

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



961

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

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

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 512 West Main NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A  
CITY OR TOWN: Memphis VICINITY: N/A  
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Hall CODE: 191 ZIP CODE: 79245

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]*  
Signature of certifying official

1 March 2008  
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]*  
Signature of the Keeper  
Edson H. Beall  
Date of Action  
10-1-08

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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 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	1 STRUCTURES
	2	1 OBJECTS
	3	2 TOTAL

**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: county courthouse

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT: county courthouse

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:**

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
WALLS CONCRETE, CAST STONE, BRICK  
ROOF ASPHALT  
OTHER

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-12).

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Hall County Courthouse  
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The following text is adapted from the text written by Art Weinman & Associates, Architects of Fort Worth, prepared for the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program in June 2000.

## Summary Description

The 1923 Hall County Courthouse is notable for its Classical Revival design. The building is large, with four levels and 22,123 total square feet. All floors have approximately the same square footage, with first and second floors decreased in size by the area taken for entry porches and colonnades. The ground, partial basement level is called out as the first floor. The second main floor is the piano nobile, above grade with grand entry steps on all four elevations, with the third courtroom and fourth office floors above. The red brick with cream-colored cast stone trim call attention to the Classical Revival details, including elaborate entry pavilions with large cartouches over each entry, tall Composite columns, and pediments with bas relief, as well as a dentiled cornice over the third-floor entablature, and decorative festoon designs atop each corner at the roofline.

## Foundation and Structure

The building foundation is most likely concrete spread footings on a lower level of stable soil, with reinforced concrete perimeter foundation walls (observed in the boiler room). According to accounts by former Hall County Judge Kenneth Dale, the contractor for the elevator found the soil is stable and dry down to a 20-ft. depth, becoming wet and fluid at greater depths.<sup>1</sup> All floor and roof structure levels are reinforced concrete flat slab construction. All floors bear on reinforced concrete columns completing the building structure.

The first (basement) floor is concrete slab on grade, on three levels. The lower office level was established to give greater headroom for the original auditorium (later converted to offices and toilet rooms in 1929). The concrete floor at this level is flat and stable. The upper office level was raised two feet for office use in the original design, as a more comfortable ceiling height. At the time of the county's courthouse master plan in 2000, this upper first floor level showed structural distress with significant bulging (up to two inches over six feet) of the concrete floor from expansion of the fill soil used for the level change. The boiler room is at a third lower level, with stable, flat concrete floor.

Floors and roof decks are reinforced concrete slab construction, with bracing beams at maximum ten feet on center. The construction is clearly visible in most second and third floor office and storerooms and in the former commissioners courtroom where suspended acoustic ceilings have not been installed and the finish plaster follows all structural construction.

Exterior walls are finished with brick veneer and cast stone over structural clay tile and brick with plaster veneer on the interior face. Interior non-load bearing partitions are all plaster block with metal lath with sand or smooth plaster finish. Ceilings in offices, vaults and connecting corridors are all flat plaster. Ceilings at the center of the building on first and second levels have octagonal plaster flat vaulting, following the octagonal spaces created at these junctures. Ceilings in most rooms on first, second and third floors of the courthouse express both flat concrete panels and concrete structural

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<sup>1</sup> Conversation between Judge and Commissioners Court and Arthur Weinman in meeting on June 7, 2000.

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beams. This can be particularly seen in the former commissioners court room on the third floor. The suspended plaster ceiling of the original district courtroom is a shallow elliptical barrel vault of textured, acoustic plaster.

Problems with acoustics in this courtroom caused the county to have remedial work performed by the Johns Manville Company in 1926.<sup>2</sup> This remedial acoustic work included placing a wool-like fiber over the textured acoustic plaster, with a layer of duck canvas applied over the face. Samples show that many years of paint defeated the acoustic intent. Suspended acoustic ceiling was added to the district courtroom when its central HVAC system was installed about 1978.

Suspended acoustic ceilings were later installed throughout the first (ground) floor corridors. They were also installed in some offices on the first floor; offices, commissioners court and vaults on the second floor; in conference rooms, the jury and former judge's chambers on the third floor; and in the human services offices on the fourth floor.

The roof is flat, tar and gravel built-up construction in good condition over the primary roof level, covering the inside faces of the parapets to flashing embedded in reglets below the capstones. Roofing material is also used as flashing up the sides of the six-foot height raised roof over the district courtroom and to finish that roof as well (repairs were performed on this sidewall flashing in 1989).<sup>3</sup> An unused radio antenna surmounts the roof, with guy wires to anchors placed in the parapets. Roof access is provided by ladder from the fourth floor to a roof top house with hipped gable metal roof. Exit is through a conventional pivot exit door. The original built-in ladder from the fourth floor to the roof is extant but in poor condition.

## Exterior

The Classical Revival courthouse features the same decorative motifs and entryways on each elevation, with the north and south elevations and the east and west elevations designed to be identical. With the exception of elements like window air-conditioning units and other non-original changes, including some bricked in or otherwise covered windows, the two pairs of elevations remain identical. The building face on all four elevations is a dark red blend brick, with tan to cream cast stone decoration. All base cap, window sills and lintels, columns with base, shaft and capitals; lower and upper cornice, pediments, parapet decoration and parapet cap stones are cast stone of good quality. The entry step bolsters on all four elevations are capped with large cast stone caps. Where the balance of the cast stone appears to have been manufactured elsewhere, these bolster caps appear to have been cast locally or at the job site.

The concrete foundation walls extend about a foot to eighteen inches above the surrounding grade level; the faces of these walls are covered with the "pargeting" typical of the period, composed of a lean Portland cement and sand mix, with a small amount of lime for slaking. This mix was applied like plaster, was molded to profiles and shapes, and was used for both waterproofing (below and above grade) and as a decorative finish. Locally, it is also known as "paring" when used below grade. Windowsills for the first floor are integral with the pargeting application.

The brick of the first floor is common bond, with a rusticated course every seven courses, three total. There is no cast stone decorative window lintel on first floor windows; all are placed with steel angle masonry window lintels. The first

<sup>2</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 5, p. 410.

<sup>3</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 351.

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level brick terminates in a cast stone cap, top at second floor level, extending around the perimeter of the building and joining the top stair bolster cap stone at each of the four entries. All original first floor windows were single pane double hung, with single windows on both sides of north and south entries, and with double windows in all remaining locations.

The second level of the building, the piano nobile, is faced in the same common bond dark red blend brick as found on the balance of the building. Grand, wide concrete steps extend about nine-and-a-half to ten feet from grade to enter the second floor on all four elevations. Wide, massive brick bolsters with cast stone caps flank both sides of all steps, which originally had pedestal light fixtures at the outside ends. Due to damage from 55 years of salting these steps, the county re-faced them with red quarry tile, as had been used for the interior corridors of the building, in 1989. The concrete, however, has degenerated further, as has the masonry mortar.

There are four cast stone fluted columns on all elevations. These Composite columns have no pedestal, simplified base, modified capital, and simplified entablature. The central colonnade at each elevation includes a projecting masonry volume with cast stone base and capitals on pilasters on both sides. Behind the columns, each entry features double doors with transom light and extensive cast stone trim, including a reverse-curved plinth extending out from the base of the straight molding that frames the doors. A large cartouche scroll over each entry is bracketed over the same straight molding, with a second projecting bracket at each end of the frame trim. Transom lights included six panes, with wood doors having a smaller upper and a lower glass pane, but today the metal and glass doors feature a single-light metal frame transom.

Brick pilasters separate the windows on the second, third and fourth floors. Each pilaster has a cast stone base, and cast stone capitals that visually support the cast stone entablature above the third floor. Second and third floor windows have cast stone sills and lintels. The sills of the fourth floor windows are integral with the entablature. Excluding windows facing into the second floor vault rooms, all second, third and fourth floor windows were originally paired double-hung with single panes in all sashes but now feature one-over-one non-historic windows with sidelights and transoms. Some are covered or bricked in, and others feature window air conditioning units. The north and south elevations on each floor feature six bays of windows, three on either side of the entry pavilion, and the east and west elevations feature just one bay of windows flanking the entry pavilion.

On the west half of the north and south elevations, and on the west elevation, second floor vault windows have two panes in both upper and lower sashes, with a vertical division between the panes. It is not known whether this division of panes was required by a different glass being used in these windows (limited by available wire glass maximum dimensions?) or by requirements made by the overhead rolling metal fire shutters originally installed in these windows.

The entablature separating the third from fourth floors has a single flush face to both the architrave and to the frieze, with a simplified cornice above. The cornice includes straight molding profiles above and below a dentil band, with no additional decoration.

Surmounting the entablature on the projecting entry massing at all four elevations, centered over each pair of columns, is a cast stone massing of flat work with a central scallop shell design. Flanking what once was a central pair of windows and now is covered in plywood on the fourth floor, the assembly gives support to the pediment over each of these entries. The

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pediments are composed of straight molding profiles, with a central cartouche flanked by decoration resembling a cornucopia with small, out-spilling fruit.

The parapet continues the décor of the fourth floor, with an additional vertical decoration resembling a suspended, linear basket or festoon hung from the top capstone over each pilaster column, triple at the building corner pilasters. The building is designed so that the sight lines from the square around the building barely show the raised roof of the courtroom on the north and east elevations, and barely show the raised roof of the roof access house.

**Interior**

The courthouse was originally heated by steam radiators supplied by the basement coal fired boiler, and summer heat was managed by tall ceilings with ceiling fans and large double-hung windows. Clerestory ventilation windows also helped ventilate and light the district courtroom. The steam boiler was kept in use until 1980,<sup>4</sup> at which time the county removed all steam pipes and steam radiators from the building. From observation of the building interior and locations of former steam pipe penetrations, it appears that no major effort was made to conceal any of the steam plumbing system. Coal was kept, up to a carload at a time, in a concrete bunker on the south face of the boiler room. This bunker can be seen on period photos of the building and is original to the building. Additional work later extended this bunker and capped part of it with a concrete block extension to help provide handicap accessibility on the south elevation of the building.

