**1. NAME**

**COMMON:**

Fort Stockton Historic District

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**


**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**


**CITY OR TOWN:**

Fort Stockton

**STATE**

Texas

**CODE**

048

**COUNTY**

Pecos

**CODE**

371

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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<td>Structure</td>
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<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>No</td>
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**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Park
- Transportaton
- Other (Specify)
- Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**OWNER'S NAME:**

Multiple ownership, see attached list

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

**STREET AND NUMBER:**


**CITY OR TOWN:**


**STATE:**


**CODE:**


**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**

Pecos County Courthouse

**STREET AND NUMBER:**


**CITY OR TOWN:**

Fort Stockton

**STATE:**

Texas

**CODE**

048

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**


**DATE OF SURVEY:**


**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**


**STREET AND NUMBER:**


**CITY OR TOWN:**


**STATE:**


**CODE:**


**ENTRY NUMBER:**


**DATE:**


**ENTRY NUMBER:**


**DATE:**


**ENTRY NUMBER:**


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7. DESCRIPTION

See attached descriptive list.

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexposed

- Altered
- Unaltered

Check One:

(Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance)

The city of Fort Stockton is located in central Pecos County in the western part of Texas. It is strategically located at Comanche Springs, the third largest springs in Texas and a major source of water in this arid country.

Although the first fort was established there in 1858, it was occupied only briefly. During the Civil War, the fort was occupied by Confederate forces and it was not until the re-occupation by Federal troops in 1868 that building was begun at the present site. The reactivation of the fort provided the impetus for the growth and development of the city itself. Final occupation by the Army here lasted until 1886. After this time, the fort structures were moved into by the local populous, some were dismantled, and many disappeared. What remains today of the old fort are three officer's quarters, a stone guardhouse, and some stone foundations of what is presumed to have been barracks.

Other buildings associated with the Fort Stockton Historic District were either directly related to the fort or form a part of the early frontier spirit of the town and its history.

As here defined, the Fort Stockton Historic District includes: That area within the City of Fort Stockton bounded by Water Street on the west, and running south along Water Street to Division Street. One block west on Division to Main Street and running two blocks south on Main to James Street. Then going east on James to Spring Drive and following Spring Drive north-northeast to Comanche Springs, around the east side of Comanche Springs west to the alley between St. Gall and Orient streets. Then north to Fifth Street; from Fifth Street the boundary runs east along Fifth to Water streets and north up Water Street to the Old Fort Cemetery and encompassing it. The irregular conformation of the district is dictated by the location of the cemetery relative to the other fort and town related structures. However, it is felt that the cemetery and the additional later structures within the district provide a continuous segment of the development of the history of the town.

Those structures or areas comprising the district are the following (see Site map and Key): (See continuation Sheet No. 2)

1. Fort Stockton Cemetery—This area was used as the burial grounds for the troops and civilian population of the town of Fort Stockton.

2, 3, 4. Officer's quarters—c. 1867-68—These three buildings are three of four extant fort buildings from the second construction. They are adobe construction set on stone foundations. (See continuation sheet No. 3)
Fort Stockton, Ownership:

D. J. Sibley, Jr., M.D.
2210 Windsor Road
Austin, Texas

County of Pecos
c/o County Judge

City of Fort Stockton
c/o Hon. Gene Cummings
Mayor, City of Fort Stockton
Fort Stockton, Texas

Congregation, St. Stephens
c/o Hon. Gene Cummings

Mrs. Angela Duran
Ft. Stockton, Texas

Mrs. H. D. Mendel
Ft. Stockton, Texas

Heirs of Ermine Garnett

Grey Mule Saloon
Former Hospital Structure
Barracks foundations

Koehler Store

Comanche Springs
Annie Riggs
Guardhouse

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Young Store

Officer's quarters nos. 3 and 4

Officer's quarters no. 2
Fort Stockton Historic District

Key to Maps:

1. Site of old fort cemetery
2. Officer's quarters (c. 1867-68)
3. Officer's quarters (c. 1867-68)
4. Officer's quarters (c. 1867-68)
5. Barracks foundations (c. 1867-68)
6. Guardhouse (1868)
7. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1896)
8. Victorian house (former hospital)
9. Koehler Saloon & Store (1870)
10. Grey Mule Saloon (1880's)
11. Young Store (1876)
12. Annie Riggs Hotel (1900)
An 1884 photograph of the officer's row indicates that little modification has taken place with the exception of some additions on Quarter's 2 and 4.

