

1884

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name McWhirter, George and Martha, House

other names/site number #19

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 400 North Pearl [NA] not for publication

city/town Belton [NA] vicinity

state Texas code TX County Bell code 027 zip code 76513

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Contributing	
Property			
Noncontributing			
[XX] private	[XX] building(s)	<u>1</u>	buildings
[] public-local	[] district		sites
[] public-State	[] site		structures
[] public-Federal	[] structure		objects
	[] object	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Community Development in Belton, Texas, 1850-1945

Number of contributing resources previously listed in NR 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [XX] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [XX] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Curtis J. Russell, Texas Historical Commission, State or Federal agency and bureau

Date: 29 Oct. 1990

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official: State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- [x] entered in the National Register [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register
[] removed from the National Register
[] other (explain):

Entered in the National Register

Signature of Keeper: Melissa Byer, Date of Action: 12/26/90

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Second Empire

Materials

foundation STONE: limestone

walls STONE: limestone

roof WOOD: shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[] See continuation sheet.

The McWhirter House is a 1 1/2-story limestone structure with a central front portico and a mansard roof in the Second Empire style. The house faces east on a large lot in a residential neighborhood a few blocks northwest of the courthouse square. The sloping lot is dotted with large deciduous trees and surrounded by a wooden picket fence.

The McWhirter House is constructed of rough ashlar limestone with more finely finished limestone lintels over the doors and windows. The house consists of a rectangular main block with a 1-story wing on the rear making a T plan. The front facade is dominated by a large wooden portico supported by plain rectangular columns with arched spandrels. The portico is capped by a plain balustrade. The mansard roof is clad in wood shingles and has three gabled dormer windows. The rear wing is covered with a standing seam metal roof. On the north and south ends of the main block the roof is pierced by corbeled limestone chimneys. Windows are 6/6 double-hung wooden sash with limestone sills. The lower windows are flanked by operable shutters. The structure is in very good condition with minimal exterior alterations.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G NA

Areas of Significance	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Religion</u>	<u>est. 1870 - 1895</u>	<u>c. 1870</u>
<u>Architecture</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

_____	Cultural Affiliation
_____	<u>NA</u>
_____	_____

Significant Person(s)	Architect/Builder
<u>Martha McWhirter</u>	<u>unknown</u>
_____	_____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. See continuation sheet.

The McWhirter House is an early Belton example of the Second Empire style and is associated with Martha McWhirter, founder of the Sanctificationists, a Belton communal religious sect of the late 19th century. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion B, significant in the area of Religion, for its close association with McWhirter and the Sanctificationists. It is also eligible under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, for embodying the characteristics of the Second Empire style as used in domestic architecture.

The McWhirter House was built in the late 1860s or early 1870s for Major General George McWhirter and his wife Martha. The couple moved to Bell County around 1855 and settled near Armstrong Creek where they were instrumental in founding the Live Oak Methodist Church. They moved to Belton around the time of the Civil War. George McWhirter served as a major general in the Confederate Army. In the 1870s Martha McWhirter became the founder of a dissident religious sect known as the Sanctificationists (see Historic Context for further information) and the house served as a worship center and meeting place for members of the movement. Martha McWhirter sold the house in the 1890s and moved to Washington, D.C., with other members of the sect.

The house represents one of the best preserved early examples of the Second Empire style in Texas. The Second Empire style enjoyed a brief heyday in Texas during the 1870s and 1880s but examples from the period just after the Civil War are rare.

9. Major Bibliographical References

[] See continuation sheet.

Please see bibliography accompanying context statement "Community Development in Belton, Texas, 1850-1945."

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
[] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[] previously listed in National Register
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[] designated a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
[XX] State historic preservation office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other
Specify repository:
Texas Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A [14] [646600] [3437080]
Zone Easting Northing
C [] [] []

B [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing
D [] [] []

Verbal Boundary Description

[] See continuation sheet

Lot 4, Block 59, Original Plat of Belton

Boundary Justification

[] See continuation sheet

The legal description consistent with current ownership and most closely associated with historic ownership of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title Chris Long, Historian (with Tory Laughlin Taylor, Architectural Historian)

Organization Texas Historical Commission, NR Programs date August 1990

Street & Number P.O. Box 12276 Capitol Station telephone 512-463-6094

City or Town Austin state TX zip 78711

11/14/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Belton MPS Bell County, TEXAS

	Date Listed
22. Harris, Capt. Andrew Jackson, House <u>Substantive Review</u>	12/26/90
23. House at 402 N. East St.	12/26/90
24. House at 730 N. Beal St. <u>Substantive Review</u>	12/26/90
25. Hudson, Dr. Taylor, House	12/26/90
26. James House	12/26/90
27. Kinchion, L. B., House	12/26/90
28. Lee, Walter J., House	12/26/90
29. McWhirter, George and Martha, House	12/26/90
30. Means, V. R., House	12/26/90
31. Miller, J. I., House	12/26/90
32. Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad Bridge at the Leon River <u>Substantive Review</u>	12/26/90
33. Morey House	12/26/90
34. Mount Zion United Methodist Church	12/26/90
35. Naismith, Robert, House	12/26/90
36. Potts, Arthur, House	12/26/90
37. Venable, W. J., House	12/26/90
38. Ware, H. A. and Helena, House	12/26/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001884 Date Listed: 12/26/90

<u>McWhirter, George and Martha, House</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>TX</u>
Property Name	County	State

Belton MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

<u><i>Autumn J. Lee</i></u>	<u>5/24/91</u>
for Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Criteria Considerations (Exceptions), A should be checked.

This information was confirmed with Lisa Hart of the Texas State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: McWhirter, George and Martha, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Belton MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bell

DATE RECEIVED: 11/14/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/30/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/16/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/29/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001884

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/26/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



244
400 N. PEARL

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES of BELTON, TEXAS
GEORGE & MARTHA MCWHIRTER HOUSE
400 N. PEARL
BELTON, BELL CO., TEXAS
CAMERA FACING EAST
NEGATIVE WITH CONSULTANT
PHOTO 19 of 38

Site No. 244 , ROLL 7, #20

Address 400 N. PEARL

View W. FACADE

Belton, Texas

Historic Sites Survey, 1985

VICTOR AND VICTOR CONSULTANTS, INC.

P.O. Box 26189

AUSTIN, TEXAS

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500627