The first floor, or basement level, features a recessed central entry from every elevation, creating a cross-axial circulation system. The two corridors, eight feet wide, meet at a central octagon 20 feet across. The drop from ground level down to the entries is about 18 inches for north, west and east sides and about 42 inches for the east entry; the floor on the east half of the first level was recessed an additional two feet to supply the additional headroom required for the original auditorium. This auditorium, complete with fixed opera chairs<sup>5</sup> and stage,<sup>6</sup> was remodeled for office use in 1929, with the design by the original architects for the building.<sup>7</sup>

The building corridors have two interior stairs, one located on each the north and south side of the center of the building, accessed from the shorter north-to-south corridor. The north stair remains as originally constructed. The south stair was removed, and a new stair added to wrap around a new elevator shaft installed as part of the 1988 handicap-accessibility remodel. This work also included installation of a ramp between the east, or lower, office and upper office levels of the basement, finished with red quarry tile, from the center octagon east at the center of the corridor. Corridor floors are red quarry tile, except for in the lower, former auditorium level, in which office and corridor floors are stained and scored concrete, the original finish for the auditorium. Penetrations made for installation of the seating and stage can be found in the floor. Offices elsewhere on the basement level, according to commissioners court minutes, have a linoleum floor finish<sup>8</sup> under the current carpets. Original ceiling finish is plaster over the original concrete structure, with flat corridor ceilings and a flat, coffered ceiling in the central octagon.

<sup>4</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Book 10, p. 68.

<sup>5</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Book 4, pp. 628, 629.

<sup>6</sup> Page and Brother, Architects; ???

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Book 4, p. 486.

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The county clerk's vault on the basement level has solid masonry walls, from the floor to the deck above, with access only from a spiral stair entered from the vault on the second floor. The boiler room also has a solid masonry, surrounding wall. The coal bunker is accessed directly from the boiler room, or for coal deliveries from exterior roof openings. All basement floor offices, including spaces remodeled in 1929, have gypsum block partitions with plaster finish on both sides. Original plywood panel corridor doors with transom lights remain, along with original wood base, door and window trim, and chair rails in offices that have not had plywood-panel interior finish installed. The floor features on men's room and two women's restrooms, with one of each on the lower, east level. The men's and one of the women's restrooms are on the lower office level; these restrooms still have one-inch white hexagonal ceramic tile floor finishes and wall finishes as installed in the 1929 remodel but have since had suspended acoustic tile ceilings installed.

Ceilings of all offices on the basement floor originally were plaster over the concrete structure, with ceiling fans and lights in all rooms. Currently, all corridors and almost all rooms on this level have suspended acoustic tile ceiling, with the exception of five office areas, the county clerk's vault and the boiler room. As noted above, the ceiling of the central corridor octagon has the original flat plaster coffer work intact.

On the piano nobile, or second floor, corridors have the same arrangement as the basement floor, with exits onto monumental stairs on all four elevations. The corridors have original plaster ceilings, with the central octagon crossing visible. Original light fixtures were removed, with strip fluorescent installed in the corridors and a brass Georgian chandelier light fixture installed in the octagon. Second floor corridors are red quarry tile and base. All original offices and vaults had linoleum floors; some are visible, others covered with carpet. All offices and vaults on this level have suspended acoustic tile ceilings, and most offices and vaults have plywood wall paneling installed. Some of the original steam radiators may be concealed behind this paneling. The original protective steel shutters on the inside face of the vault windows were removed for installation of the plywood paneling. The second floor features two bathrooms, one in the former telephone booth (so labeled over the door in the corridor), and the other in a former janitor's room.

The third floor circulation is different, with only the north-south corridor, which connects the two stairs. The district courtroom takes up the east side of the floor, and the former commissioners courtroom is on the west, with a vault room on the northwest. A jury room and former judge's chambers are located on the southeast. Red quarry tile floor and base is found in the corridor and stairs, with linoleum in the former commissioners courtroom. Other areas are carpeted; flooring is assumed to be the same linoleum specified by notes in the courthouse minutes. Ceilings in the corridor, jury room, and former commissioners court are plaster finish over flat ceiling and beams. All other ceilings are suspended acoustic tile. Original finishes in the former commissioners courtroom show that this room was not highly decorated. One piece of old courtroom fixed furniture remains—a raised witness or speakers' stand, with the same vertical slat design railing as furniture found in the district courtroom. The commissioners courtroom is now used for storage.

The district courtroom was the most elaborate space in the courthouse, with pilasters on all walls, a lower cornice and elaborate upper cornice that projects from the wall more than 30 inches, and a round arch over the bench surrounded an eagle symbol of the court. The original bench, witness box, court reporter, jury box, and slat-type pews all survive. Although some of the original tables and chairs may have been sold at auction in 1976 so that laminate top metal furniture could be purchased,<sup>9</sup> it appears that the original courtroom tables did survive, but with their tops removed and replaced with new plastic laminate covered tops. Original windows have been replaced and some covered. The ceiling of the

<sup>9</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 9, p. 601, and conversation between Judge Kenneth Dale and Arthur Weinman, June 8, 2000.

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district courtroom is a flat, elliptical barrel vault hidden by suspended acoustical tile. The upper cornice and clerestory ventilation windows, now located above the dropped ceiling, are only visible from the fourth level, from which the cornice can be accessed as a walkway to replace early indirect ceiling lights still installed on the cornice. Two of the original courtroom pendant light fixtures remain, on lengthened chains, in the courtroom below. Except for the vault partitions and bracing partitions around the stairs, all other partitions on the third level are gypsum block structure with plaster veneer finish (as can be seen through former steam pipe penetrations). Two of the third floor toilet rooms may be original, and the third may have been added later.

The fourth floor includes offices for the county engineer and surveyor, and the jury dormitory with spiral stair connecting it to the jury room below. Other functions originally on this floor may have included an overnight room and bathroom for the visiting judge, janitors' rooms, and a perimeter corridor between the courtroom upper ventilation windows and the exterior windows. Fourth level flooring includes linoleum in all offices, jury dormitory, visiting judge's suite, and courtroom perimeter corridor. Red quarry tile floor and base follow with stairs to this level and include the former connecting corridors. Original plaster ceilings and lighting can be seen in a number of the rooms on this level. Plaster ceilings were on metal lath, suspended on pencil rods, owing to the sloped and irregular roof structure for drainage. Offices currently in use, along with new space divisions at this level, all have lay-in acoustic tile. Also found on the fourth floor is a sizable skylight over the jury dormitory toilet room. Still in place, it has been covered with asphalt roofing material.

**Modifications to the Courthouse after Construction**

The newly completed building design was not without problems. According to the commissioners court minutes, the county contracted for acoustics remedial work with Johns Manville in the district courtroom on March 2, 1926.<sup>10</sup> (No architect is mentioned in the minutes.) The flat elliptical barrel vault, now located above the acoustic tile ceiling, was covered with a wool-like (perhaps rock wool, perhaps asbestos) fiber pad about a quarter-of-an-inch thick, over which a layer of duck canvas was attached. This in turn has multiple coats of paint sealing the surface. Over time, the paint defeated the acoustic backing leading to the necessity of the lower suspended acoustic tile ceiling.

In March 1929, five years after construction, the county commissioned C.H. Page and Brother, Architects for additional design work to convert the first floor auditorium into offices and to relocate a men's restroom and add a new women's restroom into this space.<sup>11</sup> The auditorium had been provided to allow continued use of the courthouse as a cultural center for a variety of early social clubs in Memphis. By 1929, however, the desire for county-provided meeting space had dwindled and the county needed more office space. This auditorium area is easily differentiated at the ground level because of its lower floor and taller ceiling. Filled holes from expansion bolts for the old "opera seats" and stage remain from the original auditorium configuration.

The county made no other alterations to the courthouse until 1954, when it decided to expand the parking area around the square in an attempt to meet the new competition provided by Amarillo for shopping dollars.<sup>12</sup> This reduced the

<sup>10</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 5, p. 410.

<sup>11</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 6, p. 44.

<sup>12</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 9, p. 32.



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courthouse square by 120 feet in each direction, with all new paving matching the original brick paving. Unfortunately, this did little to stem the tide of commerce running away from rural centers; the only tangible remnant of the original square configuration is extensive red brick paving with an unusual drainage pattern.

The boiler began giving trouble in 1965;<sup>13</sup> repairs were required again in 1968.<sup>14</sup> Continued problems led to its use being discontinued in 1975, with heating accomplished by distributing electric heaters to all offices.<sup>15</sup> The county removed associated steam pipes and radiators in 1980<sup>16</sup> and in 1982 donated the scrap metal from the boiler to the county's 4-H clubs, which removed it from the building.<sup>17</sup>

The move to replace courthouse windows is first mentioned in the commissioners court minutes from 1975.<sup>18</sup> The first directions for this work were in 1977, for replacement of the first (ground) floor windows only, with no architect, contractor, or dollar amount in the minutes.<sup>19</sup> Two years later, the county replaced second floor windows,<sup>20</sup> and finally in 1984, the minutes recorded directions to replace or cover the balance of 39 windows in the building (third and fourth floors).<sup>21</sup> Apparently window replacement or covering was regarded, at this point in time, as a maintenance item.

The first hearing about an elevator for full building access was held on May 6, 1986, concerning procedures for obtaining a grant from the Texas Department of Community Affairs to perform this work.<sup>22</sup> The application was approved,<sup>23</sup> and Whicher, McQueen and Jones Architects of Lubbock were commissioned to design the work on March 9, 1987. The design was submitted to the Texas Historical Commission for approval, as noted by the minutes on December 10, 1987.<sup>24</sup> The county received bids for the work on February 26, 1988<sup>25</sup> and although the construction project is not recorded, the elevator's existence indicates that the work was performed. Accessibility work on the toilet rooms in the basement was completed in 1989. Documents prepared by Jones, Rountree, Architects of Memphis dated December 30, 1988<sup>26</sup> detailed the work to be performed. This proposed design was also submitted to the Texas Historical Commission for review.<sup>27</sup>

The exterior concrete steps were contracted for the red quarry tile installation in July 11, 1983.<sup>28</sup> The concrete steps on all four sides of the building had begun to disintegrate owing to 60 years of salt application for ice in the winter. The first quarry tile installation had been performed in a professional and workmanlike manner. Subsequent repairs to the tile steps

<sup>13</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 9, p. 364.