**Barracks foundations**—c. 1886-70—Two roughly rectangular and two roughly square outlines of stone foundations appear on the east side of the parade ground. An early plat of the fort clearly shows the location of the officer's quarters on the east and the enlisted barracks on the west. Therefore, these structural remains are presumed to be those of barracks.

**Guardhouse**—1886—The guardhouse, the remaining extant structure of the four dating from the second fort construction stands at the south end of the parade ground. Its construction is of dressed, hewn limestone blocks. A stone in the rear of the building (south elevation) reads: "Erected 1868 by Lieut. J. L. Humfreville."

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**—1896—This small (one room) Victorian church is purported to be the oldest Protestant church west of the Pecos. It was built in Pecos, Texas, and moved to Fort Stockton in 1958 when it was scheduled to be torn down.

**Victorian structure** (former hospital)—This building is located at the site of the post hospital. It is a stucco covered adobe structure with a gallery across the entire front (south) facade.

**Koehler Store**—estab. 1894—This store, located directly across from Comanche Springs, served Fort Stockton as well as other Pecos County settlers. The original core of the structure was a rubble, stone construction. The second storey is an obvious later addition.

**Grey Mule Saloon**—1880's—This saloon, which is stucco covered adobe, was used by troopers as well as hotel guests.

**John Young Store**—estab. 1876—This adobe structure served as both store and residence for the former post sutler.

(See continuation Sheet No. 4)
Annie Riggs Hotel--1900--This early, frontier hotel is an interesting combination of traditional adobe construction combined with an elaboration of late Victorian wooden, milled architectural elements. A most unusual element in the building's construction are the vertical 2x4 wooden members which are let into the exterior face of the adobe walls at regular intervals. These elements serve no structural need and do not appear to have been ever used as nailing boards for any type of exterior sheathing.

The wooden verandahs with turned posts, brackets, and spandrels surround much of the structure. The verandahs combined with the decoratively shingled gable ends and scroll-work bargeboards produce a most striking contrast of rough adobe against delicate woodwork. The Annie Riggs Hotel, which is now a local museum, has remained in an unaltered state since its erection.

Comanche Springs--These springs are the third largest in Texas. They have been used by prehistoric Indians, Historic Indians, and settlers. The springs were the reason for the location of Fort Stockton at this spot and the ultimate development of the city.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian  □ 16th Century  ☐ 17th Century  ☒ 18th Century  ☐ 19th Century  ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858 - 1866

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal  ☐ Prehistoric  ☒ Historic  ☐ Agriculture  ☐ Architecture  ☐ Art  ☐ Commerce  ☐ Communications  ☐ Conservation

Education  ☐ Engineering  ☐ Industry  ☐ Invention  ☐ Landscape  ☐ Art Architecture  ☐ Literature  ☐ Military  ☐ Music

Political  ☐ Religion/Philosophy  ☐ Science  ☐ Sculpture  ☐ Social/Humanitarian  ☐ Theater  ☐ Transportation

Urban Planning  ☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Stockton was one of several Army outposts established along the western frontier of Texas in 1858 to defend and protect the new settlers from Indian hostilities. It was strategically placed at Comanche Springs, a major source of water for both Indian and settler. The primary responsibility of the post was the protection of the San Antonio-San Diego stage line.

The fort figured in one of the most colorful aspects of military history—U. S. Sec. of War, Jefferson Davis' camel experiment. For a brief time before the Civil War a contingent of the camel detachment was stationed at the fort.

Stockton thrived until the outbreak of the Civil War when it was abandoned to the Confederate forces. In 1868 when it was reactivated, the fort had to be completely rebuilt. The extant structures of the fort and settlement are remainders of this period.

