

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 22

10. Name: Fort Street Presbyterian Church

Location: 516 West Hopkins Street

Classification: Category - building; Ownership - private; Status - unoccupied;  
Accessible - yes, restricted; Present use - other, vacant.

Owner of property: Clear ownership has not been determined, after extensive research by several people, including the director of the City's Tax Office. County deed records show that a Nancy Wells Mize purchased the building from the first Pentecostal Holiness Church of San Marcos but did not receive a deed of trust. The Church no longer exists and no address for Ms. Mize can be found.

Description: Condition - fair; Altered; Original site.

The Fort Street Presbyterian Church is a modest, white, frame vernacular Gothic building distinguished by two octagonal towers within the arms of its cruciform plan. A gable over the sanctuary is intersected by another over the chancel. Both are covered with standing-seam metal roofing. A similarly styled and finished educational wing spans the building's rear, but the half-pyramid roof of the apse is visible above it.

The towers rise from square bases, although the transition is smoothed in shingling. Above the wood louvres that comprise the walls are steep pyramidal roofs of plain sheet metal, supported by small carved brackets. The northern tower is about six feet higher than the southern. Other exterior features are triangular, carved, corner brackets at the chancel's front walls and bands of decorative shingles on the gable end.

All windows in the original structure are multipaned in the Gothic style. The panes are rose, turquoise, gold, green, or clear and stippled. Those in the sanctuary's first floor are sash, those above are on pivots.

Three bays of upward-sliding doors separate the sanctuary and chancel. Their frames are detailed with bullseye and trefoil moldings. The sanctuary's hardwood floor curves down toward the altar. Most of the curved pews are still in place. Church records from 1901 state that the pews installed in the new building were "antique." Thus they pre-date the church, but their exact date is not known. Panelling from 1941 or 1957 obscures the altar's apse, but there are reports that stained glass is in place behind.

A 1904 photograph shows the education annex and southwest tower not yet built. Their styles indicate construction not long thereafter, but the education building was not put up until 1949. The photo also shows that the church was painted in several values. The shingles were in eight bands of two alternating shades, the trim was darker than the walls, and the tower shingles were darker still.



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

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received JUL 4 1983

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Continuation sheet

Item number All

Page 23

Significance: Period - 1880-1899, 1900- ; Areas of significance -  
Specific dates - 1901; Samuel Blue Bales and John Cape, builders.

Built in 1901 in Gothic style, Fort Street Presbyterian Church is one of only two San Marcos churches to survive without damaging alterations. The design is vernacular but elegant. Victorian-period detail inside and out beautifies the simple building, which is credited to local craftsmen. During its years of service the Fort Street Church housed three different denominations.

Members of the Cumberland branch of the Presbyterian Church had organized a congregation in San Marcos by the 1860s. By 1892 the group had built a sanctuary on Fort Street, now West Hopkins. Shortly thereafter this burned, but was rebuilt perhaps in the original design, within the year. Samuel Blue Bales, overseer of the construction of the Texas State Capitol and a church elder, and John Cape, a ginner and postmaster, are said to have been the contractors. Will Barber was a major financier. Central Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. became the name in 1912. Six years later, a loose federation with the First Presbyterian Church took the Cumberland congregation from its sanctuary. The structure was not completely abandoned. The owners returned occasionally for private gatherings and in 1925 the Literary Clubs of San Marcos were given permission to use it as a lending library. In 1929 the federation dissolved and the congregation returned, only to turn over the building in 1940 to the First American Lutheran Church. The First Pentecostal Holiness Church used the structure after 1969. Recent years have seen the church vacant.

**Bibliography:**

Martha Hawn Baker and Martha Louise Baker, The History of the First American Lutheran Church, Privately printed, San Marcos, Texas, 1969.

San Marcos Daily Record, Golden Anniversary Issue, 1962.