<sup>14</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 9, p. 422.

<sup>15</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 9, p. 581.

<sup>16</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 68.

<sup>17</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 170.

<sup>18</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 9, p. 580.

<sup>19</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 5.

<sup>20</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 42.

<sup>21</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 266.

<sup>22</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 266.

<sup>23</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 287.

<sup>24</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 319.

<sup>25</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 326.

<sup>26</sup> Jones, Rountree, Architects; Hall County Courthouse Toilet Remodel; two sheets drawings dated December 30, 1988.

<sup>27</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 342.

<sup>28</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 183.

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noted in 1989<sup>29</sup> were not of the same quality and the general work now appears sub-standard. There is also significant damage to the masonry mortar at the bolsters and decay of the concrete structure.

Interior remodels, including partitions, acoustic tile ceiling, plywood veneers wall paneling and other "improvements" were commenced on the fourth floor on September 26, 1988.<sup>30</sup> This was followed on October 11, 1988 with the same "improvements" on the first floor.<sup>31</sup> The Texas Historical Commission was consulted concerning restroom remodel.<sup>32</sup> Although not recorded, similar work performed in the ground floor and second floor were made about this time. Also, according to former Hall County Judge Kenneth Dale, addition of the central heat and air, suspended acoustic tile ceiling, and other "improvements" were made in the district courtroom as this other work was being performed.<sup>33</sup>

The installation of the visually overpowering radio tower next to the building is subject to some debate. The tower's construction may have been included as part of the budget in November 9, 1959 for the Hospital Bond Fund,<sup>34</sup> as commissioners court minutes indicate this work included funding for a radio transmission tower for ambulance calls (location not noted), and as no other entries can be found under any headings in commissioners court minutes. Controversial and hated since its installation, in 1974 a delegation of 18 citizens met before the commissioners court and requested removal of the tower. No motion was made by any of the commissioners after the judge called for one, so the initiative failed.<sup>35</sup> Judge Dale stated to the author that the commissioners court's inaction most likely was because the county needed the tower and couldn't afford to move it.<sup>36</sup>

## Contributing and Non-contributing Elements on Courthouse Square

As indicated on the site plan (DRAWINGS-23), the courthouse lawn features four monuments and one radio tower. Two of the monuments, the 1924 Veterans Memorial and the 1940 Golden Anniversary monument are considered contributing objects. The large radio tower is a non-contributing structure, and the Hall County centennial monument and time capsule placed in 1990 is considered a non-contributing object. A small plaque dedicated to the class of 1943 was not considered in the count of elements.

<sup>29</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 348.

<sup>30</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 341.

<sup>31</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 10, p. 342.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Conversation between Judge Kenneth Dale and Arthur Weinman, June 7, 2000.

<sup>34</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 9, pp. 192-195.

<sup>35</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 9, p. 554.

<sup>36</sup> Conversation between Judge Dale and Commissioners Court and Arthur Weinman in meeting on June 7, 2000.

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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:** 1923–1958

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1923

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Page Brothers, Architects of Austin/Walker Construction Company of San Antonio

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-13 through 8-18).

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-19 through 9-23).

**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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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas

## Statement of Significance

The 1923 Hall County Courthouse, designed by Page Brothers, Architects in the Classical Revival style, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for Government and Criterion C for Architecture. Although the building's windows have been altered and some of the historic materials are deteriorating, the overall massing and ornamentation remain, making it a good example of the style. Although sited on the east side of town, near the railroad tracks, it remains a focal point for the community of Memphis and has been the seat of county government for several decades. It is one of many extant Texas courthouses designed by the noted brothers C.H. and L.C. Page.

## Hall County

In 1890, the Texas Legislature carved Hall County from the Donley County District.<sup>37</sup> Voters chose Memphis as county seat in a contentious election that same year. The county population at the time of the election was 203 people.<sup>38</sup> Because of the hostility between the three rival towns, Memphis, Lakeview and Salisbury, the Texas Rangers reportedly were called in before the election to keep the peace.<sup>39</sup> The Rev. J.W. Brice, one of the town's founders, chose the town's name during a trip to Austin. After submitting numerous name applications and having them rejected, he saw an envelope addressed in error to Memphis, Texas, with the notation, "No such town in Texas."<sup>40</sup> He submitted the name, and it became the name for the new town. Planners platted the town site next to the rail lines, and a train stop and a depot were completed in 1891. That year, Memphis leaders worked with residents of nearby Salisbury,<sup>41</sup> and the Memphis Town Site Company gave lots to those holding property in Salisbury and moved all buildings free of charge.<sup>42</sup>

Cattle ranching has been the dominant industry in the Hall County area since the 1860s. In the late 1890s, the large ranches were bought out by larger interests, or were divided into smaller farming plots and sold. This process encouraged the influx of a larger number of settlers to the county,<sup>43</sup> and county population peaked at 16,986 of mostly small farmers in the 1930 Census, just before the Dust Bowl crisis.<sup>44</sup> After many left the area during the Dust Bowl, the decline of the small family farm accelerated during the 1950s and '60s. Farming and ranching continue today to be the only economic generator in Hall County. Current farming practices include large acreages of cotton and grain, with large cattle spreads, returning again to few landowners or corporations controlling large tracts of land.

<sup>37</sup> Kuney, Jarell E.; "Hall County Courthouse," County Progress, March 1983, p. 18.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Baker, Inez; Yesterday in Hall County; p. 13.

<sup>40</sup> Baker, Inez; Yesterday in Hall County; p. 47.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Willborn, J.M.; "Unique History of Hall County Pioneer Days," The Memphis Democrat, p. 5, 6.

<sup>44</sup> Abbe, Donald R.; "Hall County," The Handbook of Texas Online; June 19, 2000, p. 2.

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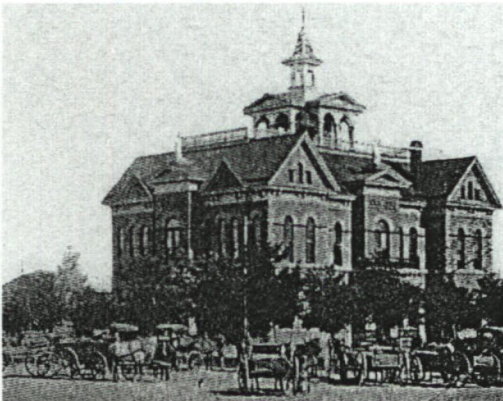
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
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## Temporary Courthouse, 1890–1893:

The first temporary courthouse for Hall County, a frame building, was located on the south side of the town square, later to become the courthouse square.<sup>45</sup> This building located on a parcel designated as Lot No. 4 was first rented, and then purchased on January 15, 1890.<sup>46</sup> It served as the Hall County Courthouse until the county completed its first permanent courthouse in 1893 (date of final acceptance and payment, although 1892 is often listed as the date of completion) for \$45,000.<sup>47</sup> J.A. White bought the temporary courthouse on December 15, 1893 after the county occupied its new building.<sup>48</sup>



First Permanent Courthouse, 1893–1923:

The commissioners court approved the contract for construction of the first permanent courthouse in May 14, 1891 with J.A. White of Vernon, Texas for \$34,500.<sup>49</sup> As no architect is mentioned in the minutes or in the county history, *Yesterday in Hall County*, the contract was most likely with a design-build firm. The new courthouse was sited on Block No. 1, the former town square, deeded by the town site company to the county for the courthouse.<sup>50</sup> The first sheriff's office and jail building was also provided the same year, designed by Pauley Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Mo.<sup>51</sup> This building, per current accounts and observation of the first floor plan, also served as the sheriff's residence. Because the county apparently had problems selling bonds to finance the building and keeping supervisory staff for construction, the new courthouse was not completed and occupied until 1893.<sup>52</sup> The county purchased furniture for the building late during the construction period.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Baker, Inez; *Yesterday in Hall County*; p. 17.

<sup>46</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 15.

<sup>47</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 284.

<sup>48</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 322.

<sup>49</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 67.

<sup>50</sup> Baker, Inez; *Yesterday in Hall County*; p. 17.

<sup>51</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 61.

<sup>52</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 1, pp. 81, 85, 91, 105, 117, 120, 191, 284.

<sup>53</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 325.

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The first permanent courthouse was two stories and brick masonry;<sup>54</sup> it probably also had a basement, although one is not referenced in minutes (contemporary records do list it as a three-story building). The county removed the original central tower with a cupola after a damaging windstorm in 1913.<sup>55</sup> Commissioners court minutes record repairs to the foundation required in 1906<sup>56</sup> and installation of bracing and tension rods in April 11, 1922.<sup>57</sup> On October 19, 1922, the county requested that W.R. Hendrickson, Inspector of Masonry and Public Buildings and Works of the State of Texas to inspect both the courthouse and the county jail. Commissioners court minutes record that Hendrickson's courthouse inspection found "The weight of the structure is crushing the brick foundations..." and that "...the tie rods on the top floor had pulled through the masonry."<sup>58</sup> He stated that the building might collapse in a severe windstorm, that it was hazardous to perform further work on the building, and that it be demolished.<sup>59</sup> In spite of this harsh recommendation, the county continued to occupy the building until January 27, 1923, at which time it vacated the building and leased temporary space in the Hall County National Bank.<sup>60</sup> Demolition proceeded as part of the contract for construction of a new building at the same location.



Current County Courthouse (1923–Present):

C.H. Page and Brother, of Austin, Texas were contracted on October 31, 1922 to design the new courthouse, with a fee of five percent of the actual construction cost.<sup>61</sup> The current Hall County Courthouse has about 22,123 square feet on four levels, according to our field measurements. The final contract with the Page brothers was dated October 25, 1922.<sup>62</sup> The bond election held on December 4, 1922 resulted in 438 votes for and 23 votes against the sale of bonds for construction of the new building.<sup>63</sup> The value of the bonds was for \$150,000 for the cost of construction.<sup>64</sup> Construction

<sup>54</sup> Kuney, Jarell E., "Hall County Courthouse," photograph of first Courthouse taken in 1909; County Progress, March 1983, p. 18.

