

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number All

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12. Name: Green and Faris Buildings
(~~Common names - First National Bank Building, San Marcos Title Company Building~~)

Location: 136-144 ~~East~~ San Antonio Street

Classification: Category - buildings; Ownership - private; Status - occupied
Accessible - yes, restricted; Present use - commercial, private residence (apartments upstairs)

Owner of Property: Larry Murphree and Vincent J. Scanio Bruce Harper
144 East San Antonio 100 East Mimosa Circle
San Marcos, Texas 78666 San Marcos, Texas 78666

Murphree and Scanio own 140-144 E. San Antonio in partnership;
Murphree and Harper own 136-138 E. San Antonio in partnership.

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site.

The two-story commercial Green and Faris Buildings are located on the south side of the courthouse square at Lyndon B. Johnson Dr. At 136-138 E. San Antonio (the Faris Building), the brick is painted a putty color, which contrasts handsomely with the white and maroon accent applied to the segmental arches over the four windows with one-over-one lights and the stringcourse connecting them. Striped awnings over the five-bay store window and door (first floor) separated by iron posts, repeat the color scheme. Adjacent on its east, the larger building at 140-144 E. San Antonio (the Green Building) is of roughcut limestone (side and rear) and brick (front), all painted cream. Nine windows with four-over-four lights under segmental arches span the second-floor front facade. Below, a V-crimp metal canopy on metal posts protects the six original iron posts set among the plate-glass windows and doors, which have aluminum frames. Both posts and panels are trimmed in dark brown.

As is common on commercial rows, the remaining walls are less articulated. The east wall, on LBJ, contains seven second-floor windows with four-over-four lights set into the limestone, and one modern, single-paned, aluminum-frame window on the first. From the rear (looking north) one can see that the roof of 140-144 is not flat, as it appears from the front, but consists of two low gables with their axes running north to south. Openings on the rear wall are in an irregular arrangement of mostly windows having four-over-four lights along with a few modernized ones; all are under segmental arches, as are the double door and one single door.

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A worn section of gridded metal to the right of the entrance to 144 may be the bank's original entrance. At the northeast corner, a piece of concrete laid diagonally shows there was also an entrance there at some point.

As built, the window panels at 140-144 were set back from the posts and trimmed with wrought iron. A photo taken about 1900 shows the unpainted dark brick in contrast to the limestone and lighter segmental arches. The canopy at that time appears to be wood, with a scalloped "eyelet" edging and a railed balcony above. This configuration was probably original, and is barely visible in an 1881 bird's eye map. No photos have been found of the 136-138 section.

The buildings were constructed separately; 140-144 has a full limestone wall on the west also. Both buildings were severely altered over the years, and very little first-floor or interior historic fabric was left for the present owner's rehabilitation program. Thus 140-144 has a fairly modern but pleasant interior. Beaded-board ceilings do remain in 136-138, but the board floor is not original. The owners may perform further restoration work.

Significance: Period - 1800-1899; Areas of Significance - architecture, commerce.
Specific dates - 1879 (Green Building), 1881-85 (Faris Building).

The oldest operating business in San Marcos, the First National Bank, opened in this location in 1879. The bank's original home at 140-144 East San Antonio, and its neighbor, are two of the handsomest buildings on the courthouse square, and perhaps the oldest. Their unadorned design is typical of the period when the town was just beginning to develop as a commercial center.

Ed J.L. Green bought property on the south side of the square in 1878, and in the next year built the rock structure. His private enterprise, "Ed J.L. Green Banker," received a national charter six years later. On May 16, 1885, the First National Bank of San Marcos opened with 500 shares of capital stock at \$100 a share, of which Green held 300.

Other businesses had occupied the building along with the bank. Green rented to lawyers, doctors, and real-estate agents. Martin Weiss' Chicago Store, which seemed to sell everything from groceries to hats was in the easternmost section. The building next door, at 136-138 San Antonio (called the Faris Building after a 1926 lawsuit that called it by that name), also housed a multitude of businesses. One is said to have been a Chinese grocery store.

Not much has been found out about N.K. Faris, except that he owned a great deal of property in San Marcos, and that he was codirector of the Chautauqua.

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In 1909, the First National Bank moved to the east side of the square. The Courthouse Annex now occupies that building, which has been cruelly altered. The Green and Faris Buildings continued to serve in various capacities. Shortly before rehabilitation, the San Marcos Department Store was in the Green area. The structures are combined here as one property primarily because they were originally in the same hands, because the present owner owns both buildings, and because they form a single visual unit.

Bibliography:

Interview with Larry Murphree, May 27, 1982.

Interview with Norman Yarbrough, undated.

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

Hays County Citizen, April 17, 1975.

San Marcos Daily Record Golden Edition, September 20, 1962.

Hays County Times, September 3, 1897.

Geographical data: Acreage - less than one acre.

