

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: TEXAS	
COUNTY: DeWitt	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.48.0031	DATE 5/6/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
DeWitt County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bounded by North Gonzales, East Live Oak, No. Clinton,

CITY OR TOWN:
East Courthouse

Cuero

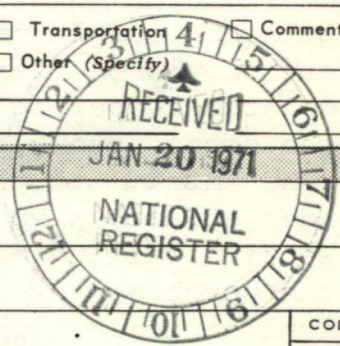
STATE Texas 77954	CODE 048	COUNTY: DeWitt	CODE 123
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
DeWitt County

STREET AND NUMBER:
DeWitt County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Cuero	STATE: Texas	CODE 048
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
DeWitt County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
DeWitt County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Cuero	STATE: Texas	CODE 048
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Texas State Historical Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Texas State Historical Survey Committee

STREET AND NUMBER:
108 West 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Austin,	STATE: Texas	CODE 048
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER
71.5.48.0031

DATE
5/6/71

JAN 18 1971

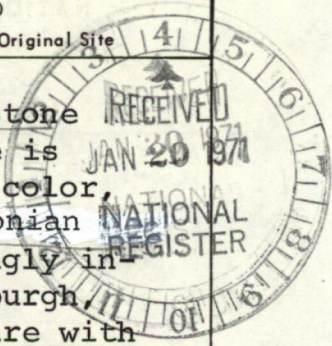
7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The DeWitt County Courthouse is a three-story sandstone structure with a six-story clock tower. The sandstone is rusticated throughout; the main fabric is of a cream color, the trim of red sandstone. The building is Richardsonian Romanesque and the architect, A. O. Watson, was strongly influenced by the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The plan is central and basically square with four corner pavilions. The roof is hipped and the main tower and the pavilions have pyramidal roofs. The main facade consists of a recessed triple bay section between flanking pavilions. The pavilions are united by a connecting arcaded one-story porch very similar to that of the Pittsburgh building. The tower rises behind the central bay, and is also in the style of Richardson's building. The paired, single pane, first story windows of the front and sides of the DeWitt County courthouse are set in large arched openings with stone transoms and a grill in front of the glass in the arched opening above. The windows at the back, those in the arcade, and the second story windows are one-over-one light double hung sash type with stone lintels and single pane transoms with grills above. The scheme of window placement in the pavilions is that of one large arched opening at the first story, two trabeated windows at the second story, and two trabeated windows set behind a four-bay arcade at the third story. Balustrades define these arcades and are also used between the side arches and as a protective railing above the main porch. The clustered columns of the porch are of the squat Richardson type with Romanesque Revival capitals. The large arches spring low and have rusticated voussoirs finished with a drip-mold archivolt. All projecting corners of the building have decorative quoins of narrow stones--alternately placed on end (and extending three courses vertically) and on their sides. The pavilions have engaged columns at the corners at the third story. The corners of the tower have rounded edges or rusticated engaged columns at its full height. The second, third and fourth story windows of the tower are vertically grouped under a colossal arch. The four clock faces are simply and effectively framed by radiating rusticated voussoirs in an inset square panel. The top story is open with a three bay arcade.

The 1956 the Guido Brothers Construction Company of San Antonio modernized the interior and central air-conditioning and automatic elevators were installed.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1896 built

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

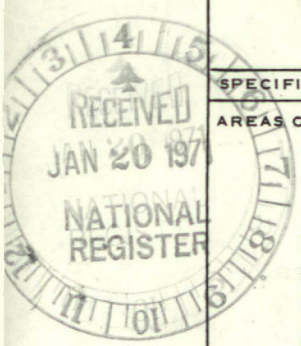
The DeWitt County Courthouse is a late nineteenth century Texas building strongly influenced by H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse (1884-88) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The county is in south central Texas and was created in 1846 out of parts of Gonzales, Goliad, Victoria counties. The area approximated that of the original 1825 Mexican grant to Empresario Green DeWitt.

