

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Lubbock County Jail
Other name/site number: Old Lubbock County Jail
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 811 Main Street
City or town: Lubbock State: Texas County: Lubbock
Not for publication: [ ] Vicinity: [ ]

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 at the following levels of significance:
[ ] national [ ] statewide [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [x] A [ ] B [x] C [ ] D

Handwritten signature of Mark Wolfe

State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title

Handwritten date 12/27/17
Date

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other, explain:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** Government: Correctional Facility

**Current Functions:** Government: Correctional Facility; Vacant

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Brick, Stone

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7 through 9)

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

X	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** NA

**Areas of Significance:** Government, Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1931-1968

**Significant Dates:** 1931, 1950, 1961

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): NA

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): NA

**Architect/Builder:** 1931: Sylvan B. Haynes (architect) / 1950 Addition: Haynes and Kirby (Architect); Sampson Brothers Construction (Builder) / 1961 Addition: Haynes and Kirby (Architect); H. A. Padgett Construction (Builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 10 through 16)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 17-18)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): NA

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** approximately 2.4 acres

### Coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 33.585294 Longitude: -101.843759

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The nominated property falls within the Original Town of Lubbock Plat, at the southeast corner of Main Street and Buddy Holly Avenue. The property includes Tax Parcel ID R153324, and the western half of Tax Parcel R108629 that includes the footprint of the jail additions. Parcel R325347, which contains the federal building is not included.

**Boundary Justification:** The nomination includes all property historically associated with the building, including all internally-connected additions.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Kristin Jo Pack, with assistance from National Register Coordinator Gregory Smith  
Organization: Preserve Landmarks, LLC  
Street & number: 3242 Millcreek Ranch Rd  
City or Town: New Ulm State: TX Zip Code: 78950  
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Date: 06-06-2017

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheets 19-26)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets 27-24)

**Photographs** (see continuation sheets 35-46)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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**Photograph Log**

Lubbock County Jail  
811 Main Street  
Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas  
Photographed by James Snyder, June 2017

Photo 1  
North Elevation  
Camera Facing South

Photo 2  
North and West Elevations  
Camera Facing Southeast

Photo 3  
West Elevation  
Camera Facing East

Photo 4  
South and West Elevations  
Camera Facing Northeast

Photo 5  
North and East Elevations  
Camera Facing Southwest

Photo 6  
North Elevation of Lubbock County Detention Center  
Camera Facing Southeast

Photo 7  
North Elevation of Lubbock County Detention Center  
Camera Facing Southwest

Photo 8  
East Elevation of Lubbock County Detention Center  
Camera Facing Southwest

Photo 9  
North Elevation of Lubbock County Detention Center  
Camera Facing Northwest

Photo 10  
South Entrance of Lubbock County Detention Center  
Camera Facing North

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 11

Southwest Corner of Broadway Ave and Buddy Holly Ave.  
Camera Facing Northeast

Photo 12

North Elevation where the Lubbock County Detention Facility meets the Lubbock County Jail  
Camera Facing South

Photo 13

North Entrance to Lubbock County Jail  
Camera Facing South

Photo 14

Window and Spandrel Detail  
Camera Facing South

Photo 15

North Entrance Lobby  
Camera Facing North

Photo 16

North Entrance Lobby and West Hallway  
Camera Facing Northwest

Photo 17

East Hallway  
Camera Facing East

Photo 18

Fifth Floor Cell Block  
Camera Facing Northwest

Photo 19

Security Entrance into Fifth Floor Cell Block  
Camera Facing East

Photo 20

Inspection Corridor about Fifth Floor Cell Block  
Camera Facing East

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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## Description

The Lubbock County Jail is a 5-story Art Deco building at the southeast corner of Main Street and Buddy Holly Avenue in the heart of Lubbock, Texas. The Lubbock County Jail is an excellent representation of the Art Deco style with emphasis on the transitional influence between ZigZag and the Public Works Administration (PWA) or Moderne style of the early 1930s with embedded motifs and vertical ribbons of windows and columns on each elevation. The building's long axis runs east and west with primary entrances on the north and west elevations with the main building extending five stories. The exterior walls are constructed of reinforced concrete with limestone on the ground floor and buffed brick trimmed in stone for the remaining stories. Abutting the east elevation is a two-story detention center owned by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office, which projects south and east and trimmed in buff brick. Several additions constructed throughout its lifetime including a two-story addition to the original three-story jail in 1950 and a five-bay addition, five-story addition to the west in 1961. These additions are fully compatible with the original design, create a seamless transition from the 1931 building.

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## Setting

The Lubbock County Jail is located in the original town plat of the City of Lubbock along Main Street in close proximity to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Downtown Lubbock is on a rectangular grid running along the cardinal directions with the Jail located on portion of two combined blocks where the Lubbock Post Office and Federal Building (NRIS #95000101) and former Lubbock County Detention Center (now the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office) are located. The Jail is surrounded by minimal landscaping with scattered trees and a partial brick street to the North and parking to the West and the service yard for the Lubbock County Detention Center, Lubbock County Office and Federal Building to the South. A concrete sidewalk leads to the two primary entrances on the North and West elevations with a decorative metal railing and accessible concrete ramp along the path to the west entrance.

## General Characteristics

The Lubbock County Jail features characteristics of the Art Deco style with emphasis on the transitional influence between ZigZag and the Public Works Administration (PWA) or Moderne style. The building's long axis runs east and west with primary entrances on the north and west elevations with the main building extending five stories. The exterior walls are constructed of reinforced concrete with a limestone plinth course trimmed with sunray motifs, and the building features buff brick vertical bays with alternating pilasters and windows bays with spandrels. Abutting the east elevation is a two-story detention center connected to the original jail through a hyphen with a sally port. The additions feature buff brick exterior walls with a stone lintel and no fenestration except for doorways with segmented arched canopies found each elevation. The two stories on the detention center are divided by a double row of soldier course brick. The original jailhouse and the subsequent additions including the sally port, Lubbock County Detention Center are connected to the Federal Building (NRIS #95000101) through a rear addition to the hyphen which also features buff brick. The entire complex is situated on two blocks between Main Street and Broadway Street with parking lots on either side.

## North Elevation

Extending fourteen bays across, the north elevation is one of two primary façades of the Lubbock County Jail. Mostly symmetrical in design, the only disruption is at the fourth, fifth, and sixth bays on the ground level with a double-door entry. The main entry extends one-story with a set of smooth pilasters on each side with a ram's horn motif in top corner and features a set of paneled, metal doors with a geometric grille in the top two rows of panes with a matching transom and grille above the door. The ground floor is composed of limestone enhanced by its plinth course that meets the window sill and horizontal trim with a motif of a repeating pattern of the sun and its rays, which continues around

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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all sides of the building. The bays feature a vertical ribbon of six-pane, steel sash with an awning in the center panes. Dark spandrels located between the windows feature a floral motif. Separating the bays are buff brick, pilasters capped with stone lintel, extending slightly above the roofline, imitating a parapet with geometric patterns. The only alteration is the fourth-floor windows have been replaced with mechanical vents.

#### West and East Elevations

The west and east elevations are identical in design and material as the north elevation, however they feature a symmetrical design extending five bays across with the west elevation featuring a prominent central entry, with a single metal doors with pilasters and Art Deco motifs. The west and east elevations are similarly detailed like the north elevation. The bays feature a vertical window fenestration of six-pane, steel sash windows with an awning in the center panes. Dark spandrels located between the windows feature a floral motif, and the bays are buff brick, pilasters that extend slightly above the roofline with a dark stone lintel. The North and West Elevations feature a limestone ground floor with a continuation of the plinth course and a horizontal fenestration of one-over-one, wood windows. The Art Deco band from the north elevation extends to the side elevation. There is hyphen connecting the 1931 Lubbock County Jail and the 1980 Lubbock County Detention Center is only located on the first floor of the narrow elevation which provides a clear distinction between the two buildings.

#### South Elevation

The south elevation is the least visible of the all the elevations of the Lubbock County Jail. Similar in design and material as the north elevation, it extends fourteen bays across, and features two protruding additions with one egress stair located at the second and third bays and another egress stair and elevator at the eighth through eleventh bays. Added in 1988, the additions are similar in design including a limestone ground floor with the plinth course and horizontal Art Deco motif trim, and buff brick pilasters separate the bays which feature a solid vertical brick wall. Original building bays feature a vertical ribbon of six-pane, steel sash windows with an awning in the center panes with dark spandrels.

#### Interior Plans and Features

The entrance along Main Street is dominated by a set of paneled, metal doors with a geometric grille along the top two glazed panels. The first glimpse inside the building is a vestibule with a stairwell connecting the first and second floor, a lobby running north and south and a corridor running perpendicular with cream and black terrazzo floors with a larger matching tile along the walls. Along the east-west corridor are lined with office doors with the same terrazzo floor and tiled railing except when entering the detention center added in 1980, distinctly marked with a non-original metal security door with a single pane window.

The third floor is entered through either south stairwells which empty into a corridor along the south wall directed by mechanical pipes overhead. Reconfigured with a renovation in 1988, the corridor leads to four visitor stations opposite of the cell blocks. The visitors' stations are simple with eight, mounted metal stools to a ledge with curved dividers on either side. There is a small window with a bolted metal frame and a black phone with a corresponding number above each station. Opposite are four cells blocks with numbered metal bunkbeds along the wall and metal picnic-style tables in the center. Each cell features three toilets and two showers which were openly visible to all, and every two cells block share a guard station.