Until its abandonment in 1886, the fort provided a resting stop between the long haul from El Paso to points south and southeast such as Forts Clark, Inge, Sam Houston, and those south Texas forts such as McIntosh and Ringgold.

Along with the fort, commercial interests centered around the springs. With the abandonment of the fort, the old buildings and fort area became an even more integral part of the city. Fort Stockton is unique in that a part of the city which sprung up alongside the fort is still extant today as well as portions of the fort itself. Fort Stockton is an excellent example of a frontier settlement developing at a military outpost. Those remaining structures of the fort and early town clearly reflect the frontier history of the trans-Pecos region of Texas.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crimmins, M.L.  
1928  The Border Command: Fort Stockton Established 70 Years Ago. The Army and Navy Courier. Vol. 4, No. 7: 16-27

Hart, Herbert M.  
(See continuation Sheet No. 5)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 75

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE
STATE:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE
STATE:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE
STATE:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  Gary L. Hume, Project Director  
Marsha Jackson, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION  
Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE  7-27-72

STREET AND NUMBER:  108 West 15th

CITY OR TOWN:  Austin

STATE:  Texas  CODE:  048

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is

National  [ ]  State  [x]  Local  [ ]

Name:  Robert H. Tyler
Title:  State Liaison Officer
Date:  July 28, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date:  4/2/73

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
Date:  3/30/73
9. (contd.)

Leckie, William H.

Webb, Walter P. (ed.)

Williams, Clayton W., Sr.
1950 Fort Stockton's First 100 Years. Fort Stockton Centennial. Official Program.
PROPERTY  | FORT STOCKTON | HIST.DIST. | TEX | 73001/971
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Working number | 8.2.72.1180

TECH REVIEW

Photos 14
Maps 2

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECT

Interesting settlement. The boundaries as drawn to include cemetery bother me some but the district as a whole is real nice.

ARCHITECT

Very interesting. End.

ARCHITECT

Accepted
AML 2/28/73

ARCHITECT

3/20/73

ARCHITECT

KH 3/7/73

ARCHITECT

BRANCH CHIEF

EDITORIAL REVIEW

ACKNOWLEDGE

Send-back

Re-submit

APR 2 1973

Keeper

National Register write-up

Federal Register entry 6-5-73

Register no.

8-2-72
NPS Number  4/3/73
Title:  Fort Stockton Hist. Dist.
Loc.  Pecos, Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas  78711
NPS Number  4/2/73

Title:  Fort Stockton Hist. Dist.

Loc.  Pecos, Texas

official quarter

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711
Title: Fort Stockton Hist. Dist

Loc. Pecos, Texas

official quarter (#3 on site map)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711
NPS Number  4/2/78

Title:  Fort Stockton Hist. Dist.

Loc:  Pecos, Texas

Officers Quarters (2 on site map)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas  78711
NPS Number: 4/2/73

Title: Fort Stockton Hist. Dist.

Loc. Texas, Texas

Annie Rigg Hotel, view east

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12273, Austin, Texas 78711
Title: East Stockton Nat. Dist
Loc. Pecos, Texas
Annie Riggs Hotel, view west

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711

[Handwritten note: 100% HT. Line [with] stitch [and] thread. Depth 1/4" from focus 73% Width 1/4". Illus. No. A 642. 9/26-188]
NPS Number 4/2/73

Title: Fort Stockton Hist Dist

Loc: Pecos, Texas

Annie Riggs Hotel View South

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711
NPS Number 4/2/73

Title: Fort Stockton Hist. Dist.

Loc. Pecos, Texas

1. Young Stone View north

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711
NPS Number  4/3/73
Title:  Fort Stockton Hist. Dist.
Loc.  Pecos, Texas

Grey Mule Saloon

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
 Austin, Texas  78711
NPS Number  4/2/73

Title:  Fort Stockton High Dist.

Loc.  Pecos, Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas  78711
Title: Fort Stockton Hist. Dist.

Loc. Pecos, Texas

(12)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711
NPS Number 4/2/73

Title: Fort Stockton Dist.

Loc. Pecos, Texas

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711
NPS Number  4/3/73

Title:  Fort Stockton Hist. Dist.

