

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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17. Name: Ragsdale-Jackman-Yarbrough House

Location: 621 West San Antonio Street

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

Owner of property: Mr. and Mrs. Yancy Yarbrough
621 West San Antonio Street
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site.

In plan, the two-story Ragsdale-Jackman-Yarbrough House generally follows a rectangular layout with central hall. A one-story kitchen and library extends toward the east. The front (northwest) facade is symmetrical. A flat-roofed, three-bay porch on square pillars and eight shuttered windows with four-over-four lights are centered on the round-arch double front door which is mirrored above by a single door. A gable roof, now covered in red asbestos shingles, runs the long axis of the building. A cross gable covers the rear wing, a shed roof the rear enclosed porch. Brackets are found under the eaves along with an elegant geometric frieze formed of moldings. The cypress siding is painted white.

Because of its age and many occupants, the house has been changed over the years. The most marked alteration outside is the porch. Round columns to replace the originals could not be found in 1947, so square pillars were used and the porch floor was finished in concrete and ceramic tile. The balusters on the balcony are original, however. The windows and doors on the main facades are appropriate to the period, except for one aluminum screen. In the rear, a screened porch was expanded slightly and enclosed. A wall separating the living room and dining room was moved back, and the fireplace shifted to make the space symmetrical. Some interior surfaces were covered.

Since it dates from the last days of the Greek Revival period, the house was always simply detailed. These alterations, therefore, have made less impact than they might have. The home is graciously decorated, using some hand-carved furniture and Mrs. Yarbrough's exquisite rugs and needlepoint. The old carved staircase is still the centerpiece of the house.

An unobtrusive 1940s-style frame garage is located to the east of the house. Behind the house and garage stretches a large shaded yard.

Significance: Period - 1800-1899; Areas of significance - architecture, exploration/
settlement. Specific dates - 1868.

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The Ragsdale-Jackman-Yarbrough House is the oldest occupied residence in town, and may also be the oldest frame house. Built in 1868, it displays the symmetry still popular from the Greek Revival period, embellished with restrained, early Italianate detail. Its owners have contributed much to local history.

Peter Ragsdale, who had the house built of lumber hauled by oxteam from Indianola, on the Gulf coast, was a veteran of the Texas Revolution. He had sold beef to Sam Houston's army and fought at the battle of San Jacinto. After the war, he established a trading post in the next county and worked as a civil engineer. After his death, Mrs. Ragsdale operated a school for girls and a hospital for female Conoral students in the home. In 1890, she sold the house to William Turner ("Uncle Billy") Jackman, who had made about 13 cattle drives to northern markets over the previous 20 years. Jackman was elected to the sheriff's office in 1892, and served 20 colorful years. A legend that he kept prisoners overnight in the crawlspace under the house was lent credence when the present owners found a trap door in the library floor. During Woodrow Wilson's two terms, Jackman was postmaster in San Marcos. He was known for his well-told stories of Texas history, and died in 1939. In 1947, the house was bought and refurbished by Nancy and Merle Yarbrough, highly respected San Marcos educators.

Bibliography:

Tula Townsend Wyatt and Yancy Yarbrough, "The Yarbrough Residence, 621 West San Antonio Street." Monograph prepared for the Heritage Association of San Marcos Tours of Distinction, 1981. On file at the San Marcos Public Library.

Geographical information: Acreage - less than one acre.
UTM reference - 14 / 601780 / 3305670

Verbal Boundary Description - D.S. Combs Addition, Block 1, east part of Lot 1, west part of Lot 2. The lot measures 99 feet along West San Antonio, beginning at a point 50 ft. north of the intersection of W. San Antonio and Jackman Streets, and is 303 ft. deep.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ragsdale-Jackman-Yarbough House (San Marcos
MRA)
Hays County
TEXAS

Working No. 7-14-83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 8/4/83 - 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 Public Acquisition | Status Accessible | Present Use |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | | | |

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

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: _____



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

#17. Ragsdale-Jackman-Yarbrough House

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

Northwest facade, camera facing southeast.
Photo 73 of 150.



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

#17. Ragsdale-Jackman-Yarbrough House

Photo by Lissa Anderson, July, 1982.

Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

West oblique, camera facing east.

Photo 74 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853