

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number All

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19. Name: Heard House

Location: 620 West San Antonio Street

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

Owner of property: Mrs. Flora Baker  
620 West San Antonio Street  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site.

Typical of Texas Victorian houses is the Heard House, a white frame structure of two stories plus attic under a complex hipped roof with crossed gables and a bell-shaped turret. Across the front and around the east corner is a one-story porch. A second-floor porch is inset between the octagonal turret and an ell. During the 1920s, a sleeping porch was added to the northeast second floor. A one-story addition to the kitchen was made in 1954.

Detail is concentrated on the San Antonio Street facade. The main porch is enlivened with stylized lyres under the eaves, sawn brackets, turned posts, and spindle rails which are repeated on the second floor. Sawn brackets adorn the diagonal corners of ells extending from the southeast and northeast walls.

The sash windows are the original, and have one-over-one lights. The original wooden shingles were replaced in 1944 by composition shingles. This and the previously mentioned alterations have made a minimal impact on the integrity of the structure.

Several hallmarks of Victorian interior design are in place: pocket doors, bullseye moldings, an oak and ceramic tile fireplace, and a beautiful coffered stair spandrel. Interior alterations have obscured some surfaces, but have not replaced original materials.

Significance: Period - 1800-1899; Areas of significance - architecture.  
Specific dates - 1888.

Last of the local turretted mansions, the Heard House on West San Antonio Street is a fine example of a Victorian type popular for its romantic, grandiose profile. Particularly notable are the porch trim and the wooden interior finishes. The house was built for a successful rancher.

Samuel McGehee Heard (born 1854) came to Texas from Arkansas as a child. He was educated by Major Ezekial Nance at his school near Kyle and apprenticed to Nance to learn the ranching business. In 1882, he married Nancy Zively, with whom he had six children. Six years later, he bought the nominated property from D.A. Nance.

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Evidently, Heard was good at his trade, because in about 1888, he was able to build one of the fanciest houses in town. Many farmers and ranchers who had made their fortunes in the country were finding, during this period, that a house in town had definite social and financial advantages. Heard's home was distinguished by a three-story turret and lacy porch trim.

At the time the Heards built the house they owned the land from there down to (now) 626 W. San Antonio, and north to (now) Hopkins Street. Heard kept horses on this land, and rode to his ranch to oversee it.

Heard was described in an ebullient, but uninformative, obituary as a "genuine cowman--the ideal ranchman" in 1909. Family members remained in the house until 1944, when the late husband of the present owner purchased it.

**Bibliography:**

Obituary for Samuel McGehee Heard, undated, source not stated. On file at San Marcos Public Library.

Deed records for Hays County.

Interview with Flora Baker, April 5, 1982.

Geographical data: Acreage - approximately two acres.  
UTM reference 14 / 601740 / 3305700

Verbal Boundary Description - The nominated property is within Farm Lot 15. It is an L-shaped lot, beginning 166.9 ft. northeast of the intersection of Scott Street and West San Antonio, measured along W. San Antonio. At that point, the line makes a 90° turn and extends northwest for 255 ft., then makes a 90° turn toward the northeast and proceeds in that direction for 70 ft. It then makes another right-angle turn, back toward the southeast, and stretches 78.3 ft., where it turns a right angle to the northeast and runs 63.78 feet. (The ell has therefore been defined). At that point, the line makes a 90° turn, toward W. San Antonio Street, or the southeast, and runs the 233.4 ft. to the street. Frontage along West San Antonio is 134.3 feet.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Heard House (San Marcos MRA)  
Hays County  
TEXAS

Working No. 714-83  
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

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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

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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

#19. Heard House

Photo by Lissa Anderson, July, 1982.

Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Southeast facade, camera facing northwest.  
Photo 77 of 150.



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

#19. Heard House

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

North oblique, camera facing south.  
Photo 78 of 150.





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

#19. Heard House

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

Detail of southeast facade, camera facing west  
Photo 79 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853