Also reconfigured in 1988, the fourth floor is similar in design to the third floor; however, it features two cell blocks, a kitchen, and one guard station. The fifth floor was reconfigured for two dormitory cells, exercise room and office space on the west side of the building, but the east side of the fifth floor retains many of the original cells and features

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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of the original 1950 configuration. Originally the east side was configured for two dormitory cells with three, four-inmate cells with a toilet, only one cell per dormitory was changed into a visitation area. The cells retain the mounted bunk bed and steel bars, and a metal grille was placed over the steel bars in some of the areas.

Summary of Alterations and Integrity

Alterations to the Lubbock County Jail includes additions to adjust to the growing Lubbock County population with two major additions occurring within the first thirty years of its life. When the Jail was constructed in 1931, the building was designed to accommodate two additional stories which were designed in the same style by the original architect, Sylvan B. Haynes. By 1961, an addition by S. B. Haynes and his partner L. H. Kirby, was added to the west elevation to accommodate five more bays and approximately 1,750 square feet of holding space per floor. Although there have been significant alterations since its construction, all have utilized exterior materials and design including but not limited to the buff brick, stone motifs and steel windows.

Modifications were made to the interior layout in the 1950s, 1970s and 1980s to accommodate two projecting additions on the South Elevation which included a egress stairwell and a egress stairwell/elevator combination. According to the 1931 plan by Haynes the subsequent 1950 plans by Haynes and Kirby, the interior layout included cell blocks with three, four-prisoner cells. There were one dormitory cell or insolation cells and stairwell in the center, and an inspection corridor wrapped the entire length of the interior walls. When the west elevation addition was added in 1961 (Haynes and Kirby), ten additional four-prisoner cells could be added to the holding floors, and the dormitory/isolation cells and stairwell in the center remained. In 1988, the two stairwell additions were added to the south or rear of the building and the floors were reconfigured for offices or dormitory cells and featured similar design and materials to not detract from the original historic fabric. . In 1931, the first floor housed the Sherriff and Deputy's housing, offices and a hospital floor. Between excessive remodeling for a Sherriff's Office Patrol Office and Dispatch Office from 1950 to when the Lubbock County Sherriff's Office moved to a new location in April 2017, no original features remain.

The Lubbock County Jail retains a large amount of its original architectural fabric, including form, massing, detailing, material and craftsmanship. Modifications made to the building's interior during renovations from the 1950s to the 2000s, left no original configuration and little original material of the cells and rooms. Two significant additions were added to the Lubbock County Jail including a two-story addition on the original building in 1950 and a five bay, five-story addition in 1961. These additions also designed by the Sylvan Haynes created a seamless transition from the original building using same materials and design. When Lubbock County constructed additions from the east elevation, the one-story hyphen between the original jail and the detention center, was strategically placed on a narrow elevation so the higher decorative elevations are clearly distinguished from its future additions. Additions for an egress stair and egress stair/elevator combination were added in 1988, were placed on the South Elevation where they would be least seen from the building's prominent facades on the North and West Elevations, in addition, the additions complement the original building in design and materials. The Lubbock County Jail retains an excellent degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, setting and feeling.

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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### Statement of Significance

The Lubbock County Jail was built in 1931 to replace a 1919 jail that could no longer adequately serve needs of the growing county. Lubbock Architect Sylvan B. Haynes designed the jail in the popular Art Deco style using a reinforced concrete structural system with a brick and cast stone façade to create one of the most attractive buildings in the city. After World War II, the county twice hired Haynes to design additions to the jail, both of which were fully compatible stylistically with original design. In 1950, the building was enlarged with a full two-story addition atop the original jail, and in 1961, the entire building was extended to the west to create additional prisoner holding space. The additions are seamless, and use the established character-defining features of the 1931 design, including the type and color of brick, unbroken string courses, Art Deco motifs, vertical bays, and decorative metal spandrels. Counter to way public buildings were routinely modernized during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the approach taken in the Lubbock County Jail displays an extraordinary commitment to maintaining an architectural style long after it had fallen out of fashion. The Lubbock County Jail is nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of Art Deco design, and because it stands as an unusual example of a prewar public building in Texas that was remodeled twice in the postwar period in a manner that carefully replicated features of the original design. Later additions were not compatible with the original design but were nevertheless carried out in a manner that minimally effected the original building. The jail housed inmates until 2010, and the eastern addition is still used as the county sheriff's office. For its role in county law enforcement since 1931, the building is nominated under Criterion A in area of Government at the local level of significance. The period of significance is 1931-1968.

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### Lubbock County and City of Lubbock Historic Overview

Lubbock County located in northwest Texas is on the southern portion of the Great Plains in a semi-arid plain known a *Llano Estacado*. It is bordered by Hale County to the north, Crosby County to the east, Lynn County to the south, Hockley County to the west, and Lamb, Floyd, Garza and Terry Counties on its intermediate (intercardinal) directional corners. When Lubbock County was founded in 1876, it consisted of flat grassland with Yellow House Canyon bisecting diagonally into the county from the southeast through the City of Lubbock. During the 1880s, the land was occupied by Anglo Americans whose livelihood was cattle ranching and stock farming.<sup>1</sup>

The seat of Lubbock County, the City of Lubbock, was founded in 1890 after local citizens gathered to decide on a neutral site for their town. On March 31, 1884, trading post owner, E. R. DeQuazy, received an appointment as postmaster to operate a post office named Lubbock in Yellowstone Canyon. George Singer was another trading post owner in the same canyon, and he assumed DeQuazy's postmaster position when it closed a few months later. By August 1890, two towns were established near the latter's store with Yellow House Canyon dividing the two towns with Lubbock to the north and Monterey to the south. The same year, citizens decided to establish a neutral town to avoid the issue of county seat between Lubbock and Monterey and keeping the name "Lubbock" for its association with the post office.<sup>2</sup>

Although locally established in 1890, the City of Lubbock grew slowly due to the lack of railroad access. It was officially incorporated in 1909, the same year the Santa Fe Railroad was introduced. The railroad established the budding city as a postal distribution center for the South Plains. The railroad also provided access to new building materials such as brick and stone, allowing the citizens of the Lubbock with more fire-resistant construction. During the 1910s, the population doubled, and in the 1920s, the population grew again with establishment of the Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University) by the Texas Legislature. The population dramatically changed

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<sup>1</sup> Donald Abbe, Ph.D., "Carlock Building" (National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Texas Historical Commission, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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by 1930 for the City of Lubbock when the population grew from 1,938 in 1910 to 20,520 by 1930.<sup>3</sup> Many of Lubbock's new buildings reflected popular styles of the Southwestern United States including Spanish Colonial Revival and Mission Revival which were heavily used for the new college. Buff or golden-brick and stone were a popular exterior material choices for public buildings such as the Lubbock County Courthouse and Lubbock County Jail, that in early 1930s, the Chamber of Commerce and civic leaders preferred the newly proposed red-brick postal facility be changed to match the existing structures.<sup>4</sup>

The City of Lubbock continued to rapidly grow throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its growth and prosperity was credited to the production from the surrounding rich agricultural area and increasing number of manufacturing plants. Lubbock was the second most rapidly growing city in the country between 1940-1950, and in the 1980s it was the eighth largest city in Texas.<sup>5</sup>

### Early Lubbock County Jails

Jails along with post offices were one of the first public buildings constructed in budding West Texas communities. On May 11, 1891, the Lubbock County Government approved the construction of a wood-frame jail for the first county building at an estimated cost of \$12,000; in addition, the jail served as a social gathering place for local church congregations as well as a temporary schoolhouse and community center.<sup>6</sup>

In 1919, the second jail was constructed on the site of the 1891 wood-framed jail. According to the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the county jail was centered on the western block between 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street (now Main Street and Broadway Street) next to the previous Lubbock County Courthouse constructed three years earlier.<sup>7</sup> This Lubbock County Jail was three stories in height and constructed with red brick with parapet towers located on three corners of the west and south elevations. After only ten years, the building was deemed inadequate for the local community with many discrepancies such as overcrowding, inability to maintain sanitary conditions and segregation between genders, juveniles and races. The jail could only retain a capacity of 28 prisoners, but between 1928-1929, the building held between 50-60 prisoners. Prisoner cells were designed to hold one inmate with a single bed, however as many as three inmates were placed in a single cell with two on a bunk and one on the floor, according to a local jailer.<sup>8</sup> Lastly, the Lubbock County Attorney, Vaughn Wilson believed the county jail would risk violating prisoner segregation laws due to overcrowding.<sup>9</sup>

### Lubbock County Jail

On February 12, 1931, the three-story, red brick 1919 jail began to be razed in preparation to construct a three-story Art Deco building designed by local architect, Sylvan B. Haynes. H. H. Shell and Sons received the construction contract. The building was located at the corner of Main Street and Avenue G and was approximately 85 feet by 52 feet when constructed. The design of the building was considered fire-proof with reinforced concrete frame and steel windows. Limestone was used for the first story until it met the windows on the second story, and the second and third

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<sup>3</sup> Texas Almanac, "City Population History from 1850-2000," 2000.

<sup>4</sup> Abbe.

