

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**


**HISTORIC NAME:** San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** N/A

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** Courthouse Square  
**CITY OR TOWN:** San Augustine  
**STATE:** Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** San Augustine **CODE:** 405 **ZIP CODE:** 75972  
**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A  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 ( 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 ( 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 6/30/04  
Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

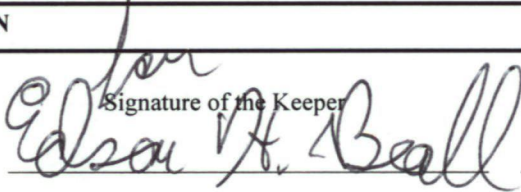
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 8/24/04  
Date of Action

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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>	
	2	0	<b>BUILDINGS</b>
	0	0	<b>SITES</b>
	0	2	<b>STRUCTURES</b>
	1	4	<b>OBJECTS</b>
	3	6	<b>TOTAL</b>

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

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** N/A

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/courthouse=county courthouse, correctional facility=jail

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/courthouse=county courthouse, government office

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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 STONE=Limestone, BRICK  
WALLS STONE =Limestone, BRICK, STUCCO  
ROOF WOOD=shake, ASPHALT  
OTHER

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).



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The current San Augustine County Courthouse was built in 1927 on the courthouse square designated when the town was platted in 1833. The three-story Classical Revival limestone building features a symmetrical plan and a cross-hipped deck wood shake roof. Directly in front of the main entrance is a bronze statue of James Pinckney Henderson built for the Texas Centennial Celebration. Sharing the block with the courthouse is the 1909 County jail, a rectangular plan stuccoed brick building with minimal classical detailing. The grounds are well maintained and dotted with mature trees and various small scale memorials and commemorative structures. The square retains its integrity to a high degree and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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### **Courthouse Square**

The city of San Augustine, the county seat of San Augustine, is located at the intersection of State Highways 21 and 147 near the Sabine National Forest in deep east Texas near the Louisiana border. Platted in 1833 the town is laid out in a grid with the courthouse square roughly in the middle bound by Columbia, Main, Broadway and Harrison Streets. One and two story commercial and civic buildings characterize the area around the square.

The landscaped courthouse lawn is dotted with mature pecan trees and plantings. The principal entrance to the courthouse faces Columbia Street with a grand walkway leading past a large statue of James Pinckney Henderson erected in 1937 as part of the Texas Centennial Celebration. Henderson, a San Augustine resident and the first governor of Texas is rendered in bronze wearing a suit and seated on a bench. The statue sits atop a round pink granite plinth surrounded by a planter box. It is considered a contributing object to the site.

Secondary walkways lead from the sidewalks to the side and rear entrances of the courthouse with additional paths leading diagonally to gazebos and monuments at the corners of the square. The site slopes down towards the back of the courthouse and accordingly the first floor goes from a half story in the front to a full story in the back.

Since 1971 the San Augustine Garden Club, has raised funds and cared for the courthouse grounds. In addition to plantings and beautification, the group has installed twenty one decorative lamp posts and a number of benches throughout the square. The dedication of the Garden Club and the number of memorials on the courthouse grounds attests to the importance of the site in the local community.

Among the non-contributing resources on the site are various commemorative structures. In the northeast corner of the square is a hipped roof pavilion supported by three columns at each corner, donated by the Stripling family in 1971. Directly behind the Stripling Pavilion, is another donated structure, the Sparks Patio. In the southwest corner is a 1971 hexagonal gazebo with wood shingled roof, turned balustrade and scrolled brackets. Another Garden Club addition is a large circular brick planter with a statue at the center in the northwest section of the courthouse grounds.



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Also on the northwest corner of the lawn are two memorials. A war memorial dedicated in 1951 bearing the names of 43 local men killed in WWI, WWII, and Korea sits next to a bronze marker dedicated to Major Murray Lamar Wortham, MIA in Vietnam.

### Jail

Immediately east of the courthouse building on the courthouse square is the 1919 jailhouse with various auxiliary structures including storage buildings, a fenced yard and a small parking lot. The simple two story rectangular building has symmetrical facades and minimal classical detailing. Pilasters extending through the parapet, and a small pediment above the original main entrance bay are the primary decorative elements of the jail. Originally red brick with bands of buff brick at the belt course and cornice, the Jail was stuccoed in the 1950s.

Windows on the jail are 2/2 double hung metal windows with the original vertical metal bars. Pilasters divide the symmetrical fenestration bays. The east and west facades are divided into three bays, while the shorter north and south elevations are comprised of two bays. The original main entrance, facing Harrison Street (east), is located in the central bay accented by a pediment at the cornice. The door is not centered in the bay, but balanced by a single window to the left. The primary entrance has been moved to the south side and metal awnings have been added above both doors.

The interior of the courthouse contains office space and a few jail cells on the first floor and additional jail cells on the second floor. In 2000 the jail moved to a newer facility and the building is currently being used as offices for the probation department.

### Courthouse

#### Exterior

Built in 1927 the San Augustine County Courthouse is a Classical Revival building with art deco influences. The front facing T plan courthouse has cross axial interior arrangement and cross-hipped deck roof. Built entirely of smooth Texas Lueders limestone, the three-story building is divided into a base, piano noble and smaller third story. The upper two stories are visually unified by masonry and two story recessed window bays. The first floor stonework is laid in horizontal bands with deep horizontal joints capped by a water table giving the appearance of a solid and broad base. Above the water table the masonry is coursed ashlar limestone with flush joints that de-emphasize the masonry work on the upper stories. The recessed window bays above the water table give the impression of simplified pilasters. Stone detailing around the windows consists of simple monolithic headers and sills

The windows of the piano noble are almost twice the height as those on the first and third floors. On the south and west elevations, windows corresponding to the galleried courtroom are two stories high, topped by fanlights in a limestone arch with keystone. Some window bays are highlighted by ionic pilasters creating further visual interest in the classically inspired elevations.



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The front (north) elevation is divided into three sections of three window bays each. Simpler side sections flank a more highly decorated frontispiece. The front door, located at the center of the façade is a modern metal and glass replacement with the original transom above. Gold letters on the six light transom read *San Augustine Co Courthouse*. The transom, which breaks through the water table into the second story windows above, is topped with a shell and scroll motif. On either side of the front door are original lantern style light fixtures and a 2/2 light window.

The upper stories of the center bay are almost entirely glazing, with three bays of 8/24 lights divided by ionic pilasters. Framing the outer edges of the frontispiece are wider simplified Tuscan pilasters. Above the simple entablature is a stepped parapet elaborated with palmettes at the center and corners.

Side entrances on the east and west elevations are located in the projecting bay created by the T plan. Both doors are modern metal and glass type with transoms. Above these side entrances are three window bays, the center ones elaborated with ionic pilasters set into the recess.

The rear, or south, elevation has an entrance on the first floor, also a modern metal and glass door with transom. A limestone support pillar interrupts the recessed entry. The upper two stories consist of five bays with the center three bays containing two-story courtroom windows with fanlights.

Approximately one quarter of the buildings' windows are the original steel casement type. The large two story window bay above the main entrance retains the original windows. The rest of the upper story windows, and some of the first story windows, have been replaced with aluminum sash windows. Both the new and old windows are multi pane divided light style.

Originally the courthouse was roofed with green mission style clay tiles, but those have been replaced with wood shake shingles. The original drainage system with internal gutters, scuppers and exposed copper downspouts remains intact.

### Interior

The interior of the courthouse is generally laid out with offices in the front, or cross of the T, along a corridor running the width of the building between the two side entrances. The two story courtroom and a few associated rooms occupy the entire rear portion of the building on the second and third floors.

The front entrance lobby is open the full three story height of the building with stair cases on either side leading up to the piano noble where the courtroom is located. The lobby retains its original terrazzo floor and some of the original wrought iron railings. Because of the slope of the site the rear of the building is lower than the main entrance. From the lobby a small flight of stairs accesses the east west corridor as well as the north south corridor, which leads past the county clerks office to the rear exit.



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The main staircases lead to a second floor lobby with office suites on either side and two steps leading to the courtroom. The entrance to the courtroom is from the side with audience seating on the west separated by a wooden rail from the judge's bench, jury box and chambers on the east. The woodwork of the rail, bench and jury box are all original.

The two exterior walls of the room feature two story windows divided by pilasters. Although the second story spectator's gallery has been walled off, and a dropped ceiling has been added. The courtroom still retains most of its two-story height.

The third story consists of office suites at the east and west ends of the building. The gallery, which used to be on the north end overlooking the courtroom, has been enclosed and converted in to a family conference room.

Changes to the courthouse and jail reflect their continued usage over time. The main change to the jail is the covering over of the bricks with textured stucco, but the building retains its original form and original doors, windows and bars. The 1929 classic revival courthouse retains integrity design although all of the doors, and most of the windows have been replaced. The original mission clay tile roof has been replaced with wood shake shingles, and some interior spaces have been altered. The building however retains its original setting, the landscaped and well cared for courthouse square. Alterations to these buildings have not significantly affected their original designs, therefore the buildings and the courthouse square retains integrity of location design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**Resource Summary**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Status</b>
Courthouse	Building	Contributing
Jail	Building	Contributing
Henderson Statue	Object	Contributing
Stripling Pavilion	Structure	Non-Contributing
Sparks Patio	Object	Non-Contributing
Gazebo	Structure	Non-Contributing
Planter	Object	Non-Contributing
War Memorial	Object	Non-Contributing
Worthan Memorial	Object	Non-Contributing

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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:** Architecture, Politics/Government

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1909-1954

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1909, 1927, 1936

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Shirley Simons, Architect, Campbell and White Builder

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-13).

