

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCARS-use only

received 4 SEP 1979

date entered NOV 7 1979

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stinson, John R., House

(Names, Belle Fry, House)

and/or common Belle Fry Gaines House

2. Location

street & number 313 W. Austin Street

___ not for publication

city, town Marshall

___ vicinity of 1st congressional district

state Texas 75670

code 0 48

county Harrison

code 203

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ district | ___ public | ___ occupied | ___ agriculture |
| ___ building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | ___ commercial |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational |
| ___ site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | ___ entertainment |
| ___ object | ___ in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | ___ government |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial |
| | | ___ no | ___ military |
| | | | ___ museum |
| | | | ___ park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | ___ religious |
| | | | ___ scientific |
| | | | ___ transportation |
| | | | ___ other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Perry Harkins' and Mrs. Jack Walker

street & number 1000 E. Austin Street and 2830 Mary Mack Drive

city, town Marshall

___ vicinity of

state Texas

75670

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Office of the City Secretary

street & number City Hall

city, town Marshall

state Texas

75670

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Recorded Texas Historic Land- has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

mark

date

___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin

state Texas

78711

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | by addition | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Belle Fry Gaines House, built about 1876, is a two-story wood frame structure with a double gallery located at 313 W. Austin Street on lots 3 and 4 in Block 42 of the Original Townsite of Marshall, Texas. The original structure was L-shaped with an intersecting gable roof with two chimneys. The projecting central bay of the front facade, an unique detail of the house, was constructed of wood blocks laid to resemble cut stone blocks. The front door, sidelights and transom were set in the wood block framing of the central bay. About 1903, a one-story addition consisting of a bedroom and a bathroom was added to the rear of the east side of the house. The detached kitchen, constructed at the same time as the house, was attached to the house to provide additional pantry space, a breakfast room and closets. A barn and garden were also located on the property.

The Belle Fry Gaines House exhibits characteristics of the transition period between the Greek Revival and Victorian styles. Following the Civil War, the Greek Revival did not disappear in Texas as it did in the East, but changed in some aspects. The thin vertical line of the Victorian period gradually replaced the classic horizontality of the Greek Revival. Blake Alexander states in his book Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century (p. 90): "The shift from Greek Revival to Victorian was not a sudden change, but a gradual development which produced some very interesting and charming hybrids."

The Belle Fry Gaines House does not retain the symmetry of a central hall floor plan of the Greek Revival, but it exhibits the symmetrical arrangement of the front facade. A center door is flanked on each side by an equal number of evenly spaced windows. The House also retained the columnar porch, a dominant Greek Revival feature. Each story of the double gallery is supported by one-story ionic columns.

The more slender, turned balusters of the balustrade which embellishes the galleries are a move toward the Victorian. Also indicative of the Victorian is the appearance of the two-over-two, double-hung windows. The sash with only one vertical mullion and two long vertical lights is definitely a break with the past and an attempt to up-date to a new style, the Victorian. Also visible is the use of the flat elaboration and the jigsaw cut brackets which decorate the roof cornice and the two bay windows.

The first floor originally consisted of an entrance hall, a formal parlor, a formal dining room and a family sitting room/bedroom. The second floor contained three bedrooms and a small bath which was added at a later date. The ceilings in the rooms are twelve feet high. With the exception of the entrance hall which is papered, the ceilings are board and batten with decorative carved wooden cornices. There are operable fireplaces in the parlor and the sitting room/bedroom on the first floor and in two of the upstairs bedrooms. The interior doors and windows still retain their original hardware and china knobs.