<sup>5</sup> "Lubbock, Texas," *Texas State Historical Association*, accessed April 27, 2017, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdl04>

<sup>6</sup> "Lubbock County Jail," *Preservation Texas*, accessed April 14, 2017 <http://www.preservationtexas.org/endangered/old-lubbock-county-jail/>; "History Behind A Century of Lubbock County Jails," *KCBD 11*, accessed April 14, 2017, <http://www.kcbd.com/story/8618782/the-history-behind-a-century-of-lubbock-county-jails>

<sup>7</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, "City of Lubbock," 1921, University of Texas Libraries.

<sup>8</sup> Need for Criminal Court and Jail Building Seen Here, *Lubbock Avalanche*, July 21, 1929.

<sup>9</sup> Figures Shown, *Lubbock Avalanche*, June 1, 1931.

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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story design was buffed brick trimmed with limestone on the corners and windows. The steel used for the windows was considered “tool proof” to prevent prisoner break-outs. The first story accommodated the sheriff’s office, dormitory for the deputies, four hospital cells, five-room living quarters for the jailer and an entrance to unload prisoners. The second floor contained cells for male and female juveniles and three padded cells for insane prisoners. The third floor contained reused cells from the second floor of the previous jail and contained four felony cages, four dark cells for unruly prisoners.<sup>10</sup>

This new Lubbock County Jail was considered “one of the most attractive buildings in the city,”<sup>11</sup> and “...fitted with later jail equipment than any other kind in the state and even more modern than the jails of most of the state’s largest counties...”<sup>12</sup> The new building doubled prisoner capacity to approximately 100 prisoners and was constructed with new features such as an elevator for transporting prisoners between floors.<sup>13</sup> The building featured a price tag of approximately \$127,000 for its construction and latest jail equipment.<sup>14</sup> The new jail was an icon for the growing community, and it was presented to the public for an open house on December 7-8.<sup>15</sup>

Within 20 years the capacity of the new Lubbock County Jail exceeded its limits. It was one of six downtown Lubbock buildings receiving a “face-lift” totaling roughly \$1,000,000 including an addition for the West Texas Hospital, Citizens National Bank, First National Bank, enlargement for the police station, and a remodel for City Hall. In 1950, the 1915 county courthouse was replaced by a much larger modern courthouse by Haynes & Kirby. The old courthouse remained until it was demolished to make way for a 1968 addition to the new courthouse.

During the jail’s original construction, it was designed to accommodate two additional stories; therefore, the architectural firm for the project was S. B. Haynes and L. H. Kirby, and the Sampson Brothers were awarded the construction contract.<sup>16</sup> Construction began September 1950, and it was a means to double capacity to approximately 200 inmates. Haynes designed the two-story expansion to the top of the building which created a seamless transition and used the same character-defining elements such as the Art Deco motifs, vertical bays and metal spandrels. Haynes also noted in the construction plans to reuse materials from original building such as the stone lintel and top spandrel for the addition. After its construction, the addition was indistinguishable from the original three-story building.

The funding for the additions to the jail and new courthouse was through a \$1,500,000 bond from 1946 with the jail securing \$255,991 for its constructions and contracting fees. County Commissioners were interested in building an underground tunnel to transport prisoners from the jail to the courthouse, however due to the exceeding cost of \$1,250,000, the County Commissioners voted against building the tunnel.<sup>17</sup>

In 1961, the west elevation received an addition extending five bays from the building and entire five stories. Designed by S. B. Haynes and L. H. Kirby and constructed by H. A. Padgett Construction, the addition featured the original design and materials, creating a seamless transition from the original building.<sup>18</sup> The addition extended existing cell blocks to accommodate additional inmates.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Bids On Jail Are Scheduled For March 16, *Lubbock Avalanche*, February 15, 1931.

<sup>11</sup> Here’s Where Lubbock County Keeps Her Prisoners Now, *Lubbock Avalanche*, February 14, 1932.

<sup>12</sup> Lubbock’s New Jail Complete, *Lubbock Avalanche*, November 22, 1931.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Lubbock’s New Jail Complete, *Lubbock Avalanche*, November 22, 1931.

<sup>15</sup> Lubbock Jail To Be Open Monday, *Lubbock Avalanche*, December 6, 1931.

<sup>16</sup> Downtown Lubbock Buildings Getting Million-Dollar Face-Lifting, *Lubbock Avalanche*, November 19, 1950.

<sup>17</sup> Bill Clark, Contracts On Jail Addition Awarded., *Lubbock Morning Avalanche*, August 19, 1950.

<sup>18</sup> Mary Kreitz, “Lubbock County Jail,” (National Register Nomination Draft, Texas Historical Commission, 1989).

<sup>19</sup> S. B. Haynes & L. H. Kirby, West Elevation Construction Drawings, 1961.



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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### Lubbock County Detention Center

In 1978, a detention center was added to the Lubbock County Jail by extending an architectural hyphen, constructed in 1974, from the east elevation of the existing jail, straddling it over Avenue G and connecting to the new detention center. In the 1970s, the state of Texas population including Lubbock which doubled its population from 1950.<sup>20</sup> With the increasing state population, inmate population grew at an accelerated pace and create challenges for prison management. Texas adjusted its standards on prison management and prison amenities to reduce overcrowding, rehabilitation improvement and recreational programs.<sup>21</sup> During the 1977 survey of county jails, it concluded that there were no jails in five counties; 12 counties utilized neighboring jails; 38 jail were built prior to 1900; and 146 jails were built before 1940, in addition few jails built prior to 1941 met the new jail standards but this did not include the Lubbock County Jail.<sup>22</sup> Many of the issues across the state included overcrowding, poor sanitation and inadequate safety, and several of the new standards included but not limited to, an increase from 2% to 30% single-inmate cells, increase of single inmate cell floor space, a recreation area, and separation of first time inmates from previously convicted or violent prisoners.<sup>23</sup>

The purpose of renovating the existing jail and adding a detention center instead of the original intention of constructing a new structure was due to cost. Lubbock County Commissioners wanted to complete the work without a bond election or an increase in taxes, however all counties in Texas received a year to comply with the new state prison regulations. After reviewing model jails in Texas and Tennessee, a detention center was deemed more efficient, and much of the expense could be controlled by limiting the height of the detention center to one story.

The exterior of the building was dictated by the interior layout and function. Before County Architect, Arnold Maeker, designed the exterior, Bob Brisky, a special security consultant, aided in developing a management plan to determine the function of the interior space from, "how prisoners will be processed in the jail, how they will receive food, supplies and visitors, and where guards will be stationed..."<sup>24</sup> The building was designed to express solidity and security. It features a brick veneer with minimal interruption in wall with simple pilasters and a flat roof.

Modifications were made to the Lubbock County Jail in the 1978 and 1988-89. According to renovation plans from 1977, the fifth floor was used for juvenile and female holding, however the use of the original was used for office and storage space, and a second story was added to the detention center in 1980. In 1988, the interior was reconfigured to accommodate two projecting additions on the south elevation which included a stairwell and a stairwell/elevator combination. When the two stairwell additions were added to the south or rear of the building and the floors were reconfigured for larger dormitory cell blocks instead of the individual four-prisoner cells with a common area. In 2000, the second floor was converted into offices and dispatch rooms. By 2010, a new complex was constructed to accommodate the growing inmate population and jail standard, but the Lubbock County Jail continued to house the Lubbock County Sherriff's Office until 2017.

### Architectural Significance of the Lubbock County Jail

The Lubbock County Jail was among the first Art Deco buildings in the county and the Texas South Plains. The term "Art Deco" is derived from Paris's 1925 *Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes*, and

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<sup>20</sup> Texas Almanac, "City Population History from 1850-2000," 2000.

<sup>21</sup> "Prison System," *Texas Historical Association* accessed April 28, 2017, <https://tshlaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jjp03>

<sup>22</sup> Willard B. Robinson, *The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails, and Municipal Buildings*, (Austin: Texas Historical Association, 1983), 317, 322.

<sup>23</sup> Commissioners Decide to Renovate County Jail, *Lubbock Avalanche*, January 11, 1977.

<sup>24</sup> Jeff South, Report on "Model" Jails Contributes Some Ideas, *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, May 18, 1977.

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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applies to buildings where a modernistic appearance was achieved by utilizing a geometric and stylized form of ornamentation in place of a more literal interpretation of historicist design. Art Deco architecture in the United States features geometric designs, dominant vertical lines, and an emphasis on sculptural ornament, often applied to classically-derived forms. It differed from historically-inspired revivalist styles that previously dominated architectural design, embracing clean geometric lines and naturalistic motifs. The Art Deco style represented modernization, industry, and technology by expressing new building techniques through the relationship between structure and ornamentation. This approach was applied to formal design components, such as columns and cornices, as well as in limited areas of applied decoration, often in the form of low-relief sculptural carvings and flattened moldings. Although the jail features a traditional symmetrical façade composition with windows bays separated by wide pilasters, it's design is distinct from the more common Modern Classical variation because it lacks a strong horizontal cornice. The building features strong vertical elements, and highly stylized decorative relief. Art Deco motifs are found at the main entrance, along the horizontal band on the first story and the geometric shapes along the roofline. While ram motifs are in the corner of the pilasters, the entrance features smooth pilasters and a series of curves recesses to the entry. The building emphasizes vertical continuity with pilasters that extend past the roofline to create a distinctive "zig-zag" parapet profile.

