

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Roberts County Courthouse  
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 301 E. Commercial Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Miami  
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Roberts CODE: 393 ZIP CODE: 79059  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A  
VICINITY: N/A

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) ( x locally). ( ) See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

1/30/2004

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

Date

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
- other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/22/04

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**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public - local

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	1	0 <b>BUILDINGS</b>
	0	0 <b>SITES</b>
	0	1 <b>STRUCTURES</b>
	0	2 <b>OBJECTS</b>
	1	3 <b>TOTAL</b>

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:**

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/courthouse

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/courthouse

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS / Classical Revival

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE, METAL  
WALLS BRICK, CONCRETE  
ROOF CERAMIC TILE  
OTHER LIMESTONE, WOOD

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-9).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

The Roberts County Courthouse is at 301 E. Commercial Street in the northeast part of the City of Miami, Roberts County, in the Texas Panhandle. It is a rural county notable for pristine scenery and landscapes, with ninety percent of the land never under cultivation. Since its creation in 1876, Roberts County has been one of the least populous counties in Texas. The courthouse is only the second built for Roberts County, a three-story brick and concrete Classical Revival building erected in 1912-13. Sited atop a prominent hill, the courthouse is a central landmark in this rural setting.

### Setting

Roberts County is in the northeast portion of the Texas Panhandle, in the northwest part of the state near the border with Oklahoma. The county is bounded by Ochiltree on the north, Lipscomb on the northeast, Hemphill on the east, Wheeler on the southeast, Gray on the south, Carson on the southwest, Hutchinson on the west and Hansford on the northwest. Roberts County covers 924 square miles of rolling plains with elevations that range from 2,467 to 3,219 feet above sea level. The Canadian River runs from west to east through the northern part of the county, and is drained by several tributaries, including Tallahone Creek, Chicken Creek, and Red Deer Creek.<sup>1</sup> These drainage basins form dramatic bluffs, escarpments and canyons that contribute to a scenic landscape. The majority of the land has never been under cultivation and remains wild. Deer, antelope, turkeys, quail, coyotes, raccoons and mountain lions are among the wildlife observed.<sup>2</sup>

The only settlements in Roberts County are Miami (pronounced my-AM-uh), which is the only incorporated city, and Wayside, a village in the southwestern part of the county. Codman was a prior village eight miles southwest of Miami that survives as a locality name.<sup>3</sup> Miami is the county seat, located in the southeastern corner of Roberts County. The town is sited in the Red Deer Creek valley and is surrounded by mesas, with Mount Moriah at the south end of town rising 170 feet above the local terrain. Miami is an Algonquin word meaning "sweetheart," and it suspected but not proven that Miami, Texas is named for Miami, Ohio.<sup>4</sup> For many years Miami has been called "The Sweetheart of the Plains."

The courthouse is in the northeast part of Miami, prominently sited atop a grassy slope that overlooks the town. Beyond the courthouse stretches the treeless, undulating terrain with the steep breaks that characterize the land off the edge of the Caprock geological formation. The courthouse sits on the south portion of a large green, or square, fronting a broad lawn that slopes down to the street to the north. There are few planted trees. A paved parking lot is located between the building and the street along the south side of the courthouse. On the north side of the courthouse, a stone veterans memorial and a historical marker commemorating county namesake Oran Roberts were dedicated in 1964-65. There is also a well house of recent construction on the south corner of the courthouse lawn. The two monuments and the well house are noncontributing elements in this nomination.

<sup>1</sup> "Roberts County."

<sup>2</sup> "History."

<sup>3</sup> "Codman, Texas," "Wayside Community."

<sup>4</sup> "Miami, Texas."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

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The streets of Miami are turned 45 degrees from the cardinal directions, and are oriented parallel with the railroad that arrived in 1887. The courthouse square is bounded on the northeast by Kiowa Street, on the southeast by Wichita Street, on the southwest by Carson Street and on the northwest by Commercial Street, or U.S. Highway 60, an east-west cross-country route that runs from Los Angeles, California to Virginia Beach, Virginia. Wichita and Kiowa Streets, rather than meeting at a right angle, form a curve that clips the southeast corner of the courthouse square, with Leona Street then extending to the east from the courthouse. This configuration is a modification of the Shelbyville Square layout for courthouses.<sup>5</sup> A mixture of commercial and residential properties surrounds the courthouse. The Roberts County Courthouse was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 2000. Other landmarks near the courthouse include the Southern Kansas Railroad depot (built 1888, Official Texas Historical Marker 1979) and the Cottage Hotel (built 1895, OTHM 2000).

### Landscaping

Historic photographs indicate a denser concentration of trees than is presently observed. These trees were removed prior to 1960, much to the dismay of Miami citizens. The action appears to have occurred without public notice, as there is no record of it in the Commissioners Court minutes or other documents. In April 1963 the county commissioners approved landscaping and a sprinkler system, giving the courthouse lawn its present appearance.<sup>6</sup>

The county jail was originally located at the eastern edge of the courthouse square. It was built just prior to the construction of the current courthouse in about 1910, and was demolished in 1963, with the metal cellblock moved to the current Sheriff's office and jail.<sup>7</sup> No visible traces of the former jail building remain, but the site remains a potentially archeologically sensitive area.

### Exterior

The courthouse is a three-story reinforced concrete and brick building. The building is rectangular, with the northwest and southeast elevations measuring 84'6" in length, and the northeast and southwest elevations measuring 66' across. Only the northwest and southeast elevations provide access to the building. These entry elevations are virtually identical, although the southeast elevation matches the "Front Elevation" in the architect's original 1912 drawings based on the chimney designed to heat the north part of the building. This preference for the southeast entrance is also demonstrated in a 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Miami that shows sidewalks extending southeast, southwest and northeast from the courthouse, but not northwest. In the intervening years, the northwest elevation has become more prominent, based on Commercial Street being chosen for the alignment of U.S. Highway 60, and with the placement of two historical monuments on that side of the courthouse.

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<sup>5</sup> Veselka pp. 18-31.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes Vol. 5, #29622-A.

<sup>7</sup> Cook.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

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The northwest and southeast elevations are identical in form. At the basement level, a concrete base supports forty courses of dark brown brick grouped into eight bands and laid in a running bond pattern. Every fifth course is recessed to give the bricks an incised appearance. The basement level is divided into five sections. From left to right, there is a bay with two 1/1 windows, then a projecting brick column, then a second bay with a double-door entry to the basement level, then a set of concrete steps at the center of the elevation, then another double-door entry, a projecting brick column, and another pair of 1/1 windows. All windows have articulated brick and concrete surrounds.

The second and third floors of the northwest and southeast elevations are composed of 101 courses of light buff brick laid in running bond. The exterior of these floors are divided into three sections. The two ends feature paired windows on both floors, originally designed as 2/1 on the third floor and 1/1 on the second. Some original wood windows remain with aluminum screens, while others have been changed to aluminum windows. The left and right bays flank a central recessed pavilion that corresponds with the stairs and flanking bays of the basement level. This central porch is supported by two full limestone columns, with two half-columns set into the recessed walls. The fenestration pattern is continued with paired 2/1 windows over paired 1/1 windows. The central entry features paired 2/1 windows over a doorway with glass transom, stone pediment and dark brick pilaster surrounds. The original paired wood doors have been replaced by aluminum storefront-type entries.

Classical details continue at the roof level, with a concrete cornice band, dentils, and low concrete balustrades above the pavilions. A clay tile hipped roof, part of the original design, is recessed to decrease its visual impact on the overall classical composition. Column capitals, pilasters and the chimney cap all include a T-shaped concrete detail. On the secondary elevations on the northeast and southwest, the facades are flat and there are no entrances. Two groups of three windows each flank a central paired set of windows. On the southwest elevation, the central paired windows on the third floor extend down to the top of the second floor level to provide additional light in the main stairwell.

### Interior

The two lower floors have a cruciform circulation plan that divides the building into quadrants. The first floor is set below grade with the ground line corresponding roughly with the 3'6" sill height of the windows. The finishes in the public corridors at the first floor (basement level) are plaster walls and ceiling, cement wainscot, oak trim, and vinyl tile over the original concrete floor. The public corridors at the second and third floors have plaster ceilings and walls, white and gray marble wainscots, and a base and top course of dark gray and white marbling. The floors are mosaic tile, white with a black and gray pattern. There is a large star pattern in the tile at the hall crossing on the second floor. There is a monumental stair that rises from the corridor on the west end of the building from the lowest level to the third floor. The risers are metal and the treads are marble. There is a marble wainscot on the walls. Railings on the open side of the stair are vertical steel bars with wood corner posts and a wood main rail.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

The layout of offices in the basement remains largely the same as in the original plans, with two exceptions. A library and an elevator that opens out into a vestibule occupy the office at the southwest corner of the building. Also, a women's restroom has been added to the original toilet room and protrudes into office space on the south side of the public corridor. Roberts County and the City of Miami both have offices in the basement.

On the second floor, the symmetrically placed offices laid out in the original plans remain as offices. The County Judge and Commissioners' Court occupy the space originally designed for Commissioners, and the County Judge's secretary occupies the office originally designed for the County Judge.

The District Courtroom occupies the center portion of the third floor and is marked on the exterior by inset porches and monumental columns. A suspended ceiling conceals the original vaulted plaster ceiling, parts of which remain intact. The original plaster frieze and moldings have been removed. Otherwise the courtroom remains as originally built. Oak trim and wainscot and matching furniture and seating are original and in excellent condition.

The courtroom is flanked on the west by the jury room and County Attorney's office, separated by the public stairway. Both of these rooms were originally designed as jury dormitories. On the east side of the courtroom sits the District Judge's office directly behind the bench. This was originally the Witness Room. Other rooms, originally designated as Consultation, Retiring Room, and District Clerk, are currently used for storage. With few exceptions, walls, ceilings, doors, windows and hardware are original. For the most part the interior of the courthouse has maintained its original appearance.

### Changes since 1913

The original design of the courthouse is essentially unchanged since its construction. In May 1913 alterations were made to create two toilet rooms in the basement.<sup>8</sup> In September 1913 "opera seating" was added to the District Courtroom.<sup>9</sup> Until 2001 the courthouse was heated by the original boiler and radiator system. The courthouse also uses the original electrical wiring, although the original light fixtures have been replaced with fluorescent fixtures throughout the building.

The major changes to the original courthouse design occurred after a series of county commissioners' decisions on January 31, 1964. On the interior, a suspended acoustical ceiling was added to the courtroom, concealing the original plaster ceiling. A bid of \$8,455.50 was accepted by Dukes' Painting and Decorating Company to remodel the courtroom. It is believed that the decorative crown molding at the base of the ceiling was removed at this time. It has not been recovered. The original metal ventilator grill at the top of the ceiling remains intact. New lighting and ceiling fans were also installed at this time.<sup>10</sup> On the courthouse exterior, an estimate of \$2,175.00 plus the cost of carpentry work by the Miami Lumber Company was accepted for the installation

<sup>8</sup> Minutes Vol. 3., p. 208.

