moved to a small log house which served as school, church, courthouse and community hall. In 1855 the Methodists and Masonic Order raised a two-story building for their joint use at the corner of Hutchison and Fredericksburg St. where the present structure stands. The combination church and lodge burned in 1868, so the congregation met in the chapel of a nearby private school, Coronal Institute, for the next four years. A red brick structure was built on the same corner in 1872 and Captain William Sawshe donated a church

See Continuation Sheet # 2.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) # 2

STATE	Texas	
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	NOV 8 1974	

(Number all entries)

8. Significance continued.

bell, which hangs today in the tower of the sanctuary. Due to poor construction the crumbling walls were torn down in 1891 and the congregation returned once again to the Coronal Institute chapel. The present frame Victorian Gothic structure was completed in 1893 and has served the San Marcos Methodist Church congregation since that time. Following the nationwide unification of Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches, the San Marcos unit renamed their church the First United Methodist Church of San Marcos.

The First United Methodist Church was founded simultaneously with the establishment of San Marcos. As it was the first church organized in Hays County, the congregation feels a close link with the heritage of their city. In addition, this 1893 Gothic Revival structure is a fine example of local nineteenth century architecture in San Marcos.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dobie, Dudley R., History of Hays County. Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of Texas, Austin, Tx., 1932.

Lowman, Al, First United Methodist Church, San Marcos, Tx. 125th Anniversary Year, 1847-1972. San Marcos Texas Press of the San Marcos Record, 1972.

Webb, Walter P., ed., The Handbook of Texas. The Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Tx., 1952.

TC
H/602050
3306220

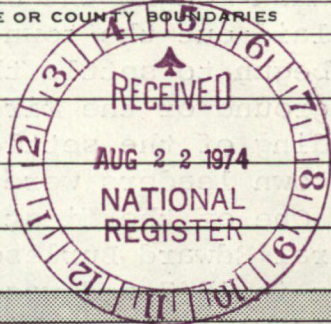
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 , "	0 , "		29° 53' 02"	97° 56' 34.5"	
NE	0 , "	0 , "				
SE	0 , "	0 , "				
SW	0 , "	0 , "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Gary L. Hume, Project Director
Marie D. Landon, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Texas Historical Commission DATE: Aug. 16, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Austin STATE: Texas CODE: 048

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Truett Latimer

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: August 19, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AK Woelke
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/8/74

ATTEST: Charles Henry
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11-8-74

PROPERTY First United Methodist Church STATE Jepes 740022 009

WORKING NUMBER 8.22.74.1334

TECH REVIEW
PHOTOS 3
MAPS 1

Hays

CONTROL REVIEW

OK

R.J.
8.23.
74

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN Nice church, but sig. in religion is assoc. with earlier structures. A more complete statement of sig. in architecture would be ok -

Accept Lebovich 5/6/74

Return
J. Thompson
9/13/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF Local significance

~~Accept~~
~~Revised~~
Cole
10/15/74

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept
Henry
for Markey
11.8.74

National Register Write-up Nov 21, 1974

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry 1/7/75

Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 8 1974



Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

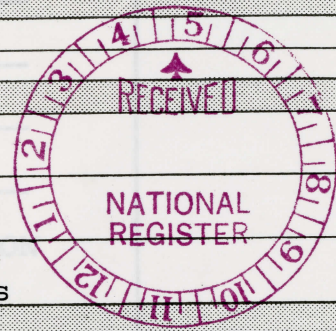
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Hays	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 8 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: First United Methodist Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 129 W. Hutchison			
CITY OR TOWN: San Marcos			
STATE: Texas	CODE 048	COUNTY: Hays	CODE 209
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: THC			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. #1 of 3 Northeast Oblique			



☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORGANIC HISTORY OF THE
CHURCH