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-14).

**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:



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Located in far east Texas, San Augustine County was the entry point into Mexico, and then Texas, for Europeans and Americans. The town of San Augustine was laid out in 1833 in a grid pattern with a block set aside for a courthouse square. The 1927 courthouse is the third courthouse to be built on the square. Also on the courthouse square is the 1919 jail building, which served as the county jail until 2000, it is currently used for offices. The courthouse square retains its status as the physical and symbolic center of the county. Commemorative monuments donated by members of the community and local volunteers who care for the courthouse grounds are testaments to the continued importance of the square to the residents of San Augustine County. The courthouse square is nominated to the National register of Historic Places under criterion A in the area of Politics/Government and under criterion C in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance.

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Located in east Texas, twenty-three miles from the Louisiana border, San Augustine County includes portions of the Texas Timberlands region. The town of San Augustine, the county seat and largest town, lies at the intersection of U.S. Highway 96 and State highways 21 and 147 in the northeast of the county.

For centuries before the arrival of Europeans, the Ayish tribe of the Hasinai Indians inhabited the area. Also called the Ais, they were a settled agricultural society.<sup>1</sup> French and Spanish expeditions traveled through the area in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries but established no permanent settlements. In the eighteenth century, Spain attempted two missions to lay claim to the land and keep French forces at bay. Both missions were short-lived due to drought and the fact that the Indians, for the most part, were unreceptive to conversion. By 1773 the Spanish government ordered the abandonment of all East Texas missions.<sup>2</sup>

Because of its location on the border of French, (and later US) territory, this region of east Texas was often the site of, or source of, conflict between competing interests. After the Louisiana purchase, the US and Spain declared the border region a neutral ground to avoid military contact.<sup>3</sup> Despite the fact that neither government would grant land in the territory both European and Indian settlers flowed into the area in the first half of the nineteenth century, often attracted by the very fact that it was not governed by either nation.

The Kings Highway, or Camino Real, ran from the southern United States into Texas, traveling through modern day San Augustine County. The road played an important role in bringing American settlers to the area. The road, blazed by St. Denis in 1714, remained the only feasible route into Texas in the nineteenth century. Much of the east Texas timberlands to the south were too dense to traverse, and to the north, hostile Indians made travel unsafe. Settlers from the Southern US had to pass through the region and many stayed because of its rich soil -good for growing cotton- and vast timber resources. By 1826 there were two sawmills and two cotton gins in the area.<sup>4</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> San Augustine County, Handbook of Texas Online

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> "San Augustine County" Handbook of Texas Online



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American population continued to grow and many of the settlers participated in the establishment of the Republic of Texas. It was at San Augustine that Sam Houston was elected commander of the Texian forces in 1836.

After winning independence from Spain, the new government of Mexico drew up the constitution of 1824 establishing a Federal Republic form of government. Colonization into Texas was authorized under the leadership of an land agent or *empresario* but land grants were still prohibited within of twenty leagues the border<sup>5</sup>. East Texas became the Department of Nacogdoches. Within departments municipalities were formed based on the number of inhabitants. Municipalities were further subdivided into *ayuntamientos*, the most local form of government, similar to a town council with an *alcalde* serving as the principal executive officer.

In 1824, settlers along the Ayish Bayou formed an ayuntamiento and elected their first alcalde. At the same time they elected a sheriff, an American office, to execute the decisions of the alcalde. The fact that these settlers elected a sheriff illustrates the extent to which they brought their American culture into Mexico. Three years later the settlement officially became the Ayish Bayou District. The district was comprised of scattered farms and small settlements. Not only were there no municipal building to house the activities of the ayuntamiento, there was no town to serve as an administrative center. Court was held at the residence of the alcalde. With the election of the alcalde each year, the court was moved to different sites within the district. The legal documents were either kept at the residence of the alcalde or carried in their saddle bags.

In 1833, under Alcalde William McFarland, a group of 15 men were elected to select and survey a townsite. The committee selected six hundred and forty acres on the east side of the Ayish bayou along the Kings Highway. The property belonged to Edmund Quirk Jr. whose father had purchased it as part of a four league Spanish land grant in 1801.

In 1833, Chichester Chaplin, member of the survey committee, secured a deed for the Quirk survey including the mission site for \$90.00. He then sold the property for \$200 to Thomas McFarland who was responsible for plotting the town and selling lots. McFarland had learned surveying from his father, alcalde William McFarland. McFarland the senior had come to Texas in 1830 after living in Cincinnati, where he laid out McFarlands Addition, and Indiana, where he surveyed the town of Lexington.

In San Augustine Thomas McFarland<sup>6</sup> established forty-eight blocks and 356 lots separated by forty-foot wide streets. The grid, was oriented to the cardinal points of the compass and incorporated the Kings Highway. He set aside squares for a school, churches, a market, jail, and a courthouse.<sup>7</sup> The arrangement is notable in that it does not follow the Spanish Law of the Indies format for town planning, further indication that settlers in the area considered themselves more American than Mexican.

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<sup>5</sup> Crocket, 79

<sup>6</sup> Thomas McFarland went on to lay out the Texas towns of Pendleton and Monadelphia (both extinct) and Belgrade.

<sup>7</sup> Crocket 104



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The Ayish Bayou District was legally authorized for local government under Mexican law on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1834 and it became the Municipality of San Augustine. A year later, the Municipality of San Augustine became the District of San Augustine. When Texas won independence from Mexico in 1836 the district became the County of San Augustine, one of the twenty-three original counties in the state. In 1837, the county was organized according to the laws of the Republic of Texas and elections were held to fill each official office.

The first county district court was held in San Augustine on September 25, 1837, with Judge R.M. Williamson, presiding. With still no municipal buildings in the county, court was held in the Mansion Hotel. They paid \$50.00 for a courtroom and a grand jury room. Court continued to be held at this site for the next three years.

### The First Courthouse

In its first year as a republic Texas enacted the Revenue Tariff, or Customs Service Law. Customs Districts were established at ports of entry into Texas and San Augustine became one of six ports of entry where tariff duties were collected. A customs house was constructed on the northeast side of Lot #149 fronting Montezuma Street, present day Montgomery Street. Because it was the only municipal building, it soon came to serve as the courthouse as well. A railing at one end of the 40 by 60 foot building set the judge and jury apart from spectators, and a corner was walled off for the district clerk's office.<sup>8</sup>

After the annexation of Texas by the Union the customs house was no longer needed. On May 28, 1848, the county of San Augustine purchased the old customs house from the United States Government for \$350.00. Their plans were to move it to the public square and add a second story and recycle it into the county courthouse. These plans soon gave way to a proposal to build a new building on the courthouse square. Various courthouse committees were appointed in 1849 and 1853, but a plan could never be agreed upon. Finally a committee was appointed in 1854 to accept bids to build a new courthouse.

### The Second Courthouse

On May 16, 1854, the court made a contract with Travis G. Broocks and Felix G. Lovell to build a new courthouse on the northeast corner of the public square, fronting Columbia Street. This was the first courthouse to be built on the courthouse square set aside by McFarland in his 1833 survey. The courthouse was paid for by funds appropriated by the State Legislature and the selling of local subscriptions.

There are no surviving photographs or drawings of this first courthouse, but Historian G.L. Crockett describes it as an "unpretentious building erected on the cheapest possible plan."<sup>9</sup> The courthouse was a two-story brick building forty-five feet square. This building was torn down in 1890 and replaced with a new courthouse.

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<sup>8</sup> RTHL narrative

<sup>9</sup> Crockett, 110



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### The Third Courthouse

The firm of W.G. Barron was awarded a contract for the new courthouse in July of 1890 and the building was completed on February 1, 1891. This courthouse was a two-story Italianate building constructed of hand-molded brick from a kiln near San Augustine. The steeply pitched roof with gabled dormers was topped with a square clock tower.

### The Jail

In 1919 a county jail was constructed on the public square. The earlier jail, built in 1882, is still extant and located near the courthouse. The bars and jail cells from the original were removed and installed in the new building. The two-story brick building is still standing today east of the present courthouse and fronting onto Harrison Street. The symmetrical building is essentially a simple box with minimal classically inspired detailing including plasters between window bays and a pediment in the center of the main elevation. Originally built of red and buff brick, the jail has since been covered in stucco. The building continued to be used as the county jail until a newer facility was built in 2000. Currently the building serves as offices for the probation department.

### The Fourth Courthouse

The 1890 courthouse remained in use until 1928. A motion to construct a new courthouse was unanimously approved at the May 11, 1927 commissioners court meeting. The old courthouse building was sold for salvage for \$800.00 on February 18, 1928 to A.I. Bobbit who tore it down in March of that year.

The new courthouse budget was set at eighty thousand dollars and the commissioners began to solicit bids for architecture and construction. The Shirley Simons Architectural firm of Lufkin, Texas was chosen as the architect. Campbell and White Company of Cooper, Texas was chosen as the contractors.