Loc.  Pecos, Texas
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
View N.E.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Restoration & Research Department
Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas  78711
1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Fort Stockton Historic District amendment (Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House)
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: (same as original boundary) Roughly bounded by Water Street, James Street, Springs Drive, Comanches Springs, and Sixth Street
CITY OR TOWN: Fort Stockton VICINITY: N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Pecos CODE: 371 ZIP CODE: 79735

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x 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 (x meets) (does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally) (statewide) (locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action

Additional Documentation Accepted

Edison N. Reed 9/26/02
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NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 12

FORM PREPARED BY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME/TITLE: Stephen Fox</th>
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<td>ORGANIZATION:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER: Architecture-MS 50, P.O. Box 1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN: Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE: Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>TELEPHONE: 713/348/3378</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZIP CODE: 77251-1892</td>
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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-8)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-9)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME/TITLE: Gaye McCullough</th>
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<tr>
<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER: 3827 Inwood Drive</td>
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<td>CITY OR TOWN: Houston</td>
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<td>STATE: Texas</td>
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This nomination serves as an amendment to the Fort Stockton Historic District (NR 1973) by noting the significance of a property within the existing district boundaries that was not explicitly mentioned in the original nomination. The property owner and the Texas SHPO request that the Achterberg House be considered as contributing to the district, as it shares characteristics of other properties within the district, including similar adobe construction and a general lack of ornamentation.

Description

The Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House is a one-story, gable-roofed, linear-plan, adobe-walled, Mexican vernacular type house with a south-facing veranda. It was built in two stages in 1901 and c.1905. A free-standing, rectangular-plan, one-room, partially gabled and partially hipped-roof, wood-frame annex was constructed c.1915 to the east of the house. About 1930, the one-room building was attached to the house with a gable-roofed wood extension; a shed-roofed wing was added to the south side of the one-room building about 1940. The off-set alignment, L-plan configuration, and varied roof shapes of the c.1915 and later additions read clearly as subsequent modifications. The Achterberg House is built along the north side of an open, sparsely vegetated site occupying two lots in the original St. Gall townsite of what is now the city of Fort Stockton, within the boundaries of the Fort Stockton Historical District (NR 1973). The north walls of the house parallel the curb line of E. Division Avenue. The property is bounded by South Water Street on the west and East Division on the north, between the Pecos County Courthouse Square two blocks to the west and Comanche Springs to the east. The site slopes gently to the south and east toward the springs. The thick walls of the original house are finished externally with stucco and rest on a stucco-surfaced foundation shelf of locally quarried Comanchean limestone, which extends beyond the wall line of the house, protruding slightly above grade level on the north, east, and west. A veranda supported by wood posts runs along the south face of the adobe portion of the house. This faces the back yard but is the “front” of the house, there being no door opening on the Division street-front of the house. Four openings are aligned along the long south and north walls of the adobe portion of the house. A single window opening is inserted on the west elevation. The interior of the adobe portion of the house is simply finished with beaded wood wainscoting and beaded wood ceilings. The landscape setting of the Achterberg House is rustic in feeling, and consists of low trees and long vistas across the surrounding countryside.

The Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House is built along the line of East Division Avenue in the Fort Stockton Historical District (NR 1973). The rustic character of the surrounding town neighborhood—the tendency to align buildings close to the street, leaving the interior of the block as large open yards; the isolated planting of low trees; and panoramic vistas across the mesa-studded landscape—gives the house its evocative setting in the high desert of the Texas Trans-Pecos region. The original adobe portions of the house (1901-c.1905) were centered on the north edge of the two-lot property and built within a few feet of the present curbline of East Division Avenue. A one-room addition, to which subsequent additions were made that eventually attached to the original house, lies to the east of the original house and is set back from Division. Low stucco-faced walls, built in 2001, demark the west property line of the site and screen the north and west edges of the property near the Division-Water intersection.