UTM reference - 14 / 602370 / 3305980

Verbal Boundary Description - Original Town Site, northern 90 ft. of lot 4, block 13, and of the eastern 3 ft. 8 in. of lot 5.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Green and Faris Buildings (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 Accept
Reviewer Bushay/Growno
Discipline Historic
Date 8/26/83
_____ 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 _____

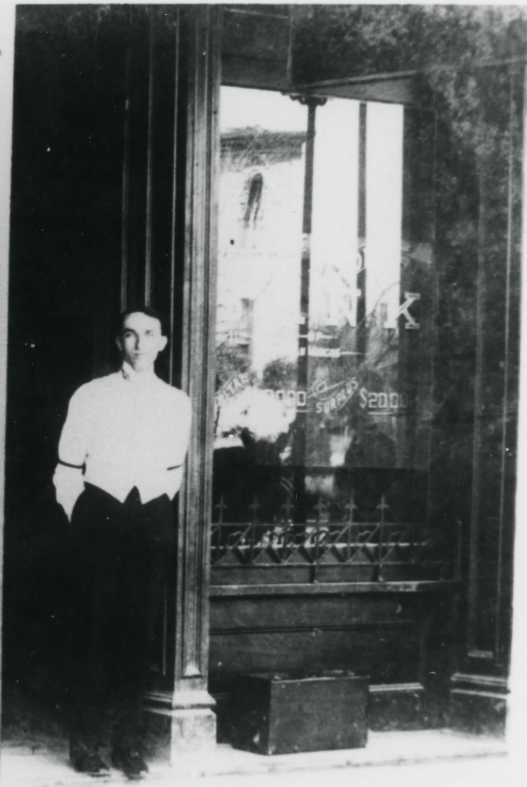
13. Other

- 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



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#12. Green and Faris Buildings

Photo courtesy of San Marcos Public Library,
undated. Copy photo by Sally S. Victor,
negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

North facade, camera facing south.

Photo 54 of 150.



MARTIN WEISS
DRY GOODS & CLOTHING
FIRST N

"MONEY SAVED" MONEY SAVED BY COMING INTO THE

CHICAGO STORE

GOODS, NOTIONS, HATS, GAITERS, CLOTHING

MARTIN WEISS
PROPRIETOR
GROCERIES

100% INSPECTION
BOOTSE

CHICAGO STORE

Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#12. Green and Faris Buildings

Photo courtesy of San Marcos Public Library,
c. 1900. Copy photo by Sally S. Victor,
negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.
Photo 55 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#12. Green and Faris Buildings

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

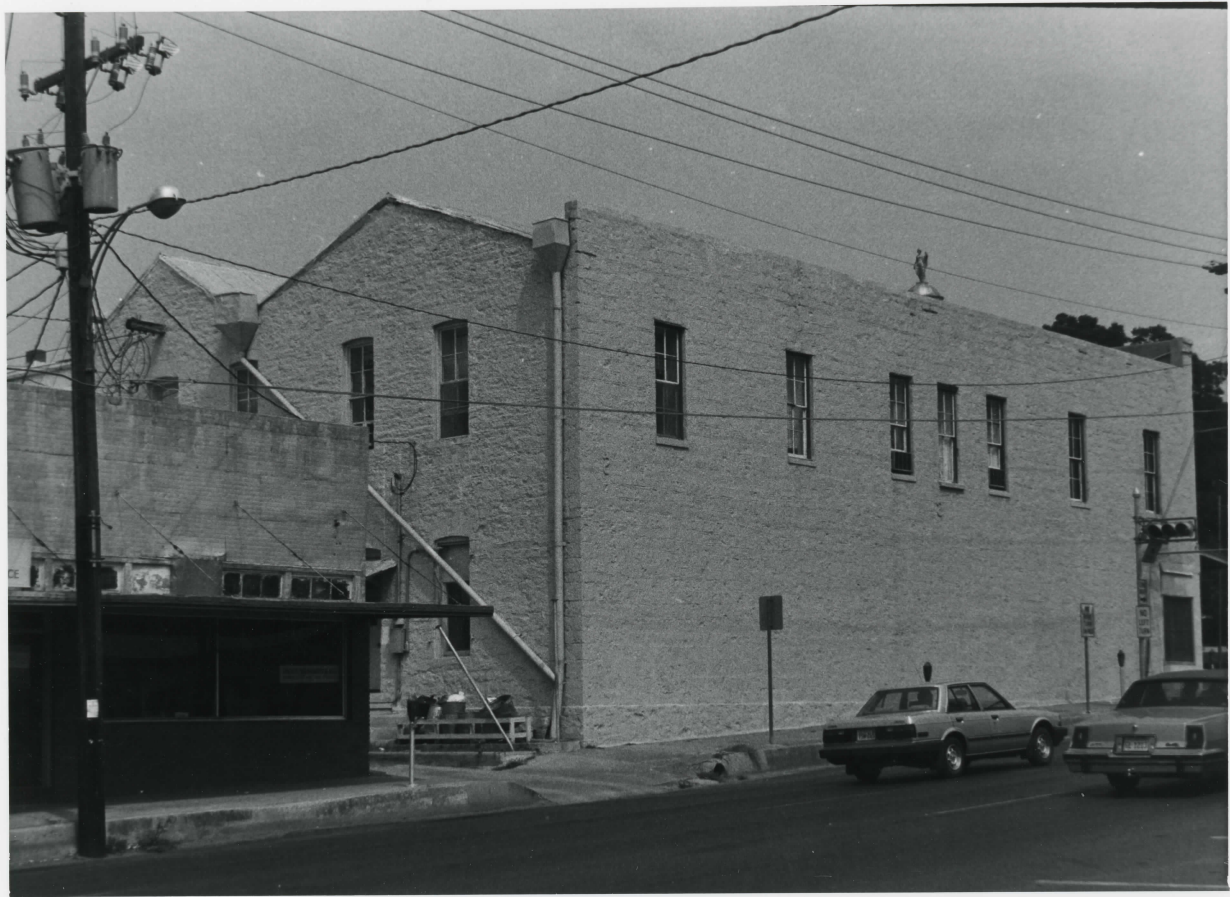
Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.
Photo 56 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
#12. Green and Faris Buildings

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

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.
Photo 57 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos
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#12. Green and Faris Buildings

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

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.
Photo 58 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853