

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number All

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7. Name: Fisher Hall (~~also known as Boy's Dorm, Coronal Institute. Common name~~ Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity House)

Location: 1132 Belvin Street

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

Owner of property: PKA Housing Authority of Texas
Robert Cotner, Registered Agent
P.O. Box 1115
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - fair; Altered; Original Site

Set at the end of a large yard that was originally used as a parade ground is the three-story, buff-brick Fisher Hall. The dominant feature of the building is the substantial five-bay frame porch on the primary, or east facade. The porch is framed by massive unfluted columns, and has pilasters at the point where the porch frame joins the wall. While the columns have lost their capitals the pilasters still retain their Ionic caps. The first floor of the porch features broad, round arches between the columns, each with a simple keystone element. The entire porch is topped by a simple entablature with a dentiled cornice. The porch railings are formed by turned spindles. The majority of the windows on the first floor are paired under round-arch openings formed by rowlock arches. The windows of the second and third floors are set in openings formed by segmentally arched rowlock arches. All of the windows have sashes with two-over-two lights. Double doors open on to the porch on both the first and second floors. The walls are articulated by string courses, the majority of which serve to connect the window sills and arches to one another.

The east elevation features a central bay that projects from the wall plane and rises the full height of the structure. The west elevation is a flush wall to which a fire escape is attached. The north elevation features a two-story extension that appears to be original, but has had some alterations, including the addition of a frame utility shed. The south, east, and west elevations are topped by a plain brick parapet with a molded metal cornice.

As constructed, the dorm had no front porch, but did have pointed caps at its corners, resembling stylized anathemia. When they were removed is not known, but it was prior to 1928 when a photo was taken that shows a square, pillared gallery with a three-bay entrance pavilion that extended almost to the end walls (built 1923). The present porch was built between 1928 and 1931. These changes, although dramatic, should not be considered inappropriate alterations. They were the natural result of the building's changing uses and have gained their own significance with the passage of time.

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The building rests on a concrete foundation that includes a half basement pierced by low arches. A modern stair leads up to the porch.

Inside, public areas are concentrated in the center and are flanked by residents' rooms. Its service in many roles ensured several alterations, but its origin as a dormitory indicates that it was probably never elaborately decorated. The rehabilitation potential is good.

Significance: Period - 1900- ; Areas of significance - architecture, education, other - medicine; Specific dates - 1906, W.N. Hagy, architect.

Fisher Hall is a handsome structure, typical of institutional buildings of the early 20th century. Set back from the street, the regularity of its lines makes a bold design statement. It is the only building remaining from Coronal Institute, and has filled many community needs since its construction in 1906 as a boys' dorm.

The building's name honors Rev. Sterling Fisher, Coronal's president from 1903 to 1916. From the dorm, the boys walked five blocks to the Institute. Coronal closed in 1919, but the dorm housed the Normal School Army Training Corps members during World War I. Nineteen twenty-three saw the building opened to the community as "The Soldiers and Sailors and Marine Hospital". Various individuals and groups had contributed to the dorm's outfitting as a hospital. Records even detail the items collected at a linen shower held in a local home. Other fund-raising events included a party and a motion picture benefit. "Soldiers and Sailors" remained open until a new hospital was built in 1960. The American Legion bought it and leased it to the San Marcos Baptist Academy as a junior cadet dorm. Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity is the present occupant.

Bibliography:

Tula Townsend Wyatt, "A History of Memorial Hospital," unpublished monograph, c. 1938, on file at San Marcos Public Library.

San Marcos Record, June 6, 1963.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks files, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Interview with Alberta Smith, June 11, 1982.