<sup>55</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 3, pp. 107, 113.

<sup>56</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 2, p. 350.

<sup>57</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 284.

<sup>58</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 379.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 433.

<sup>61</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 381.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 401.

<sup>64</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 381.

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documents were completed, and bids were opened on December 4, 1922, with the unanimous vote to accept the low bid from Walker Construction Company of San Antonio, Texas.

After the Contract for Construction circulated back to the architects in Austin for review and approval, construction commenced. Commissioners court minutes record that weather stripping was added to specifications for the entry doors, red quarry tile was added to the interior corridors and interior steps, and Gravina Marble was added for second floor base and wainscot.<sup>65</sup> The tile was installed, but the marble never made an appearance, being deleted by later notes in the minutes. The prime contractor was Walker Construction Company; other contractors included Convers-French Electrical Company, L. Holt Plumbing and Heating Company, and Stewart / Anthony, Contractors.<sup>66</sup> Also noted in the minutes, white pine, framed window screens were added on March 13, 1923. The marble was deleted, and quarry tile base matching the floor was revised at the same time.<sup>67</sup> Thompson Brothers Hardware received the contract for the builder's hardware, and the hardware schedule is also listed in the minutes.<sup>68</sup> Plans and specifications drawn and prepared by C.H. Page & Brother were prepared for furniture and fixtures, including electrical fixtures, pews, linoleum, "...and so forth."<sup>69</sup> The commissioners court approved the documents on August 13, 1923,<sup>70</sup> and minutes record the details, with: statement of contracts for desks, chairs, tables, linoleum, light fixtures from Swann-Schulle Co. of Austin; courtroom fixtures from Largent Lyons of Dallas; metal fixtures from Art Metal Company of Dallas; window blinds and screens from Western Blind and Screen Co. of Dallas; opera chairs from Ewa Rowles of Wichita Falls; and jury dormitory furniture and ladies rest room furniture from King Furniture in Memphis.<sup>71</sup>

The county made the final payment to the contractor on December 21, 1923, less withholding, with final payment to the architect on the same date.<sup>72</sup> On January 14, 1924, the heating system was completed, and on March 21, 1924, final inspection was performed and the building accepted from the contractor with final payment made.<sup>73</sup>

## Significant Historical Events that Occurred at Current Courthouse or on Grounds

Hall County Courthouse is the location of the annual Hall County Picnic. Held by the Hall County Picnic Association on the courthouse grounds, it is scheduled for the third weekend of September (originally held on the Fourth of July). This picnic includes crafts, a parade, and meals for all citizens of the county that attend.<sup>74</sup> Association officers include county officials, employees, and citizens. On Thursday, July 29, 1940, W. Lee O'Daniel, Governor of Texas, visited Hall County for the Hall County Golden Jubilee Celebration and Monument Dedication. The monument is on the southeast corner of the courthouse lawn. More than 20,000 people attended the event. The governor addressed the crowd, then watched the

<sup>65</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 415.

<sup>66</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, pp. 434-439.

<sup>67</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, pp. 485-486.

<sup>68</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, pp. 529-531.

<sup>69</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 579.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, pp. 628-629.

<sup>72</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 5, p. 41.

<sup>73</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 5, p. 87.

<sup>74</sup> Telephone conversation between Ms. Helen Crisman, Secretary to Judge Kenneth Dale and Arthur Weinman on June 14, 2000.

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Pioneer Parade, which included more than 100 horseback riders. The event was held over a three-day period and included a rodeo, fiddlers contest, and three dances, in addition to the parade and public addresses by governor, county judge, and other local notables.<sup>75</sup> No major court trials attracting media attention outside of the Hall County and Amarillo area have taken place at the Hall County Courthouse.

**Hall County Courthouse Architects**

Hall County commissioned Page and Brother, Architects firm of Austin to design the Hall County Courthouse.<sup>76</sup> Their firm is survived today by Page-Southerland-Page, Architects, also known as PSP, still in Austin.<sup>77</sup> Charles Henry Page (1876–1957) and his brother, Louis Charles Page (1883–1984) were born in St. Louis and moved with their family to Austin, Texas in 1886.<sup>78</sup> Sons of an English immigrant mason and contractor, they joined their father in the construction business.<sup>79</sup> Charles is said to have apprenticed in several architectural firms throughout the country.<sup>80</sup> The brothers joined in 1898 to establish their firm, Page Brothers, Architects.<sup>81</sup> The early firm is best known for the design of school buildings and county courthouses.<sup>82</sup> Their county courthouse work includes Anderson County in Palestine (1914),<sup>83</sup> Orange County in Orange (1937)<sup>84</sup> and Williamson County in Georgetown (1911),<sup>85</sup> credited to Charles H. Page; Travis County in Austin (1930),<sup>86</sup> and Hall County in Memphis (1923)<sup>87</sup> credited to Page Brothers. Louis left the firm in 1934, taking a position with University of Texas as an instructor in the School of Architecture for two years.<sup>88</sup> In 1936, Charles's son joined the firm, with the name changed to C.H. Page and Son, Architects.<sup>89</sup> By the time Louis rejoined the firm, the name had changed again to Page, Southerland, Page Architects, the name it carries to this day.<sup>90</sup>

**Hall County Courthouse General Contractor**

Walker Construction Company of San Antonio served as general contractor for the Hall County Courthouse and apparently won the bid over three other competing firms.<sup>91</sup> Unfortunately the names of the other bidders and the amounts

<sup>75</sup> "Music, Rodeo, Speeches Fill Day's Program, W. Lee O'Daniel Rides In Pioneer Parade Downtown," The Memphis Democrat; Thursday, July 29, 1940.

<sup>76</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 381.

<sup>77</sup> Typed one page abstract summation of C.H. Page, firm, and successor provided by Austin History Center, February 8, 2000.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Kelsey, Mavis P., Sr. and Dyal, Donald H.; The Courthouses of Texas

<sup>84</sup> Ibid., p. 31.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid., p. 211.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid., p. 276.

<sup>87</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, p. 381.

<sup>88</sup> Typed one page abstract summation of C.H. Page, firm, and successor provided by Austin History Center, February 8, 2000.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Comm. Court Minutes, Vol. 4, pp. 434-439.



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of their bids are lost. The Walker Construction Company was a prominent construction firm in the 1920s with many large state and regional projects to their credit. Doubtless the Page Brothers had association with this construction firm at other projects, and most likely assisted with their name being included on the bidders list.

### Conclusion

Over the last several decades, counties in the Panhandle have faced declining and aging populations, but even in Hall County, which had fewer than 4,000 residents in the 2000 Census,<sup>92</sup> historic county courthouses often remain to demonstrate past prosperity. The Hall County Courthouse shows a county in the 1920s poised for growth, with more than enough space for offices. The Classical Revival style employed, so often associated with democracy, was fitting for a county courts building and frequently chosen by the acclaimed Page Brothers, Architects. The building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for Government and Criterion C for Architecture.

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<sup>92</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Hall County," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/HH/hch2.html> (accessed December 10, 2007).

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12. "Music, Rodeo, Speeches Fill Day's Program, W. Lee O'Daniel Rides in Pioneer Parade Downtown," The Memphis Democrat, Thursday, June 29, 1940.
13. "New Courthouse to be Occupied Tomorrow," The Memphis (Texas) Democrat, December 27, 1923.
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16. "Pioneer Architect Charles Page Dies;" Undated, no source cited, copy of newspaper obituary obtained from The Austin History Center, received February 28, 2000.

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17. Rylander, Carole Keeton, Comptroller of Public Accounts; Annual Property Tax Report, Tax Year 1998; Tax Publications #96-318, November 1999.
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- Book 1, p. 15, August 11, 1890.
- Book 1, p. 22, September 15, 1890.
- Book 1, p. 60, May 3, 1991.
- Book 1, p. 61, June 3, 1891.
- Book 1, p. 67, June 14, 1891.
- Book 1, p. 81, June 1891.
- Book 1, p. 85, June 1891.
- Book 1, p. 88, June 1891.
- Book 1, p. 102, November 1891.
- Book 1, pp. 105, 106, November 13, 1991.
- Book 1, p. 117, January 23, 1992.
- Book 1, p. 120, January 26, 1992.
- Book 1, p. 191, November 14, 1992.
- Book 1, p. 284, July 29, 1993.
- Book 1, pp. 322-325, November 15, 1993.
- Book 2, p. 186, February 11, 1903.
- Book 2, p. 350, November 13, 1906.
- Book 2, p. 381, August 14, 1907.
- Book 2, p. 478, November 8, 1909.
- Book 2, p. 492, February 26, 1910.
- Book 2, p.519, Jun 31, 1910.
- Book 3, p. 107, March 22, 1913.
- Book 3, p. 112, April 18, 1913.
- Book 4, p. 18, April 12, 1920.
- Book 4, p. 284, April 22, 1922.
- Book 4, pp. 379-384, October 19, 1922.

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- Book 4, p. 401, December 4, 1922.  
Book 4, p. 399, December 4, 1922.  
Book 4, p. 415, December 30, 1922.  
Book 4, p. 420, January 8, 1923.  
Book 4, p. 433, January 27, 1923.  
Book 4, pp. 434-439, January 27, 1923.  
Book 4, p. 485-486, March 13, 1923.  
Book 4, pp. 529-531, May 18, 1923.  
Book 4, p. 579, August 13, 1923.  
Book 4, pp. 628-629, September 25, 1923.  
Book 5, p. 41, December 21, 1923.  
Book 5, p. 56, January 14, 1924.  
Book 5, p. 87, March 21, 1924.  
Book 5, p. 410, March 2, 1926.  
Book 6, p. 44, March 27, 1929.  
Book 9, p. 32, July 12, 1954.  
Book 9, pp. 192-195, November 9, 1959.  
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Book 9, p. 422, February 12, 1968.  
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Book 9, p. 581, October 14, 1975.  
Book 9, p. 601, July 12, 1976.  
Book 10, p. 5, July 13, 1977.  
Book 10, p. 25, May 8, 1978.  
Book 10, p. 42, January 8, 1979.  
Book 10, p. 68, January 14, 1980.  
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Book 10, p. 267, May 12, 1986.  
Book 10, p. 287, January 12, 1987.  
Book 10, p. 290, February 9, 1987.  
Book 10, p. 293, March 9, 1987.  
Book 10, p. 319, November 10, 1987.  
Book 10, p. 326, February 26, 1988.