<sup>9</sup> Minutes Vol. 3, p. 223.

<sup>10</sup> Minutes Vol. 5, #30069.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 9

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

of new aluminum "storefront" doors and frames at the four entrances to the courthouse, the north and south entrances at the first floor and basement levels.<sup>11</sup> Window unit air conditioners were also added around this time, and these are scheduled to be removed when a new central HVAC system is installed. For the north courthouse lawn, a bid of \$2590.00 by the Wallace Memorial Company of Clarendon was accepted for the construction of a memorial to the Roberts County men and women who served in the armed forces in time of war.<sup>12</sup> The veterans memorial was erected in the spring and formally dedicated on June 26, 1964.<sup>13</sup> The following year, an official state historical marker of pink granite honoring Oran Milo Roberts was dedicated on the north courthouse lawn.

In March 1985 the county added an elevator and a handicapped access ramp to the courthouse design. A bid by Dover Elevator Company of \$30,800.00 was accepted for the installation of the elevator. Modifications were made to comply with handicapped requirements and a ramp was constructed at the south entrance to provide access to the lower (basement) entry. Work was done by Sam Smith Construction according to the plans by Ensign and Tunnel Architects of Amarillo.<sup>14</sup>

Since 1999 Roberts County has made preservation decisions for the courthouse with the guidance of the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program of the Texas Historical Commission. Roberts County received a Smart Start grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop a building condition assessment, and a master plan for restoration was approved later in the year. In 2002 the building received general exterior maintenance, including tuckpointing. The 1913 Roberts County Courthouse remains in very good condition overall, with a high degree of original historic material intact.

Table of resources within property:

Roberts County Courthouse	1913	BUILDING/courthouse	contributing
Well house	c. 1975	STRUCTURE	noncontributing
Veterans memorial	1964	OBJECT/monument	noncontributing
Oran Roberts monument	1965	OBJECT/monument	noncontributing

<sup>11</sup> Minutes Vol. 5, #30071.

<sup>12</sup> Minutes Vol. 5, #30059.

<sup>13</sup> History 1987, p. 113.

<sup>14</sup> Minutes Vol. 6, #55772, 55773.

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1913-1954

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1913

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Withers, Elmer George, architect

Bone and Parr Construction Company, builders

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-10 through 8-19).

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-20 through 9-21).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the 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:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

The 1913 Roberts County Courthouse is the second courthouse to serve the county, replacing a frame building that was the seat of government at Parnell from 1889 to 1898 before being moved to Miami. The 1913 courthouse reflects a period of growth and optimism for the county. Architect Elmer George Withers grew up in the west Texas town of Stamford, and designed at least eleven courthouses in Texas, including several in the Classical Revival style. The Roberts County Courthouse exhibits Classical Revival architecture in such details as symmetrical facades, columns, pediments, balustrades, and dentils. The courthouse is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Government, at the local level of significance for its role as the center of government for Roberts County. The courthouse is also nominated under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance as an intact example of a Classical Revival style public building. The courthouse retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, association and feeling to a high degree.

### Development of Roberts County and Miami

During the summer of 1874, the U. S. Army launched a campaign to remove the Comanche, Kiowa, Southern Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indian tribes from the Southern Plains and enforce their relocation to reservations in Indian Territory. The actions of 1874 were unlike any prior attempts by the Army to pacify this area of the western frontier. The Red River War led to the end of an entire way of life for the Southern Plains tribes and brought about a new chapter in Texas history.<sup>15</sup> In 1876 the Texas Legislature created 54 counties from the vast Bexar Land District, including 26 in the Texas Panhandle. Roberts County was named for two Texas leaders. John S. Roberts (1796-1871) was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836. Oran Milo Roberts (1815-1898) was a Texas Supreme Court justice and president of the 1861 Secession Convention, and later served two terms as Governor of Texas from 1879-1883.<sup>16</sup>

The first permanent settlement in the county was Bill Anderson's homestead on Chicken Creek in 1876.<sup>17</sup> Large ranches developed mostly along the Canadian River. Henry W. Cresswell's Bar CC ranch, later the Cresswell Land and Cattle Company, covered most of present-day Roberts County. Other large spreads included the Pollard and Diamond F Ranches. Through the Family Land Heritage Program, Roberts County's Brainard, Killebrew, Lard and Parsell ranches have all been recognized for remaining in the same family for more than one hundred years.<sup>18</sup>

Permanent settlement in the area was spurred by development of stagecoach and mail lines. Rack Capland, trying to establish the mail line from Fort Elliott, Texas (15 miles southeast of Miami) to Las Vegas, New Mexico, proposed that Marion Armstrong and his family build and operate a stage stand on Red Deer Creek. Armstrong completed a dugout home in eighteen days in November 1879. That mail line operated for a short time, and the Armstrongs later moved to Bonita Creek, where Mr. Armstrong rode the mail line from Tascosa to

<sup>15</sup> "Red River War."

<sup>16</sup> History 1976, p. 8, "Roberts, John S.," "Roberts, Oran Milo."

<sup>17</sup> History 1987, p. 14.

<sup>18</sup> History 1987, p. 20.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Dixon Creek in the winter of 1880-81 and earned thirty dollars per month.<sup>19</sup> The census of 1880 counted only 32 residents in Roberts County, mostly ranchers and a few scattered settlers. Roberts County was less populous that year than adjoining counties like Wheeler with 512 and Hemphill with 149, but fared better than others, such as Ochiltree with nine and Carson with zero.<sup>20</sup> In 1885 a British syndicate bought the Creswell Land and Cattle Company for \$1.5 million dollars. The Cresswell lands covered many thousands of acres in Roberts County, including the present townsite of Miami.

The Lard, Ledrick and Walstad families were among early settlers in southern Roberts County, arriving in 1886 from Kansas. The Lards and Ledricks settled on Chicken Creek. The Walstads built their place by cutting cedar pickets in Government Canyon ten miles from their homesite, and "snaked" them up the steep bluffs with a horse, the place being too rough for a team to descend. They joined the pickets and covered them with dirt for a house. Henry Walstad tried to dig a water well by hand but gave up after 200 feet. In later years water was discovered at a depth of more than 300 feet.<sup>21</sup>

In 1887 the proposed route of the Southern Kansas Railway (later the Panhandle and Santa Fe) was surveyed through the southeast corner of Roberts County, and at present Miami a railroad workers' camp was established. The Miami townsite was surveyed on August 4, 1887, with the plat filed in the Wheeler County Clerk's office on December 30, 1887.<sup>22</sup> Miami received a post office on November 11, 1887.<sup>23</sup> By the following year, the town had 250 inhabitants, three hotels, three grocery stores, two saloons, and a post office.<sup>24</sup> Miami served as the shipping point for a radius of nearly one hundred miles, including Fort Elliott, Mobeetie and Plemons. Soon after establishing a depot, the railroad provided a public water well and strung telegraph lines to Fort Elliott.<sup>25</sup>

In January 1889, the Miami faction sought to organize the county thirteen years after its creation, with Miami as the county seat. Temple Houston represented the Miami group before Wheeler County, to which Roberts was attached for judicial purposes. According to one account Houston waited until one Wheeler County commissioner was absent before presenting a petition for election, so that the vote was two to one in favor of holding a general election. The petition to organize the county was signed by 178 settlers. At the time, the population of Miami townfolk outnumbered the ranchers along the Canadian River.<sup>26</sup>

The process of choosing a county seat became highly contentious, with alleged fraud, lawsuits, multiple elections, deception, and the intervention of state law enforcement. The two Roberts County factions organized as the Diggers in favor of locating the county seat at Miami, and the Kickapoos in favor of locating along the

<sup>19</sup> History 1976, p. 6.

<sup>20</sup> History 1976, p. 421.

<sup>21</sup> History 1976, p. 255.

<sup>22</sup> History 1987, p. 57.

<sup>23</sup> History 1987, p. 74.

<sup>24</sup> "Miami, Texas."

<sup>25</sup> "Miami Railroad Depot."

<sup>26</sup> "History."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Canadian River in a village named Oran, 20 miles to the northwest and nearer the geographic center of the county.<sup>27</sup> On election day Miami prevailed over Oran by a vote of 111 to 56, and the first Roberts County Commissioners were elected. However, the ranchers claimed that the election was fraudulent, and petitioned the Wheeler County Commissioners Court to invalidate the election results because of alleged fraud. Wheeler County ruled in favor of Miami, and certified the town as the seat of Roberts County.<sup>28</sup>

The Kickapoos discovered irregularities in the election results. At the Codman place, eight miles southwest of Miami, an election precinct was organized with three certified voters. But on election day, the precinct cast 41 votes for Miami, the work of a man named Mr. Buzzy and his alleged forty sons of voting age. The prolific man and his progeny could not be found after election day.<sup>29</sup> The Diggers began doing county business in a vacant Miami store, whose floor had been shored up to support a safe with a combination known only to County Clerk D. E. Burns.<sup>30</sup> The commissioners contracted for the construction of a new courthouse in May of 1889 according to the plans and specifications submitted by the firm of Casserly and Kelly.

The Kickapoos filed charges against the county officers and ballot box judges in Lipscomb County, alleging that the county seat and officers of the court were elected through fraud.<sup>31</sup> The court agreed, and in a new election on December 10, 1889, Oran won the county seat by a 51 to 0 vote.<sup>32</sup> The newly elected county commissioners voided the Miami courthouse contract with Casserly and Kelly, and contracted for a \$1,500 courthouse at Oran in February 1890.<sup>33</sup> However, the Miamians would not relinquish the county records or the combination to the safe. The commissioners at Oran persuaded a deputy sheriff to impersonate a property owner from Idaho who needed to inspect the records in order to find his land. When County Clerk Burns opened the safe for him at Miami, the deputy hijacked the safe at gunpoint. With great difficulty the safe was removed from its mountings and transported over rugged terrain and across several streams to Oran.<sup>34</sup> Once the safe was installed on blocks in Parnell, the construction of the courthouse could proceed, and a wood framed courthouse was built around it. The combination to the safe was changed.

In the meantime, the fraudulently elected officers refused to go to Lipscomb for trial. Dave Lard asked to be made deputy sheriff at Oran, and he rode off to Miami. There he rounded up the officers, handcuffed them, and started off for Lipscomb. At Canadian the three men consulted a lawyer who told them, "Dave Lard can't do that to you." "But he has," replied the prisoners. They were advised to go to trial at Lipscomb, where they

<sup>27</sup> Welch p. 197.