THE CHURCH WAS
CONSTRUCTED
BY A. HALLAM
CONTRACTOR
& CO. 1880

Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

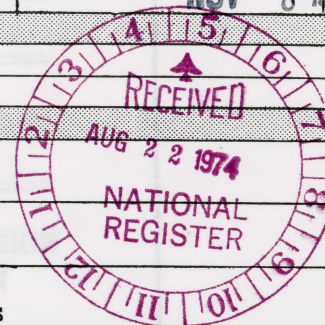
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Hays	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 8 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: First United Methodist Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 129 W. Hutchison			
CITY OR TOWN: San Marcos			
STATE: Texas	CODE 048	COUNTY: Hays	CODE 209
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: THC			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Southwest Oblique			

2 of 3



☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

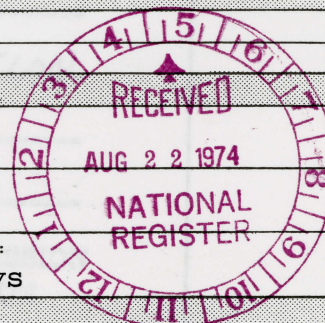
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Hays	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 8 1974

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129 W. Hutchison			
CITY OR TOWN:			
San Marcos			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	Hays	209
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
THC			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
South (main) Elevation			



#3

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Hays	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV	8 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: First United Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

129 W. Hutchison

CITY OR TOWN:

San Marcos

STATE:

Texas

CODE

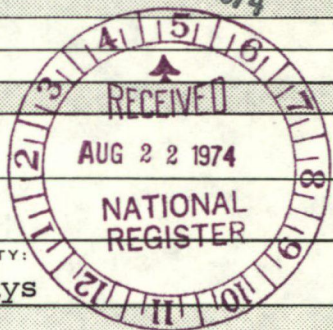
048

COUNTY:

Hays

CODE

209



3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

USGS 7.5' series

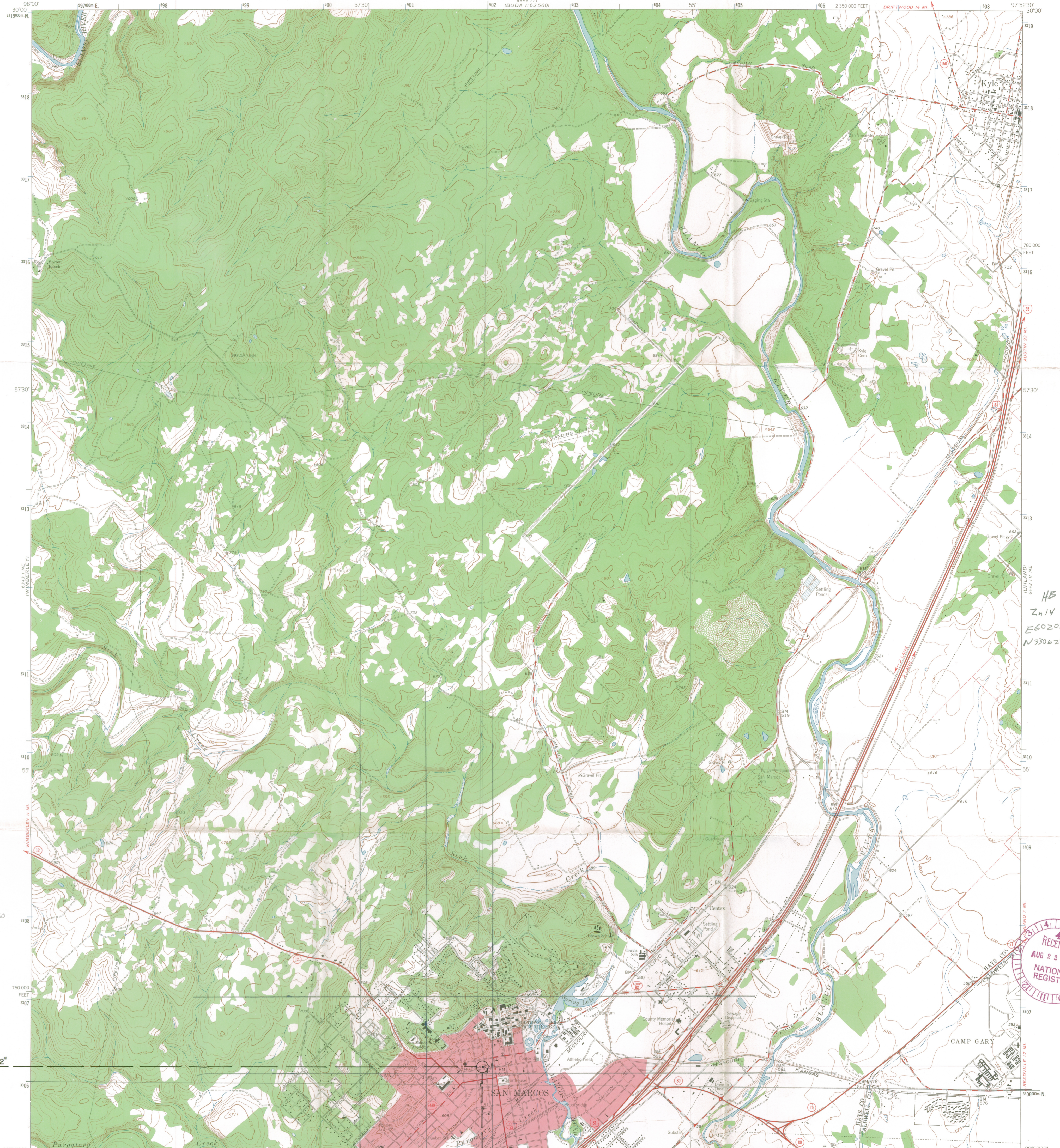
SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1964