Thomas Shirley Simons (1897-1964) was born in Taylor, Williamson County, Texas. He attended Rice University in Houston, earning a B.S. in Architecture in 1920. In 1922 Simons established his practice in Lufkin. San Augustine is the only Texas County Courthouse designed by Simons, however has a wide variety of institutional buildings to his credit including: Central Ward School in Lufkin, Nacogdoches High School, The Federal Courthouse and Post Office in Tyler, Tyler City Hall, Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.<sup>10</sup>

The Classical Revival and other classically inspired styles had long been popular for public buildings for the sense of formality and permanence they convey. For the San Augustine Courthouse, architect Simons chose a Classical Revival style but with restrained classical surface ornament, giving the building a more contemporary appearance. The ionic pilasters and acanthus leaves on the pediment are clear revivals of classical ornament. The use of recessed window bays to suggest pilasters and entablature indicates a move toward the stripped down classicism, a style which gained popularity for civic buildings in the 1930s.

<sup>10</sup> Azalea Residential Historic District NR



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According to the commissioner's minutes, the courthouse was to be completed by February 1, 1928. Total cost to construct the building was \$80,138.00 including \$5,305.50 for wood furniture, \$1,201.60 for steel furniture, \$1,227.00 for lights and lamps, a five percent architect fee, interest, and attorney's fees. The building was completed ahead of schedule in January of 1928.

On April 14, 1928 contractors Swift and Pursifull of Nacogdoches, Texas were awarded the contract of \$10,344.00 to construct the sidewalks, steps, curbs, gutters, etc. L.Acker, Engineer, prepared the plans and specifications.

In 1936 as part of the Texas Centennial Celebration a statue of James Pinckney Henderson was placed on the courthouse grounds. Henderson was the first Governor of Texas and a resident of San Augustine. Sculpted by artist G. Cecere, the bronze statue occupies a prominent spot directly in front of the courthouse. Time capsules with granite markers were buried at the base of the statue in 1976 and 1986.

Housed in the archives of San Augustine County courthouse are records predating the establishment of the county in 1836. Alcalde William McFarland began keeping court records in 1833, and in addition he transcribed records or his predecessor, Benjamin Lindsey, alcalde from 1829 to 1832. Located in the vault room are original records of the settlement of the Aies, the Ayish Bayou District, and first documents of the county, many of which are written in Spanish. There are original court cases, wills, court minutes land transactions, tax rolls, criminal papers, marks and brands, military rolls, original surveyors notes and drawings, along with other valuable documents. Because the San Augustine courthouse has never burned, which happened many of Texas's earliest courthouses including neighboring Shelby and Sabine counties, the San Augustine county courthouse has become one of the most valuable sites in researching East Texas history.

The courthouse continues to serve as the political and social center of the county. Citizens use the grounds to commemorate local heroes with annual ceremonies or monuments. The courthouse square is still the place where citizens gather during elections to follow results; a tradition begun before updates were immediately available on television or radio. In 1971 the San Augustine Garden Club began a courthouse grounds beautification campaign with memorial funds and donations from the citizens of San Augustine County. Over the years the club has added benches, lamps and plantings and improved walkways.

For its historic and current role in the political development of San Augustine County, the courthouse and Jail are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A in the area of politics at the local level of significance. The courthouse is nominated under criterion C in the area of architecture as a good local example of the Classical Revival style.

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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>
1.	15	394520	3488660

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** Block of San Augustine bound by Broadway, Columbia, Main and Harrison Streets.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** The nomination includes all property historically associated with the property.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY** with assistance from McXie Whitton Martin, San Augustine Garden Club

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**NAME/TITLE:** Hannah Vaughan, Historian

**ORGANIZATION:** Texas Historical Commission

**DATE:** May 2004

**STREET & NUMBER:** P.O. Box 1226

**TELEPHONE:** 512-482-6046

**CITY OR TOWN:** Austin

**STATE:** TX

**ZIP CODE:** 78711

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

---

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheet Map-15 through Map-16)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-31)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheet Figure-17 through Figure-29)

---

**PROPERTY OWNER**

---

**NAME:** San Augustine County, Texas (Honorable Jack Nicholas, County Judge)

**STREET & NUMBER:** Courthouse Square

**TELEPHONE:** 936-275-2762

**CITY OR TOWN:** San Augustine

**STATE:** TX

**ZIP CODE:** 75972



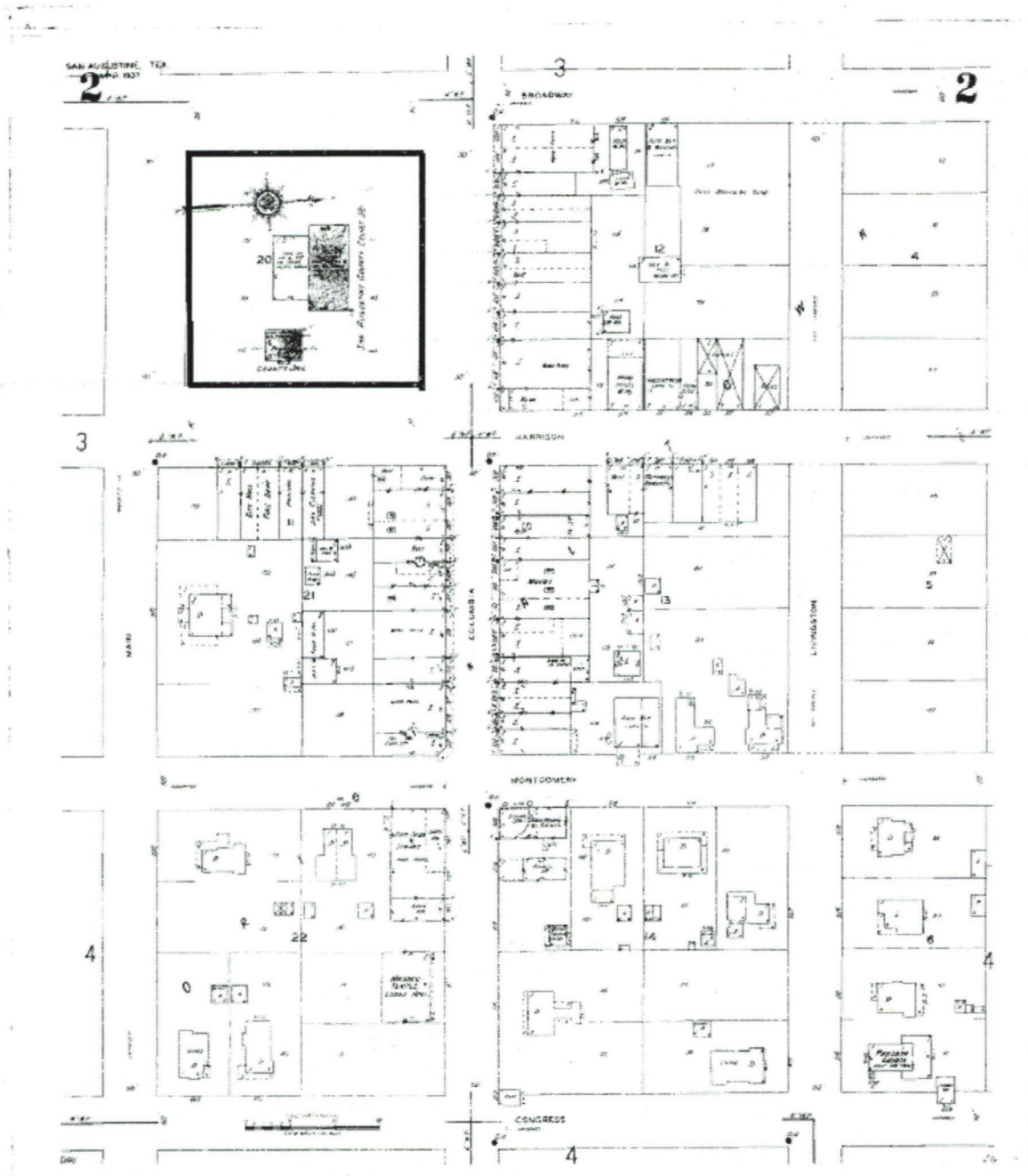
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAPS Page 15