<sup>28</sup> History 1976, p. 8.

<sup>29</sup> "History of the Cottage Hotel B&B," "Codman, Texas."

<sup>30</sup> Welch p. 197.

<sup>31</sup> Roberts County Historical Commission, p. 10.

<sup>32</sup> Roberts County Historical Commission, p. 8.

<sup>33</sup> Roberts County Historical Commission, p. 12.

<sup>34</sup> Welch p. 197; Hamner p. 114.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

made bond and returned to Miami.<sup>35</sup> The outcome of the charges was not recorded in the court records, but at one point the county seat controversy became so heated the Texas Rangers were called in to keep the peace.<sup>36</sup>

About the time Oran received a post office on March 20, 1890, the name was changed to Parnell, named for the owner of a freight office there. The town was slow to develop. The chief business house in Parnell was a combination hotel, store and post office.<sup>37</sup> The rest of the town consisted of a saloon called the Bat's Cave, a school and about a dozen log or picket residences.<sup>38</sup> Men attending court had to bring bedrolls and cooking gear for lack of hotel accommodations.<sup>39</sup>

Roberts County commissioners organized four school districts on August 11, 1890, named Miami, Tallahone, Parnell and Northside.<sup>40</sup> Early in 1893 a petition was filed in Austin for the disorganization of Roberts County, although the context of the petition does not appear in county records. The Commissioners allowed L. D. Miller \$300.00 for gathering information and data and taking it to Austin to protect the organization of the county. Later B. M. Baker was sent \$300.00. The hearing in Austin evidently took place and the organization of Roberts County was upheld. In subsequent years Miami prospered due to its location along the railroad that carried a good deal of freight for distribution to and from the county. Meanwhile, Parnell struggled to remain viable. On June 30, 1898, a new election was held to move the county seat from Parnell to Miami. The proposal passed by a vote of 83 to five.<sup>41</sup> In November 1898, the courthouse at Parnell was moved to Miami with no objection, as animosity between the factions had died down to great extent. On November 18, 1898 the post office at Parnell was closed, and the townsite was abandoned, with some of the lumber and materials hauled to Miami for new buildings.<sup>42</sup> Today the only remaining evidence at Parnell is a small cemetery one mile north of the old townsite.<sup>43</sup>

Miami prospered as the new Roberts County seat. The town newspaper, which began in 1894 as the *Miami Weekly Echo*, changed its name to the *Miami Chief* in 1911 and continues today. In May 1899 the Creswell Land and Cattle Company deeded a five acre tract to Roberts County for cemetery purposes. The cemetery was later enlarged to more than 17 acres.<sup>44</sup> Beginning in 1902 on Indian Creek, Dave Lard operated the first and only sawmill in the Texas Panhandle, ordering a Geiser sawmill for \$1,065.00. In 1903, an estimated 150,000 board-feet of lumber supplied building materials for area ranches and town homes.<sup>45</sup> In 1902 Sam Seiber built a telephone line from Miami to the Ledrick Ranch on the Canadian River. Seiber later added lines to Canadian

<sup>35</sup> Hamner p. 110.

<sup>36</sup> "Parnell, Texas."

<sup>37</sup> History 1987, p. 14.

<sup>38</sup> "Parnell."

<sup>39</sup> Welch p. 197.

<sup>40</sup> History 1987, p. 15.

<sup>41</sup> History 1987, p. 15.

<sup>42</sup> "History of the Cottage Hotel B&B."

<sup>43</sup> History 1987, pp. 15-16.

<sup>44</sup> History 1987, pp. 17, 37.

<sup>45</sup> History 1976, pp. 40, 248.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

and Hemphill, and in 1904 he operated a city switchboard, the Miami Telephone Exchange, from his drugstore.<sup>46</sup> A bank was established in 1907, and the local school district became independent in 1910.<sup>47</sup>

On June 7, 1913, the citizens of Miami voted 73-59 in favor of incorporation.<sup>48</sup> The city voted for a \$40,000 bond for water and light systems. Increasing cattle raising, improved grain and cotton production along with prospects for oil in the area helped spur growth in the 1910s and 1920s.<sup>49</sup> Wheat was the largest crop, along with corn, oats and cotton. The city installed a central water system in 1921, a sewer system in 1927-28, and street lights in 1927.<sup>50</sup> In February 1924 the county retained Frank Willis to represent the county in matters arising out the failure of the Bank of Miami. Suits were filed to recover \$78,530.30 that the county had on deposit at the time of the bank's failure.<sup>51</sup> The population at Miami reached a peak of approximately 1500 in 1925, but the following year oil was discovered at Borger to the west in Hutchinson County, and Miami's population dropped by about half.<sup>52</sup>

Oil exploration in Roberts County also led to the discovery of rich sources of paleontological and archeological artifacts. In 1928 the Rio Bravo Oil Company, drilling for oil on the C. C. Coffee Ranch, found a major fossil bed dating from the lower Pliocene period of about 13 million years ago. Several specialists came to Roberts County to examine the fossils, which included those of a prehistoric camel, antelope, horse and wild pig.<sup>53</sup> The discovery of half a dozen woolly mammoth skeletons in a field northwest of Miami in 1933 brought Dr. E. H. Sellards of the University of Texas, and further excavations through the Works Progress Administration beginning in 1937.<sup>54</sup>

A combination of drought, wind erosion and farming practices that removed native grasses resulted in the Dust Bowl of the mid-1930s. At its peak an area of 100 million acres was useless for farming and subject to severe erosion and dust storms.<sup>55</sup> The most severe of these struck Roberts County and much of the Texas Panhandle on Sunday, April 14, 1935, with an immense cloud of dust that rolled across the plains and covered the land, a day known as Black Sunday. Miami resident Capitola Taylor (born 1907) related that on that day,  
when we finally got a lamp lit every thing on the table was black. The butter looked like a chunk of coal. The chickens went to roost but got lost and just squatted. After we could realize what was happening and it got a little lighter we went out to see if we could gather up the livestock. The cows were bawling, pigs squealing and the chickens squawking. In the darkness and dirt I stepped on a piece of pine stick and drove it in my leg. Clyde sharpened his pocket knife and

<sup>46</sup> History 1987, p. 76.

<sup>47</sup> "Miami, Texas."

<sup>48</sup> History 1976, p. 9.

<sup>49</sup> "Miami, Texas."

<sup>50</sup> History 1987, p. 59.

<sup>51</sup> History 1976, p. 9.

<sup>52</sup> "History."

<sup>53</sup> "Fossil Beds."

<sup>54</sup> History 1987, p. 7.

<sup>55</sup> "Dust Bowl."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

pulled the lamp close, put my leg across the table and Jim sat on me while they cut the splinter out. Then I was the one that was hollering. Three days later they brought me to Dr. Montgomery and he removed more of the splinter.”<sup>56</sup>

The Dust Bowl contributed to the population decline in the Panhandle. Between 1935 and 1937 over 34 percent of the farmers in the Panhandle left the area.<sup>57</sup> The reduced tax base in Roberts County resulted in the city of Miami going without streetlights for six months in 1934.<sup>58</sup>

Miami has been home to the National Cow Calling Contest since May 1949, an annual festival in late spring that includes an Old Timers Reunion and the Miss Miami Beauty Contest.<sup>59</sup> Miami added a public pool and city-county airport in the 1960s.<sup>60</sup> A devastating tornado on May 6, 1968 destroyed the high school and several homes, with more than one million dollars in damage.<sup>61</sup> In 1982, 98 percent of the land was in farms and ranches, with 9 percent under cultivation.<sup>62</sup> Roberts County voted for the Democratic candidate for President in all but one election from 1892 through 1948. From 1952 through 2000 the county has voted Republican for President.<sup>63</sup>

The additions made to the original plat of Miami reflect the peak periods of growth. The original town was laid out in 1887, followed by the Bennett Addition in 1889, the First Addition in 1898, the Second Addition in 1907, East Park in 1909, the Martin Addition in 1911, the Christopher Addition in 1912, East Park Second in 1913, the Martin Second Addition and Cunningham Addition in 1913, the Nickle Addition in 1914, the Heare Addition and Southside Addition in 1920, and East Park Third and Canyon Cliff in 1926.<sup>64</sup> Roberts County population grew steadily from 32 in 1880 to 1469 in 1920 before declining over the next fifty years, reaching a low of 967 in 1970. The population increased to 1187 in 1980 before declining again, hitting a new low of 887 in 2000. Roberts County is now the seventh least populous of Texas' 254 counties. City of Miami population has followed a similar trend, peaking at 953 in 1930, declining for most of the twentieth century except for an upturn in the 1970s, and numbered at 588 in 2000.<sup>65</sup>

### Previous Courthouses

After Miami was elected county seat in a disputed election in February 1889, Roberts County leased space for county business in the Rath Hamburg store. The building was partitioned to house two offices, and the front of the store was to be used as a courtroom.<sup>66</sup> A three month lease was obtained with an option to renew for

<sup>56</sup> History 1976, pp. 388-389.

<sup>57</sup> "Dust Bowl."

<sup>58</sup> History 1987, p. 59.

<sup>59</sup> History 1976, p. 71; History 1987, pp. 132-133.

<sup>60</sup> History 1987, pp. 52-53.

<sup>61</sup> History 1976, p. 439; History 1987, pp. 140-141.

<sup>62</sup> "Roberts County."

<sup>63</sup> "Roberts County."

<sup>64</sup> History 1987, p. 60.

<sup>65</sup> Texas Almanac 2002-03, pp. 383-399.

<sup>66</sup> History 1976, p. 8.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 16

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

\$35.00. The Commissioners Court ordered a notice placed in the *Fort Worth Gazette* to receive bids to erect a courthouse and jail. Bid plans and specifications submitted by the firm of Casserly and Kelly for the erection of the buildings were received and the court adopted them. The plans must have been elaborate, as the commissioners issued \$50,000 in bonds to pay for the courthouse and jail. The buildings were to be completed by January 1, 1890.

Roberts County citizens filed an injunction against the courthouse contract and the county officers. The results of the January 1889 election naming Miami as county seat were declared void, and in a new election Oran, later named Parnell, became the county seat. The contract with Casserly and Kelly was also invalidated. The new Roberts County commissioners ordered an advertisement in the *Canadian Free Press* for bids to erect a courthouse at Parnell, cost not to exceed \$1500.00. Evidently there were no bids for such a low amount, and the minutes later record \$4000.00 in bonds were issued in denominations of \$500.00, bearing interest at a rate of 6% payable within fifteen years.<sup>67</sup> On February 15, 1890 County Commissioners approved plans and specifications of C. W. Watson for the construction of a wood framed courthouse at Parnell for a cost of \$4,000.00.<sup>68</sup> The county received the new courthouse on April 28, 1890. The Traders Bank of Canadian, Texas was designated as the depository for county funds.