Geographical data: Acreage - approximately 2 acres

UTM reference - 14 / 600980 / 3305370

Verbal Boundary Description - H.E. Barber Addition, Block 4, lots 12, 13, 14, and part of 11. The property forms a rectangle measuring 200-ft. along Belvin Street (measured from the corner of Veramendi Street and Belvin Street) by 472.4 ft. along Veramendi, (measured from the same corner). The boundary includes the large front yard and a piece of vacant wooded land behind the building, all of which is under the same ownership and provides a setting that accents the importance of the structure.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fisher Hall (San Marcos MRA)
Hays County
TEXAS

Working No. 2-14-83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/28/83
Action: ACCEPT 8/26/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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	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

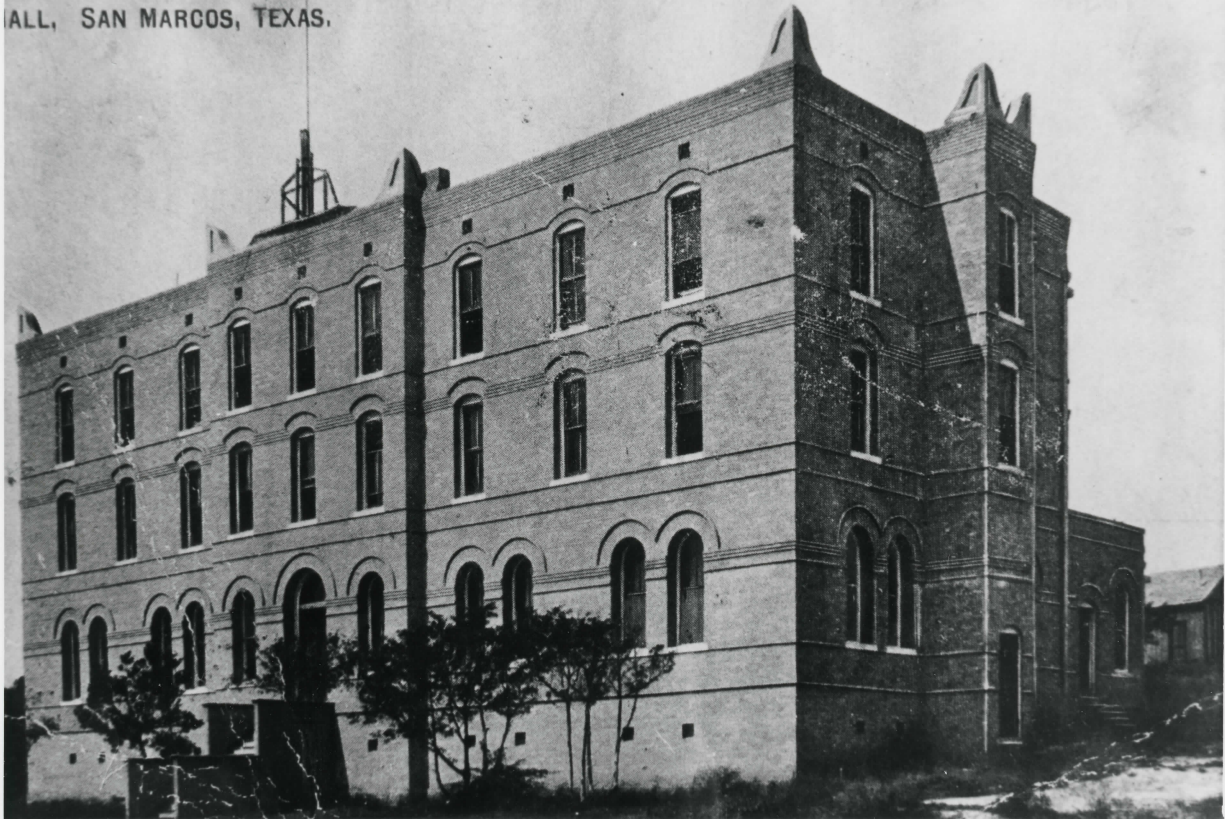
- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

HALL, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#7. Fisher Hall

Photo courtesy of PKA Fraternity, dated 1906.
Copy photo by Sally S. Victor, negative
property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

East oblique, camera facing west.
Photo 30 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#7. Fisher Hall

Photo courtesy of PKA Fraternity, dated 1928.
Copy photo by Sally S. Victor, negative
property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Southeast facade, camera facing north.

Photo 31 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#7. Fisher Hall

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

East oblique, camera facing west.
Photo 32 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#7. Fisher Hall

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

South oblique of porch, camera facing north.
Photo 33 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#7. Fisher Hall

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

North oblique, camera facing south.
Photo 34 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853