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

MAP 1 1937 Sanborn Map, showing courthouse square





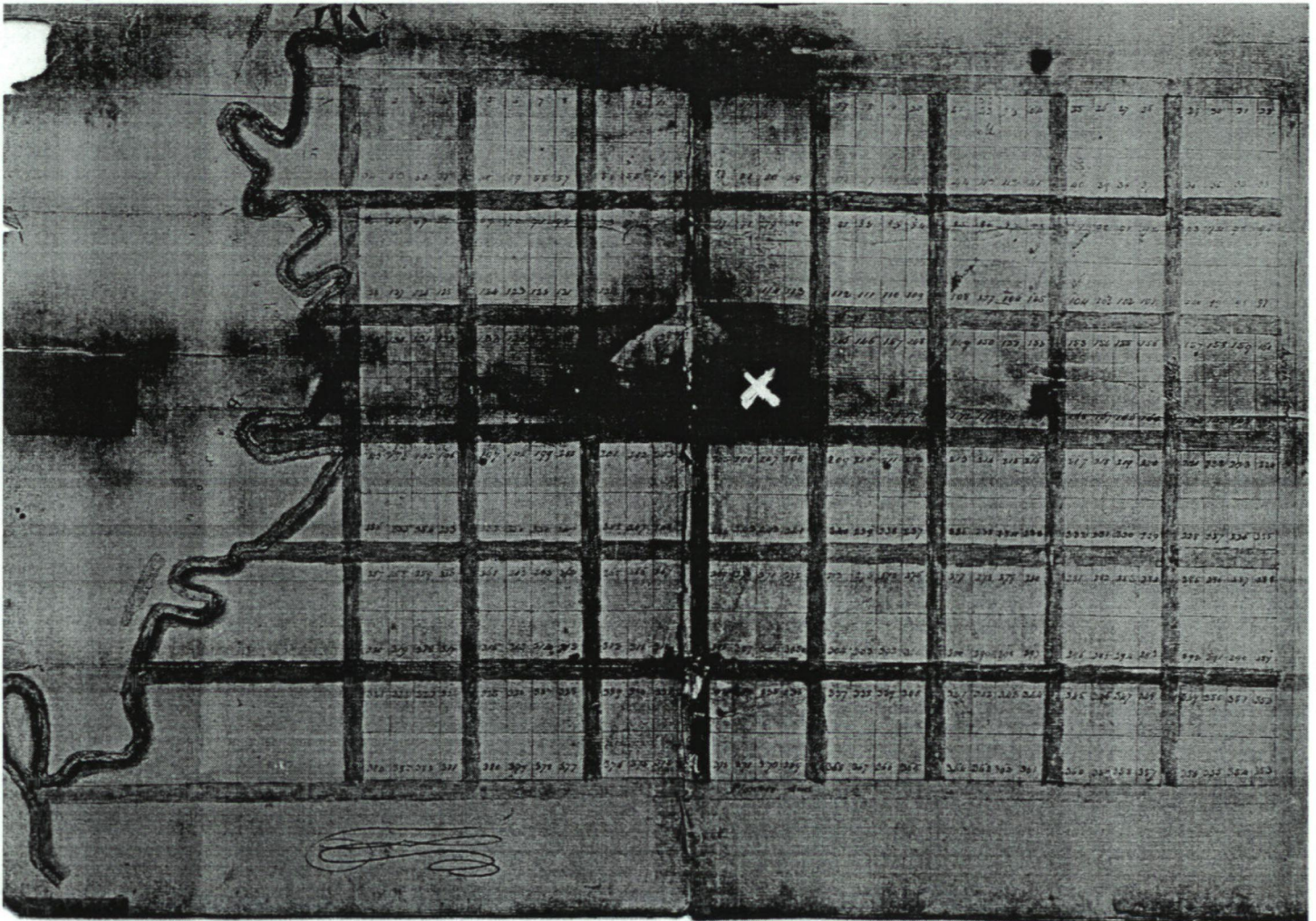
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAPS Page 16

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**MAP 2** 1833 San Augustine Survey Map, X indicates courthouse square  
*San Augustine County Courthouse Archives*



San Augustine, Tex. Reproduction of the original 1834 town plan by Thomas S. McFarland (1810-1880). 19 5 cm x 41 1 cm. Private Collection.



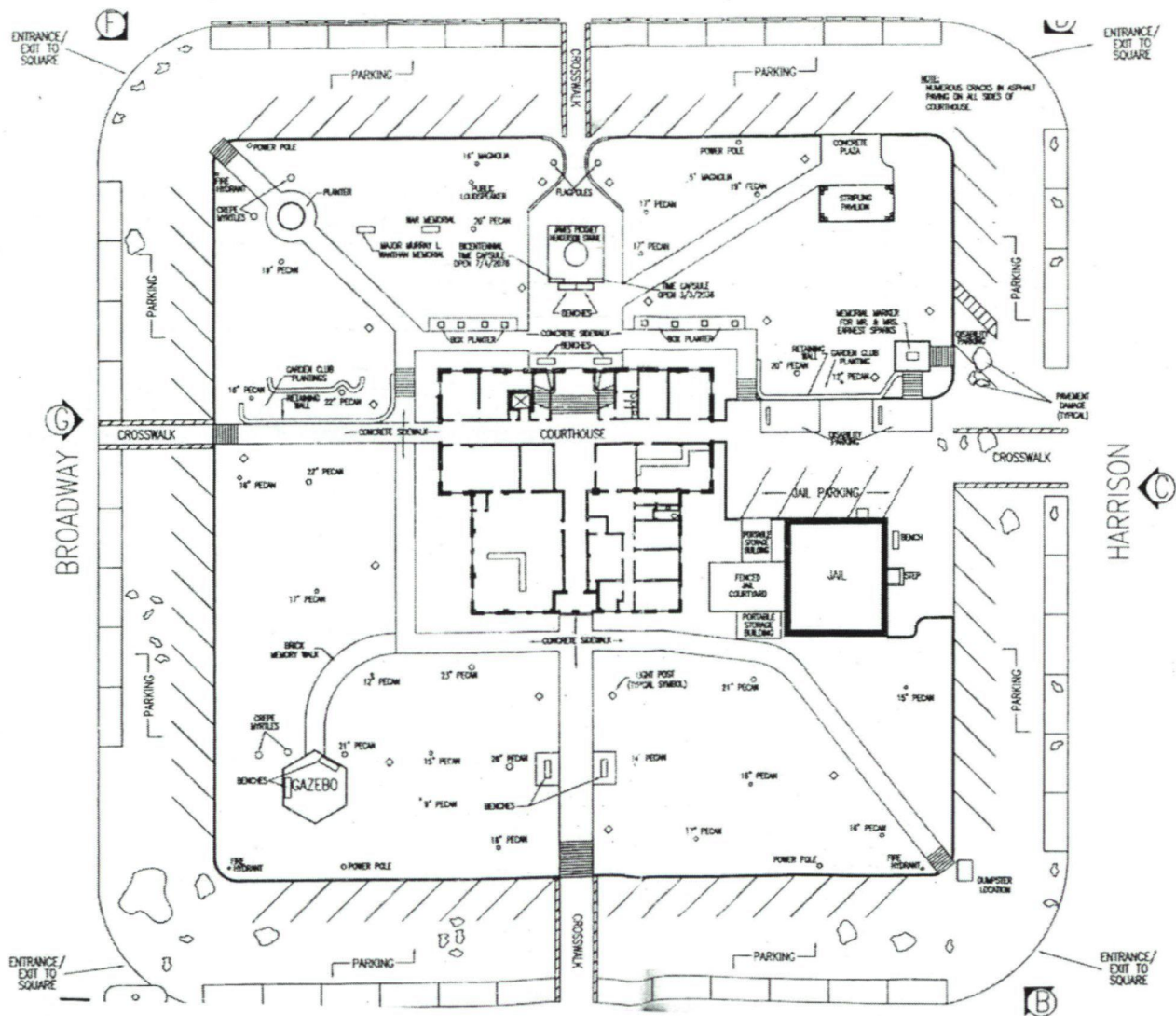
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 17

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 1** Courthouse Square Siteplan  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



No Scale

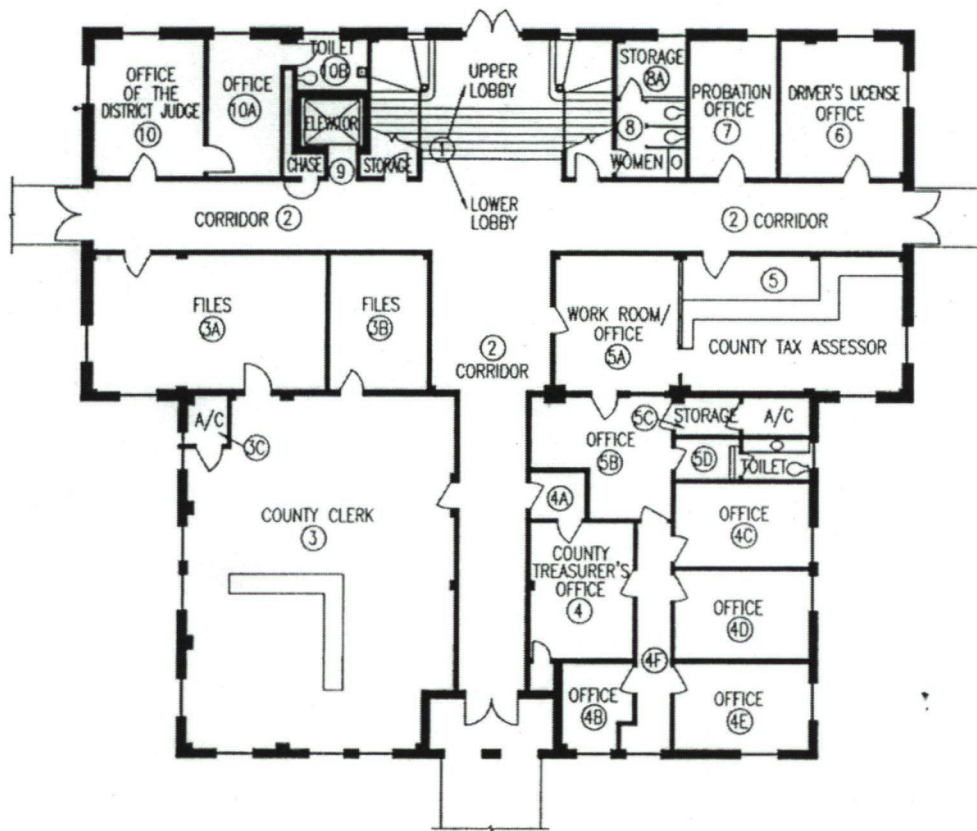
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

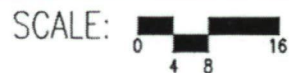
Section FIGURE Page 18

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 2** Courthouse First Floor Plan  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE





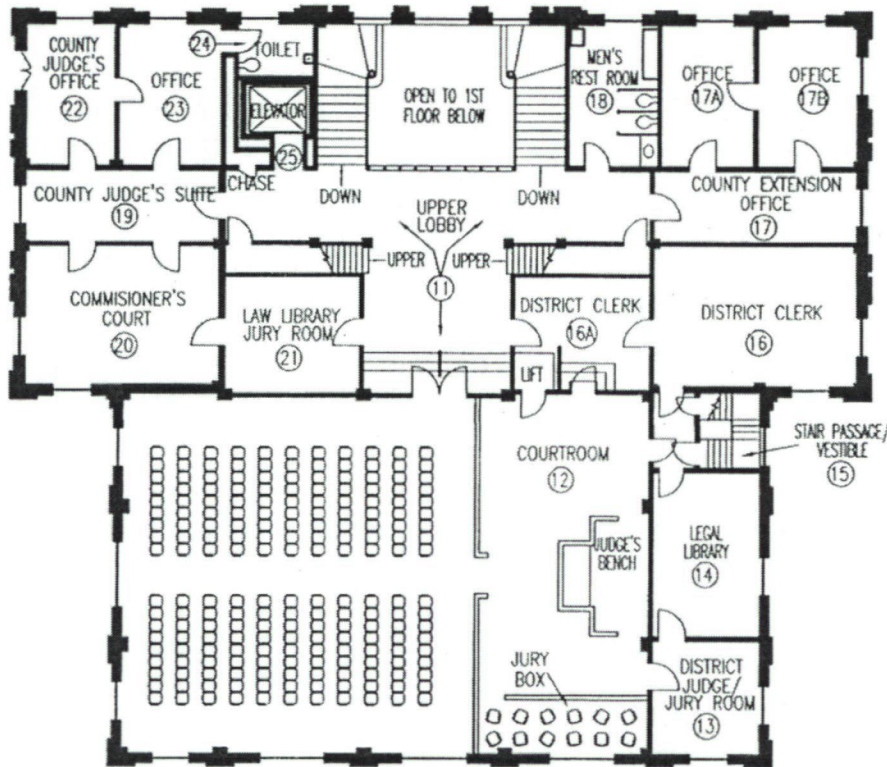
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 19

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 3** Courthouse Second Floor Plan  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SCALE: 0 4 8 16



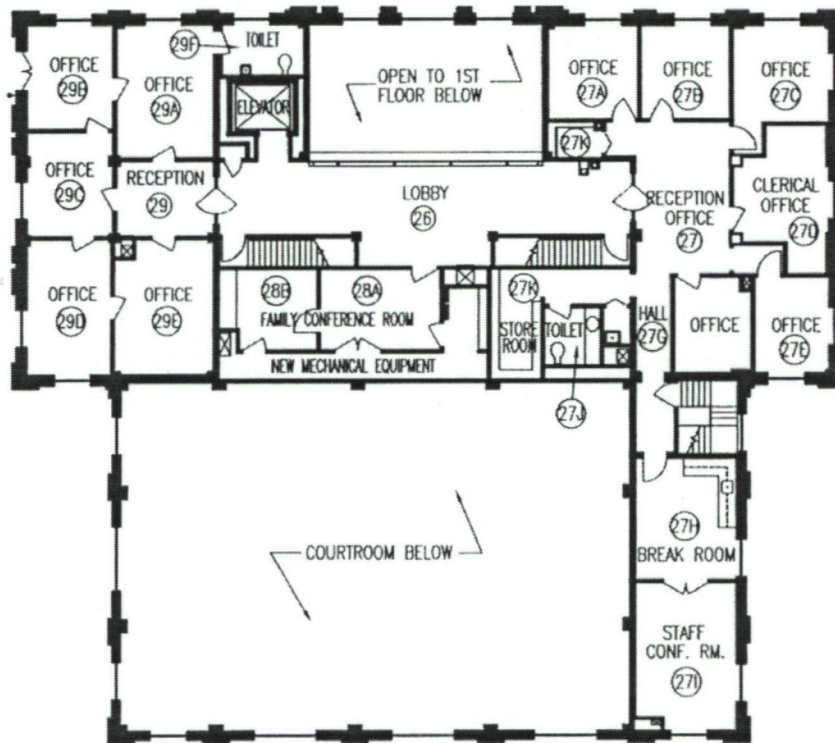
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 20

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 4** Courthouse Third Floor Plan  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SCALE: 0 4 8 16





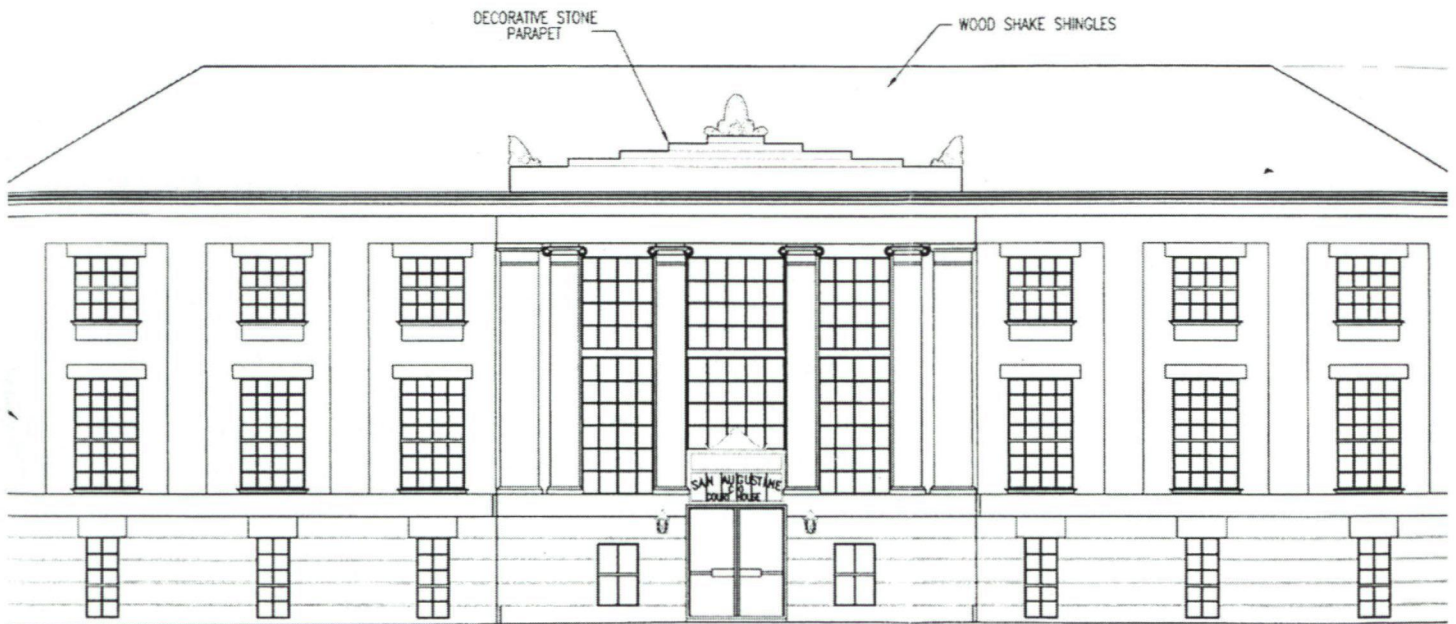
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 21

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 5** Courthouse North Elevation  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION



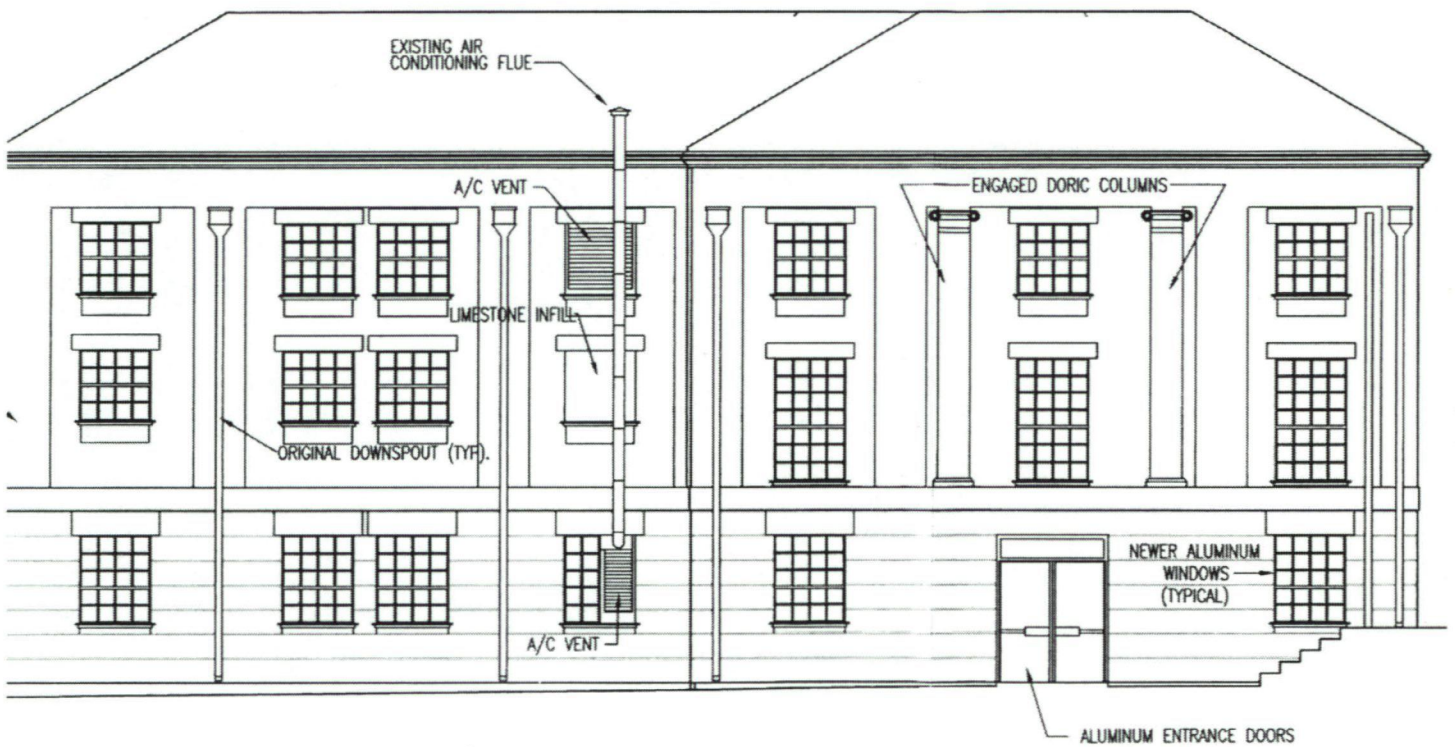
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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 22

