## **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 A11

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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.

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

	House (San Marcos I	(RA)					
Hays County							
TEXAS				Working No	7-14-03		
				Working No	2 2 84		
				Date Due:	2.7.84 8/1/83 - 8/26/83 ACCEPT 8/26/83		
				Action:	ACCEPT 8/26/83	-1	
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3. Classification							
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5. Location of Legal Description							
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Has this property been	determined eligible?	yes n	0				
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8. Significance	
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Specific dates Builder/Architect	
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)	
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summary paragraph completeness	Hays County
completeness	
applicable criteria	
justification of areas checked	
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relationship of integrity to significance	
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other	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
10. Geographical Data	
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Quadrangle name	
UTM References	
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11. Form Prepared By	
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification	The state of the s
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State Historic Preservation Officer signature	
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13. Other	
Maps	
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Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to	
Signed Date	Phone:

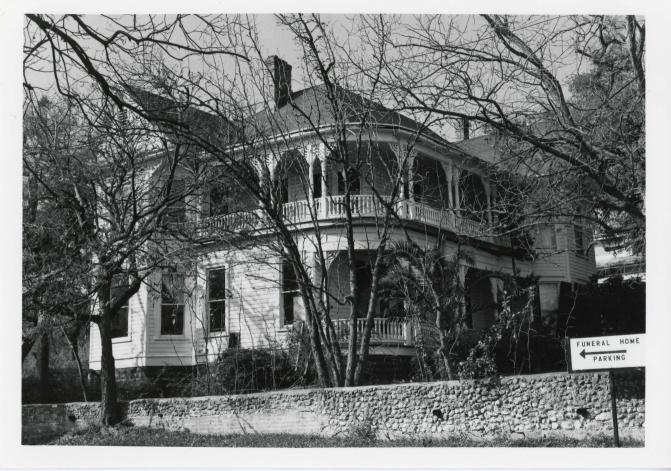


Historic Resources of San Marcos San Marcos, Hays County, Texas

#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.



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