The earliest parts of the Achterberg House are of adobe construction. The thick adobe walls of the 1901-c.1905 three-room house are built on a limestone foundation, visible in a low, irregular plinth along the north, west, and east sides of the house. The walls and the limestone plinth are surfaced with stucco. The roof is gabled. It slopes down at a constant pitch on the south side to encompass a veranda. On the west, east, and north the roof projects beyond the walls in shallow eaves. Rafter tails are exposed on the west and east gable ends and along the veranda. The roof is surfaced with corrugated galvanized sheet iron. Re-roofing of the veranda revealed an underlying layer of shingles, which suggests that the roof may have been surfaced with shingles and was subsequently re-roofed with sheet iron. The wooden east wing of the house is set farther back from Division Avenue and is lower in height than the adobe portion.

The north façade, facing East Division Avenue, contains four wood-framed window openings set in the adobe wall. The sill lines of the two-over-two sliding sash wood windows rise from the limestone foundation plinth. There is a wide margin between the headers of the windows and the shallow unbroken horizontal eaves line of the roof. Two 1/1 wood sash windows in the later wood addition
face East Division Avenue; a high set window occupies the wing connecting this to the original house. The narrow gabled west end of the house faces South Water Street but is set far back from it; it does not engage the street as does the Division façade. A single 2/2 wood sash window is centered beneath the gable; a small rectangular attic vent window is stationed just beneath the apex of the gable. The south elevation, facing the back yard, is dominated by the long veranda, supported by pairs of turned wood spindles installed in 2001. Three doors and one window open along the south face of the adobe portion of the house. The doors are set into cased openings that reveal the thickness of the walls. In 2001 the veranda roof was extended eastward to intersect the roof of the wood addition. A high-set, 2/2 wood window provides illumination for the connecting bay. A pair of ganged one-over-one windows is centered on the c. 1940 shed-roofed attachment to the 1915 east wing addition. The projections and recessions of the walls and the more complex configuration of hipped and shed roofs identify these as incremental additions to the adobe portion of the Achterberg House. Because the east end additions step back farther from Division Avenue than does the original house, the gable-roofed east elevation of the adobe house remains partially visible, as does its protruding limestone foundation, which is noticeably lower in height than on the north face of the house. The east elevation of the east wing identifies the two stages of its construction in the shed profile of the south wing attachment to the hipped-roof east wing.

The original portions of the Achterberg House comprise three rooms, planned in a linear, one-room-deep, single-file configuration along the line of Division Avenue. The 1901 portion of the house consisted of the east half of the rectangular block: a pair of rooms, the western room (historically the kitchen) being twelve feet-eleven inches deep and eleven feet-six inches wide; the eastern room twelve feet-eleven inches deep and twelve feet-eight inches wide. The c. 1905 western extension of the original adobe block comprises a single room thirteen feet-one inch deep and twenty-seven feet-ten inches wide. The east wing is an L-plan, attached to but offset from the east end elevation of the 1901 portion of the house. It consists of what was originally a free-standing room, thirteen feet by eighteen feet-ten inches in size, built c.1915; the connecting link, containing a bathroom, built c.1930; and an attachment to the south side of the free-standing room built c.1940. The interiors of the adobe portion of the house are simply finished. Vertically striated, beaded wood wainscoting covers the lower third of the walls and the ceiling. The upper field of the walls is finished with plaster. Ceilings in the adobe portion of the house are ten feet high.

The Achterberg House is in excellent structural condition, following rehabilitation in 2001. Despite replacement of the wood clapboards of the east end additions with stucco and the installation of new veranda posts, the house substantially retains its integrity.
This nomination serves as an amendment to the Fort Stockton Historic District (NR 1973) by noting the significance of a property within the existing district boundaries that was not explicitly mentioned in the original nomination. The property owner and the Texas SHPO request that the Achterberg House be considered as contributing to the district, as it shares characteristics of other priorities within the district, including similar adobe construction and a general lack of ornamentation.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House, built in stages between 1901 and c.1915, with further additions between c.1930 and c.1940, is named for its builders and long-time occupants, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Achterberg. The Achterberg House, at the southwest corner of South Water and East Division streets, attests to the strong impact of Mexican vernacular culture in the Texas borderlands (the more so because its builders were not of Mexican origin but were German-Texans), and to the impact of modernization during the twentieth century, visible in the typological and material transformations the house underwent as it was expanded. The house reveals patterns of Mexican-influenced domesticity and spatial organization that were so pervasive that they were adopted even by non-Mexican-American house-builders, and is an example of vernacular Mexican domestic architecture that was transformed over time by the family who built the house, documenting the transition from a Mexican influenced vernacular sphere of material cultural production to one of Anglo-American popular culture, which occurred in the early twentieth century.