The frame courthouse continued to be used at Parnell until November 28, 1898, after an election named Miami the county seat. The commissioners paid H. E. Weckesser \$1,650.00 to move the courthouse 20 miles southeast to the new location.<sup>69</sup> In 1946 Mrs. Hod Baird recalled a conversation with Mr. Weckesser about the details of his moving of the courthouse:

He left Parnell with ten mules. The building was on a heavy truck called a government water wagon. The wheels were two feet high and made of timber, two inches by twelve inches thick and very heavy. Mr. Weckesser still has the wheels. The road was fair, as he expressed it, but not considered a good road today. He had a crew of men to help move the frame building, which they called the courthouse. It took fourteen head of mules to cross Red Deer Creek, northwest of the railroad station. The building was placed on the square where the present courthouse now stands.<sup>70</sup>

The commissioners also contracted with H. E. Weckesser to "underpin the courthouse, cover windows with wire screen and build a coal bin under the porch."<sup>71</sup> W. E. Davis was awarded the contract to build a Grand Jury room for the sum of \$1756.00 in the fall of 1905.<sup>72</sup> In 1911 two first class felony cells were purchased for \$1800.00, and advertisement for a new jail building was made in the *Miami Chief*. H. E. Weckesser's bid was accepted.<sup>73</sup> Joe Cooper was paid \$15.00 for hauling jail fixtures from Fort Elliott and M. C. W. McCluney was

<sup>67</sup> History 1976, p. 8.

<sup>68</sup> History 1976, p. 8.

<sup>69</sup> Welch p. 197.

<sup>70</sup> History 1987, p. 148.

<sup>71</sup> Roberts County Historical Commission, p. 20.

<sup>72</sup> History 1976, p. 9.

<sup>73</sup> History 1976, p. 9.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 17

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

paid \$200.00 for completing the county jail building. A fireproof vault was added for the County Clerk's office, and the court also paid W. E. Davis \$300.00 to build a fence around the courthouse.<sup>74</sup>

In July 1912 the commissioners chose to hold an election to issue courthouse bonds in the amount of \$40,000.00 bearing 5% interest payable in forty years.<sup>75</sup> Roberts County citizens voted 116 for and 11 against building a new courthouse. The bid of Bone and Parr of Amarillo, Texas was accepted for a price of \$43,845.00, passing by a commissioners court vote of three to two. On September 25, 1912 the old courthouse was abandoned and put up for sale. The county retained the vault door and all the furniture.<sup>76</sup> On October 1913 the present day courthouse was completed and accepted by the county.<sup>77</sup> At that time the sheriff was authorized to sell at public auction the old grand jury room and the coal house.

### 1913 Roberts County Courthouse

The present Roberts County Courthouse was built at a time of prosperity for the county and the construction of several prominent buildings in Miami. In 1910 a large two-story red brick schoolhouse was completed, replacing an earlier wooden building.<sup>78</sup> The First Baptist Church erected an impressive new brick building in 1915 for \$8500.00.<sup>79</sup> The 1910s were a time of regional economic development in Miami, spurred by ranching and agriculture. During the 1910s and 1920s, nearly every Panhandle county built a new courthouse, usually Classical Revival style and commonly brick, to replace earlier wooden building.

Along with reinforced concrete structural systems that began replacing masonry load-bearing walls, bricks and terra cotta became nearly universal building materials in the early twentieth century. During this period, courthouses erected in West Texas and the Panhandle were commonly built without the lofty domes or vertical towers common to other regions of the state. On some courthouses a low central feature might be present but generally a horizontal profile was presented, sometimes accented with a low pediment. Shallow porches or recessed colonnades often relieved the front elevations and sometimes the rear as well. Classical details at entries, windows and cornice lines enlivened the horizontal composition that invariably was made up of a heavy base, a straightforward middle section and a crowning top that capped the composition.

Roberts County Courthouse is one of more than 100 extant Texas courthouses built between 1900 and 1940 that are grounded in classical styles. The Roberts County Courthouse is an especially good example of Classical Revival design in this region, exhibiting all of these features with a low horizontal profile, classical proportions, recessed porches and classical architectural details. A hipped roof of clay tile reflects popular trends in style and materials, but is recessed from the facades to reduce its prominence with respect to the building's massing. Limestone foundations, sills, belt courses, lintels and monumental classical columns accent the brickwork.

<sup>74</sup> History 1976, p. 9.

<sup>75</sup> History 1976, p. 9.

<sup>76</sup> History 1976, p. 9.

<sup>77</sup> History 1976, p. 9.

<sup>78</sup> History 1976, pp. 32-35.

<sup>79</sup> History 1976, pp. 53-54.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 18

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

The courthouse also exhibits the cruciform or quadrilateral plan that derived from earlier traditions and was typical of courthouses of this period. There is no rotunda or grand space at the crossing of the public hallways, as this is essentially a small building. Rather, the courtroom centrally located on the upper floor, and serves as the grand public space with a vaulted ceiling that was embellished with a decorative plaster frieze and crown moldings. The courthouse is further distinguished by its prominent location atop a large grassy slope with a majestic presence above the town of Miami and a commanding view out over the surrounding hills.

The Roberts County Courthouse has a nearly identical twin in the Marion County Courthouse in the East Texas city of Jefferson, some 450 miles southeast of Miami. The two buildings are both designed by E. G. Withers and are nearly identical in scale and details, with minor differences in materials and such features as stairways. It appears the Marion County commissioners chose the design after Roberts County, but finished their courthouse earlier. The Marion County Commissioners accepted Withers' plans and specifications on September 11, 1912. On October 15 and 19, 1912, L. R. Wright & Company of Dallas was awarded the contract to build the new building for \$41,000. On November 11, 1912 the court finalized the acquisition for the site of the new courthouse. Changes were made to the north and south entrances, the addition of a heating system, and roofing material change from metal to red clay tile between January 7 and March 7, 1913. The cornerstone was dedicated on the day the courthouse was officially accepted, June 19, 1913, some four months before Roberts County Courthouse was completed.<sup>80</sup>

As the county seat of a rural county, the courthouse in Miami has been the center of political and social activity through the years. The Roberts County Courthouse was the first building in Miami to be wired for electricity. When the power plant was turned on for the first time on June 15, 1915, a large crowd gathered to see the lights come on in the courthouse.<sup>81</sup> Civic groups and community organizations have historically met there, including the Child Study Club and the Roberts County Historical Society for many years. From 1923-27 school was held in the basement of the courthouse due to a shortage of elementary school classrooms. For many years, a collection of Roberts County paleontological and archeological artifacts gathered by Roberts County Judge J. A. Mead (in office 1931-49) filled the courthouse corridors, basement, and county judge's office. The fossil collection included evidence of dinosaurs, mastodons, and a large sea turtle. The discovery of mastodon skeletons in Roberts County in 1934 brought much scientific interest to the area, including requests from the Smithsonian Institution and a publication by University of Texas geologist and paleontologist E. H. Sellards. This collection is now part of the Roberts County Museum in the old railroad depot.<sup>82</sup> During World War II, Home Demonstration agents held classes here to teach canning and sewing. The Miami-Roberts County Library began as a WPA project in the basement of the courthouse where it remains today. After a tornado demolished the high school in 1968, classes were held in the courthouse from 1969-70. In 1970 the library renovated and moved into the two adjoining rooms that it currently occupies.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>80</sup> Marion County Commissioners Court Minutes, Vol. F, pp. 304, 309, 333, 335, 337, 347.

<sup>81</sup> History 1987, p. 153.

<sup>82</sup> History 1976, pp. 11, 22; "Miami, Texas."

<sup>83</sup> Cook.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Section 8 Page 19

**Elmer George Withers, Architect**

Elmer Withers designed a number of courthouses and notable buildings in Texas in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Withers was born in Caddo Peak, Texas in 1881, and may have learned architecture as an apprentice or by correspondence, since no record of his formal education has been found. Withers had an office in Fort Worth by 1910, and he concentrated on small towns, securing a number of commissions for courthouses, schools, stores and service stations. Withers designed at least eleven courthouses, two of them in the firm Withers & Thompson in the 1930s. His 1910 Jones County Courthouse in Anson was listed in the NRHP in 2003. Withers buildings in Fort Worth include the Blackstone Hotel (1929) Firestone Service Garage (1929), Will Rogers Memorial Center coliseum, tower and auditorium (1936, with Wyatt C. Hedrick), and Fort Worth City Hall (1938, with Hedrick). Withers was designing a public housing project for Fort Worth when he died in 1938.<sup>84</sup>

Withers was 32 years old when he designed Roberts County Courthouse, his seventh courthouse commission. His courthouse designs are generally Classical Revival prior to 1915, and Moderne after 1930. He is credited with at least eleven courthouses in Texas:

Courthouse	City	Year built	Historic designations	Notes
Swisher CCH	Tulia	1909		Major alterations 1962
Jones CCH	Anson	1910	RTHL 2000, NRHP 2003	
Foard CCH	Crowell	1910	RTHL 2002	Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
Stonewall CCH	Aspermont	1911		Razed 1982
Armstrong CCH	Claude	1912		Exterior alterations 1940s
Marion CCH	Jefferson	1912	RTHL 2002, SAL	State Archeological Landmark
Roberts CCH	Miami	1913	RTHL 2000	
Menard CCH	Menard	1931		Withers & Thompson
Young CCH	Graham	1932		Withers & Thompson
Upshur CCH	Gilmer	1933		
Ector CCH	Odessa	1938		Major alterations 1964

**Conclusion**

The 1913 Roberts County Courthouse is the dominant public building in Miami. It is aligned on the major east-west road and sits on a rise, and so remains prominent from many angles. The courthouse was built at a time of progress and prosperity for the county. The courthouse meets Criterion A, in the area of Government, by its role as the seat of county government since 1913. The courthouse has been the center of civic, governmental, and social activities since its construction. The building meets Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as an intact example of Classical Revival style architecture. The building retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, location, setting, association and feeling to a high degree.

<sup>84</sup> "Withers, Elmer George."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 20

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 21

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

<b>UTM REFERENCES</b>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	352020	3951110

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** All of Block 17 of the original plat of the town of Miami, Roberts County, Texas.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Nomination includes all property historical associated with the building.