The Lubbock County Jail is an unusual example of a Depression Era jail in Texas that displays strong Art Deco design with a high level of detail. Although modernistic Depression Era county courthouses are common in Texas, similarly-styled county jails are rare, with less than a dozen extant examples statewide.<sup>25</sup> In many cases, new county courthouses featured jails on the upper floors, eliminating the need for freestanding jail buildings. Courthouses also stood as the symbolic heart of county government, represented democratic ideals and justice, and functioned as all-purpose county office buildings. This perceived "higher function" of courthouse buildings, compared to the primary function of jails as places of incarceration, may have served as a rationale for architectural extravagance during the Depression.

### Architect Sylvan Blum Haynes

Born in 1893, Sylvan Blum Haynes or commonly known as "Blum," studied architecture at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Texas A&M) in 1912 which was only one of three colleges in Texas offering programs in architecture.<sup>26</sup> While attending school, he was known as a scholarly student, but during his last year, his hearing was noticeably deteriorating. After graduation in 1916, he worked as a draftsman and designer before he moved to Lubbock to seek medical treatment for his hearing loss. Medical assistance came from the brother-in-law of his friend, Edgar Petty Jennings in which Haynes was diagnosed with irreversible hereditary nerve deafness, accurate since his mother and almost all of his siblings were deaf. The deafness would continue to worsen throughout his lifetime, but consequently during the time Haynes spent in Lubbock seeking medical treatment, he grew fond of the area. When Lubbock began to grow throughout the 1920s, the bustling city needed architects, and Haynes would spend the rest of his professional career there.<sup>27</sup>

Sylvan Blum Haynes formed several partnerships throughout his career with an intermittent period where he solely worked under his name. Haynes took a partnership with fellow Texas A&M alum, Noah Linton Peters when Peters' partner, Walter E. Taylor, retired in 1922. Taylor and Peters was a busy architectural firm working on projects such as schools in Wilson, Lorenzo and Slaton, and First Baptist Churches in Lubbock and Spur. The partnership of Haynes and Peter continued to produce many educational institutions and numerous residences, notably the Fred Snyder House

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<sup>25</sup> Noteworthy highly-ornamented modernistic jails are in Victoria, Rusk, and Anderson counties. The Hamilton County jail is a less ornate Streamline Moderne example, while the Dimmit County Jail features a simplified Modern Classical design.

<sup>26</sup> Gary Wooten Smith, *Sylvan Blum Haynes: Dean of the West Architects*, (Master's Thesis, Texas Technological University, 1993) 14,17.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, 20-21; 31.

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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(NRIS #2091002019). By November 1928, they dissolved their partnership after a real estate investment did not reap expected profits.<sup>28</sup>

During Haynes's partnership with Peters, he gained experience in designing institutional buildings, consequently the dissolved partnership afforded Haynes to move towards the popular Art Deco style and create his own design trademark. Haynes transitioned from using the red brick used in the schools designed by Peters and Haynes to the buff brick which became his featured trademark which he used in designing the First Methodist-Episcopal Church (1929/addition 1936) in South Portales, New Mexico and the Spade Public School in Spade, Texas (1931).<sup>29</sup> Another early solo project was the Lubbock County Jail (1931), and in which he began using both vertical and horizontal continuity in his designs as a secondary trademark, in addition, Haynes constructed only two known jails, Lubbock County (1931) and Lynn County (1960) during his career.<sup>30</sup>

Other projects during his solo career included school additions, residences, a clinic and renovations to existing buildings. He also designed the Patton Springs School (1935) in Afton, Texas which is considered his first true Art Deco style school.<sup>31</sup> From 1935-1936, Haynes continued to receive more contracts to design schools in Texas including New Deal, Roaring Springs, Lubbock, Tahoka, Munday, and Roscoe. These buildings featured a modest Art Deco style with his buff brick trademark.<sup>32</sup>

In 1937, Sylvan Haynes and William T. Strange formed a partnership. Strange was added as a partner to Haynes and Peters shortly before it dissolved, and Strange continued to work with Peters until 1934. Strange headed the newly formed partnership's architectural branch in Big Springs, Texas and together, Haynes and Strange, worked on the Medical Building and Employees Building for the Big Spring State Hospital development. Haynes and Strange retained their partnership for 10 years working over 50 projects in the first four years of their partnership including the Dr. J. T. Krueger residence (1939), 20 schools, 8 city and county projects, and numerous residences, commercial buildings and churches.<sup>33</sup> During World War II, several partners joined and left while Hayes and Strange remained steadfast in the firm.<sup>34</sup>

In 1934, Laverne Howe Kirby worked as a draftsman then as a designer for Haynes and became a designer during Haynes and Strange partnership. Kirby became a partner in 1946, but Haynes, Strange and Kirby only worked a year together until William T. Strange left the firm and moved his family to California.<sup>35</sup> Haynes and Kirby received projects such as Nocona Boot Factory (1947), an addition to First Presbyterian Church in Midland, Texas, and an addition to First Methodist Church in Odessa, Texas. One of the more notable projects was Lubbock County Courthouse (1950) and the Methodist Hospital which received Hospital of the Year award from The Modern Hospital. Both designs show a strong influence from the Art Deco to the Moderne style while keeping his trademark of buff brick and strong vertical lines, and although little ornamentation was given, both buildings feature masses forms and setbacks common in Art Deco.

Haynes and Kirby's partnership was the final partnership during Haynes's career. When Haynes's hearing deteriorated worsen, he used other forms of communication such as notes or lip-reading, and Kirby orchestrated client meetings.

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid. Shortly before the dissolvment, they added another partner, Strange to the firm.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid, 82.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid, 299. Haynes also designed an addition to the Crosby County Jail.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid, 90-91.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid, 217-222.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, 106-108

<sup>34</sup> Ibid ,116-118.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid, 119.

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Sylvan Blum Haynes retired his prosperous career in 1964 at the age of 71. Haynes witnessed the progress of City of Lubbock including its transition from the emergence of masonry structures, variations of the Art Deco, and with his retirement the emergence of the International style. His illustrious career of 50 years, he spent 40 years as a local architect in Lubbock and can be traced to over 400 projects in West Texas and New Mexico. Haynes embraced Art Deco as it developed popularity and employed related modernistic forms including Streamlined Moderne and PWA Moderne throughout his career.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Ibid, 164.

Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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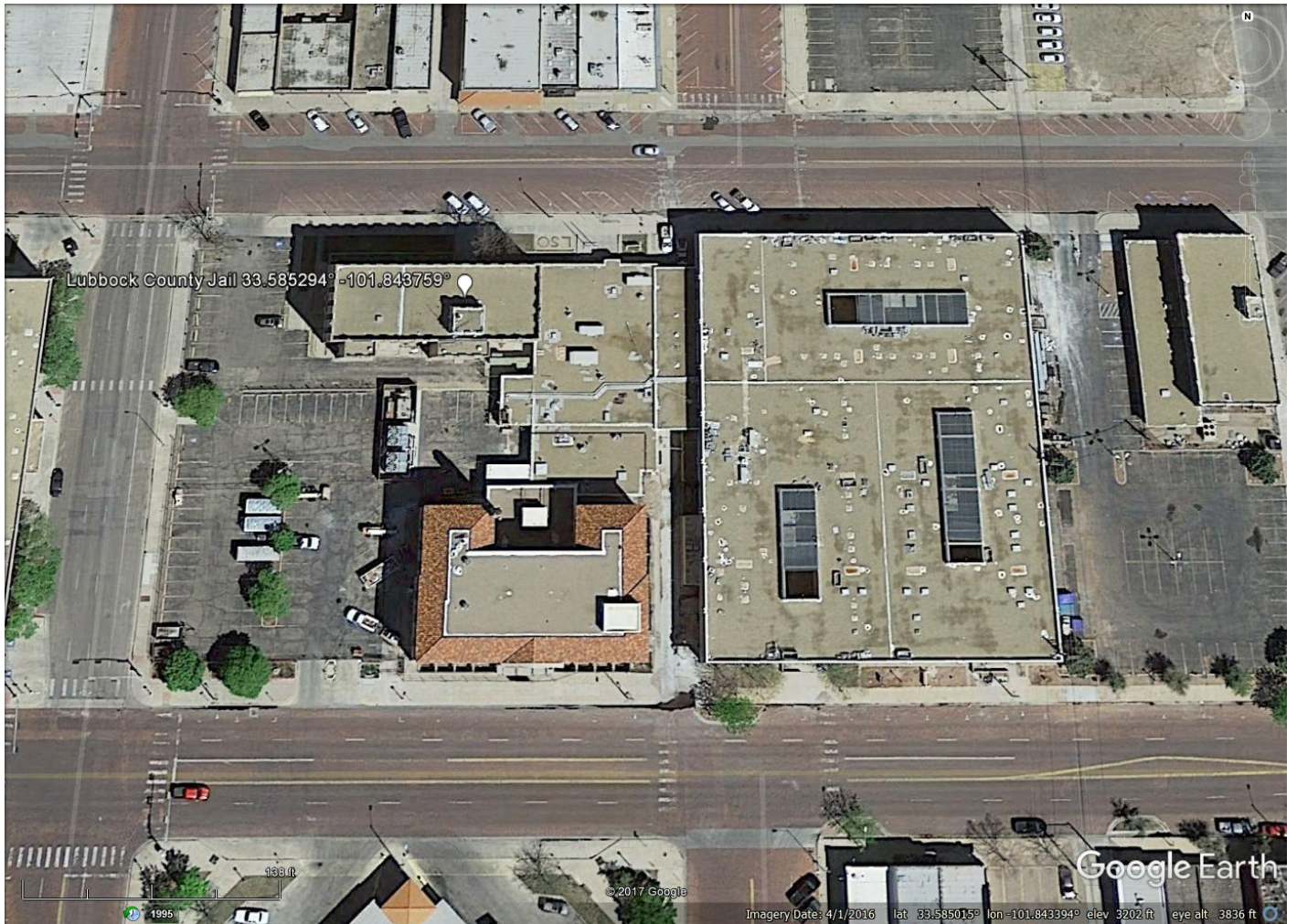
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Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Maps

