

**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

Page 33

✓  
15. Simon Building (~~Common name - The Bakery~~)

Location: 124-126 West Hopkins Street

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

Owner of property: Larry and Diana G, Murphree                      Dorothy Yarbrough  
730 Belvin Street    903 Belvin Street  
San Marcos, Texas 78666    San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site.

A simple, rectangular, white-plaster, commercial structure, the Simon Building presents a facade subtly detailed with contrasting reddish-brown brickwork at its cornice and parapet. Within a bricked frame appears the word "Simon" and the date "1923." The building's division into two distinct but matching halves reveals its construction in two phases: the entire eastern section in 1923, the second floor of the western after 1930. Their store-front sections are similar, large, plate-glass windows with transoms flanking double (western) and triple (eastern) glass doors. The original wood louvres remain below the eastern windows, but have been replaced by plywood on the west. Second-floor fenestration is also similar in the two halves, although the western windows with one-over-one lights are in triplets instead of pairs. A stair separates the the two halves, and a modern, but unobtrusive, canopy spans the entire width.

The east and west walls are undistinguished. On the north, a balcony covers the slight extension of the first floor and provides a rear entrance to the second floor. Attached to the west wall is a garage added in the 1940s. It has recently undergone a low-key rehabilitation and continues to contribute ot the building's historic significance.

Upstairs, there are four apartments, three of which open to the stair landing with French doors. Far from the utilitarian character one would expect, the apartments are finely finished in a restrained, sophisticated style that echoes the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Bakery occupies the first floor in the half toward the square, where the Simon Bakery began its production. Many old fixtures are in place or still in use, such as a 1916 dough divider, the floor drain, a massive oven, and a myriad of pans and implements.

Significance: Period - 1900- ; Areas of significance - architecture, commerce.  
Specific dates - 1923, c. 1931.



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Page 34

Especially in part of the interior, the Simon Building is still strongly reminiscent of the days when it was a major local service industry, a bakery. The low parapet walls and brick detail of its front facade are typical of the 1920s, and add a grace note to the western region of the downtown square.

Alex Simon, from nearby Kyle, erected the structure in 1923 for his family business. He had previously built his bakery in Hubbard City, and had owned another San Marcos bakery on (then) Austin Street. The Simon Bakery was inordinately successful. It operated as a separate bakery until 1980, when it was sold to the present owners who also run a full-service bakery. Alex had worked in the building for sixty years when he retired.

During the building's life, it was expanded twice. Shortly after 1930 a second floor was added to the western portion. Apartments for the growing families (children were Alvin, Benno, and Minnie) occupied these spaces. Following the purchase of the land in 1945, Simon built a one-story garage addition on the the west to house his fleet of trucks, some of which served nearby Camp Gary during World War II.

Because of the large output, the Simon Bakery used two commercial ovens. The third, dating from 1945, is still in use, although the reduced production requires only a fraction of its capacity.

At one point, the bakery occupied the entire lower floor of the building. The space is now shared with a toy store to the bakery's right, and an interior decorator's shop in the rear where flour was stored. The Bakery occupies the area where Simon began his business. With its use of old equipment, furnishings, and decoration, it maintains the atmosphere of one of the town's longest-lived establishments.

**Bibliography:**

Interview by Gwen Smith of Magnolia Simon, July 1982.

Interview of Dianne Hannusch, May 18, 1982.

San Marcos Record Golden Edition, September 20, 1962.

Geographical data: Acreage - less than one acre.

UTM reference - C 14 / 602260 / 3306120

Verbal Boundary Description - Original Town Site, Block 10, southernmost 120 ft. of lot 8.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Simon Building (San Marcos MRA)  
Hays County  
TEXAS

Working No. 2-14-83  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84  
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/28/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 8/26/83  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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  
#15. Simon Building

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

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.  
Photo 67 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#15. Simon Building

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

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.  
Photo 68 of 150.





Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#15. Simon Building

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

Interior of The Bakery, camera facing north.  
Photo 69 of 150.



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853