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Book 10, p. 339, August 8, 1988.  
Book 10, p. 341, September 26, 1988.  
Book 10, p. 342, October 11, 1988.  
Book 10, p. 348, February 13, 1989.  
Book 10, p. 349, March 13, 1989.  
Book 10, p. 351, April 4, 1989.  
Book 10, p. 409, July 13, 1992.  
Book 10, p. 415, October 26, 1992.  
Book 11, p. 53, May 12, 1997.  
Book 11, p. 65, October 14, 1997.

## Historic Photographs and Drawings:

### Historic Photographs:

All photographs, unless noted otherwise, have been provided by Mrs. Helen Crisman, from the collection maintained at Hall County Heritage Center.

1. 1896 - Historic photograph of Main Street looking East
2. 1900 - Photographs of Main Street with prior Hall County Courthouse in right of main photograph
3. 1906 - Photograph of the corner of Main and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets looking east
4. Historic photograph of Main Street with prior Hall County Courthouse on right
5. Historic photograph of Main Street with prior County Courthouse on right
6. Historic photograph of Main Street (early 1920s?)
7. Historic photograph of Main Street (early 1920s?)
8. Historic photograph of 1893-1923 Hall County Courthouse
9. Historic photograph of 1893-1923 Hall County Courthouse
10. Historic photograph of 1893-1923 Hall County Courthouse
11. 1910 - Photograph of Sheriff's office inside the 1893 Hall County Courthouse
12. 1917 - Historic photograph of War Bond sale outside 1893 Courthouse
13. 1930s - Scene at North side of Courthouse, County celebration
14. 1941 - Old Settlers Reunion Parade with Hall County Courthouse in background
15. 1941 - Old Settlers Reunion Parade with Hall County Courthouse in background
16. 1941 - Old Settlers Reunion Parade with Hall County Courthouse in background
17. Photograph of Tax Collector's office, interior of 1923 Courthouse, showing original security doors over windows, ceiling fan, exposed lamp without globe, photograph supplied by ??, descendant of Tax Collector shown in photograph
18. Gold Medal Band photograph taken on east side of Hall County Courthouse, showing original windows
19. On steps of Hall County Courthouse showing original windows, entry doors, part of original bracket light at side of door
20. Rededication of War Memorial showing original Courthouse windows on northwest corner
21. Hall County Courthouse, southwest corner, showing original windows and doors (from County Progress Magazine)

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22. Hall County Courthouse, southeast corner, showing original windows and doors (from County Progress Magazine)
23. Hall County Courthouse showing original windows and doors
24. 1991 – Photograph of Hall County Courthouse welcoming Gulf War soldiers
25. Hall County Heritage Museum, located in historic bank building, across street from Courthouse
26. Historic Thompson Hardware in Memphis Hotel Building, across from Courthouse; Hotel in operation today as Bed and Breakfast
27. Historic Carnegie Library in Memphis at corner of SE Main and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets
28. Historic photograph taken inside former dry goods store
29. 1915 – Photograph inside King and Battle Furniture, supplier of some of the original 1924 Courthouse furniture

Drawings:

1. Michael G. Dertien, Architect; Office Remodel to Hall County Courthouse; Lubbock, Texas; June 18, 1990. (Fourth floor remodel including toilet room, new partitions and offices, ceilings, split system HVAC)
2. Jones, Rountree Architects; Hall County Courthouse Elevator Addition; Lubbock, Texas; November 16, 1987. (Includes first floor ramp, elevator and surrounding stair)
3. Jones, Rountree Architects; Hall County Courthouse Toilet Remodel; Lubbock, Texas; November 22, 1988. (Redesign of first floor lower level men's and women's restrooms including installation of suspended acoustic tile ceilings)
4. Page and Brother, Architects; Additions to the Hall County Courthouse; Austin, Texas; no date on drawing sheet. (Remove toilet from upper first floor; remove auditorium from lower first floor, install two new men's and women's toilet rooms in lower first floor, install new offices in lower first floor)
5. Sanguinet & Staats, Architects; Court House at Memphis, Texas for Hall County; Fort Worth, Texas; June 21, 1922. (Complete set of drawings, ink on linen, for unbuilt Courthouse, twelve sheets, excellent condition)
6. Whitaker, McQueen, Jones and Associates, Architects; Hall County Courthouse Existing Building Survey; Lubbock, Texas; July 1, 1987. (Floor plan survey of all four building levels, work incomplete and not to exact scale)

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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	359328	3843594

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** Block No. 1 of Memphis, Texas (courthouse square)

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** all property historically associated with the building

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY** with assistance from Linda Henderson, THC staff

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**NAME/TITLE:** Karen Crisman using Master Plan prepared by Art Weinman AIA

**ORGANIZATION:** Hall County Historical Commission

**DATE:** July 23 2007

**STREET & NUMBER:** 713 South 7th

**TELEPHONE:** 806/259-3253

**CITY OR TOWN:** Memphis

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 79245-3815

---

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

---

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheets Map-24)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheets Photo-33 through Photo-37)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets Drawing-25 through Drawing-32)

---

**PROPERTY OWNER**

---

**NAME:** Hall County

**STREET & NUMBER:** 512 West Main

**TELEPHONE:** 806/259-2511

**CITY OR TOWN:** Memphis

**STATE:** Texas

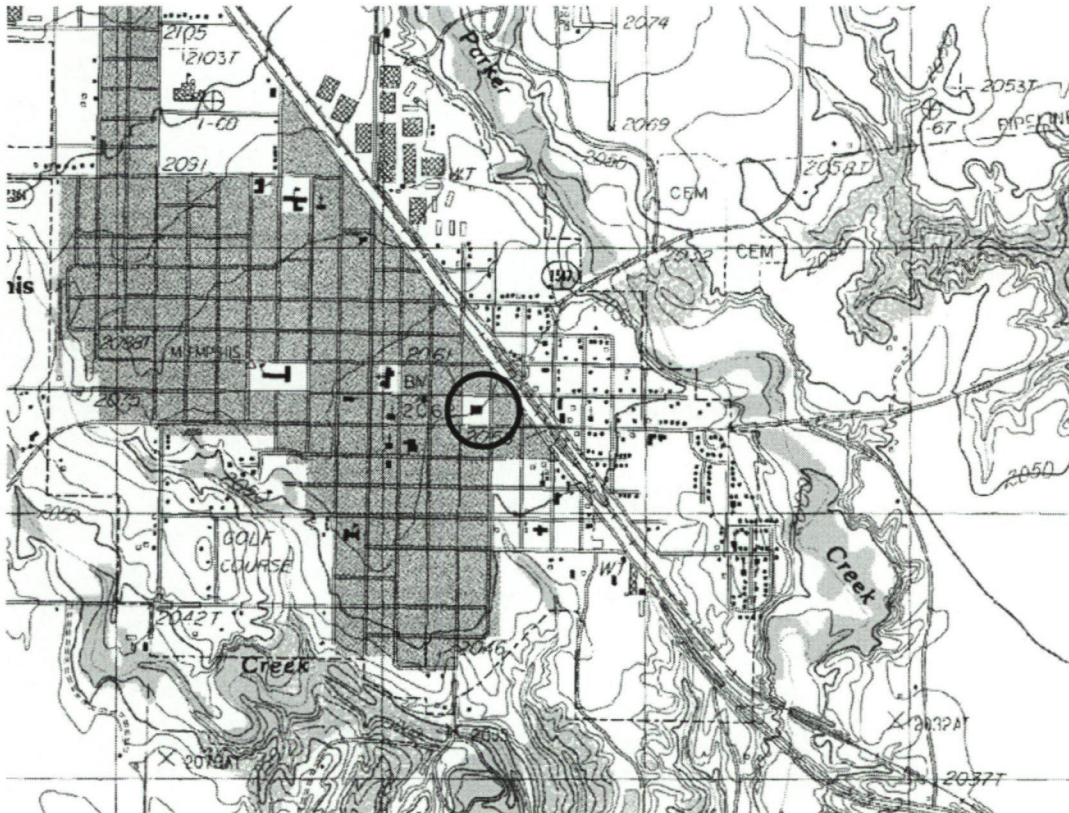
**ZIP CODE:** 79245

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas

Section MAP Page 24



Courthouse encircled; USGS map of Memphis Texas, courtesy MapCard.com, accessed December 2007