Location Map

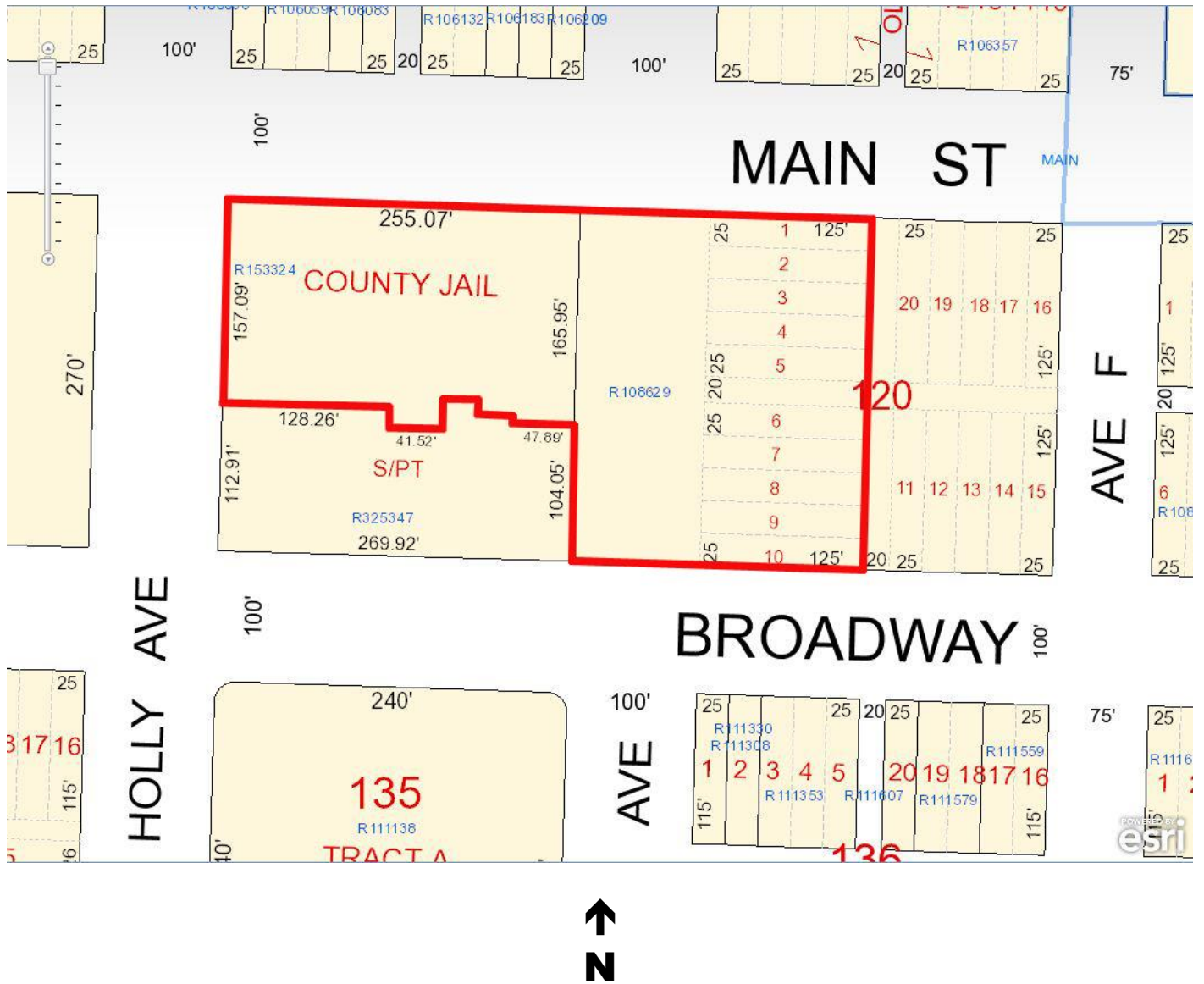
Source: Google Earth, accessed June 23, 2017.





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Boundary Map (nominated parcel outlined)



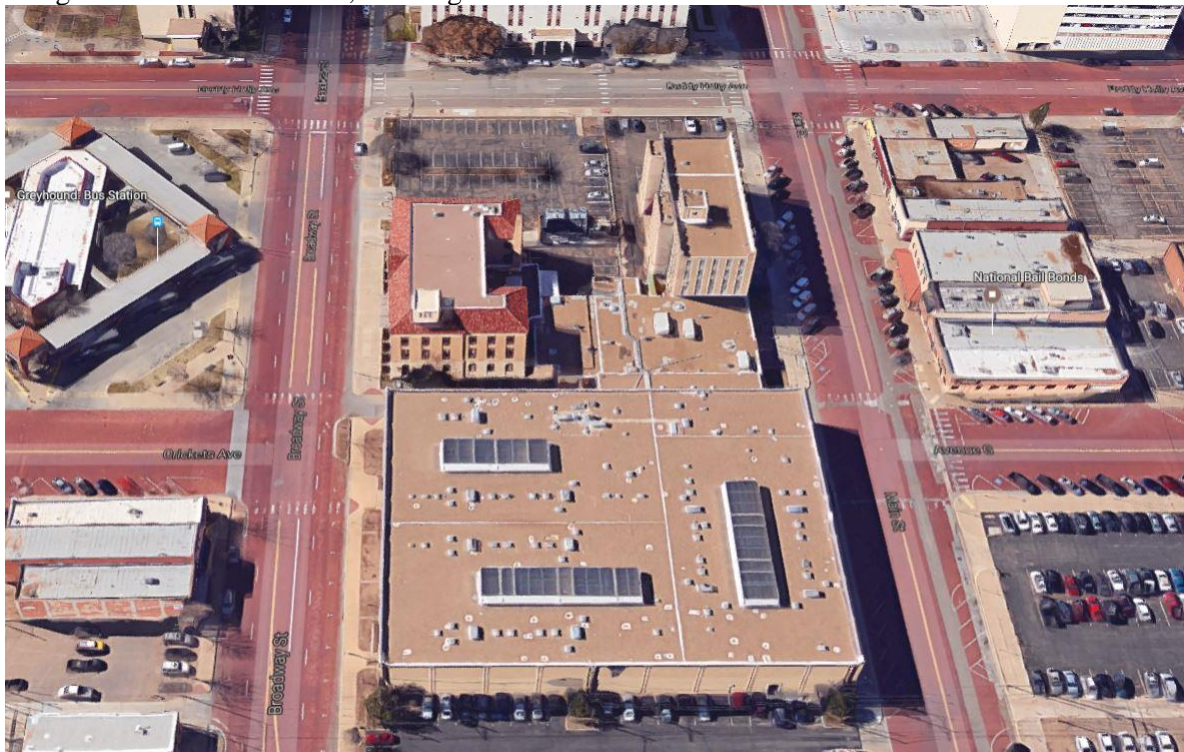


Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Google Earth: North Elevation, Looking South



Google Earth: East Elevation, Looking West





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Google Earth: South Elevation, Looking North