John Fred Achterberg (1859-1921) and Anna Theis Achterberg (1865-1957) came to Fort Stockton with their four sons from Boerne, Texas, by way of Sanderson, Texas, in February 1900. J. Fred Achterberg was born in Germany. According to the Census of 1900 he immigrated to the U.S. in 1882. In 1892 he married Anna Theis, who was born in the Texas-German community of Boerne to German immigrant parents. According to the major sources of information about the Achterbergs (interviews with Mrs. Achterberg published in the Fort Stockton Pioneer and the San Angelo Standard-Times in March 1955 on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday), Fred Achterberg built the first two rooms of their house of adobe with “hard packed dirt floors” in 1901 (Clarke: 1955), although the Census of 1900 lists the Achterberg family as living in a house they owned. Both newspaper reports describe Achterberg as a carpenter and a windmill installer and repairman who also worked as a railroad car inspector (Clarke: 1955; Boston: 1955). In the censuses of 1900 and 1910 he is identified as a “house carpenter.” One report credits him with building his own house, and states that he was also employed on the construction of the Koehler Hotel (now the Annie Riggs Memorial Museum; Boston: 1955). The only other building professionals in Fort Stockton identified in the Census of 1900 are another carpenter and two “whitewashers,” both Spanish-surnamed. Mrs. Achterberg recalled that in 1900 Comanche Springs was the only source of fresh water and, with such exceptions as the Koehler Hotel, there were few other buildings: “Everywhere else was just all brush” (Clarke: 1955). Mrs. Achterberg stated that, though a native born Texan, she did not learn to speak English until after she moved to Fort Stockton, and that she taught herself to write English so that she could correspond with her sons who were in military service during World War I.

Mrs. Achterberg lived in the house with two of her five sons, Fred Carl Achterberg (1896-1975) and August Achterberg (1898-1960), until her death in 1975. Fred Achterberg, who was at various times a baker, a tin smith, and a windmill installer, lived in the house until his death in 1975 (George: 1987). Their house retained its early twentieth-century integrity to an unusual degree. In 1978, the widow of Mr. and Mrs. Achterberg’s youngest son, John Achterberg (1901-1975, the only one of their children born in Fort Stockton), gave the property to the Fort Stockton Historical Society. The Achterberg House was included in the boundary of the Fort Stockton Historic District in (NR 1973), although it was not noted as a contributing property. The house was designated a historical landmark by the Fort Stockton City Council in 1986. In 1999 the Fort Stockton Historical Society sold the house to the present owners, Gaye Vickrey and Edward McCullough of Houston so that Mrs. McCullough, a native of Fort Stockton, might rehabilitate the house. A rehabilitation, carried out by the Fort Stockton contractor Everardo Galindo, was completed in 2001.

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1 The Early History of Fort Stockton, a manuscript written by Judge H.H. Butz (n.d.) notes that some portions of the house may date to 1894 when a small boarding house occupied the site.
The linear spatial organization of the oldest parts of the house (its alignment along a street front, walling off the domestic space of the rear patio) and its construction of stucco-surfaced adobe blocks on limestone foundations are characteristics of northern Mexican vernacular architecture. The gabled roof form of the Achterberg House was not a characteristic feature of the vernacular architecture of northern Mexico, even in areas of considerable precipitation nearer the Gulf of Mexico. It is an architectural element strongly associated with Texan examples of Mexican vernacular housing however, as well as New Mexican examples (Graham, 1978; Wilson: 1991). The Achterberg House in its town setting strongly evokes other nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Mexican-influenced settlements in the Texas borderlands, such as the Barrio Ranchero-Barrio Azteca Historic District in Laredo, Texas, and the San Ygnacio Historic District in San Ygnacio, Texas. Its emphatic alignment along the street, contrasting with the openness of its unbounded patio-yard, are characteristic of the working class urban neighborhoods (such as the Barrio Ranchero-Azteca) and the rustic landscape of small towns (such as San Ygnacio) of the borderlands.