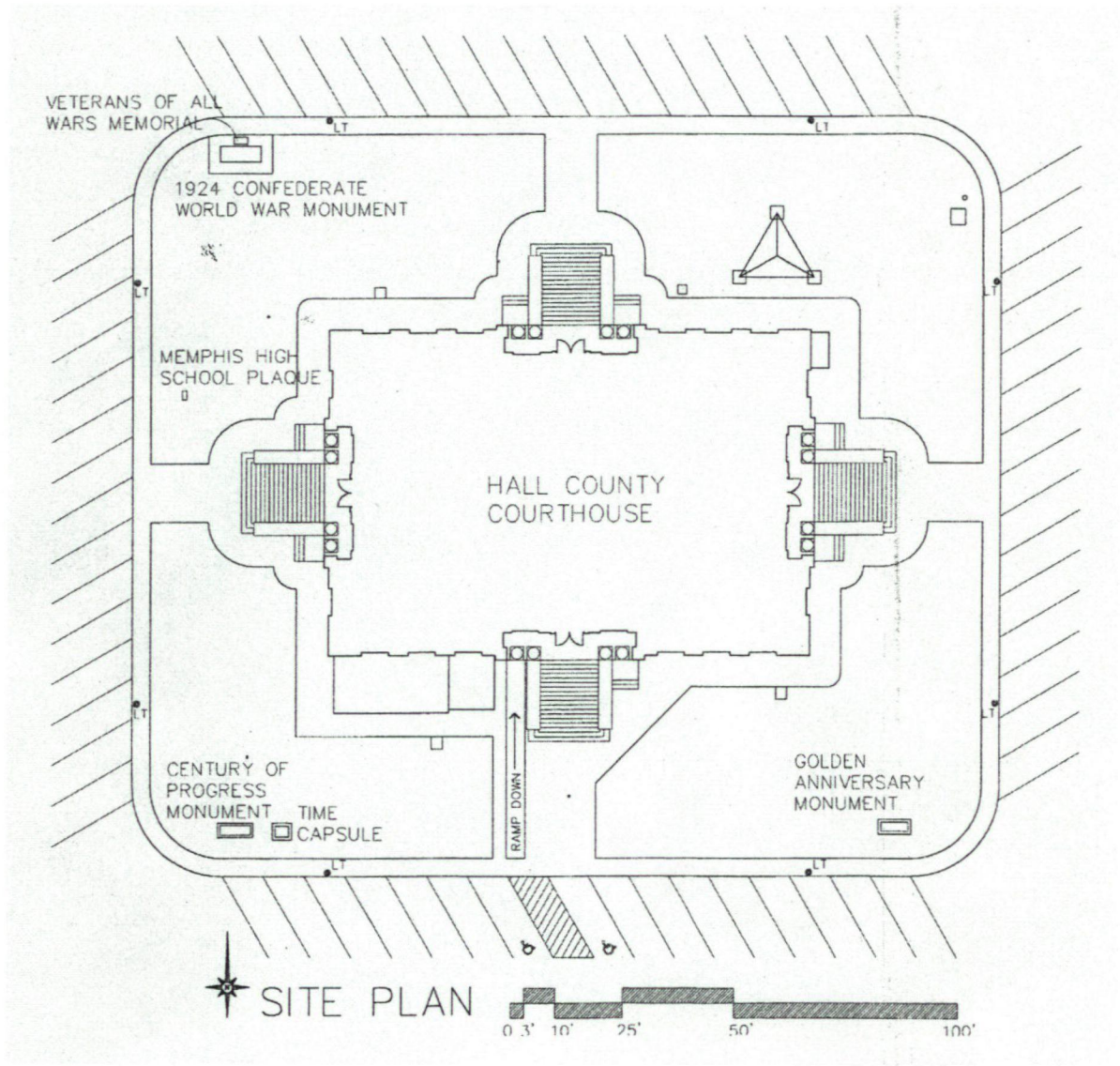


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas

Section DRAWINGS Page 25



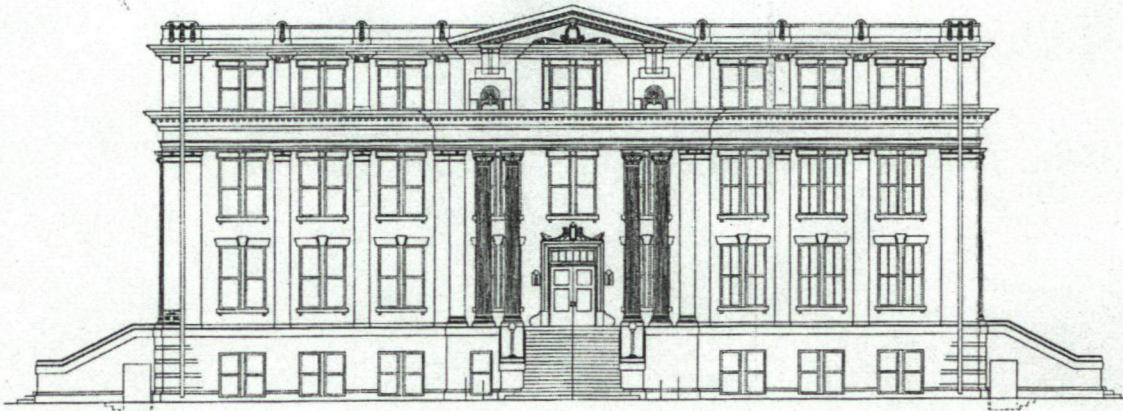
Site Plan from Master Plan showing monuments but not landscaping, 2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section DRAWINGS Page 26

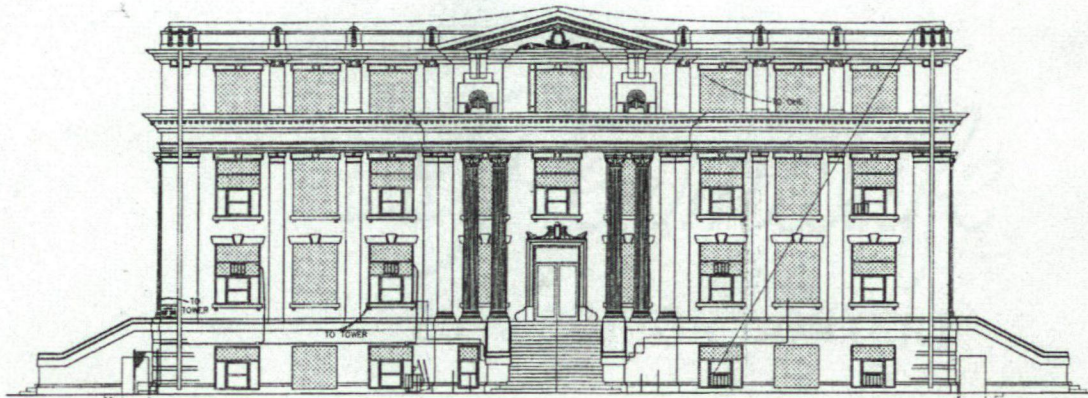
Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas



NORTH ELEVATION  
ORIGINAL BUILDING



North Elevation from Master Plan, 2000; original window configuration above, current conditions below



NORTH ELEVATION  
CURRENT BUILDING

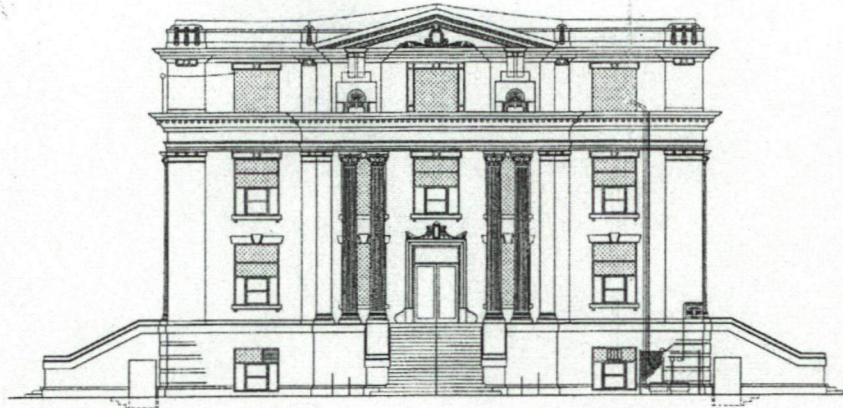


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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section DRAWINGS Page 27

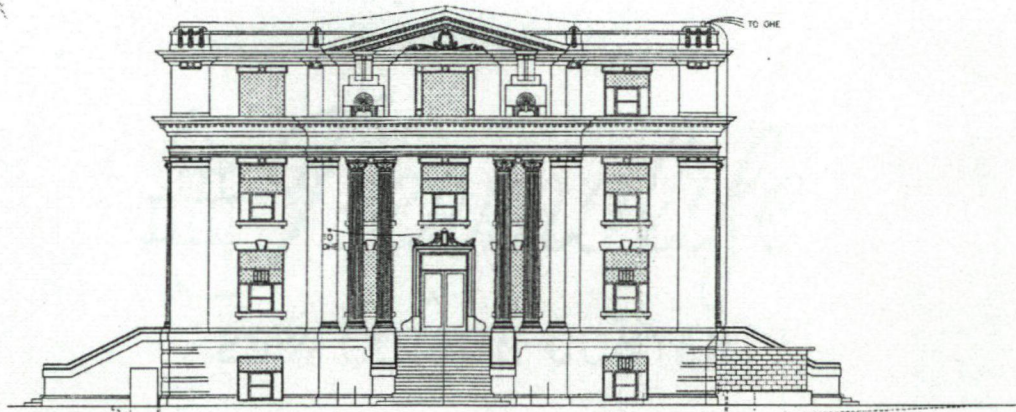
Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas




EAST ELEVATION  
CURRENT BUILDING



East and West Elevations, from Master Plan, conditions in 2000



WEST ELEVATION  
CURRENT BUILDING

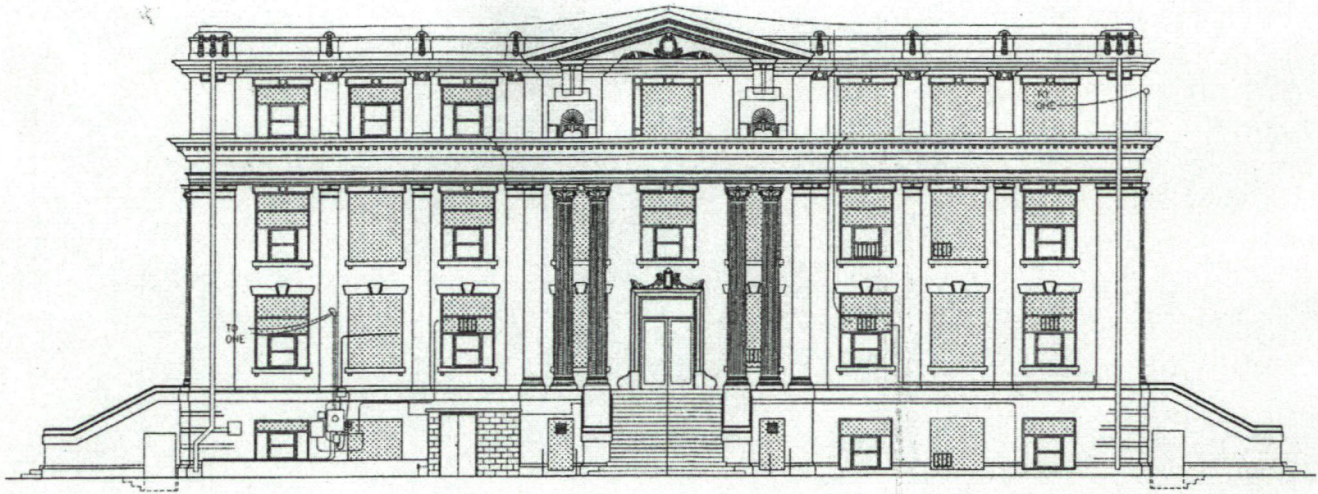


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas

Section DRAWINGS Page 28



SOUTH ELEVATION  
CURRENT BUILDING



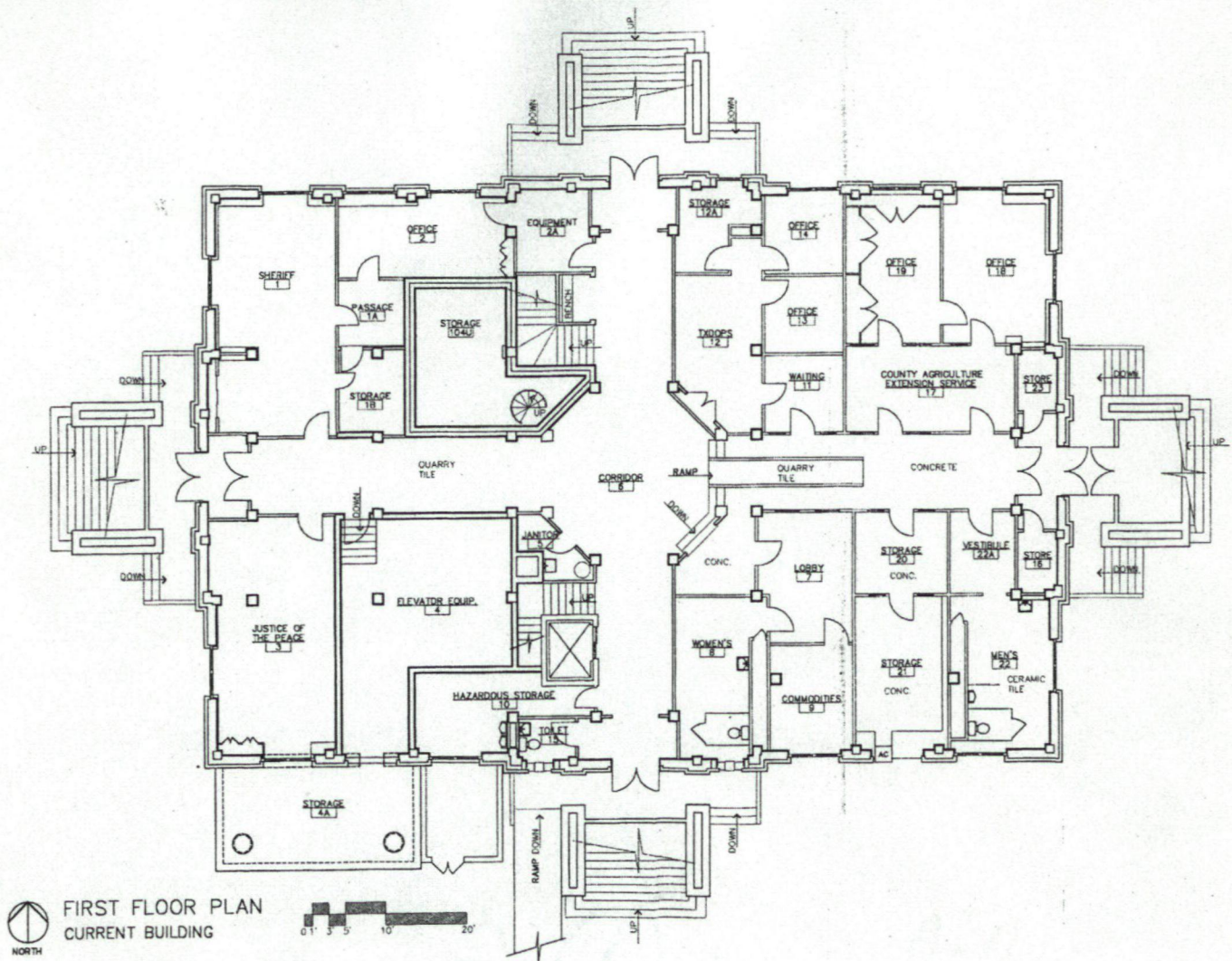
South Elevation from Master Plan, 2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section DRAWINGS Page 29

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas



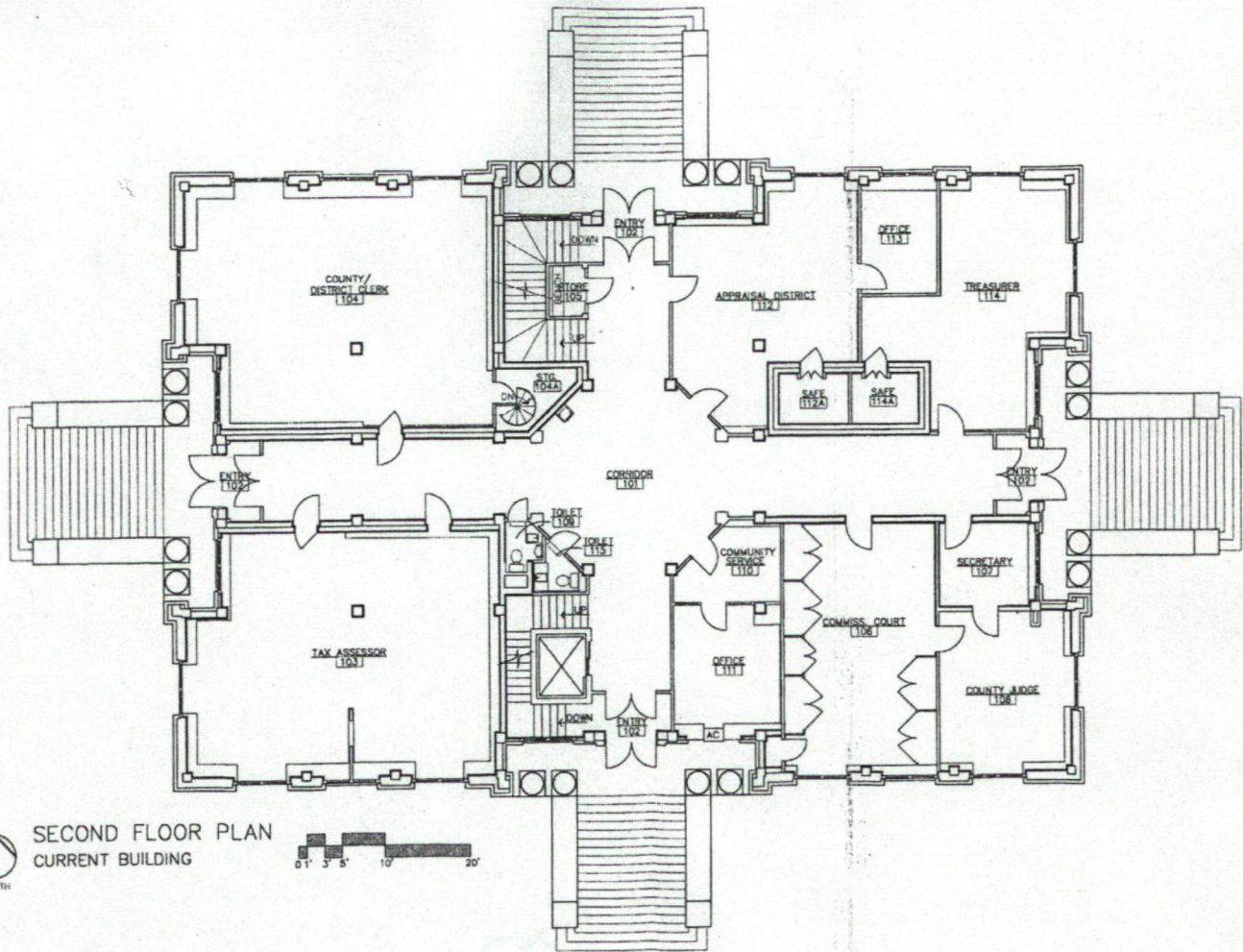
First Floor, from Master Plan, 2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section DRAWINGS Page 30

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas



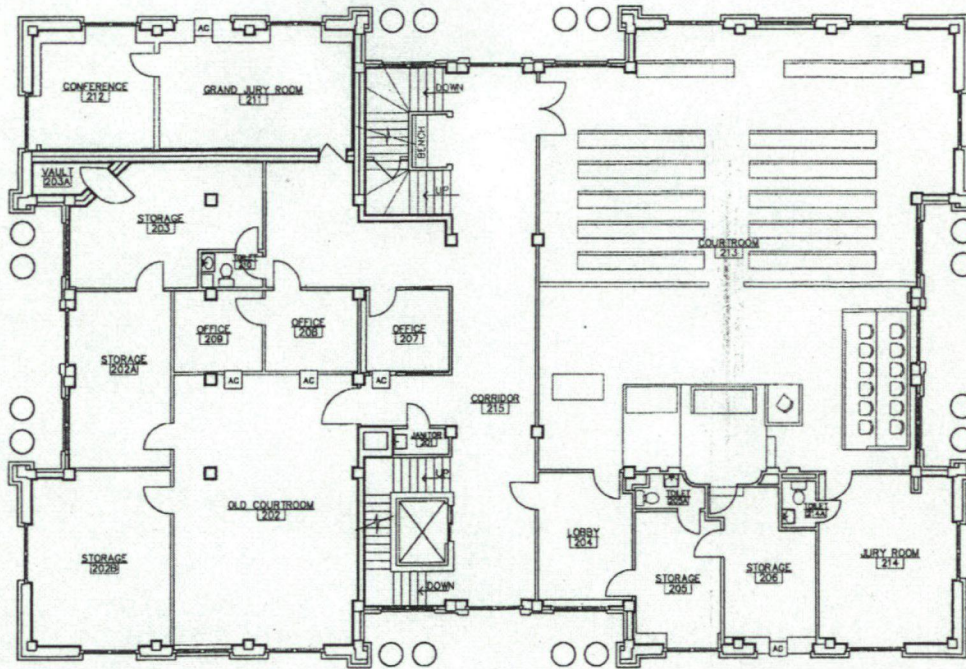
Second Floor, from Master Plan, 2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section DRAWINGS Page 31