Frances Stovall, "Cumberland Presbyterian Church," a condensation of material in a notebook belonging to Tula Townsend Wyatt. Unpublished, July 1, 1982. On file at the San Marcos Public Library.

Interview with Clara Louise Cape, June 24, 1982.

Interview with Kathryn Rich, June, 1982.

Geographical data: Acreage - less than one acre.  
UTM reference - 14 / 601740 / 3305960

Verbal Boundary Description - Lindsey and Harvey Addition, Block 3, part of lot 6. The rectangular property measures 83.33 ft. along West Hopkins, measured from a point 120 ft. from the west corner of the intersection of State Highway 12 and W. Hopkins Street.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fort Street Presbyterian Church (San Marcos  
MRA)  
Hays County  
TEXAS

Working No. 7-1483  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/28/83  
Action: ACCEPT  
RETURN 8/26/83  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 *Classification of ownership is needed*

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"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

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

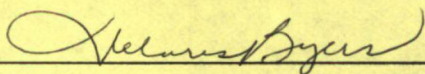
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed  Date 8/26/83 Phone: 202-343-9553



*Resubmitted*  
FEB 7 1984

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fort Street Presbyterian Church (San Marcos  
M R A)  
Hays County  
TEXAS

Working No. 7-1483  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/28/83  
Action: ACCEPT  
RETURN 8/26/83  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 *Classification of ownership is needed*

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  
 excellent  deteriorated  unaltered  original site  
 good  ruins  altered  moved date \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair  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 \_\_\_\_\_

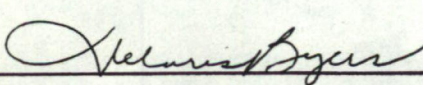
title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed  Date 8/26/83 Phone: 202-343-9553



**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 22

10. Name: Fort Street Presbyterian Church

Location: 516 W. Hopkins St.

Classification: Category - building; Ownership - private; Status - unoccupied;  
Accessible - yes,restricted; Present use - other, vacant.

Owner of property: Mr. Steve Wimberley  
Ms. Nancy Wells Mize  
502 Dawson  
Austin, Texas 78704

Description: Condition - fair; Altered; Original site.

The Fort Street Presbyterian Church is a modest, white, frame vernacular Gothic building distinguished by two octagonal towers within the arms of its cruciform plan. A gable over the sanctuary is intersected by another over the chancel. Both are covered with standing-seam metal roofing. A similarly styled and finished educational wing spans the building's rear, but the half-pyramid roof of the apse is visible above it.

The towers rise from square bases, although the transition is smoothed in shingling. Above the wood louvres that comprise the walls are steep pyramidal roofs of plain sheet metal, supported by small carved brackets. The northern tower is about six feet higher than the southern. Other exterior features are triangular, carved, corner brackets at the chancel's front walls and bands of decorative shingles on the gable end.

All windows in the original structure are multipaned in the Gothic style. The panes are rose, turquoise, gold, green, or clear and stippled. Those in the sanctuary's first floor are sash, those above are on pivots.

Three bays of upward-sliding doors separate the sanctuary and chancel. Their frames are detailed with bullseye and trefoil moldings. The sanctuary's hardwood floor curves down toward the altar. Most of the curved pews are still in place. Church records from 1901 state that the pews installed in the new building were "antique." Thus they pre-date the church, but their exact date is unknown. Panelling from 1941 or 1957 obscures the altar's apse, but there are reports that stained glass is in place behind.

A 1904 photograph shows the education annex and southwest tower not yet built. Their styles indicate construction not long thereafter, but the education building was not put up until 1949. The photo also shows that the church was painted in several values. The shingles were in eight bands of two alternating shades, the trim was darker than the walls, and the tower shingles were darker still.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JUL 14 1983

Continuation sheet

Item number A11

Page 23

Significance: Period - 1880-1899, 1900- ; Areas of significance -  
Specific dates - 1901; Samuel Blue Bales and John Cape, builders.