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

FIGURE 6 Courthouse East Elevation  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



EXISTING EAST ELEVATION





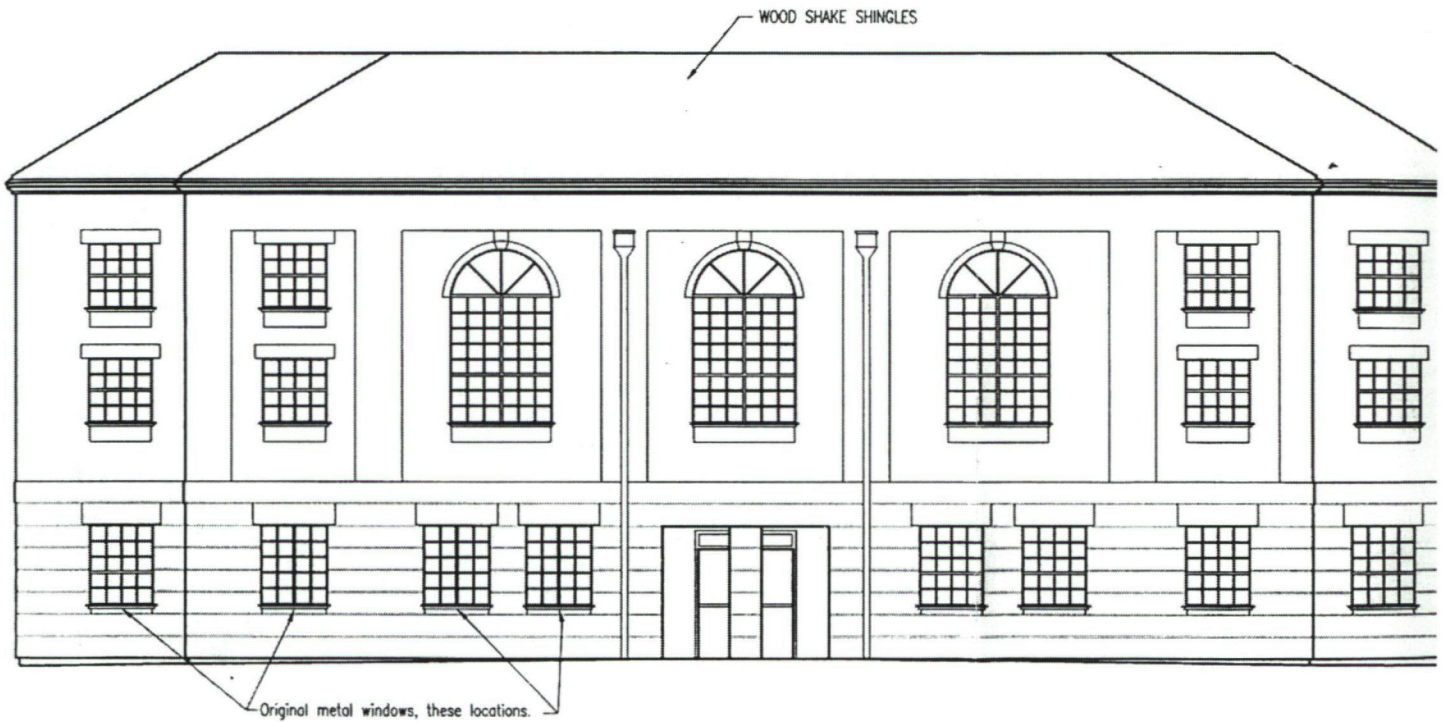
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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 23

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 7** Courthouse South Elevation  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



EXISTING SOUTH ELEVATION



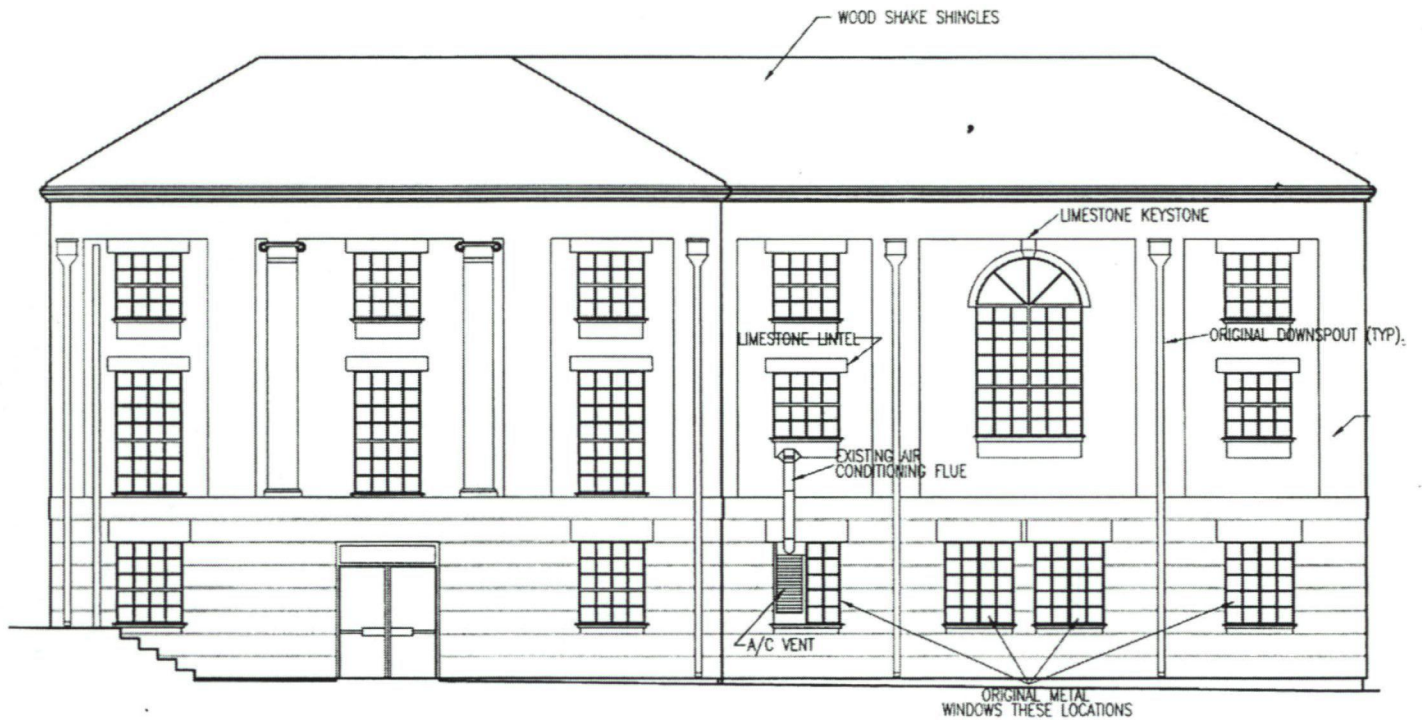
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 24

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 8** Courthouse West Elevation  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



