

**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

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24. Name: Goforth-Harris House

Location: 401 Comanche Street

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

Owner of property: Dr. John H. Hooker  
205 Briarwood  
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site.

A two-story, white, frame structure under a hipped roof with cross gable, the Goforth-Harris House bears characteristic Victorian features. A curved double gallery fills the space between the main block and the ell. Three-sided bays occur on the north and south facades. Distinguishing details are the concentric, quarter-circle porch brackets, their attendant paired turned posts, as well as fishscale shingles, pendants, and sawn brackets in the gable ends. Shutters flank the front windows with their one-over-one lights; the rear facade has windows with two-over-two lights. There are two brick chimneys.

Because the house has been divided into apartments, it has undergone some alteration. The roof is covered in composition shingles and a small rear porch and its stair have been enclosed. However, the other three faces are virtually unchanged, and the angle of the lot obscures the roof. Interior alterations include new wallpaper, panelling, and carpet, but leave intact coffered wainscoting, bullseye moldings, some beaded walls and ceilings, and the ornate inglenook and pendants of the ornate stairs. All alterations appear reversible.

Significance: Period - 1800-1899, 1900- ; Areas of significance - architecture, education. Specific dates - c. 1905.

Residents of the Goforth-Harris House have been deeply involved in Texas education. The house is also architecturally significant. With its assymetrical plan and gracefully detailed porch, it is typical of late Victorian residences.

J.T. Goforth, who with his wife Lucinda built the home in about 1905, founded and gave his name to a now empty town about 12 miles northeast of San Marcos. He and two others also founded the Goforth School and contributed most of the operating funds. In 1913, the Goforths sold the present house to Thomas Green and Lon Harris. After earning his B.A. and M.A. in Tennessee and teaching school in Georgia, Harris came to



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Texas in 1879. Eventually he served as superintendant of schools in Weatherford, Mansfield, Plano, Dallas, Houston, and Austin. In 1903 he moved to San Marcos and was named the first president of Southwest Texas Normal School. In 1911 he transferred to the San Marcos Baptist Academy to become its second president. Even after his retirement in 1915, Harris taught math at Sul Ross State College for six years, and superintended San Benito schools three years. He died in 1934. The house remained a residence until converted into three apartments in recent years.

Bibliography:

Handbook of Texas, vol. 3.

San Marcos Record, September 25, 1936.

The Citizen-Advertiser, February 3, 1966.

Geographical data: Acreage - less than one acre.

UTM reference - 14 / 601930 / 3306330

Verbal Boundary Description - P.C. Woods Addition, south part of lot 6, 7, 8. The property measures 98.87 ft. along Comanche, measured from the corner of Comanche and Pat Garrison and proceeding north, and is 250 ft. in depth, measured from the same corner.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Goforth-Harris House (San Marcos MRA)  
Hays County  
TEXAS

Working No. 7-14-83  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84  
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/26/83  
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"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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



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**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

*Folsom-Rainey House (Ann Rainey W. W.)  
Harris County  
Texas*

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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

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**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

#24. Goforth-Harris House

Photo by Lissa Anderson, January, 1983.  
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

East facade, camera facing west.  
Photo 98 of 150.





FUNERAL HOME  
←  
PARKING

Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#24. Goforth-Harris House

Photo by Lissa Anderson, January, 1983.  
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.  
Photo 99 of 150.



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853