

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received JUL 14 1983
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number All

Page 24

11. Name: Cemetery Chapel,

Location: San Marcos Cemetery, ^{TX 12} on ~~State~~ Highway 12, northwest of central San Marcos.

Classification: Category - structure; Ownership - public; Status - unoccupied;
Accessible - yes, unrestricted; Present use - religious.

Oner of property: City of San Marcos
Dr. Emmie Craddock, Mayor
City Hall
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site

More a pavilion than a building, the Cemetery Chapel is a white, cruciform, frame structure, the arms of which practically consist of large, straight-sided, pointed arches. Dimensions of the two axes are 46'6" x 16'6", and 36'6" x 16'6". The "walls" are one bay in width, except for the nave, which contains two bays. Four gables are covered in corrugated metal.

The Chapel's construction is of single boards with exterior battens on a frame of heavy square posts. Rough logs fastened with iron spikes form the foundation. There is no ceiling; the truss system is visible and creates an attractive pattern against the roof boards.

Wooden benches are affixed to the transept arches on both sides. Originally, there were freestanding benches also, but these have been removed. The floor is unpaved. A gutter and cistern system for collecting rainwater were replaced by a well, windmill, and wooden tank, but these fell into disrepair. Their removal did not damage the chapel.

A major attribute of the chapel is the peaceful setting, on a hill overlooking the cemetery on one side and distant blue hills on the other.

Significance: Period - 1890-1899; Areas of significance - architecture.
Specific dates - 1866. Edward Northcraft, architect; Ralph Smith, builder

American Gothic Revival tastes ran the gamut from frilly to stark. San Marcos' Cemetery Chapel is in the latter category, "Carpenter Gothic". The open air plan also recalls the brush arbors that served the first pioneers until they could afford genuine sanctuaries.

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The earliest settlers used a plot in the Lindsey addition, a block from where the First Methodist Church now stands, as a cemetery. Mrs. W.W. Moon was the first person buried there, in 1846. The City of San Marcos Cemetery Association in 1876 bought a plot further from the town where a few people, including six slaves, had already been interred. This became the present cemetery.

Before the chapel was built, mourners had to make a long carriage journey into town for the service and then another out to the cemetery. This was too time consuming for those who wanted to be back on the farm by dark. Also, cemetery chapels were "in vogue" across the southwest where mild weather made them possible. So architect Edward Northcraft and builder Ralph Smith were contracted in 1886 to erect a chapel on a cross plan. They would have five months to complete the \$450 structure. Their work was well received. The chapel has hosted the last rites of the town's most respected citizens and veterans of the Civil, Spanish-American, and World Wars.

Bibliography:

Recorded Texas Historic Marker file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.
Historical Markers in Hays County (see general bibliography for full listing),
p. 150.

The Free Press, January 7, 1886.

Speech by Tula Townsend Wyatt, November 11, 1966, recorded by the Hays County
Historical and Genealogical Society, on file at the San Marcos Public Library.

Geographical data: Acreage - less than one acre
UTM reference - 14 / 600690 / 3306500

Verbal Boundary Description - The chapel is located 400 ft. south of the southernmost extension of the 800 ft. contour line of a scarp that straddles State Highway 12. (The eastern 800 ft. line crosses Highway 12 about 400 ft. northwest of the city limit). The chapel's boundaries are shaped like a lozenge, the points of which are 35 ft. from the midpoints of the cruciform structure's end walls. The sides of the lozenge are, therefore, at 45° angles from the chapel walls and face (approximately) the cardinal directions. The structure and immediate environs are included.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Cemetery Chapel, San Marcos Cemetery (San
Marcos MRA)
Hays County
TEXAS

Working No. 7-1483
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/25/83
Action: ACCEPT
RETURN 8/26/83
REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed Check one unaltered altered Check one original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

General & Special
 (A.R. 20076)
 State of Maryland
 2007

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps *Property location not marked on USGS map*
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed *Melores Byers* Date *8/26/83* Phone: *202-343-9553*

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National Park Service**

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Dr. Emmie Craddock, Mayor
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JUL 14 1988

Continuation sheet

Item number A11

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EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Cemetery Chapel, San Marcos Cemetery
(San Marcos MRA)
Hays County
TEXAS