---

**11. FORM PREPARED BY** (with assistance from Bob Brinkman, historian, Texas Historical Commission)

---

**NAME/TITLE:** Joe Grimes

**ORGANIZATION:** Grimes and Associates

**DATE:** December 12, 2003

**STREET & NUMBER:** P.O. Box 65

**TELEPHONE:** (806) 863-2462

**CITY OR TOWN:** Wolfforth

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 79382

---

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS** (see continuation sheets FIGURE-24 through FIGURE-31)

**MAPS** (see continuation sheets MAP-22 through MAP-23 and topographic map)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet PHOTO-32)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

---

**PROPERTY OWNER**

---

**NAME:** Roberts County, ATTN: The Hon. Vernon Cook

**STREET & NUMBER:** P.O. Box 478, 301 E. Commercial St.

**TELEPHONE:** (806) 868-3721

**CITY OR TOWN:** Miami

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 79059

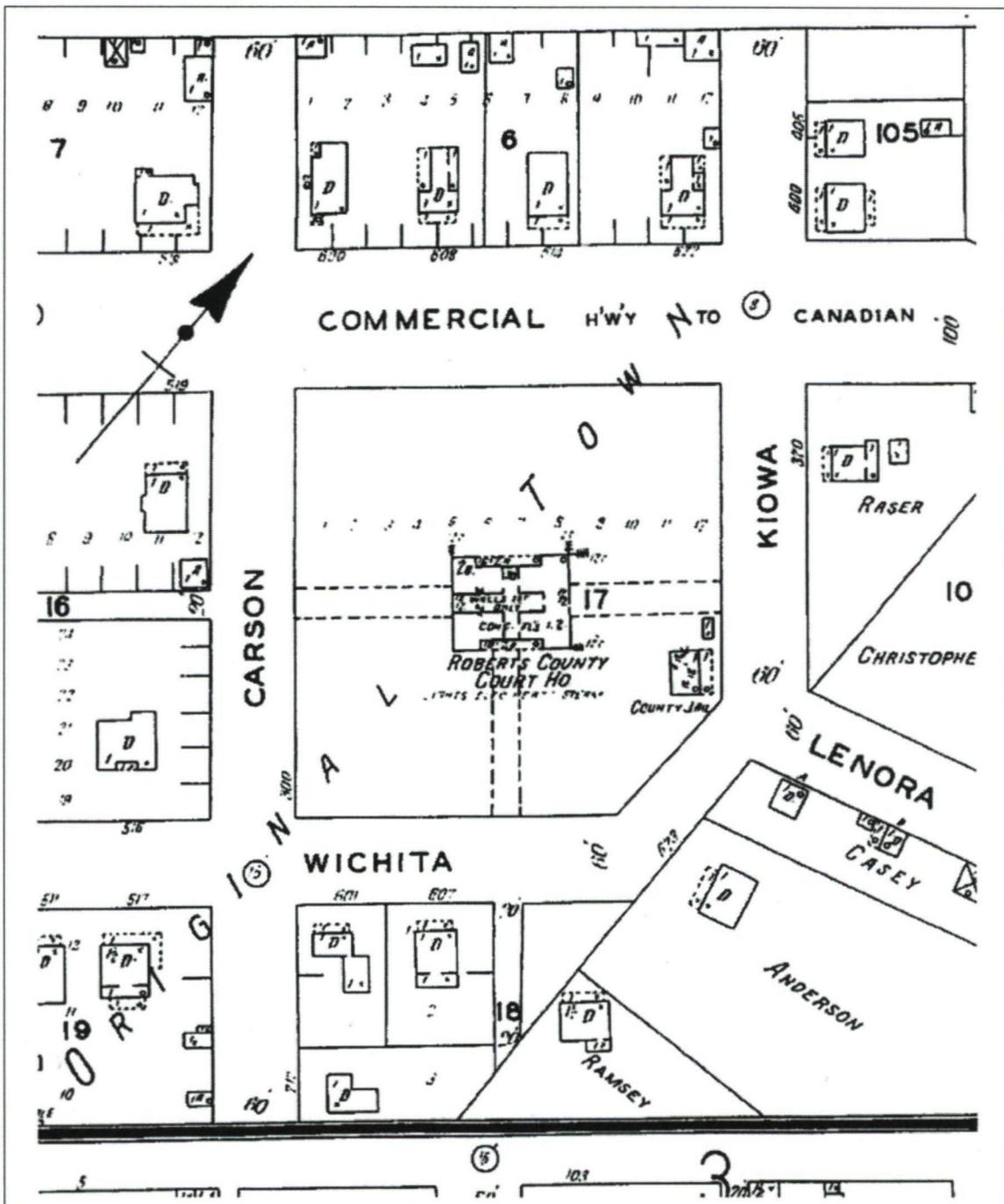
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 22

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Miami, Texas, March 1929, showing Roberts County Courthouse and surrounding streets. North at upper right.



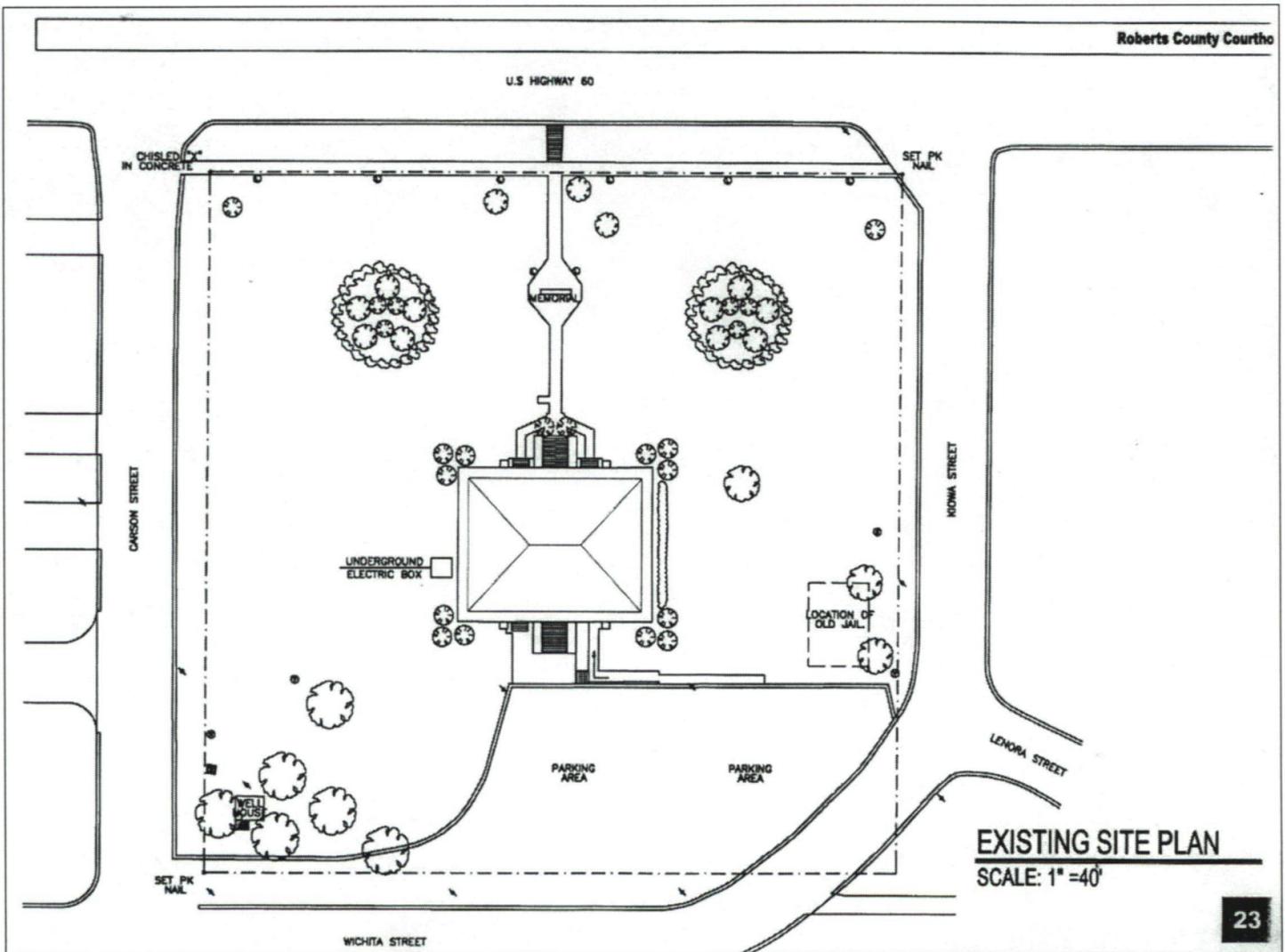
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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Section MAP Page 23

Site plan of Roberts County Courthouse, north at upper right. Source: Roberts County Courthouse Master Plan.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 24

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

**Figure 1. Undated photograph of previous Roberts County Courthouse. Source: Roberts County Historical Commission.**



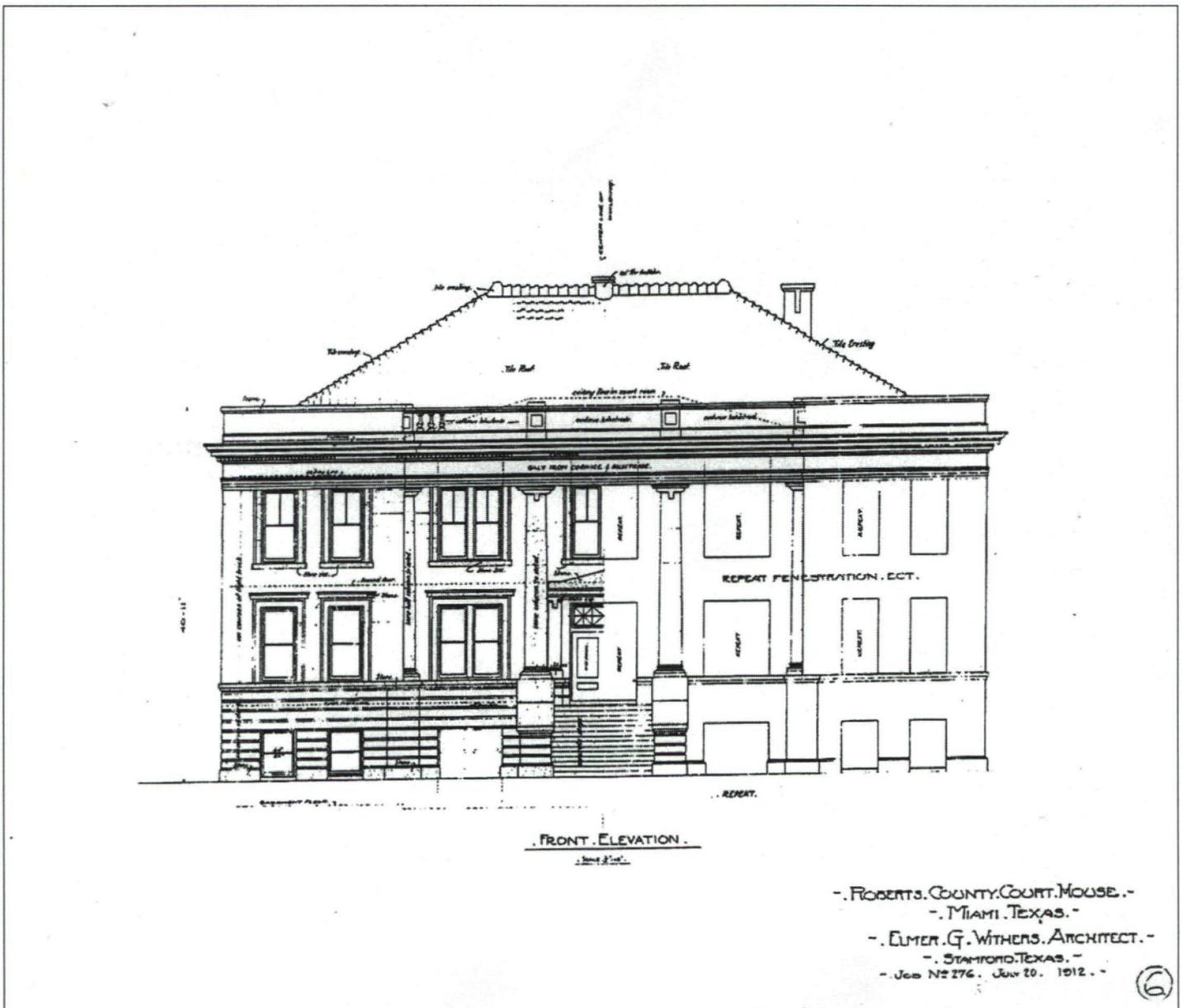
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 25