The Belle Fry Gaines House remains in a good state of repair and remarkably unaltered on the interior and exterior since the 1903 construction of an addition to the house.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1876 Builder/Architect Contractor-Mr. Fortson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Belle Fry Gaines House is architecturally significant as an example of an elegant transition period house built during a period of change from the Greek Revival to the Victorian style. The house exhibits a combination of the formal dignity of the Greek Revival and the fussier or more elaborate ornamentation of the Victorian. The grand proportions and the prominent setting of the house indicate a return to prosperity that Marshall and the rest of Texas were enjoying in the 1870's after the end of the Civil War. The prosperity of the times was no more evident than in the fact that the house was built as a wedding gift to John R. Stinson and his bride, Sallie Callaway Stinson, after their marriage in 1875. Both the Stinson and Callaway families were pioneer Harrison County families. It is equally important that the house was owned by another prominent Marshall citizen, Mrs. Belle Fry Gaines, who lived in the house for almost seventy years.

John R. Stinson, born in Harrison County in 1849, was educated at a highly respected, private academy in Gilmer, Texas. He owned and operated his own mercantile establishment in Marshall until 1902 when he retired. He also served one term as mayor of Marshall.

Records indicate that Mrs. John R. Stinson's father, Joe Callaway, had the house built for her and her husband as a wedding present and that it was built by a contractor named Mr. Fortson. He also was the contractor on the house built for Mrs. Stinson's sister when she married several years later. There is very little available information about Mr. Fortson and it is unclear whether he was a citizen of Marshall or if he built other structures in the city.

The Stinsons sold the house in 1909 to Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Minton. Mrs. Minton was the former Isabelle "Belle" Fry, the youngest of seven children of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Fry, who had lived since 1872 in the Fry Home (now designated the Fry-Barry House), located across the street at 301 W. Austin Street. Mrs. Minton obviously chose the Stinson house as her home so she would be near her parents.

Mrs. Minton married E.P. Gaines in 1923 after the death of her first husband. Gaines was a Texas Railroad Commission employee. He died only three years after their marriage. Mrs. Gaines opened an antique shop in the house in the 1930's. She continued to operate the prosperous business and live in the house until her death in 1978. She was 94 when she died.

Since Mrs. Gaines lived in the house for so many years, it became known as the Belle Fry Gaines House. In 1959, she deeded the house to her daughters and it is presently for sale.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title.
 Harrison County Deed Records. Harrison County Courthouse, Marshall, Texas.
 E.J. Fry Family Bible. In Possession of Mrs. Perry Harkins, Marshall, Texas.
 Plat of Original Townsite of Marshall, Texas.
 The Marshall News Messenger.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. one

Quadrangle name Marshall East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 15 371369 3601585
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 3 and 4, Block 42, Original Townsite of Marshall, Texas as defined in the town plat

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Max S. Lale, Chairman ; Lynn Osborne Bobbitt, Consultant

organization Harrison County Historical Commission date revised August 1, 1979
June 16, 1978

street & number 3704 Fitzgerald ; 410 King William telephone 214-938-2579; 512-227-7801

city or town Marshall, 75670; San Antonio, 78204 state Texas

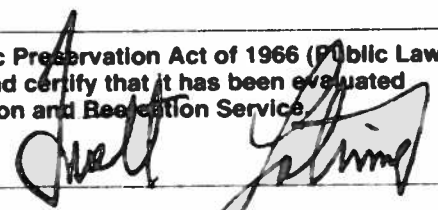
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 24, 1979

For MCRS use only

hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Charles O. Skell
 Keeper of the National Register

date 11/7/79

Attest: Beth Groves
 Chief of Registration

date 11/7/79



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17

(Stinson, Belle Tracy, House)

Stinson, John R., House
313 W. Austin Street
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas
Photo by Texas Historical
Commission, 1972
South elevation
photo #145

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NOV 7 1979

4 SEP 1978



Chambers, Belle (Mrs. Stinson)

Stinson, John R., House
313 W. Austin Street
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas
Photo by Texas Historical
Commission, 1978 (Stan Klein)
Southwest oblique
photo #24/3