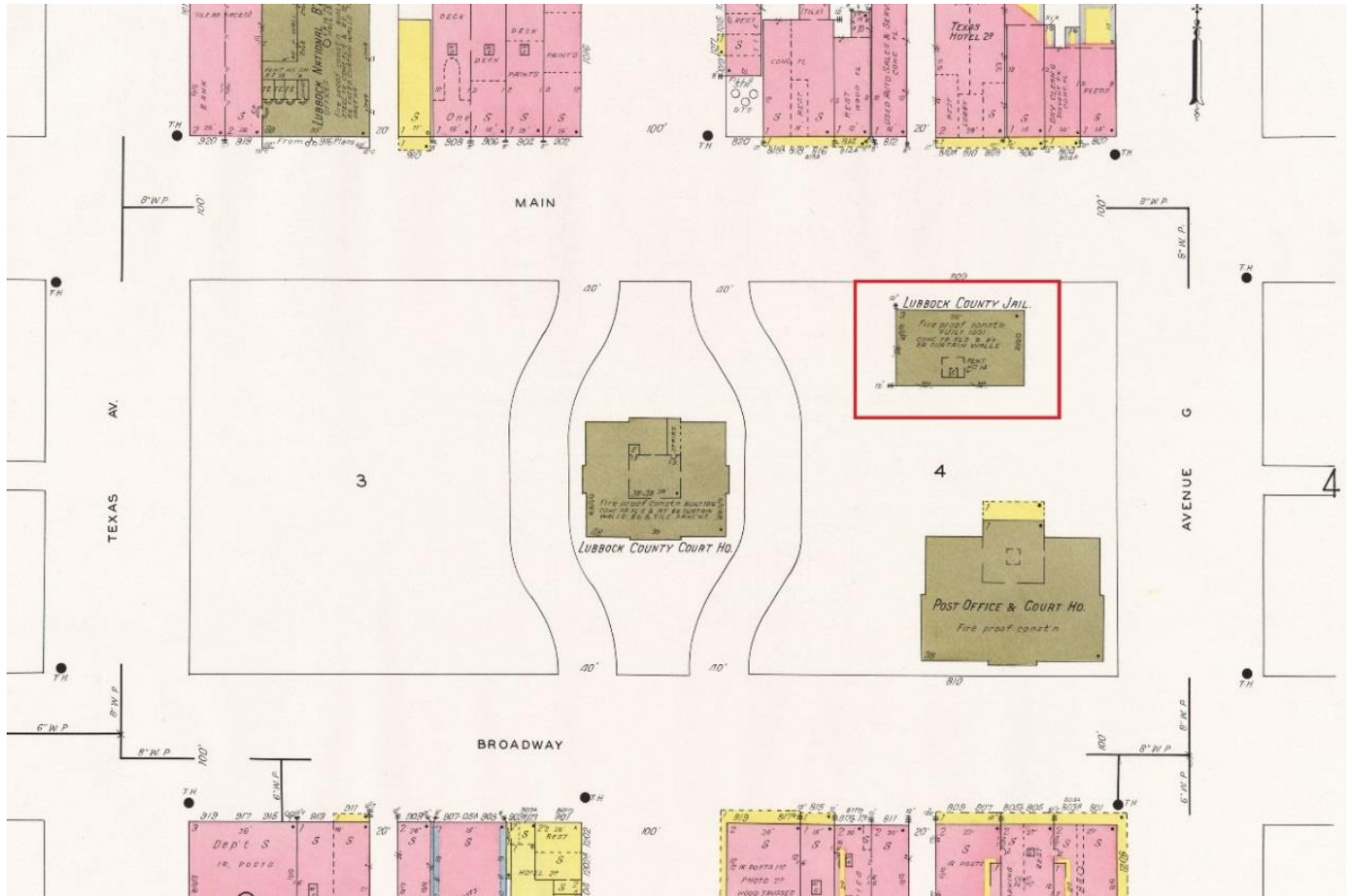


Google Earth: West Elevation, Looking East



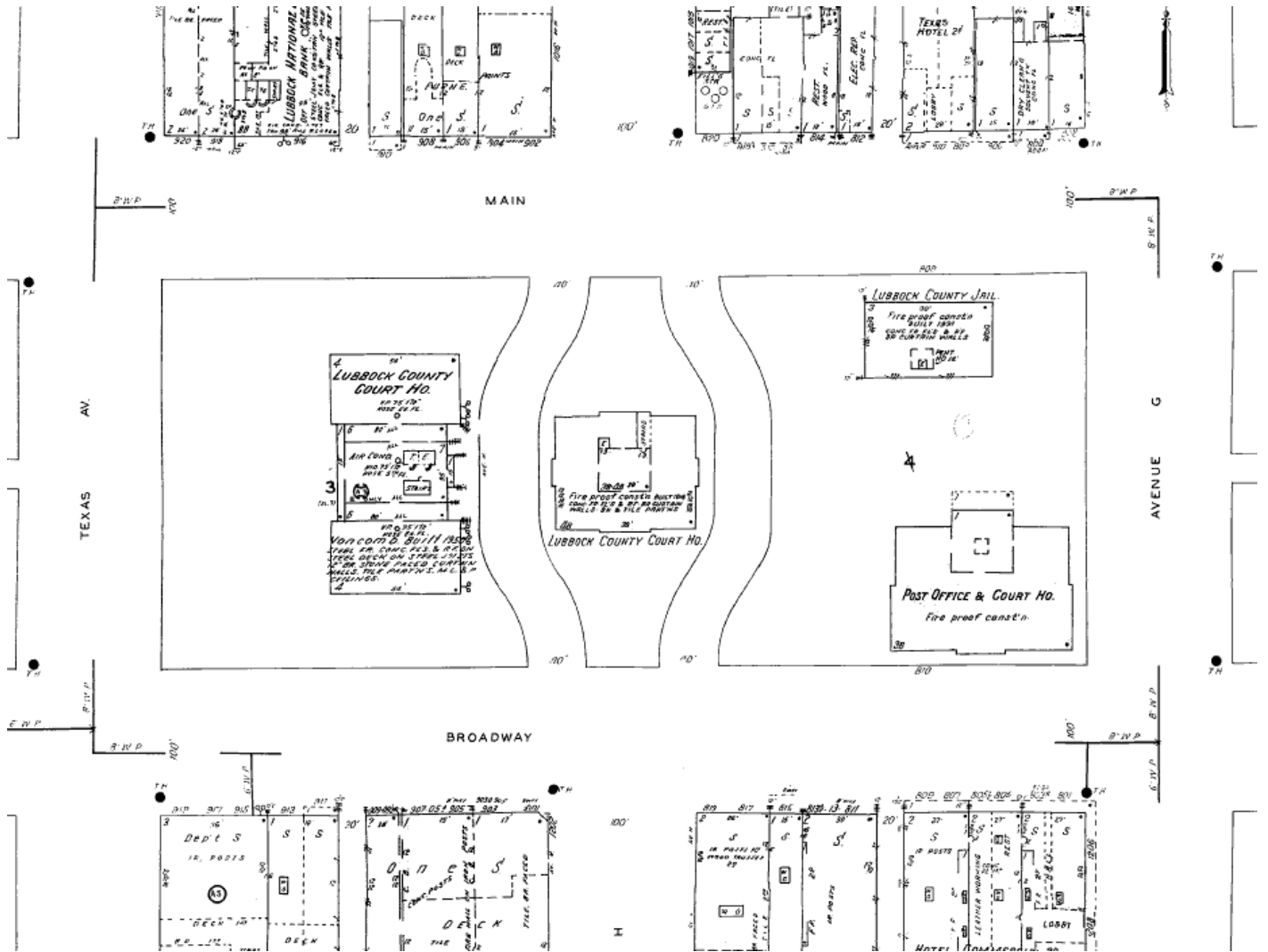
Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

1940 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (University of Texas Libraries). Jail at top left of the block.



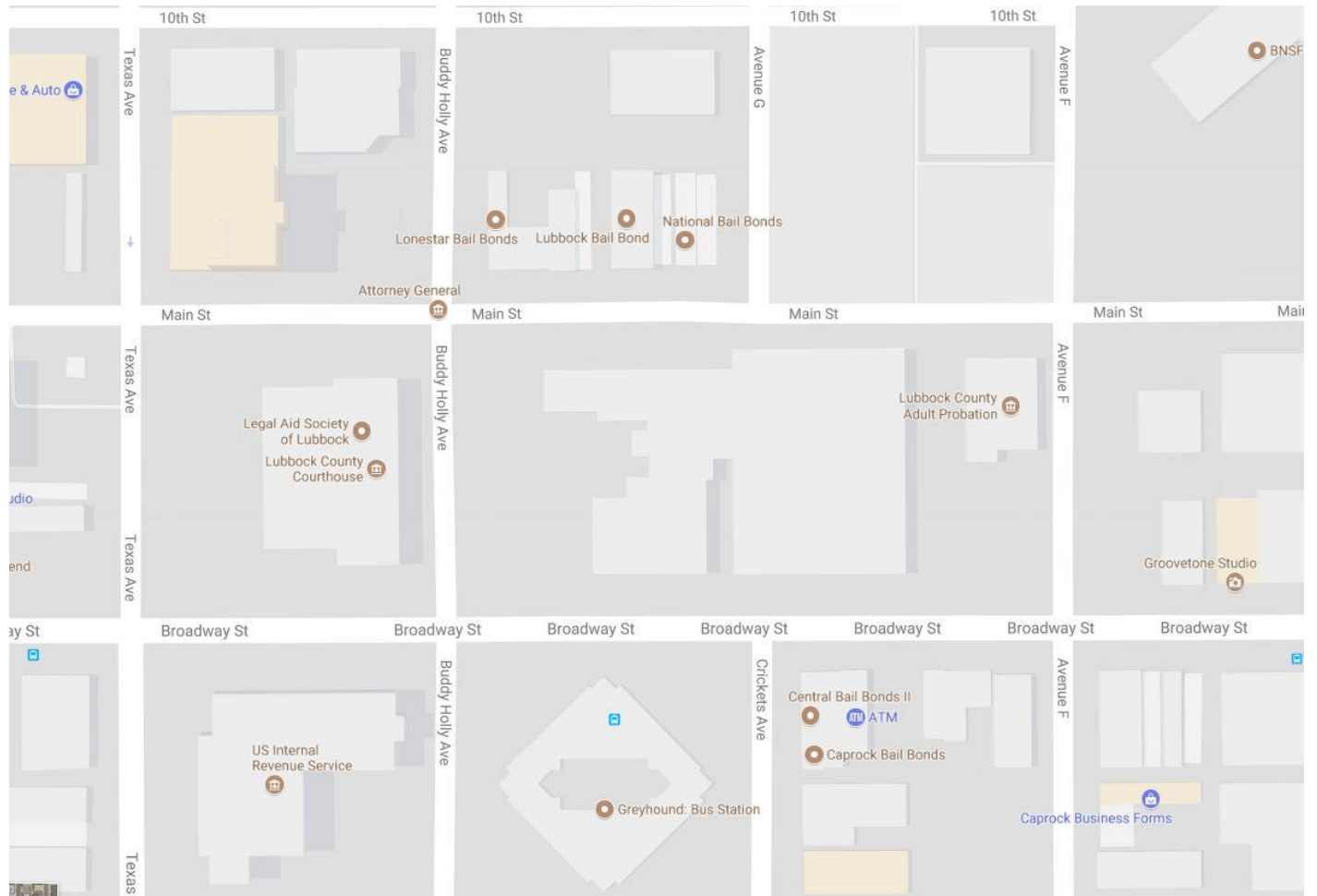
Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. New courthouse at the west of the 1915 courthouse.



