

**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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Continuation sheet

Item number All

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16. Name: San Marcos Telephone Company

Location: 138 ~~West~~ San Antonio Street

Classification: Category - building; Ownership - private; Status - occupied;  
Accessible - yes, restricted; Present use - commercial (offices).

Owner of property: C. W. Robin Percy, Thomas E. Garner, Marcos Hernandez  
138 W. San Antonio Street  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Description: Condition - good; Altered; Original site.

In 1928, the San Marcos Telephone Company constructed the Spanish-Colonial Revival, two-story building at 138 West San Antonio Street. The freestanding, flat-roofed office building of stuccoed brick is accented by peaked pilasters at its front corners, and a red, barrel-tile, pent roof that stretches about six feet beyond the front facade.

Entrance is on the south side through an arched door set into a panel. Above the door is a light casement window measuring 10 x 10 ft. A triplet of that same type window is to the left of the entrance. Below them are a triplet of arched windows with modern aluminum mullions. Separating them are diagonally ridged pilasters topped with cones and volutes. Original wood-casement and sash windows with one-over-one lights remain on the east facade. One of each type remains on the west, but two have been filled in. They have also been filled in on the north wall.

A small one-story room was added at an unknown date to the west wall, but it is set back from the street and does not intrude. The aforementioned modern windows are the other major change. Also, the corner pilasters were originally fluted. The interior has a modern decor, but there is no evidence that it replaced significant historic features. Since a good historic photo is available, accurate restoration would be simple.

Significance: Period - 1800-1899, 1900- ; Areas of significance - architecture, communications. Specific dates - 1928.

In these days of telecommunication giants, the independent small town telephone company is a rarity. Therefore, the San Marcos Telephone Company building is significant not only for its Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, but also for its position as the previous home of one of the largest locally owned communications companies in Texas. Research has failed to reveal a comparable firm.

The San Marcos Telephone Company opened for business in March 1899, with 61 subscribers. The founder was R.T. Durrett. Sam R. Kone was the first businessman to have phone service between his home and work place. When Southwestern Telephone and Telegraph opened a competing exchange in 1903, Durrett sold his company to Frank C. Smith. Both companies operated until 1919 when the local firm absorbed Southwestern's (Southwestern Bell since 1910) subscribers.

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Emphasizing the company's local connections was a common advertising theme. The 1910 directory asked customers to "Consider where your money goes. Will it be spent in San Marcos, so that you may see it again, or will it go to the Northern capitalists?" The advertisement must have worked, because by 1928 the telephone business was so active that a new building was necessary to replace the temporary quarters. A two-story Spanish Colonial design was chosen under the leadership of then-president, Walter Donalson. The company remained in the building until November 5, 1955. H.Y. Price had bought the company in 1949. It continues to serve the community with specialized features unavailable from Bell Telephone.

Bibliography:

Telephony's Directory and Buyer's Guide for the Telecommunications Industry, 86th Annual Edition, 1981-82.

San Marcos Telephone Company Directory, 1910.

San Marcos Daily Record, November 18, 1979.

Interview with H.Y. Price, Jr., May 27, 1982.

Geographical data: Acreage - less than one acre.  
UTM reference - 14 / 602180 / 3305010

Verbal Boundary Description - Original Town Site, southernmost 90 ft. of Block 12, lots 6 and 7. A detached metal shed behind the building is eliminated by this boundary.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

San Marcos Telephone Company (San Marcos  
MRA)  
Hays County  
TEXAS

Working No. 7-14-83  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84  
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/25/83  
Action: ACCEPT 8/26/83  
**Entered in the** RETURN  
**National Register** 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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