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Figure 2. Front elevation of Roberts County Courthouse. Original sketch by E. G. Withers, July 20, 1912.



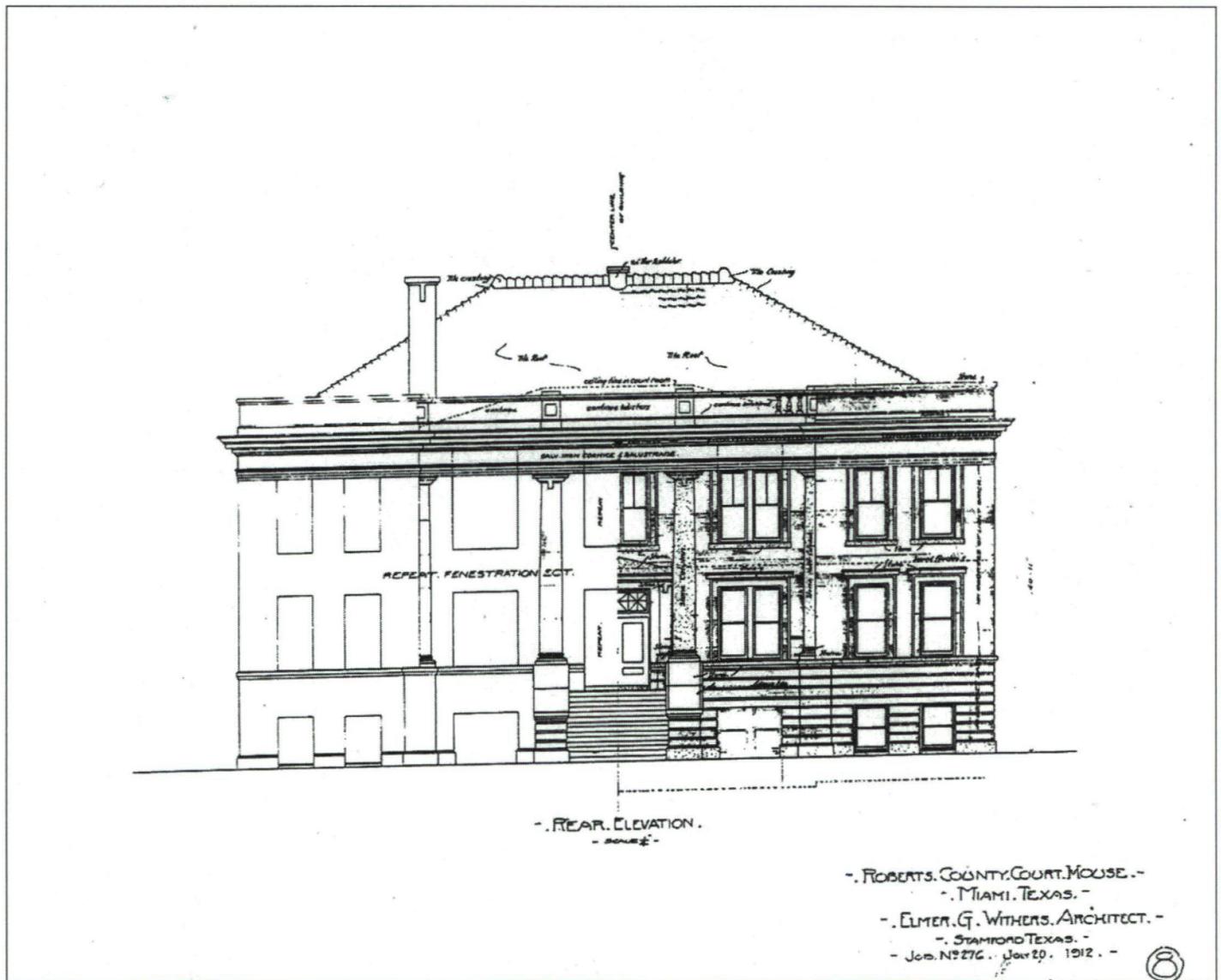
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 26

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Figure 3. Rear elevation of Roberts County Courthouse. Original sketch by E. G. Withers, July 20, 1912.



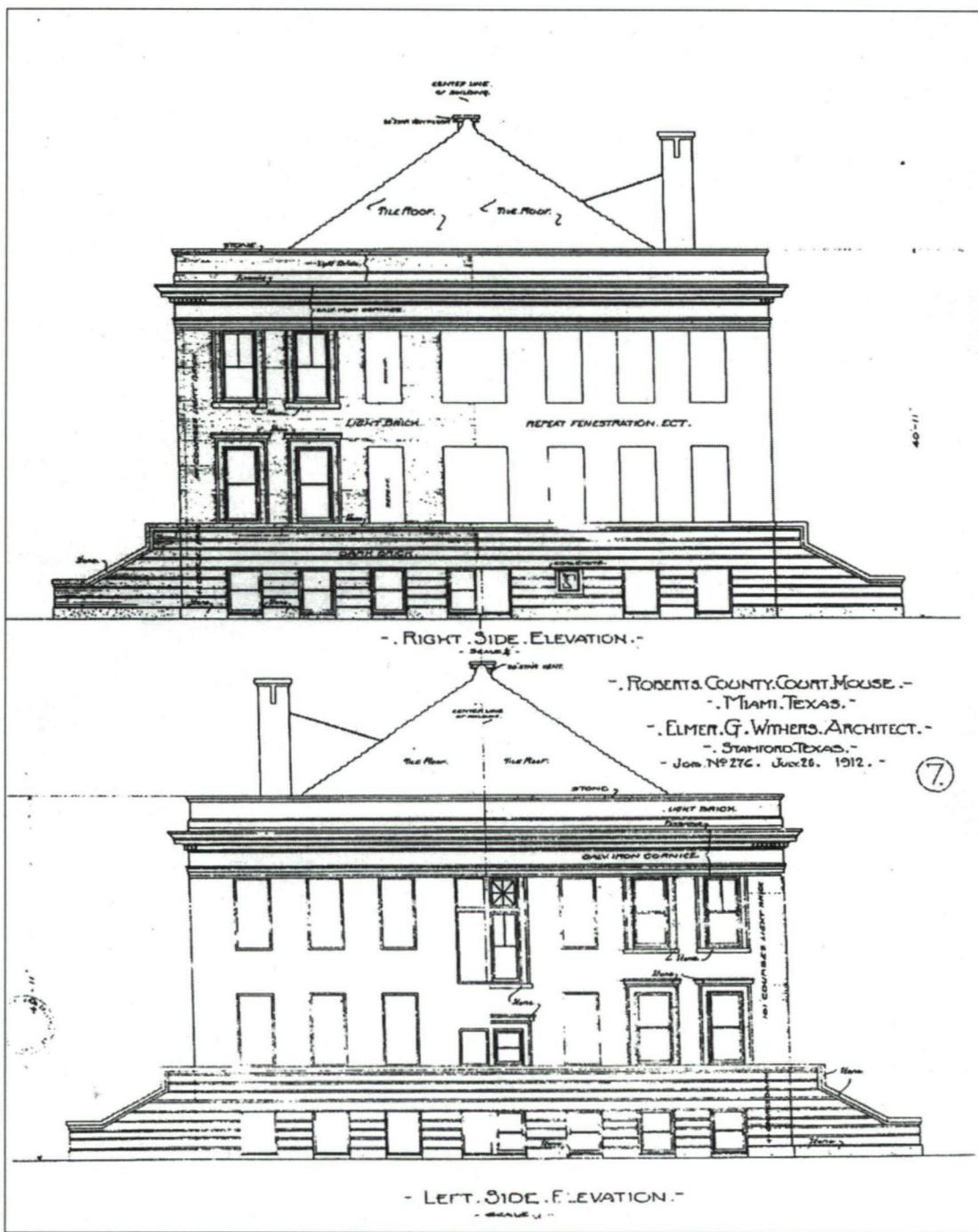
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 27

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Figure 4. Side elevations of Roberts County Courthouse. Original sketch by E. G. Withers, July 20, 1912.