Built in 1901 in Gothic style, Fort Street Presbyterian Church is one of only two San Marcos churches to survive without damaging alterations. The design is vernacular but elegant. Victorian-period detail inside and out beautifies the simple building, which is credited to local craftsmen. During its years of service the Fort Street Church housed three different denominations.

Members of the Cumberland branch of the Presbyterian Church had organized a congregation in San Marcos by the 1860s. By 1892 the group had built a sanctuary on Fort Street, now West Hopkins. Shortly thereafter this burned, but was rebuilt perhaps in the original design, within the year. Samuel Blue Bales, overseer of the construction of the Texas State Capitol and a church elder, and John Cape, a ginner and postmaster, are said to have been the contractors. Will Barber was a major financier. Central Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. became the name in 1912. Six years later, a loose federation with the First Presbyterian Church took the Cumberland congregation from its sanctuary. The structure was not completely abandoned. The owners returned occasionally for private gatherings and in 1925 the Literary Clubs of San Marcos were given permission to use it as a lending library. In 1929 the federation dissolved and the congregation returned, only to turn over the building in 1940 to the First American Lutheran Church. The First Pentecostal Holiness Church used the structure after 1969. Recent years have seen the church vacant.

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San Marcos Daily Record, Golden Anniversary Issue, 1962.

Frances Stovall, "Cumberland Presbyterian Church," a condensation of material in a notebook belonging to Tula Townsend Wyatt. Unpublished, July 1, 1982. On file at the San Marcos Public Library.

Interview with Clara Louise Cape, June 24, 1982.

Interview with Kathryn Rich, June, 1982.

Geographical data: Acreage - less than one acre.

UTM reference - 14 / 601740 / 3305960

Verbal Boundary Description - Lindsey and Harvey Addition, Block 3, part of lot 6. The rectangular property measures 83.33 ft. along West Hopkins, measured from a point 120 ft. from the west corner of the intersection of State Highway 12 and W. Hopkins Street.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fort Street Presbyterian Church  
(SAN MARCOS MRA)  
Hays County  
TX

Working No. 7-14-83  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85  
Date Due: 3/23/84  
Action:  ACCEPT 3/23/84  
 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:

Technical problem concerning clarification of ownership has been corrected. The Fort Street Presbyterian Church is a locally significant example of a vernacular Gothic Revival style ecclesiastical structure that represents two of the century building technology and craftsmanship ~~in the field of the building in San Marcos.~~

Recom./Criteria Accept C  
Reviewer Bushong  
Discipline Historic  
Date 3/23/84  
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:  excellent  good  fair  
 deteriorated  ruins  unexposed  
Check one:  unaltered  altered  
Check one:  original site  moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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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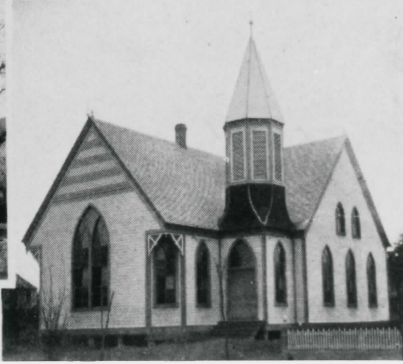
**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_







Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#10. Fort Street Presbyterian Church

Photo courtesy San Marcos Public Library,  
taken 190... Copy photo by Sally S. Victor,  
negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Subject is at lower right. East oblique,  
camera facing west.

Photo 45 of 150.







Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#10. Fort Street Presbyterian Church

Photo by Melinda Koester/Stuart Strong, 1978.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Comm.

East oblique, camera facing west.  
Photo 46 of 150.