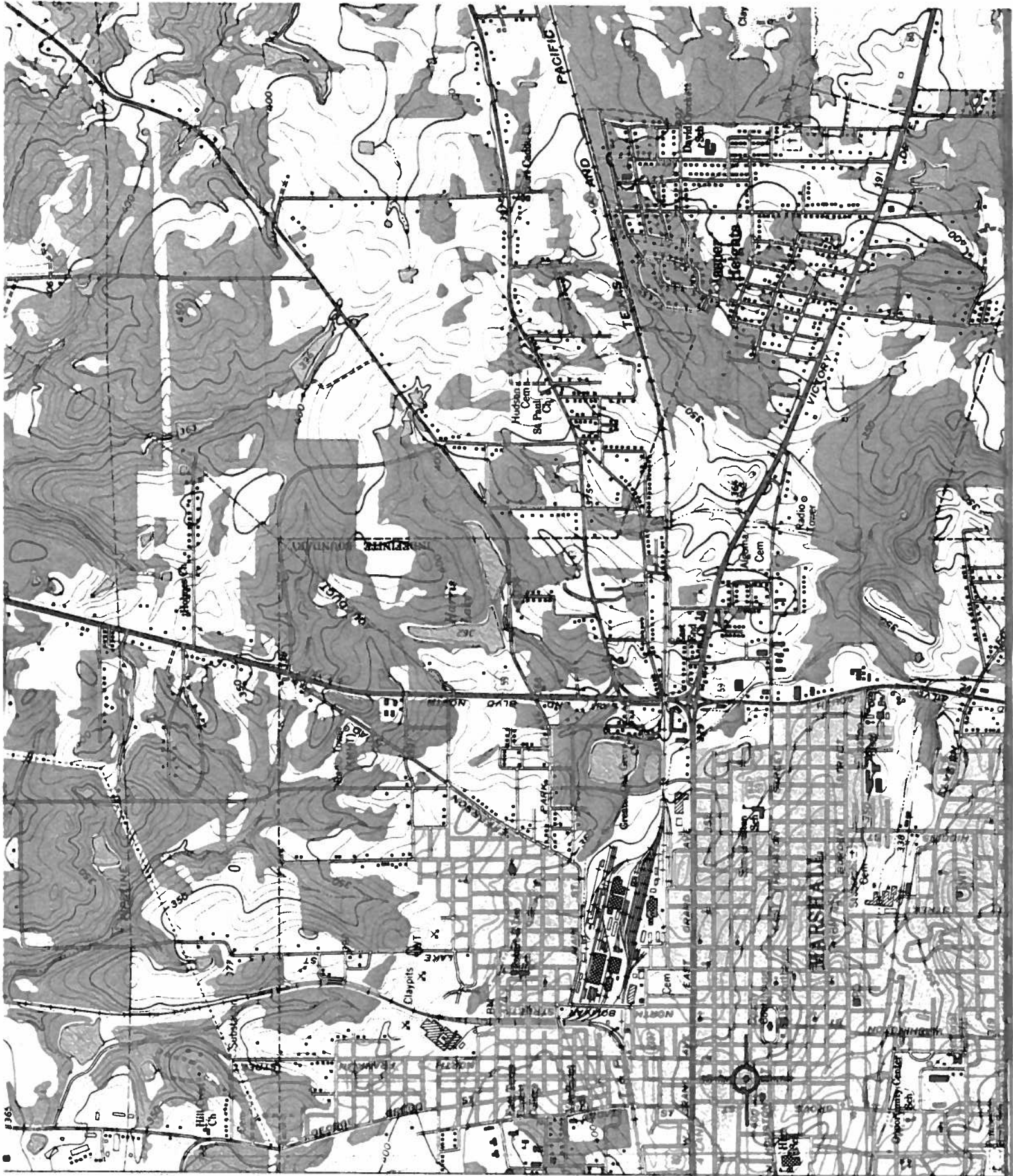
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Stinson, Belle

Stinson, John R., House
313 W. Austin Street
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas
photo by Stan Klein, Texas
Historical Commission, 1978
Northeast oblique
photo #343

ROC
NOV 7 1979



(MARSHALL WEST)

STINSON, JOHN R., HOUSE
315 WEST AUSTIN STREET
MARSHALL, HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/371369/3601585

3230