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Current Street Grid





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Google Street Grid with 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Overlay



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

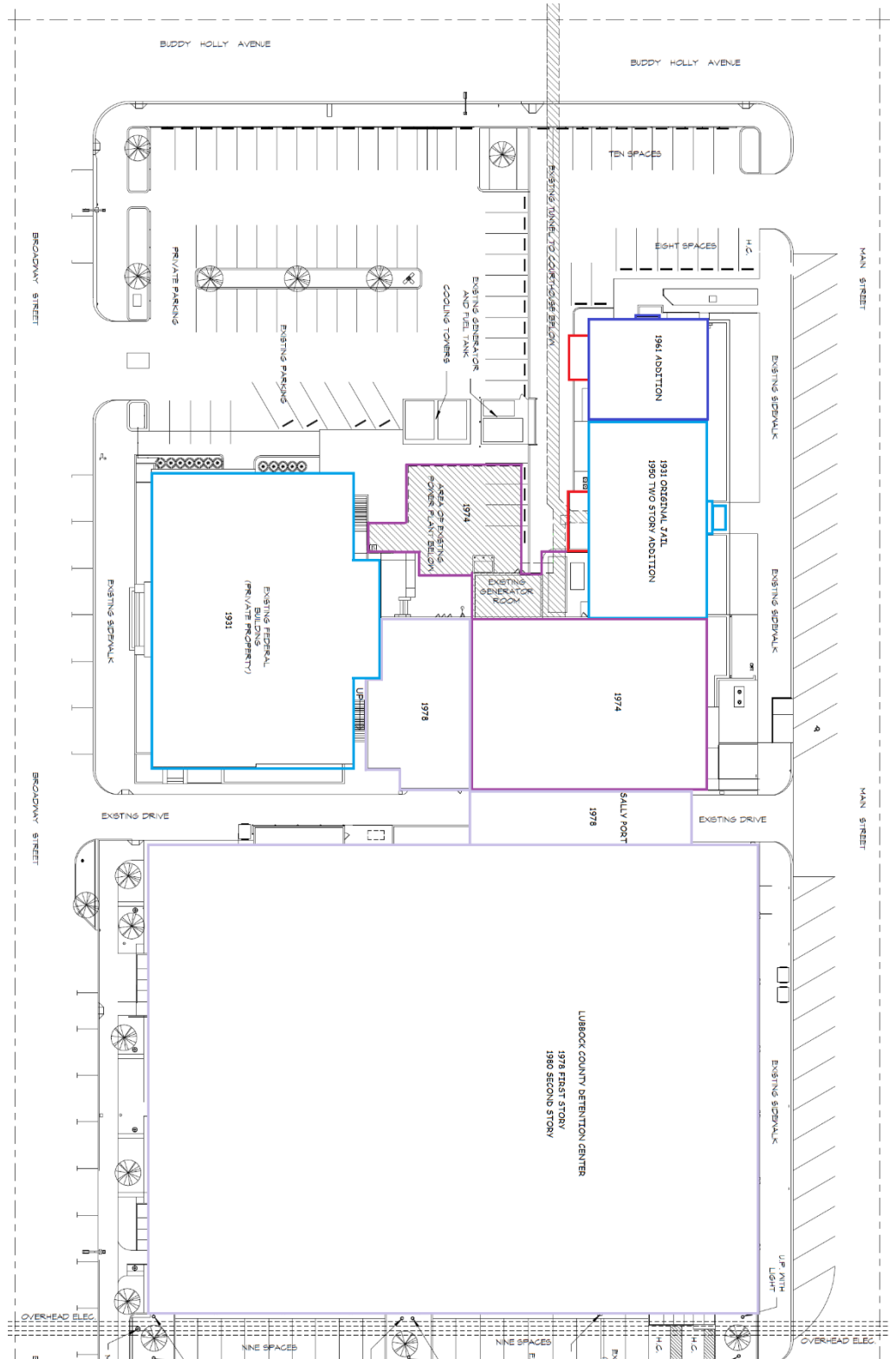
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North Elevation Showing Additions by Year (with 1931 Drawing Overlay)



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Site Plan of the  
 Lubbock County  
 Jail with dates of  
 additions





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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**Additional Items:**

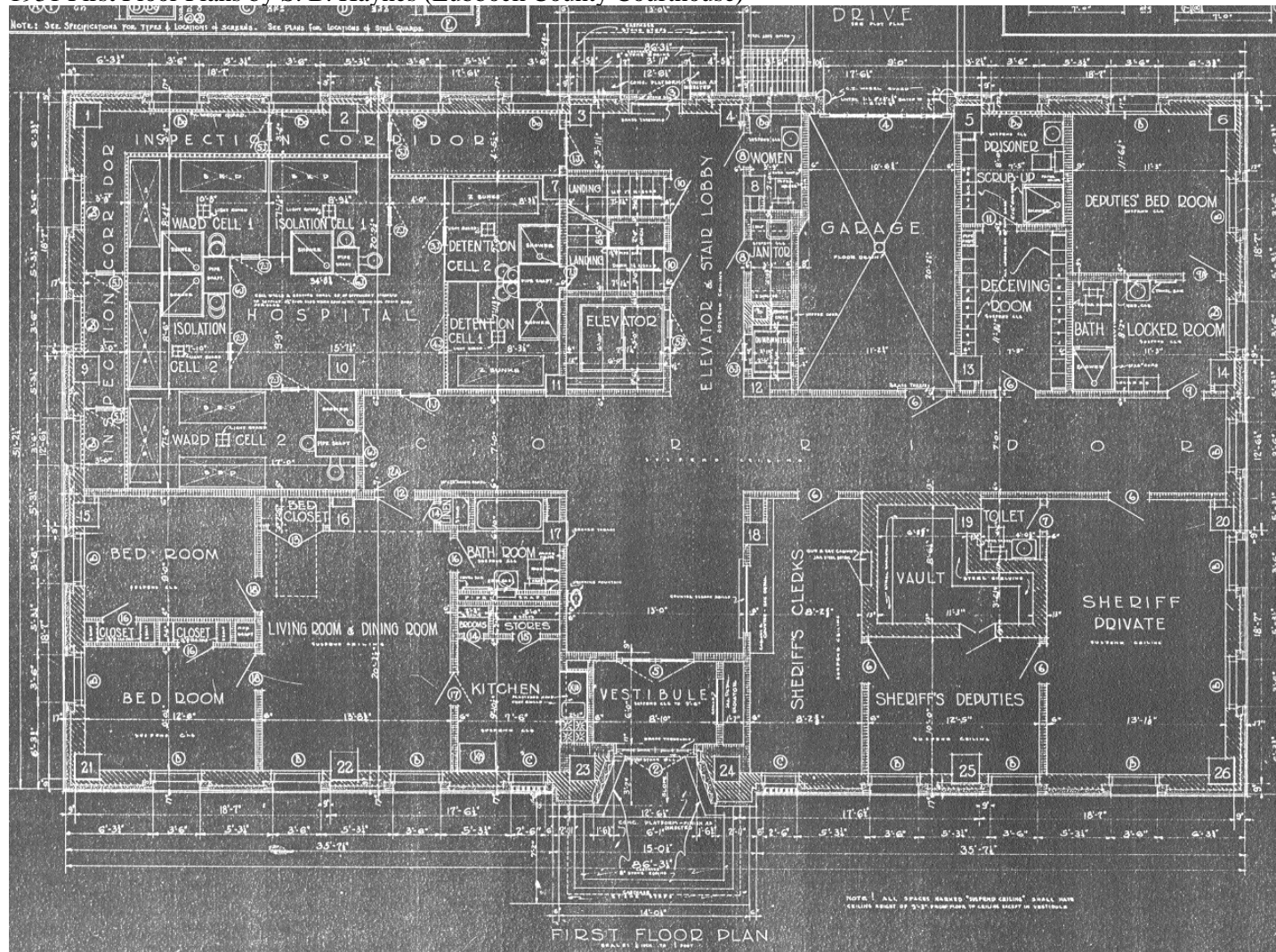
Lubbock County Jail with three stories, no date. (Southwest Collections)