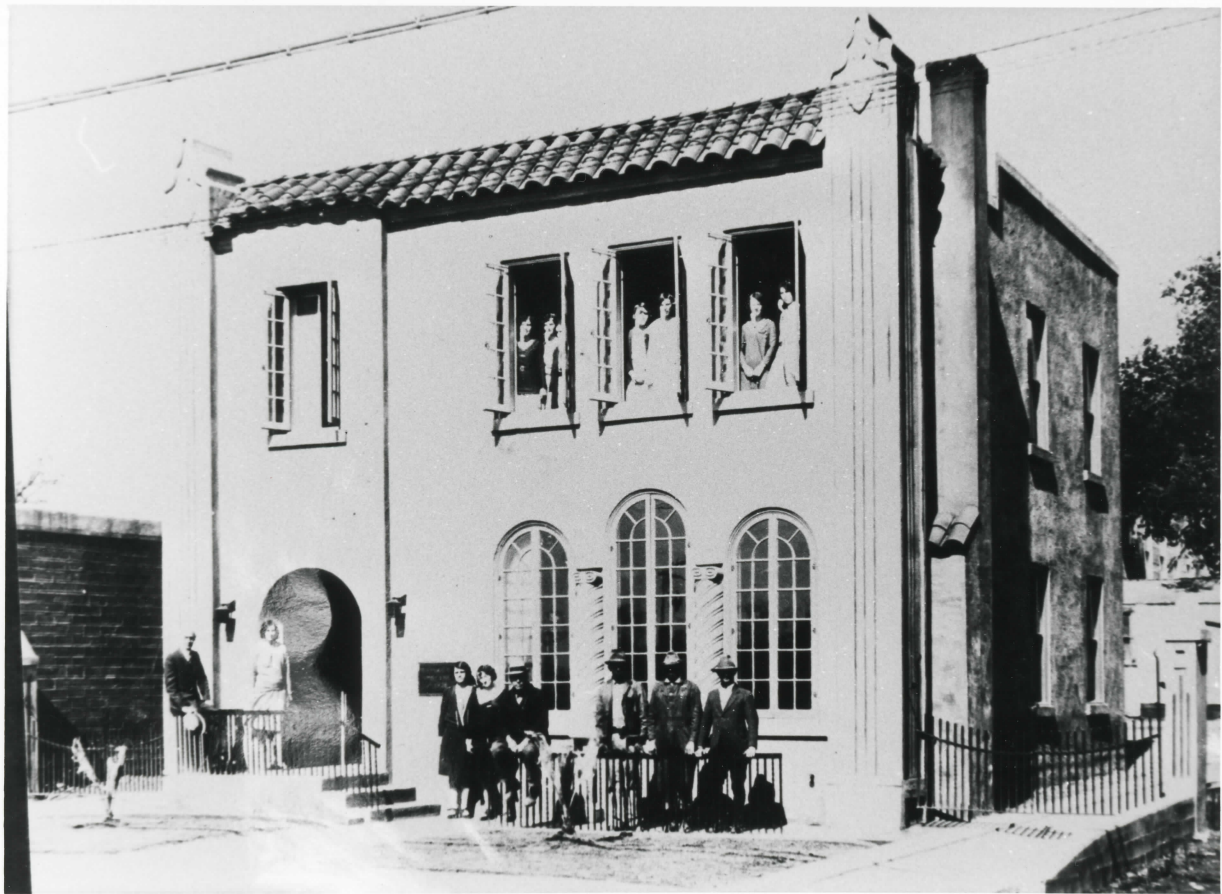
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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

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

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



Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#16. San Marcos Telephone Company

Photo courtesy San Marcos Public Library,  
c. 1928. Copy photo by Sally S. Victor,  
negative property of HASM, on file at SMPL.

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.  
Photo 70 of 150.



Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#16. San Marcos Telephone Company

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

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.  
Photo 71 of 150.





network resources  
Temporary Employment Services  
&  
Recruitment Services  
10000 - 10000 - 10000

10000 - 10000 - 10000

GUYS TAXI  
& DELIVERY

Historic Resources of San Marcos  
San Marcos, Hays County, Texas  
#16. San Marcos Telephone Company

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

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.  
Photo 72 of 150.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000853