

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number All

Page 51

23. Name: Barber House

Location: 1000 Burleson Street

Classification: Category - building; Ownership - private; Status - occupied;  
Accessible - yes, restricted; Present use - private residence.

Owner of property: Col. and Mrs. Robert M. Beechinor Jr.  
1000 Burleson Street  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site.

Of many beautiful views in San Marcos, that from the Barber House may be the loveliest. The setting on the wooded Balcones Fault bluff is perfect for the asymmetrical, two-story, white, frame Victorian house. Dominating the front, southeast facade is a double gallery extending the entire length and around the eastern section that surrounds a five-sided ell bay. The flat part of the porch is composed of three bays. Porch rails on both levels are jigsaw panels. The under-eave trim is simple little sticks in a double row on the second floor, in a single row on the first. Chamfered posts support the porch and sport sawn brackets. The wooden steps and porch floor remain intact.

To the northeast, the gallery becomes a one-story inset porch and a filled-in, second-story sleeping porch. This section seems to be of a later date. A stair also with a sawn rail goes to the second-floor porch from here. Two other sections, previously one-story, received a second story from the present owner. However, these are located toward the rear and are not detracting. The additions have multi-paned casements, often with six-over-six lights, while elsewhere the windows have the original two-over-two lights.

Basically the roof is a gable augmented with cross gables and a shed roof over the porch. Because of the setting, the whitish urethane roof cannot be seen easily.

There are six bedrooms and attendant bathrooms and halls upstairs. Downstairs there is a living room, entrance hall, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, sewing room, bathroom, and family room. The breakfast room contains a rack that was once used for cooling milk when the house was a rural homestead. Interior changes are mainly superficial. An elaborate stair graces the entrance hall, but is not original.

On the grounds is an old swimming pool built by Barber, which measures about 35 ft. by 65 ft. It is presently in poor repair, but adds markedly to the property's significance. The pool, pumphouse, a garage, and caretaker's cottage of early but unspecified date, also add to the semi-rural scene. In 1914 a low wall was built across the lot's front. The granite used is from the same source that provided stone for the State Capitol.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A11

Page 52

Significance: Period - 1800-1899, 1900- ; Areas of significance - architecture, law. Specific dates - 1895-1901.

The Will Barber House is a fine example of the kind of frame Victorian residence chosen by prominent Texans near the turn of the century. A very large rounded porch embellished with all the best of the millworker's art is the most notable feature. Will Barber, often called "Judge" Barber, was memorialized as one of the leading civil and criminal attorneys in southwest Texas.

L.H. and Alice Browne built the house between 1895 and 1901, then they sold it to Will G. Barber. Barber came to San Marcos when his father, Henry, was elected sheriff of Hays County in 1880. He went to Austin for schooling and graduated from the University of Texas Law School in 1889. Upon returning, he was elected Hays County Attorney, and thereby began a 45-year law career. Barber served for many years on the State Board of Legal Examiners, and after founding the State Bank and Trust in 1905 with J.M. Cape, as president of that institution for 30 years. He was a trustee of Southwest Texas Normal School. Although not an elected judge, he was often appointed special judge in appellate court trials.

Barber was also involved in agriculture, as owner-operator of 5,000 acres of farmland and part owner of gins in Buda and Kyle.

When Barber bought the house, the neighborhood was still rural. To store water for livestock and plants, he dug a deep pool further up the hill, smoothed its bottom and sides with concrete, and enjoyed the multipurpose creation as a swimming pool also. It is the oldest swimming pool in San Marcos and may predate those in Austin.

Upon Barber's death in 1935, the house remained in the possession of his family until 1944.

Bibliography:

- Mrs. Annie Hall, B.S., The History of Hays County, Texas. Mater's Thesis, Colorado State College of Education, Greeley, Col., 1935. p. 68.  
The Alcalde, published by the University of Texas Ex-Student's Association, Austin. v. 24, no. 3, December 1935, p. 72.  
Abstract of Title, drawn up for Wallace T. Barber, 1944.  
Interview of Tom G. Oliver by Frances Stovall, reported July 20, 1982.  
Interview with Jack Wood, June 10, 1982.  
Interview with Dr. M.D. Heatley, June 11, 1982.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number A11

Page 53

Geographical data: Acreage - approximately 1 3/4 acres.  
UTM reference - 14 / 601090 / 3305640

Verbal Boundary Description - Original Town Site Farm Lot 16, Block 16, more specifically described as follows: beginning at a point 413.33 ft. from the west corner of Burleson and Kasch Street, the boundary runs along Burleson Street 27.5 ft. before making a 30° turn to the southwest and continuing along Burleson Street 138.9 ft. At that point it turns 60° to the northwest and runs 361.8 ft. until it turns a right angle to the northeast and continues 159.6 ft. At the end of this line, the boundary makes another 90° turn to the southeast and runs 112.50 ft., where it creates a small rectangle extension measuring 24 ft. (NE to SW) by 30ft. (NW to SE). A line from the southeast edge of this little rectangle runs parallel to the southwest boundary 371.6 ft. to Burleson Street.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Barber House (San Marcos MRA)  
Hays County  
TEXAS

Working No. 7-14-83

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84

Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/28/83

Action:  ACCEPT 8/26/83

RETURN

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

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

---

**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
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas

#23. Barber House

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

East oblique, camera facing west.  
Photo 94 of 150.





Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas

Barber House

#23.

Photo by Lissa Anderson, April, 1982

Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Southeast **facade**, camera facing north.

Photo 95 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas

#23. Barber House

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

Southwest facade, camera facing northeast.  
Photo 96 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas

#23. Barber House

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

Northwest facade, camera facing southeast.  
Photo 97 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853