EXISTING WEST ELEVATION





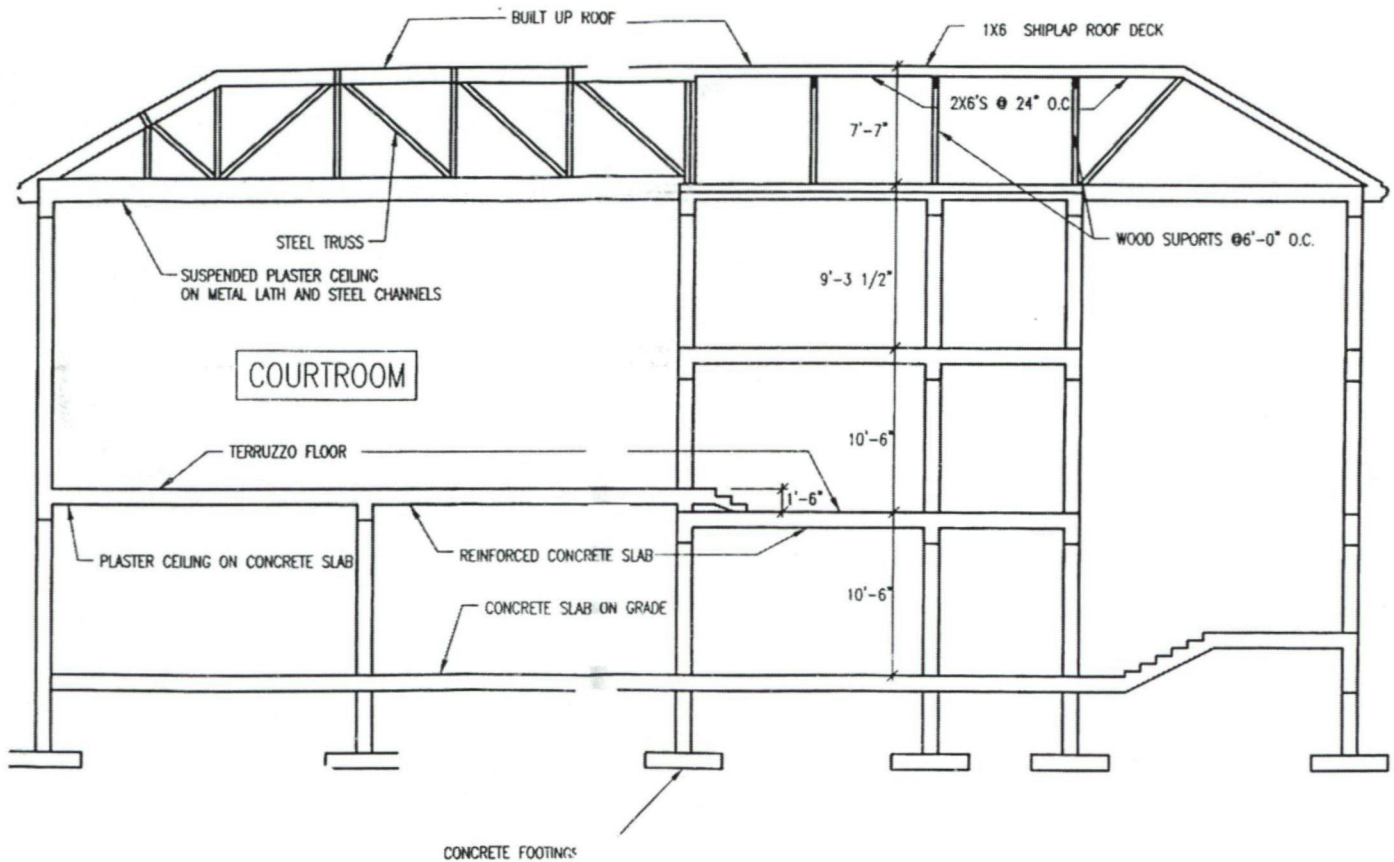
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

Section FIGURE Page 25

**FIGURE 9** Courthouse Section  
*Scott, Strong & Lufkin Architects*



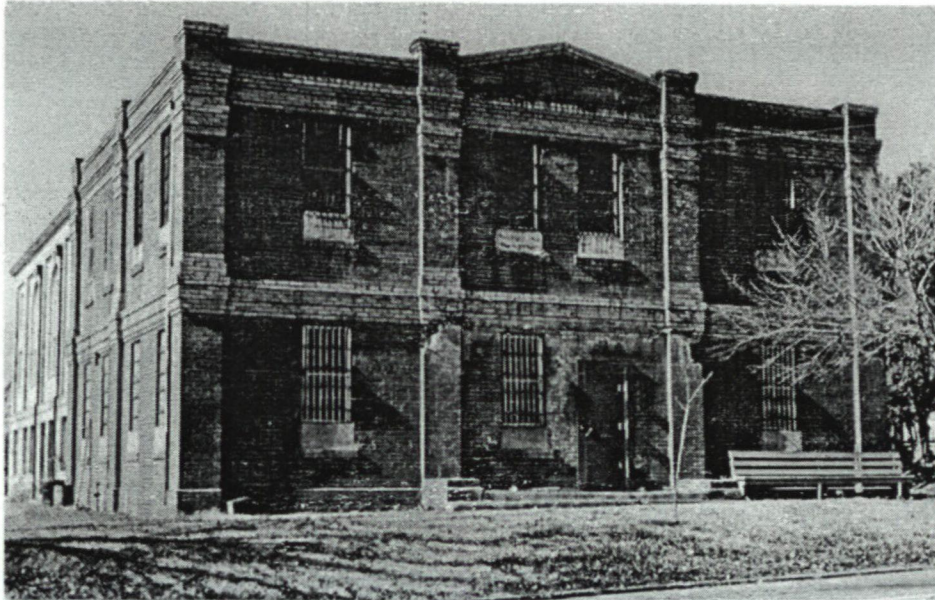
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

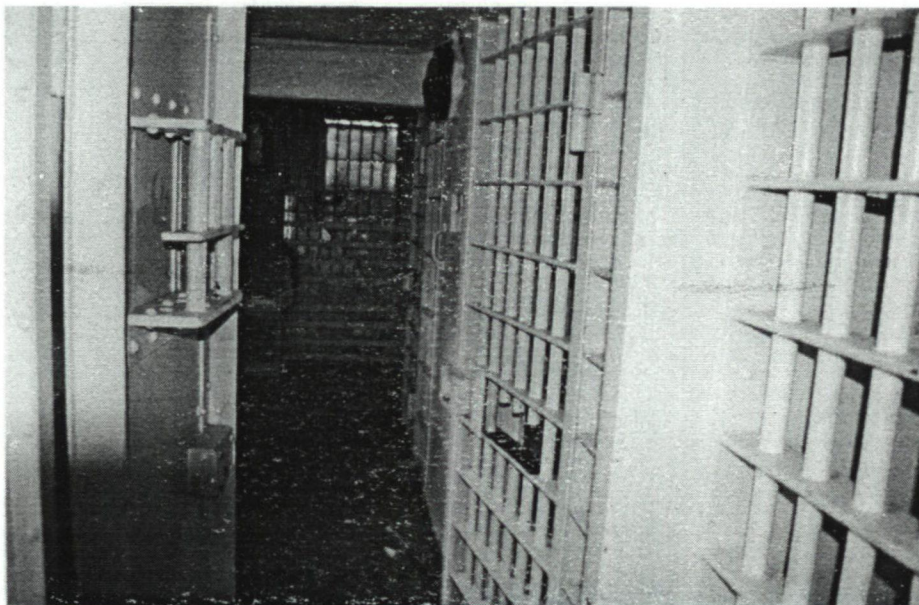
Section FIGURE Page 26

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 10** Jail c.1950, before stucco



**FIGURE 11** Current Interior of Jail cells





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 27

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

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**FIGURE 12** postcard of courthouse c1950 showing original tile roof



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 28

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 13** Historic Photos of Courtroom Interior



**FIGURE 14** courtroom interior with gallery





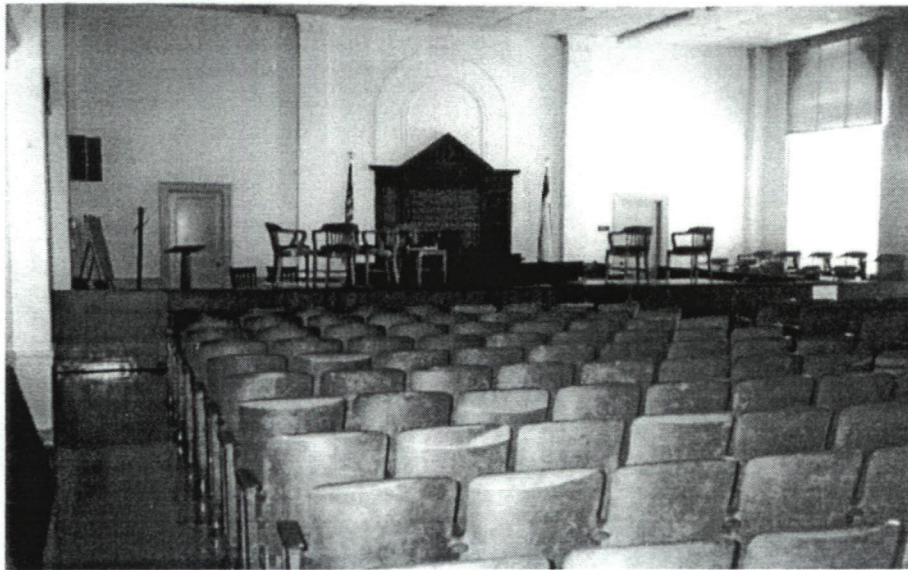
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 29

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

**FIGURE 15** Current courtroom interior  
*Scott Strong and Lufkin Architects*



**FIGURE 16** Enclosed gallery in upper right corner



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 32

San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine, Texas

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San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail  
Courthouse Square, San Augustine  
San Augustine County  
Josh Lasserre, Photographer  
March 2004  
Negatives on File with the Texas Historical Commission

Photo 1 of 6  
Courthouse northwest oblique, camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 6  
Courthouse west elevation, camera facing east

Photo 3 of 6  
Courthouse northeast oblique, camera facing southwest

Photo 4 of 6  
Henderson Statue, camera facing south

Photo 5 of 6  
Jail north elevation, camera facing south

Photo 6 of 6  
Jail southwest oblique, camera facing northeast



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, San Augustine

DATE RECEIVED: 7/08/04      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/27/04  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/11/04      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/21/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000892

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    8/20/04 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.