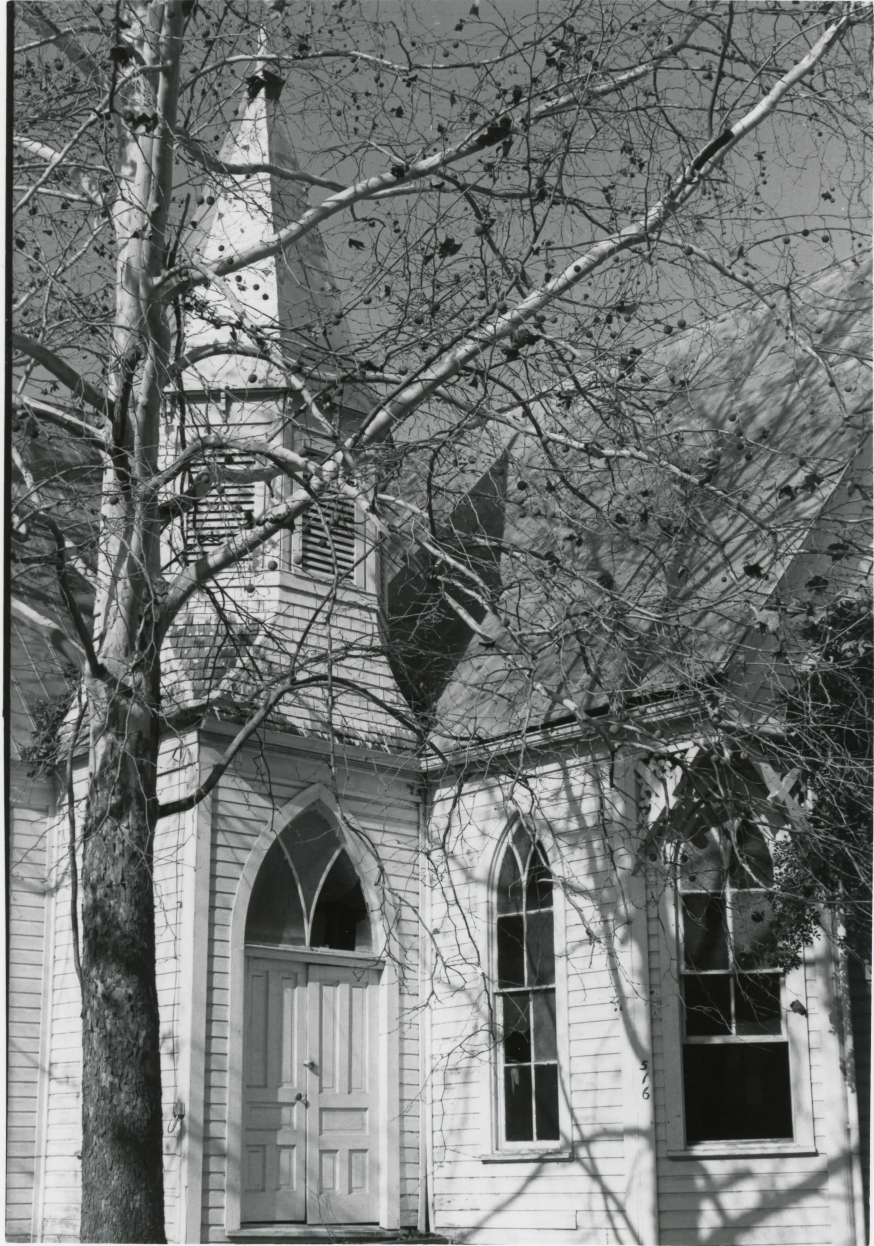


Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#10. Fort Street Presbyterian Church

Photo by Lissa Anderson, January, 1983.  
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

South oblique, camera facing north.  
Photo 47 of 150.







Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#10. Fort Street Presbyterian Church

Photo by Lissa Anderson, January, 1983.  
Negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Detail of south oblique, camera facing north.  
Photo 48 of 150.







Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#10. Fort Street Presbyterian Church

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

Northwest (rear) wall, camera facing southwest  
Photo 49 of 150.







Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#10. Fort Street Presbyterian Church

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

Interior, camera facing northeast.  
Photo 50 of 150.



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853