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas



THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
CURRENT BUILDING



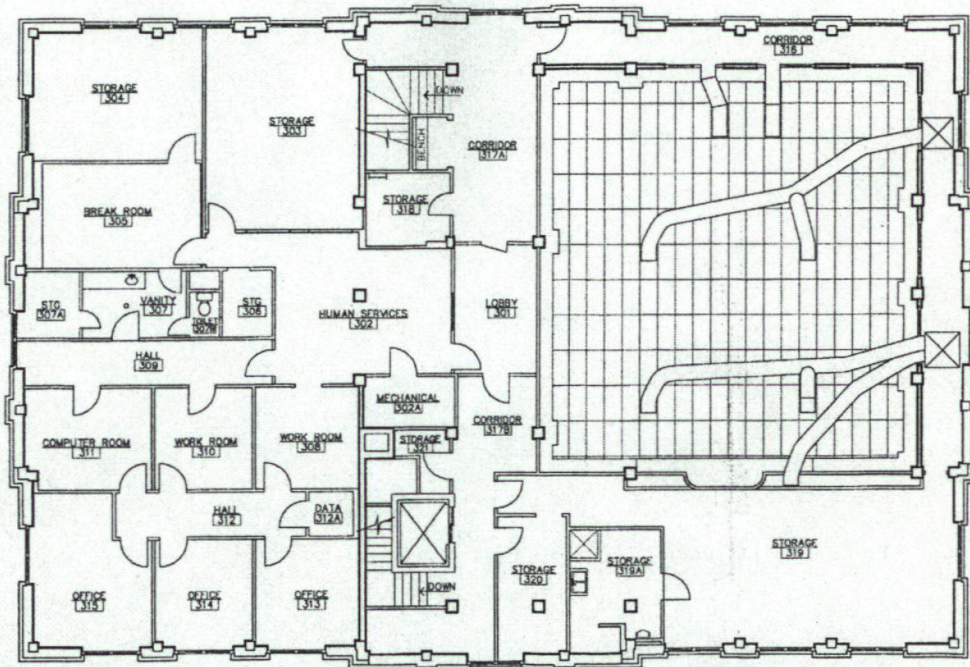
Third Floor, from Master Plan, 2000

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National Park Service

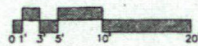
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section DRAWINGS Page 32

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN  
CURRENT BUILDING



Fourth Floor, from Master Plan, 2000



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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 33

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas

---



North elevation with radio tower on right and a non-contributing monument on right at edge of courthouse lawn



South elevation, with another non-contributing monument on right at edge of courthouse lawn

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 34

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas



East elevation; radio tower to right of courthouse



West elevation; another non-contributing monument on right at edge of courthouse lawn

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 35

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas



Detail of stairs, Master Plan, 2000



Detail of doorway, Master Plan, 2000

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 36

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas



Detail of pediment cartouche and cornucopia design, Master Plan, 2000



Detail of festoons at corners, Master Plan, 2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 37

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main  
Memphis, Hall County, Texas

## PHOTO LOG

Hall County Courthouse  
512 West Main, Memphis, Hall County, Texas  
Photographer: Gregory W. Smith  
Date: February 2008

Printed by Texas Historical Commission staff on HP Premium Plus photo paper with HP Vivera inks

- PHOTO 1: East elevation, photographer facing west
- PHOTO 2: South elevation, photographer facing north
- PHOTO 3: Southwest oblique, photographer facing northeast
- PHOTO 4: Interior hallway, photographer facing north
- PHOTO 5: Veterans monument (contributing), photographer facing southwest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hall County Courthouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Hall

DATE RECEIVED: 8/20/08                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/08/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/23/08                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/03/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000961

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    10-1-08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

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.



HALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
MEMPHIS, TEXAS  
PHOTO 1





HALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
MEMPHIS, TEXAS  
PHOTO 2



HALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
MEMPHIS, TEXAS  
PHOTO 3



DANGER  
NO OPEN FLAME

Coca-Cola

SHERIFFS OFFICE

SHERIFFS  
OFFICE

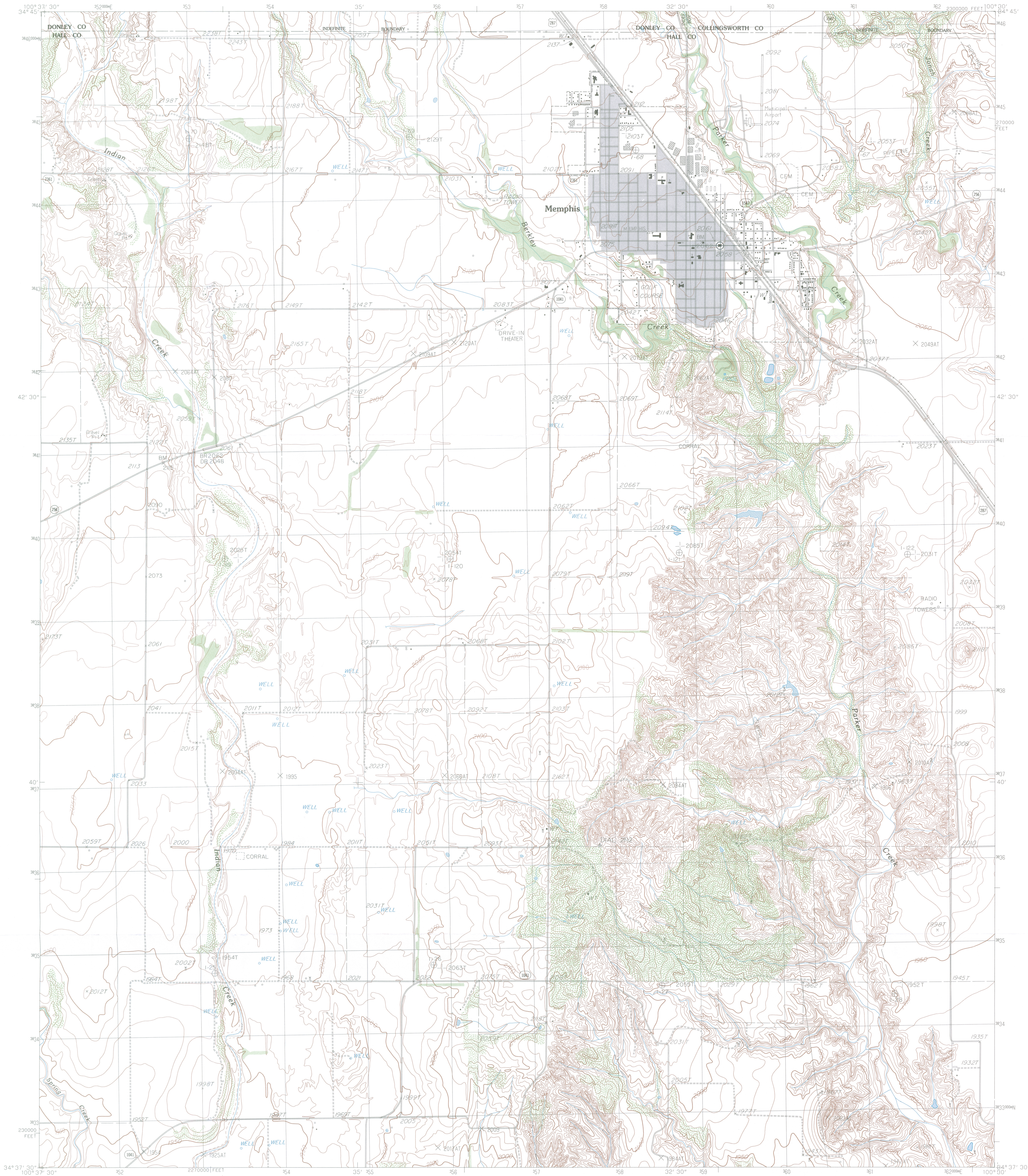
HALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
MEMPHIS, TEXAS  
PHOTO 4



HALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
MEMPHIS, TEXAS  
PHOTO 5

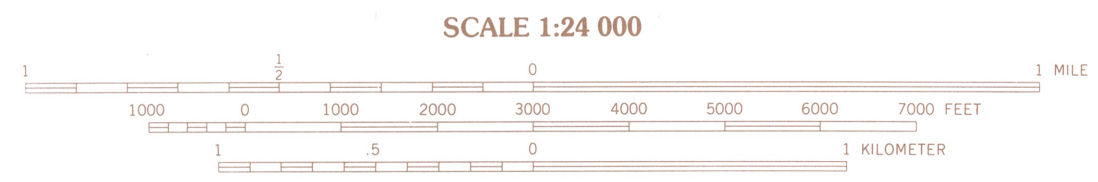


HALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
MEMPHIS, HALL COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM 14 359320E 3893509N



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONTROL BY USGS, NOS/NOAA  
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1981  
FIELD CHECKED 1982 MAP EDITED 1985  
PROJECTION LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC  
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 14  
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICS TEXAS, NORTH ZONE  
UTM GRID DECLINATION 0°53' WEST  
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  
(3 meters south and 37 meters east)  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map  
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

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



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET



ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road	-----
Unimproved Road	-----
Trail	-----
Interstate Route	⊖
U.S. Route	⊕
State Route	⊙

1	2	3	1 Hedley
			2 Giles
			3 Rolla SW
4		5	4 Memphis NW
			5 Exalline NW
			6 Plank
			7 Parnell
6	7	8	8 Exalline

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES  
3400-314

MEMPHIS, TEXAS  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1985

34100-F5-TF-024

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



**TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

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

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*



TO: Janet Matthews, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Linda Henderson, Historian  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Hall County Courthouse, Memphis, Hall Co., Texas

DATE: 14 August 2008

The following materials are submitted regarding: Hall County Courthouse,

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: DISC WITH DIGITAL IMAGES

COMMENTS:

SHPO requests substantive review

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

Other \_\_\_\_\_