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MARTINDALE, TEXAS

Caldwell County, Central Texas S
Hwy 142 and FM 1966
10 Miles W of Lockhart
5 Miles E of San Marcos
24 Miles NE of New Braunfels
Population: 953 (2000)



*Downtown
Martindale*

*Photo courtesy
Barclay Gibson,
August 2006*

History in a Pecan Shell

Mississippian (Mrs.) Nancy Martindale arrived in Texas in 1851 and four years later donated the land to establish the community. Things got off to a slow start. It wasn't until 1875 when the town had a population of 50 that they acquired a post office. By 1890 things had improved to where locals had four general stores to choose from with an equal number of gristmills. The population had increased to 200 by the early 1890s.



*Methodist
Church*

*Photo courtesy
Barclay Gibson,
August 2006*



*Sacred Heart Of
Mary Catholic
Church*

*Photo courtesy
Barclay Gibson,
August 2006*

In 1914 the town had three gins, a bank, two schools and telephone service as well as essential businesses. From 1910 through WWII the population remained at 500.

After WWII, 65% of Texas' hybrid seed corn was processed in Martindale in addition to a large percentage of the state's pedigreed cottonseed.



*Martindale's
Bagley "Texas
Hybrid Seed
Corn"*

*Photo courtesy
Barclay Gibson,
August 2006*



*Harper Seed
Co. silos*

*Photo courtesy
Barclay Gibson,
August 2006*



Old store front

*Photo courtesy
Barclay Gibson,
August 2006*



Martindale family plot

*Photo courtesy Barclay
Gibson, August 2006*

Population peaked in 1957 when 600 people lived there but 12 years later it had decreased to only 250. It reached a low in 1982 with only 210 people but jumped to over a thousand by the end of that decade and has since rebounded to a respectable 953.