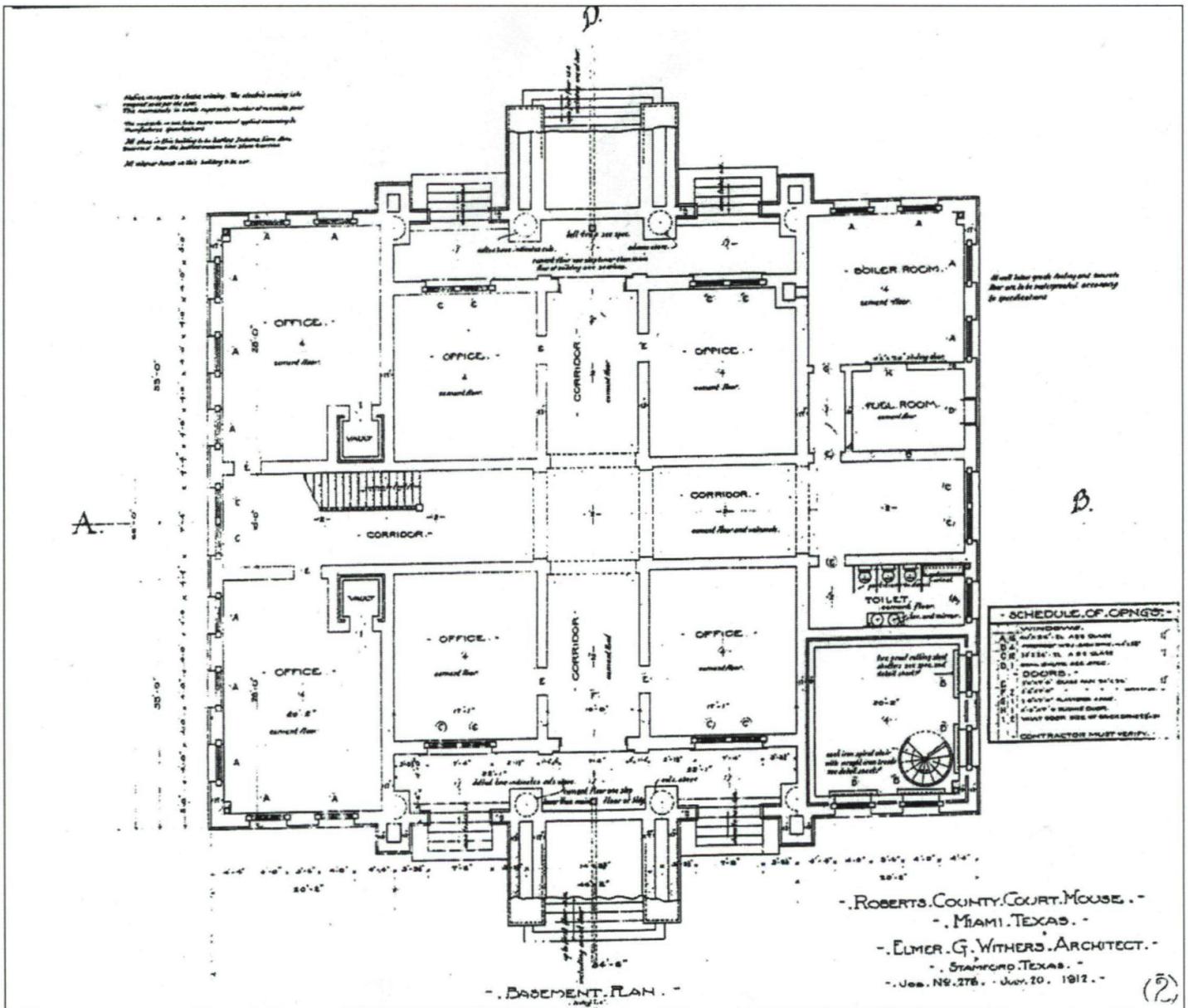
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 29

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Figure 6. Basement plan of Roberts County Courthouse. Original sketch by E. G. Withers, July 20, 1912.



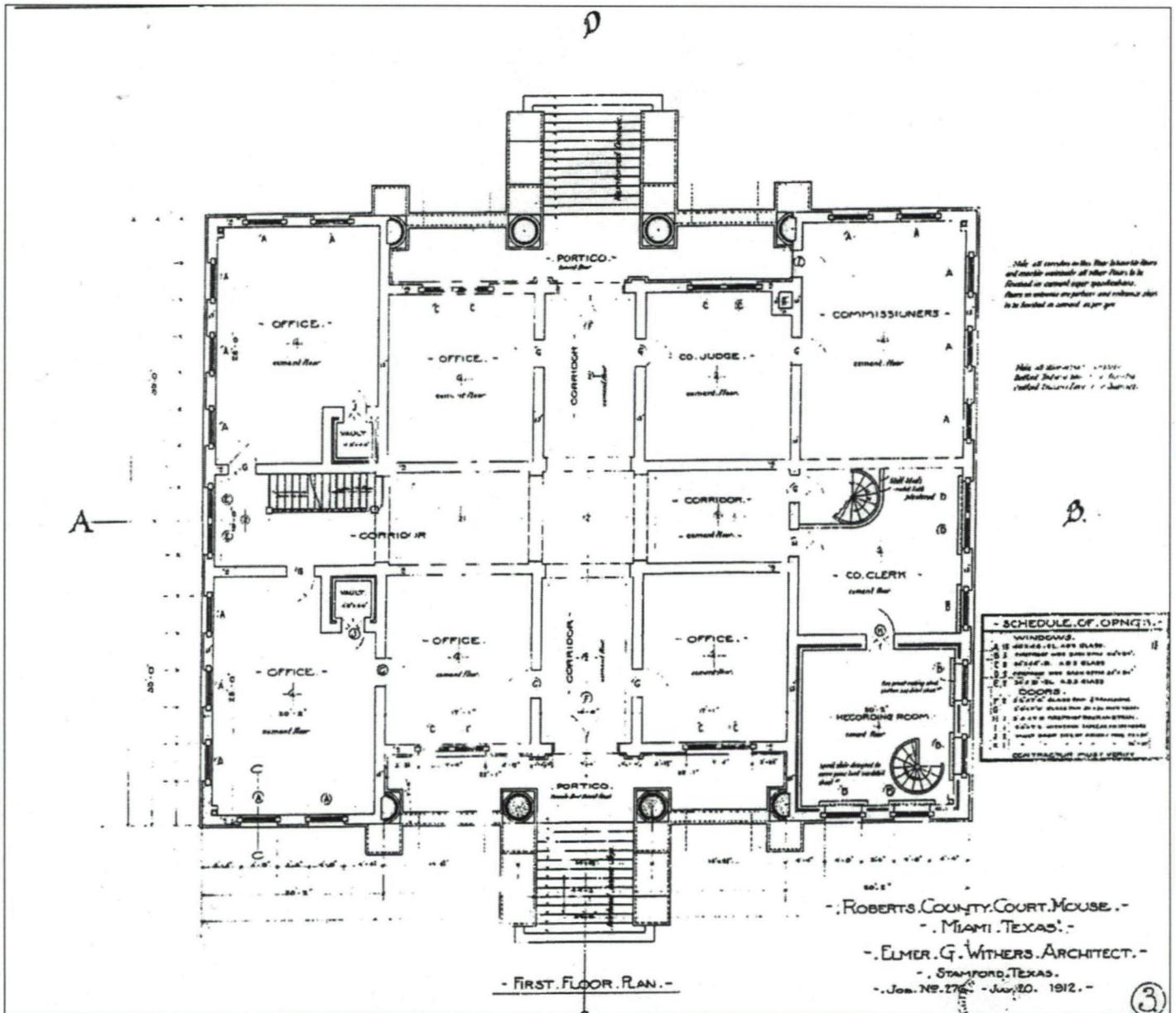
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 30

Figure 7. First floor plan of Roberts County Courthouse. Original sketch by E. G. Withers, July 20, 1912.



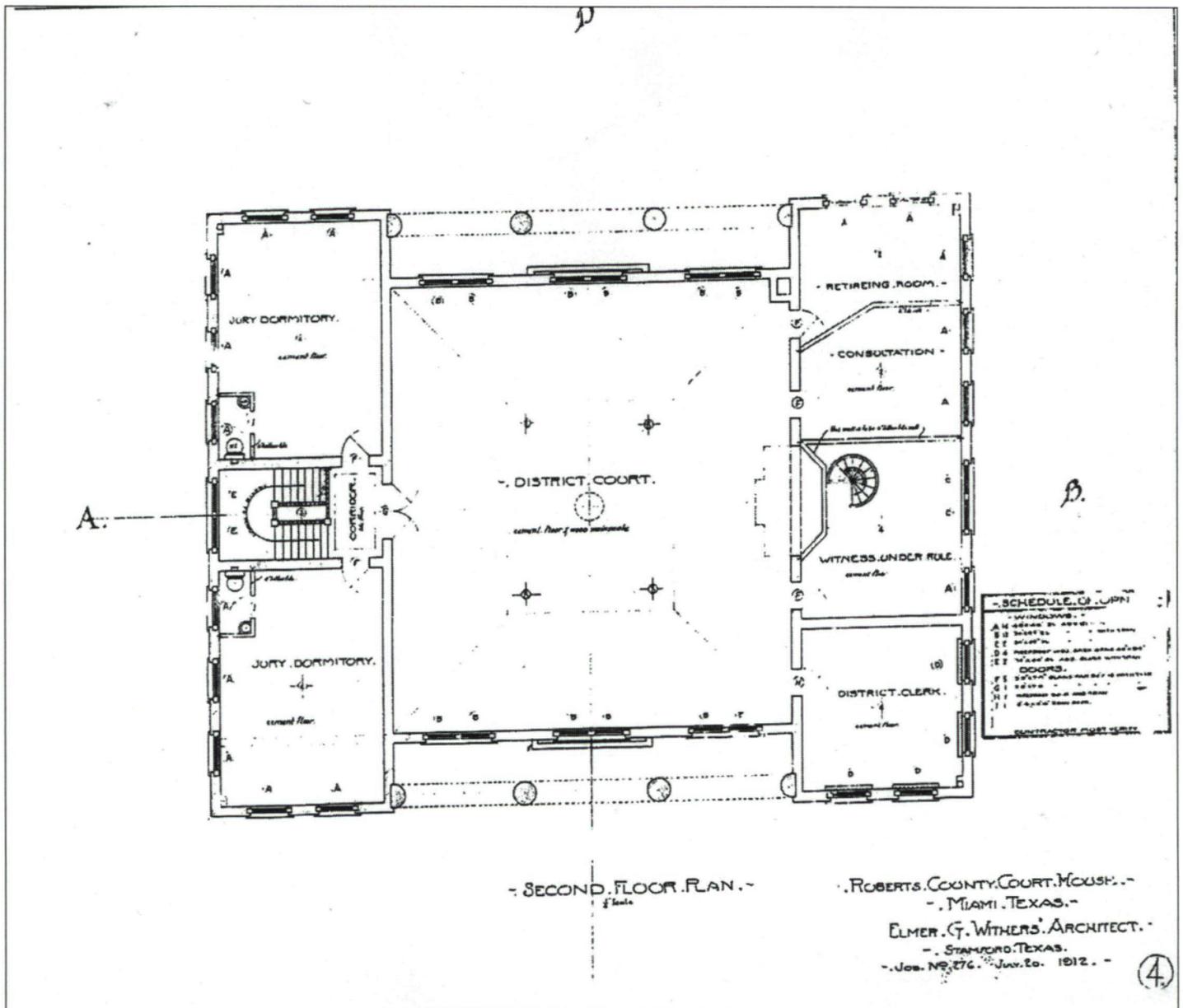
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 31