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

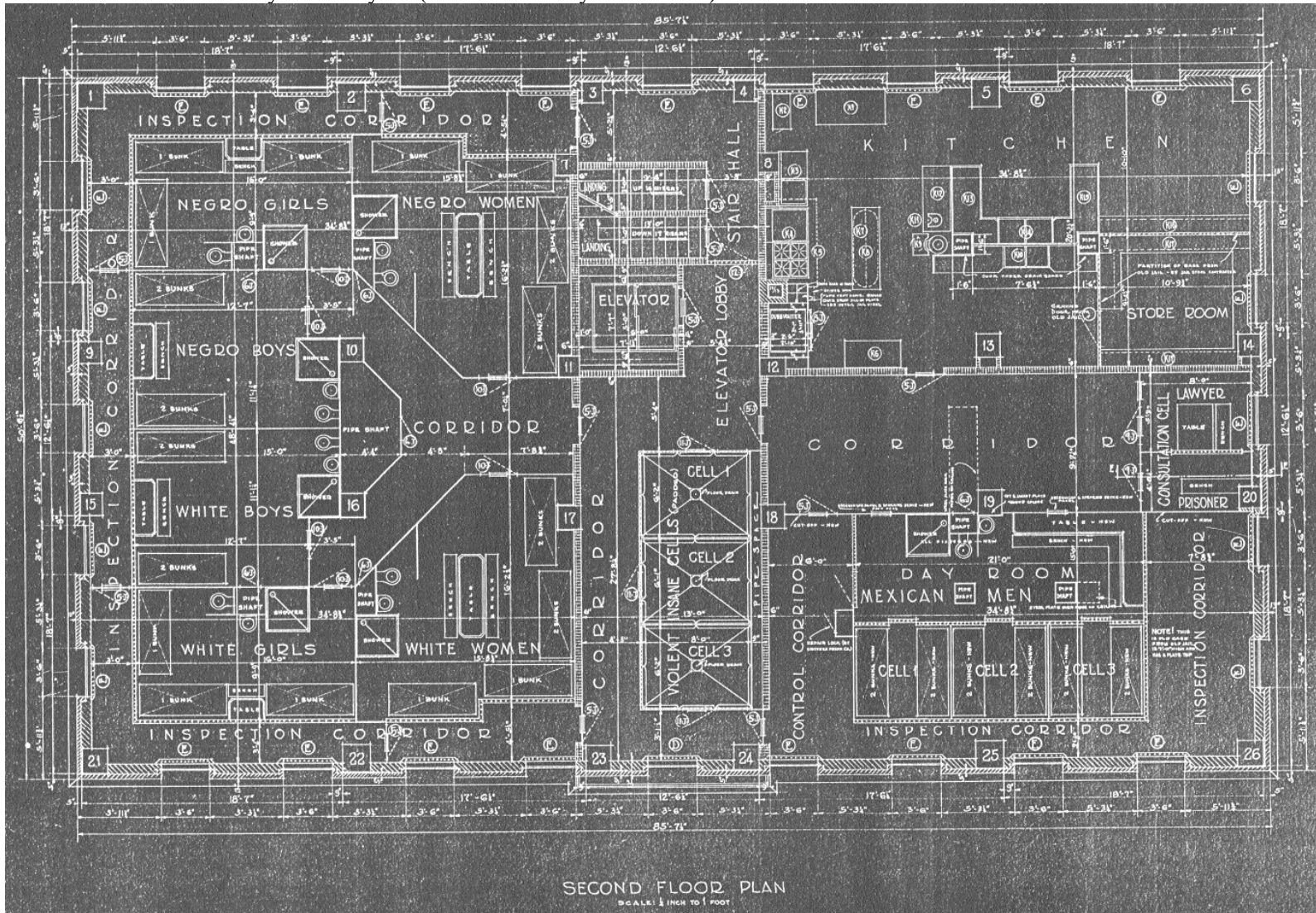
1931 First Floor Plans by S. B. Haynes (Lubbock County Courthouse)





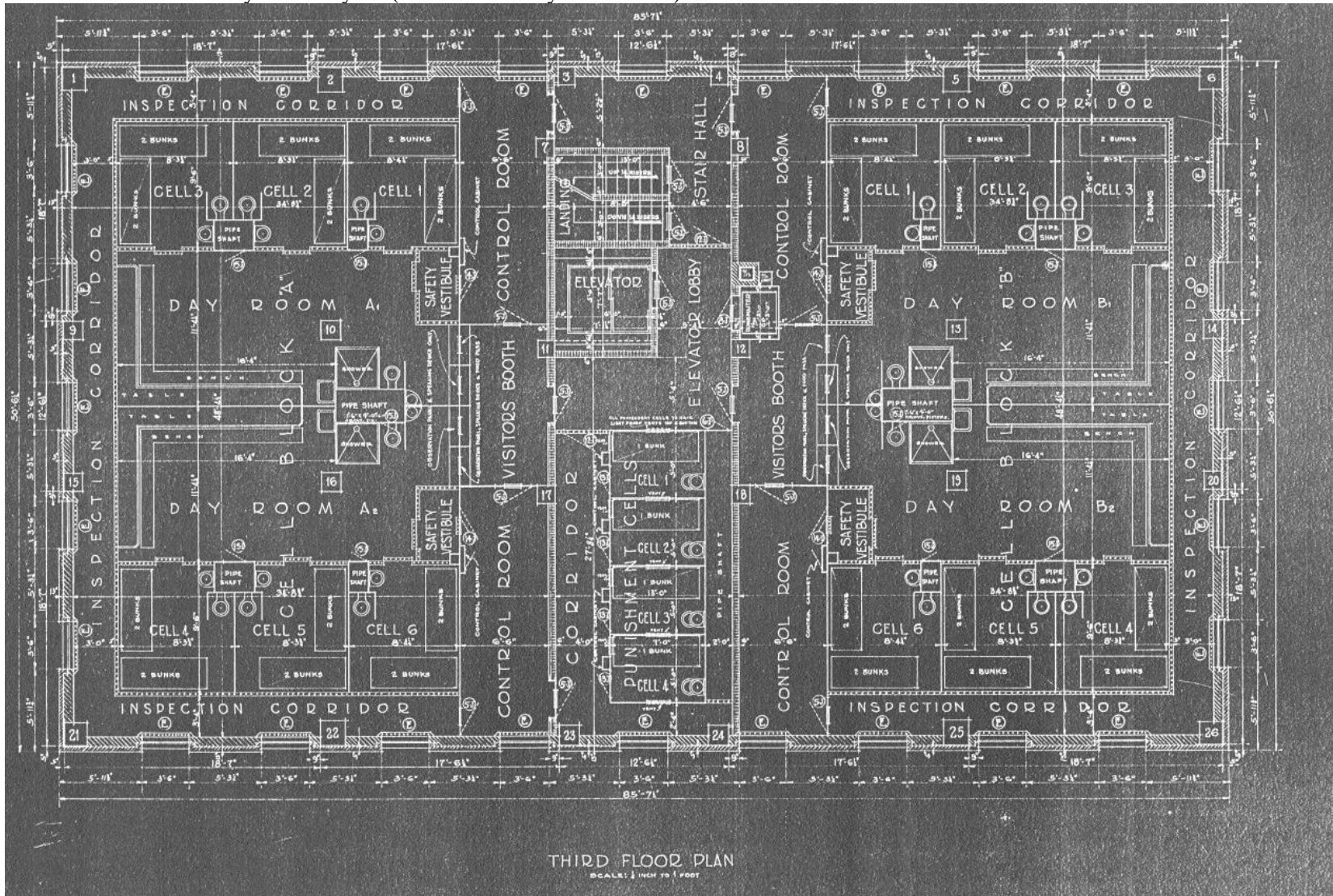
Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

1931 Second Floor Plans by S. B. Haynes (Lubbock County Courthouse)



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

1931 Third Floor Plans by S. B. Haynes (Lubbock County Courthouse)



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Lubbock County Jail (*The Lubbock Avalanche*, Feb. 14, 1932)

THE LUBBOCK AVALANCHE

## Here's Where Lubbock County Keeps Her Prisoners Now



One of the most attractive buildings in the city is the new Lubbock county jail shown above. The jail was completed and occupied only a few months ago and took the place of a much smaller and drab looking building. The jail was erected at a cost of approximately \$132,000. has a capacity of 106 prisoners and is one of the most modern jails in West Texas.



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 1: North Elevation



Photo 2: North and West Elevations



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 3: West Elevation



Photo 4: South and West Elevations





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 5: North and East Elevations



Photo 6: North Elevation of Lubbock County Detention Center



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 7: North Elevation of Lubbock County Detention Center



Photo 8: East Elevation of Lubbock County Detention Center





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 9: North Elevation of Lubbock County Detention Center



Photo 10: South Entrance of Lubbock County Detention Center



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 11: Southwest Corner of Broadway Ave and Buddy Holly Ave





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 12: North Elevation where the Lubbock County Detention Facility meets the Lubbock County Jail



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 13: North Entrance to Lubbock County Jail





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 14: Window and Spandrel Detail



Photo 15: North Entrance Lobby



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 16: North Entrance Lobby and West Hallway



Photo 17: East Hallway





Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 18: Fifth Floor Cell Block



Photo 19: Security Entrance into Fifth Floor Cell Block



Lubbock County Jail, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

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Photo 20: Inspection Corridor about Fifth Floor Cell Block



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