The incremental additions to the house exemplify the sorts of changes in domestic life that became feasible once Fort Stockton was connected to the mainstream of U.S. economic markets. The arrival of the Fort Stockton the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway in 1913 proved to be the medium of cultural and technological change. The railroad stimulated the growth of Pecos County between 1910 and 1920 (after a decade of decline), and it tracks marked the boundary between the older, eastern part of town (where the Achterberg House is located) and the modern Orient Addition. The addition of the c. 1915 one-room wood cottage alongside the east edge of the adobe house materially preserves the changes Fort Stockton experienced as a result of the railroad’s arrival. It represents a popular (rather than vernacular) house type. Its wood construction, its setback from Division Avenue, and its different configuration represent the extent to which building culture and domestic life in Fort Stockton were reoriented from local vernacular practices based on indigenous Mexican models to a national mainstream of popular types and practices identified with Anglo-American cultural attitudes and models. The two subsequent additions, especially the bathroom addition of c. 1930 which linked the 1915 cottage to the adobe house, materially represent the incorporation of improved domestic services and reflect the impact of cultural modernization on working class families in the early twentieth century. The formal, spatial, material, and technological differences between the adobe portions of the house and the later wood additions are a striking spatial representation of the “progress” that working class families were able to participate in as modernization affected increasingly wider segments of the American population during the first half of the twentieth century.

The Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House retains integrity of location, materials, association with the Achterberg family and the history of Fort Stockton, design, workmanship, setting, and feeling. It has been recognized since the 1970s as a significant historical site in Fort Stockton, as is evident in its donation to the Fort Stockton Historical Society and its designation as a City of Fort Stockton Historical Landmark. Because the Historical Society could not afford to maintain the house, it was sold to the present owners, who have rehabilitated the house to ensure its integrity, preservation, and future care.
Fort Stockton Historic District amendment
(Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House)
Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas

Section 9 - Bibliography  Page 7


Clarke, Mary Harriet. “Mrs. Anna Achterberg, 90 Years Young, Recalls Indian Raids, Has Many Interests.” Fort Stockton Pioneer. 10 March 1955.


Sanborn’s fire insurance maps of Fort Stockton, Texas, 1927 and 1946.


U. S. Census of 1900—Texas: Pecos County, Village of Fort Stockton.

U. S. Census of 1910—Texas: Pecos County, Fort Stockton.


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Stockton Historic District amendment
(Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House)
Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas

Boundary of Fort Stockton Historic District (from 1973 nomination) with location of Achterberg House noted (gray shadow, lower center). Lots 1 and 3, Block 5 of the St. Gall Addition to the City of Fort Stockton.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Stockton Historic District supplemental information
(Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House)
Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas

Section PHOTO Page 9

Fort Stockton Historic District amendment (Anna Theis and J. Fred Achterberg House)
Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas
Photographed by Gaye McCullough
January 2002

Photo 1 of 3
Southwest oblique
Camera facing northeast

Photo 2 of 3
Southeast oblique
Camera facing northwest

Photo 3 of 3
Northwest oblique
Camera facing southeast
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY  Fort Stockton Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Pecos

DATE RECEIVED:  8/12/02   DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY:    DATE OF 45TH DAY:    9/26/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER:  73001971

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 10/4/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA__________________________

REVIEWER__________________________ DISCIPLINE__________________________

TELEPHONE__________________________ DATE__________________________

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
FORT STOCKTON HISTORIC DISTRICT AMENDMENT
(ACHTERBERG HOUSE)
FORT STOCKTON, PECOS CO. TEXAS
PHOTO 1 OF 3
FORT STOCKTON HISTORIC DISTRICT AMENDMENT
(ACHTERBERG HOUSE)
FORT STOCKTON, PECOS CO., TEXAS
PHOTO 20F3
FORT STOCKTON HISTORIC DISTRICT AMENDMENT
(ACHTERNBERG HOUSE)
FORT STOCKTON, PECOS CO., TEXAS
PHOTO 3 OF 3
1. NAME
   COMMON: Fort Stockton Historic District
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN: Fort Stockton