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

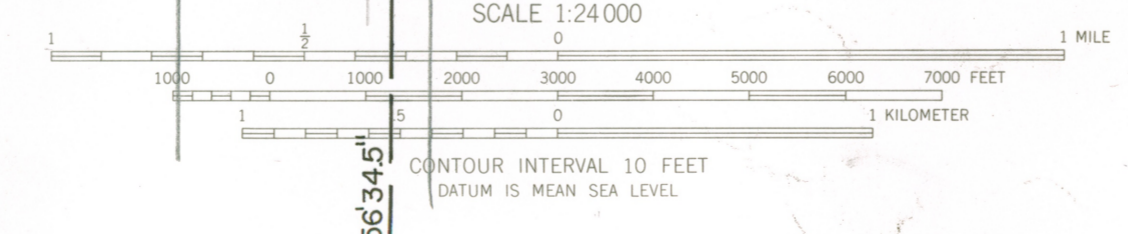
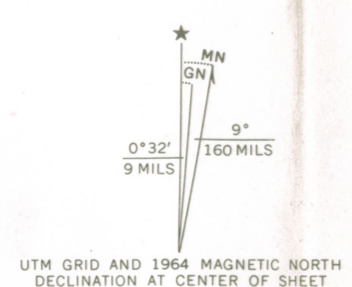


HE
Z, 14
E 602080
N 3306220



14/602050
3306220

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1958. Field checked by USGS 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SAN MARCOS NORTH, TEX.
N2952.5-W9752.5/7.5

1964
AMS 6443 IV NW-SERIES V882

2997-333

14

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **TEXAS**

Date Entered **NOV 8 1974**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
First United Methodist Church	San Marcos Hays County
Luna Residence or Luna Jacal	Big Bend National Park Brewster County

Regional Director, Southwest Region

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen	Mr. Truett Latimer
Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle	Executive Director
Hon. Richard C. White	Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife & Parks	Post Office Box 12276
Mr. Robert M. Utley, Assistant Director, Park Historic Preservation	Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

PR MMOTT: p1 11.15.74