San Augustine Co. Courthouse + Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine Co., Tx

1 of 6



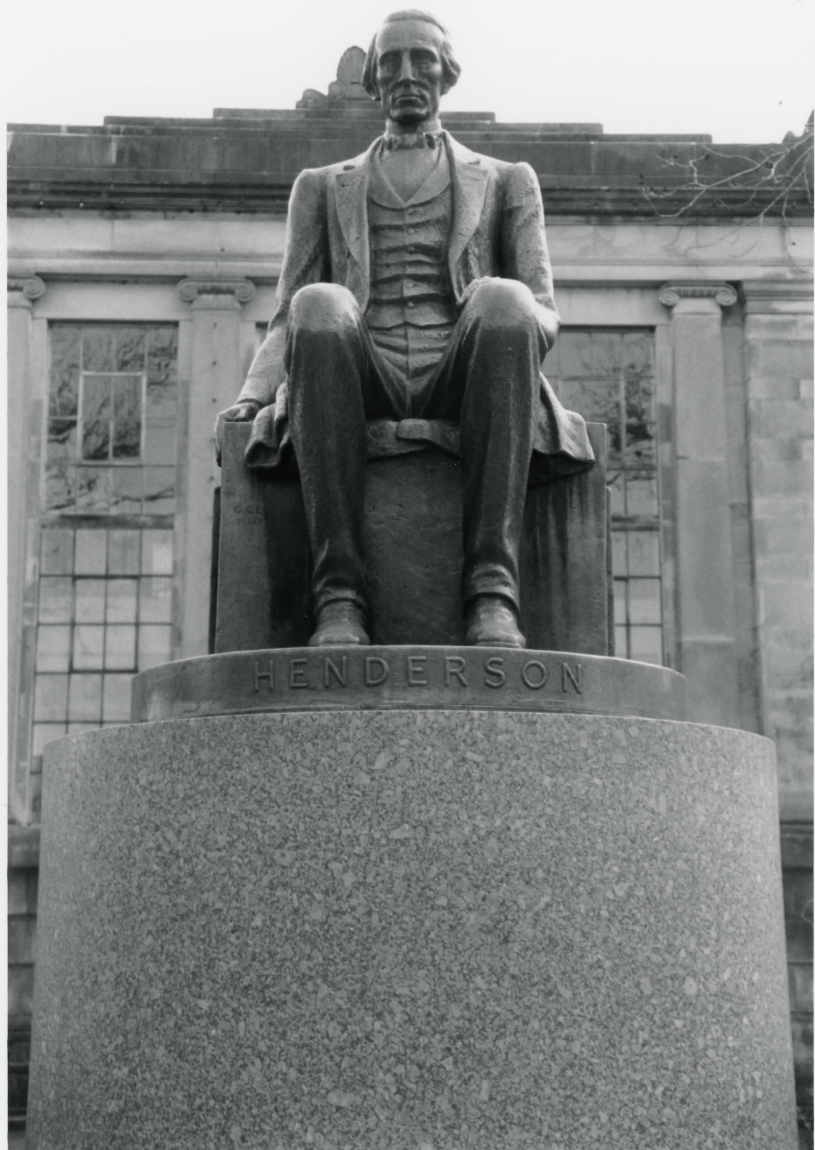


San Augustine Co. Courthouse + Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine Co, TX  
2 of 6





San Augustine Co. Courthouse + Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine Co., TX  
3 of 6





San Augustine Co. Courthouse + Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine Co.  
4 of 6





San Augustine Co., Courthouse + Jail

San Augustine, San Augustine Co., TX

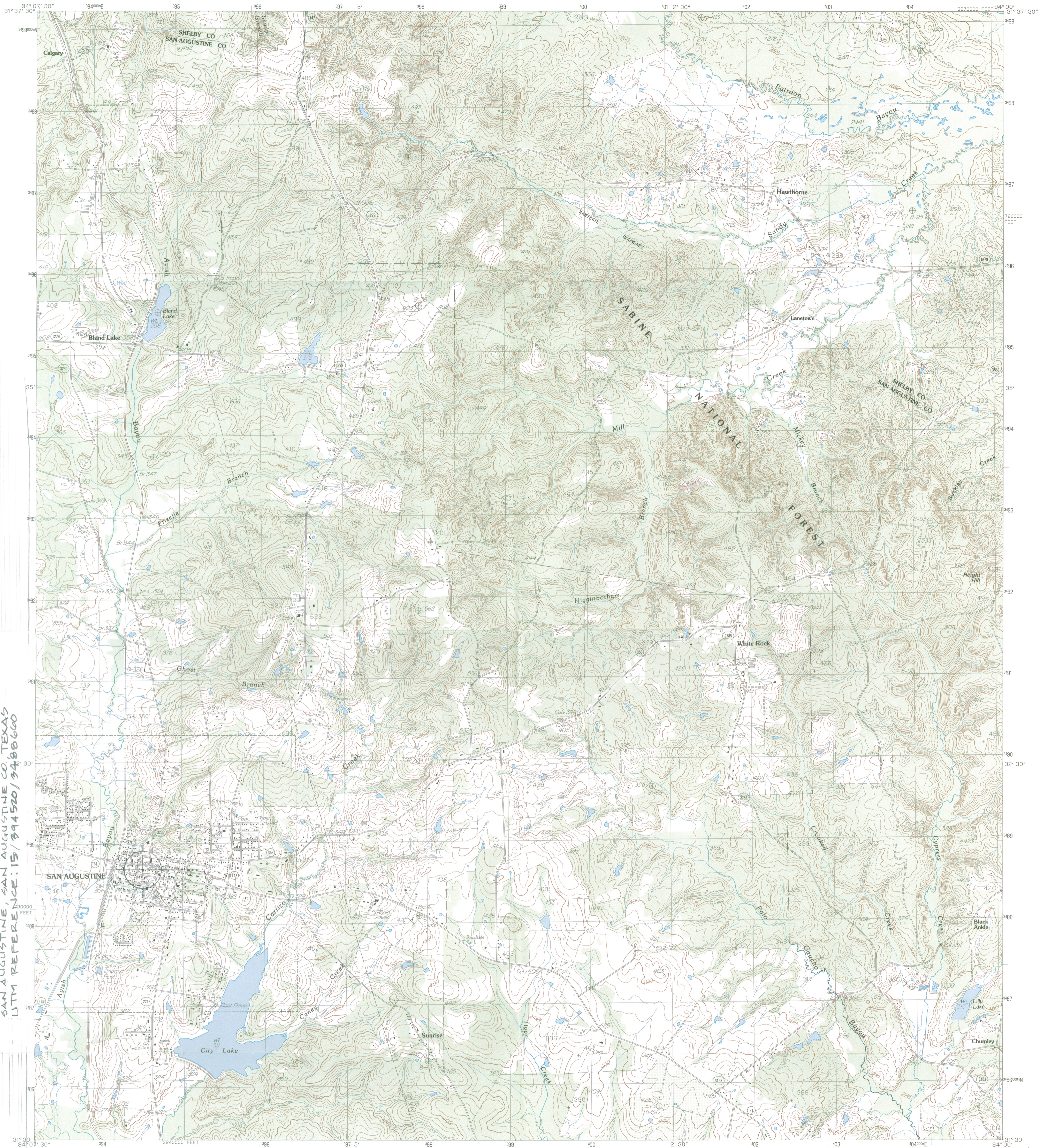
5 of 6





San Augustine Co. Courthouse + Jail  
San Augustine, San Augustine Co., TX  
6 of 6

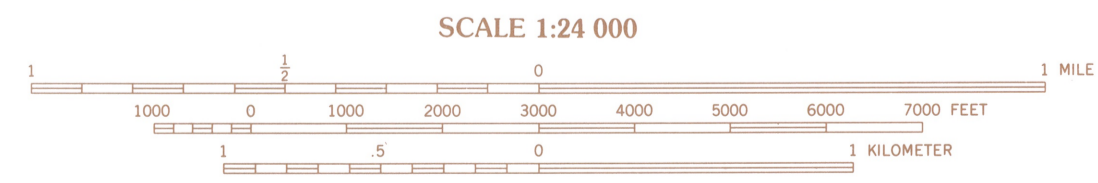




SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL  
COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
SAN AUGUSTINE CO, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 15/394520/9488660

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONTROL BY USGS, NOS/NOAA  
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1978  
FIELD CHECKED 1980 MAP EDITED 1984  
PROJECTION LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC  
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 15  
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS TEXAS, CENTRAL ZONE  
UTM GRID DECLINATION 0°33' WEST  
1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 5° EAST  
VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
HORIZONTAL DATUM 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM  
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983, move  
the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks  
(15 meters south and 18 meters east)  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
Produced from original  
manuscript drawings. Infor-  
mation shown as of date of  
field check.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092



ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road	Unimproved Road	Trail	Interstate Route	U.S. Route	State Route
---------------	-----------------	-------	------------------	------------	-------------

1	2	3	1 Neville
4	5	6	2 Hursttown
7	8	9	3 Patton North
			4 San Augustine West
			5 Patton South
			6 Norwood
			7 Chiquapin
			8 Geneva

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES  
3194-411

SAN AUGUSTINE EAST, TEXAS  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1984

31094-E1-TF-024





**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: Hannah Vaughan, Historian  
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail, San Augustine, San Augustine Co., Texas

DATE: July 1, 2004

The following materials are submitted regarding: San Augustine County Courthouse and Jail

<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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

COMMENTS:

SHPO requests substantive review

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

Other \_\_\_\_\_