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: USGS Fort Stockton, Texas (3002-330)
   SCALE: 1:62500
   DATE: 1921

4. REQUIREMENTS
   TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

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**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** Fort Stockton Historic District

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

2. **LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:** Fort Stockton

**STATE:** Texas

3. **MAP REFERENCE**

**SOURCE:** Schematic - Fort Stockton Historic District

4. **REQUIREMENTS**

**TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS**

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
Dear Senator Tower:

Thank you for your recent inquiry in behalf of Mr. Harvey L. Wells, Director of the Fort Stockton, Texas, Chamber of Commerce, concerning Old Fort Stockton.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915) as amended authorizes matching grants-in-aid to the States and to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is administered in each State through the cooperation of a State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor. In Texas, this officer is Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711. He submits applications for matching Federal assistance for historic properties in accordance with an approved State historic preservation plan. Texas' State plan was approved on December 31, 1970. Further, financial assistance under this program is meant for properties on the National Register of Historic Places. The State Liaison Officer makes nominations to the National Register; however, to date, Old Fort Stockton has not been proposed. Therefore, we suggest that further inquiry be directed to Mr. Latimer.

The enclosed folder entitled "The National Register of Historic Places" describes the grants program on the marked page. We appreciate your interest in this National Park Service program and hope we may be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas F. Flynn, Jr.

Enclosures
FROM: Assistant Secretary (FNP)

TO: 1. FNP
     2.
     3.
     4.

FOR:  □ Approval
      □ Information
      □ Per our Conversation
      □ Comment
      □ Action as Appropriate
      □ Prepare Reply for FNP Sig.
      □ As Requested
      □ File
      □ Return
      □ Forward
      □ See me

Remarks:

Date 3-25

CL-15997
Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Tower:

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry in behalf of Mr. Harvey L. Wells, Director of the Fort Stockton, Texas Chamber of Commerce, concerning old Fort Stockton.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will provide you a reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.
Director

FNP:TGWood:1jp:3-30-71
United States Senate

22 March 1971

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C.

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

[Signature]

U.S.S.

Form #2

Harvey L. Wells, Director
Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Drawer 1209
Fort Stockton, Texas 79735

[Signature]
Fort Stockton, Texas
March 9, 1971

Sen. John G. Tower
142 Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sen. Tower:

Our Chamber of Commerce this year has undertaken to get the ball rolling and has given first priority to the restoration of old Fort Stockton.

Much work has been accomplished by private individuals that are sincerely interested, and we have had committee meetings in the last few weeks that have brought to light many things of great interest to tourists from other states as well as Texans traveling within this great state. The people of Fort Stockton have displayed a great amount of enthusiasm in the development of this project.

We earnestly solicit yours and your staff's views and ideas of this project in the research and development of this important period of our national and state history. In short, without the help and support of your office, we do not feel confident to proceed. Any suggestions, facts, or brochures relative to this project will be greatly appreciated.

We are very much aware that Fort Leaton, Fort Davis, and Fort Lancaster, all famous tourist attractions, are far ahead of our restoration project, but with the help and prestige of your office, we plan to advance forward also.

Our Most Honorable Mayor, Gene Cummings, is chairman of this project. We hope to have the opportunity to visit personally with you in the future with reference to our project.

Respectfully,

Harvey L. Wells, Director
Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Drawer 1209
Fort Stockton, Texas 79735

Re: Chamber of Commerce Project
Restoration of Old Fort Stockton
ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE          TEXAS

Date Entered   APR 2  1973

Name

Cock House

St. Mary's Cathedral

Fort Stockton Historic District

Fort Chadbourne (41 CK 129)

Location

San Marcos
Hays County

Austin
Travis County

Fort Stockton
Pecos County

Borden vicinity
Coke County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.
Hon. J.J. (Jake) Hickle
Hon. Richard C. White
Hon. Omar Burleson
Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive
Director
Texas State Historical Survey
Committee
Post Office Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Also Notified

NRowland:mp  4-12-73