Working No. 7.14.83
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 12/10/83
Action: ACCEPT 12/1/83
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
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- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
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Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

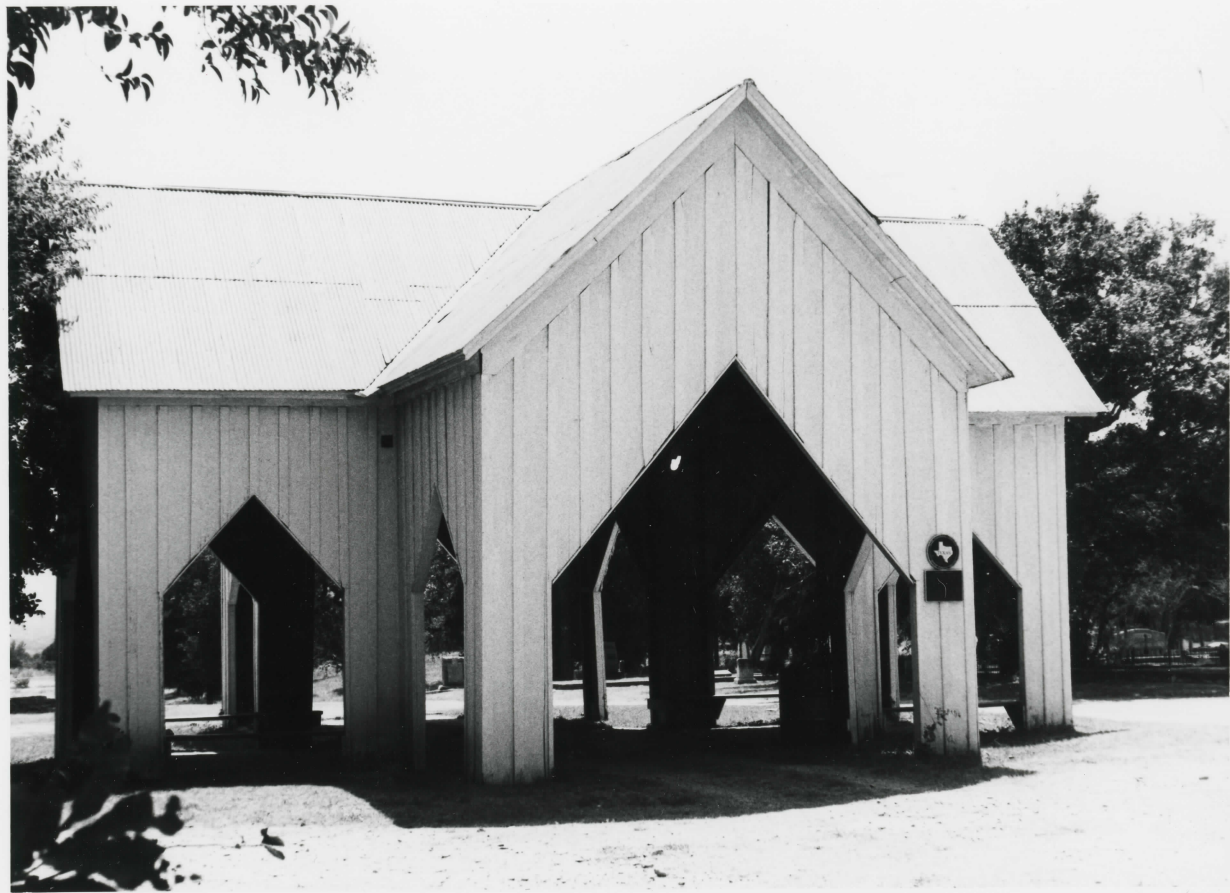
13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#11. Cemetery Chapel

Photo by Lissa Anderson, April, 1982.
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

East oblique, camera facing west.
Photo 51 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#11. Cemetery Chapel

Photo by Lissa Anderson, April, 1982.
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

South oblique, camera facing north.
Photo 52 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#11. Cemetery Chapel

Photo by Lissa Anderson, April, 1982.
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Detail of interior truss and roof system.
Photo 53 of 150.

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853