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

Figure 8. Second floor plan of Roberts County Courthouse. Original sketch by E. G. Withers, July 20, 1912.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 32

Roberts County Courthouse  
Miami, Roberts County, Texas

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### **PHOTOGRAPH INVENTORY**

**Roberts County Courthouse**  
**301 E. Commercial Street**  
**Miami, Roberts County, Texas**  
**Photographed by Jay Firsching, Texas Historical Commission, 1999**  
**Negatives on file**

Northwest elevation  
Camera facing southeast  
Photo 1 of 5

Southwest elevation  
Camera facing northeast  
Photo 2 of 5

Southeast elevation  
Camera facing northwest  
Photo 3 of 5

Public stairway  
Camera facing southeast  
Photo 4 of 5

Second floor corridor  
Camera facing southwest  
Photo 5 of 5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Roberts County Courthouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Roberts

DATE RECEIVED: 2/10/04      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/02/04  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/17/04      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/25/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000228

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    3/22/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



ROBERTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

301 E. COMMERCIAL STREET

MIAMI, ROBERTS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 6



ROBERTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

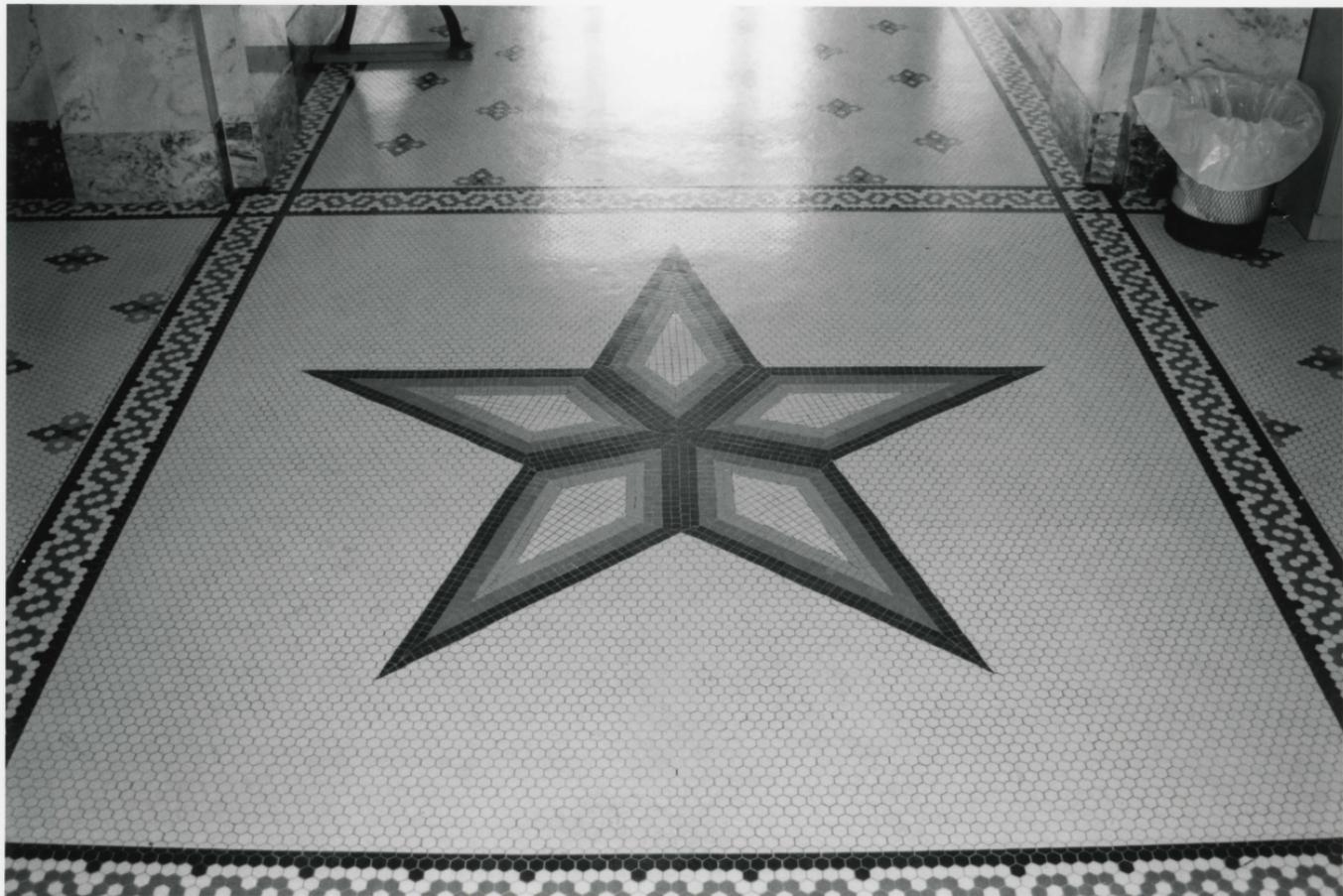
301 E. COMMERCIAL STREET

MIAMI, ROBERTS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 6



ROBERTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
301 E. COMMERCIAL STREET  
MIAMI, ROBERTS CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 6



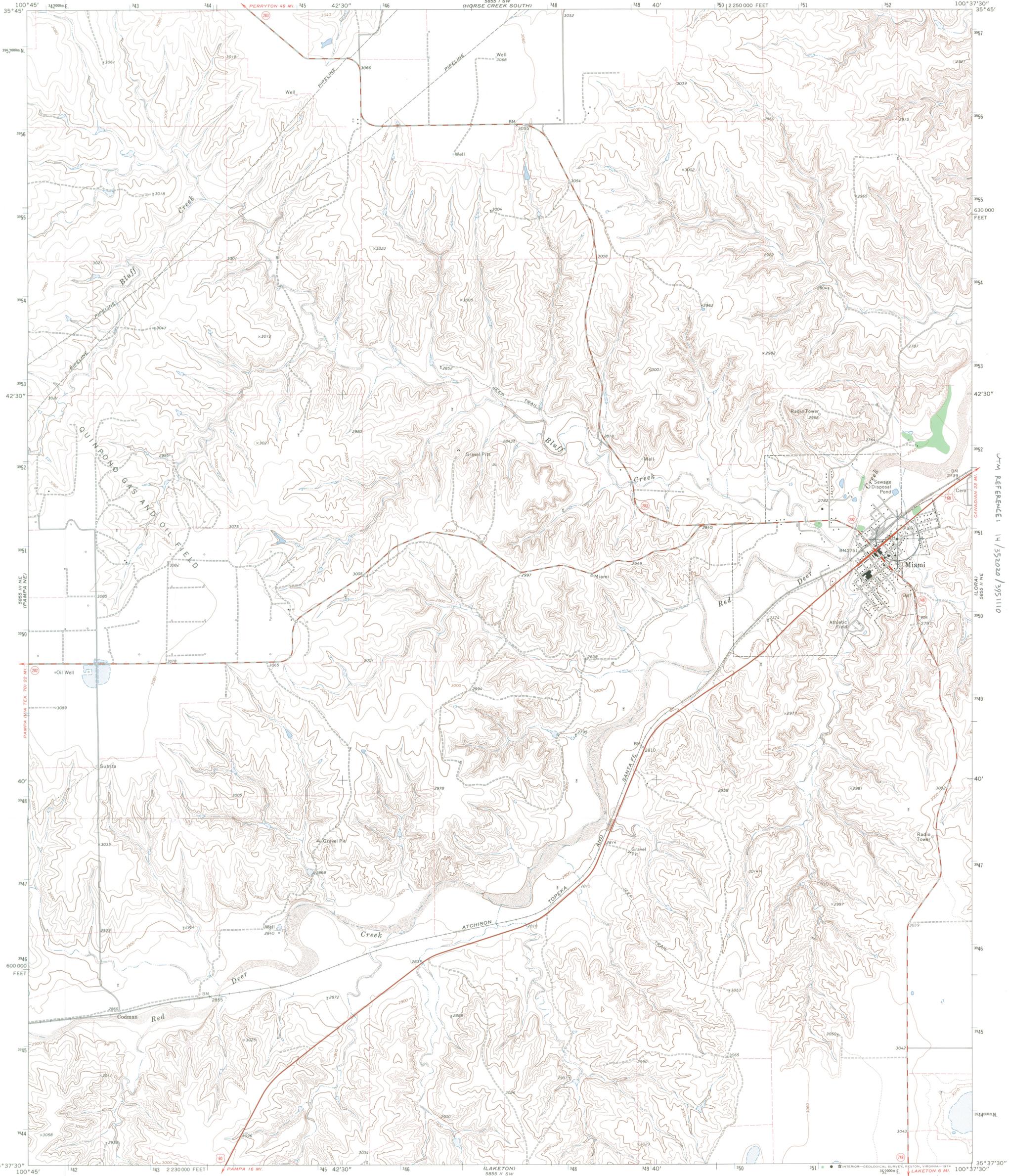
ROBERTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
301 E. COMMERCIAL STREET  
MIAMI, ROBERTS CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 6



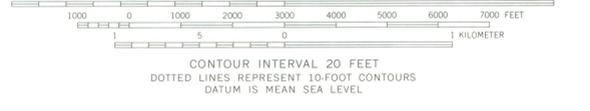
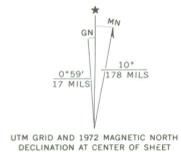
ROBERTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
301 E. COMMERCIAL STREET  
MIAMI, ROBERTS CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 6



ROBERTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
301 E. COMMERCIAL STREET  
MIAMI, ROBERTS CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 6 of 6



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1972  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3500-313

MIAMI, TEX.  
N3537.5-W10037.5/7.5

1972  
AMS 5855 II NW-SERIES V882

ROBERTS COUNTY Courthouse  
301 E. Commercial Street  
MIAMI, ROBERTS COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 14UJS5222/39S1110



# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rick Perry • *Governor*  
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*  
F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

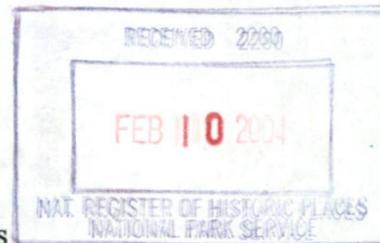
*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

TO: Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Roberts County Courthouse, Miami, Roberts County, Texas

DATE: February 9, 2004



The following materials are submitted regarding: Roberts County Courthouse, Miami, Roberts County, Texas

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted nomination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence
	Other:

### COMMENTS:

SHPO requests substantive review

The enclosed owner objections (do ) (do not ) constitute a majority of property owners

Other \_\_\_\_\_