The courthouse is located at Cuero, the present county seat of DeWitt County. Cuero, named for nearby Cuero Creek, had been originally projected as a town in 1842, but its establishment was unsuccessful at that time. "Cuero" is the Spanish translation of the Indian word for "hides". Cuero was finally established by John C. French and Gustav Schleicher, who laid off a town in January, 1873, to serve as the terminus of the Gulf, Western, and Pacific Railroad. Thirty years of bitter feuding between towns had passed before Cuero was chosen as county seat in 1876. Between 1846 and 1876 the county records were moved at least four times. Three expectant towns built courthouses of varying permanency. Clinton held the county seat from 1840 until 1876, when the final move was made to Cuero. The Commissioners paid \$1,100 to move and repair the former frame Clinton courthouse to the site of the present courthouse in Cuero.

This building burned April 8, 1894, and the D. W. Nash School was rented for temporary quarters. Bonds for \$70,000 were issued and a contract awarded to A. O. Watson of Austin to design and construct a new building and to include furniture for offices and courtrooms. The building was completed by builder Eugene Heiner of Houston in 1896.

The city of Cuero was on an immigrant route. Germans constituted the majority of the population by 1860. In 1940 75% of the white population was of German extraction.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1966.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock, H. R. The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times. Cambridge, 1961

Webb, Walter P., ed. Handbook of Texas. Austin, 1952

Coursey, Clark. Courthouses of Texas. Waco, 1954.

Texas State Historical Survey Committee -- Marker Files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

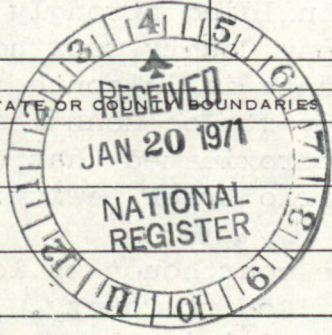
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		29 °	05 ' 30 "	97 ° 17 ' 18 "
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM
14/666560
3219160
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.26

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wayne Bell, Project Director
Roxanne Williamson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Texas State Historical Survey Committee DATE: 12-29-70

STREET AND NUMBER: 105 West 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Austin STATE: Texas 78711 CODE: 048

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
Title: State Liaison Officer
Date: January 15, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: MAY 6 1971

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

DATE: APR 9 1971

Dewitt
71006929

Dewitt County Courthouse TEX.

RECEIPT PROPERTY REGISTER NUMBER
 DATE OF RECEIPT 1/20/71 YES NO NUMBER 71.5.48.0031 5/6/71
 DATA PAGE ✓ 4
 PHOTO (S) ✓
 PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S) ✓
 MAP (S) ✓ 1
 MAP DESCRIPTION (S) ✓
 LOGGED ✓
 ACKNOWLEDGE 1/21/71
 RESUBMIT

5/27/71

OK Henrich
3/19/71

DeLoe
3/3/71

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

OK 5 Maxine
3/19/71

HISTORIAN

OK Levy
3/22/71

ARCHITECT

OK Chambers
3-23-71

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

OK Wm
4/9/71

ENTRY

CHIEF, O&P

EDC
5-6

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

OK CD 3/30/71

Federal Register Entry 7/6/71

Annual Edition Entry

Logged Card 5/6/71 5/6/71

WORKING NUMBER 1.20.71.1



Cong Dist # 23 - Abraham Kazen, Jr.



NPS Number 71.5.48.0031

Title: De Witt County
Courthouse

Loc. De Witt Co, Texas
rear elevation from
the south

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		TEXAS
COUNTY		
De Witt		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
71.5.48.0031	3/6/71	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: De Witt County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bounded by North Gonzales, East Live Oak, North Clinton, East

CITY OR TOWN: Cuero Courthouse

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	De Witt	123

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

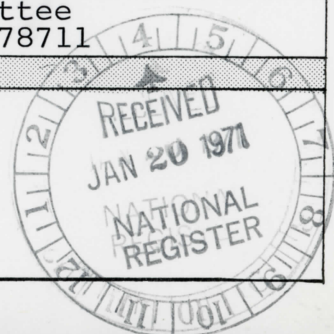
DATE OF PHOTO: April 29, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Rear elevation from the south





NPS Number 71.5.48.0031

Title: DeWitt County
Courthouse

Loc. DeWitt Co., Texas

View from SW

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

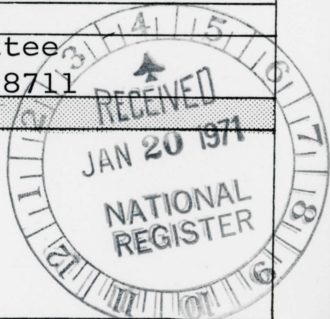
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE TEXAS	
COUNTY De Witt FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.48.0031	DATE 5/6/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		De Witt County Courthouse	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Bounded by North Gonzales, East Live Oak, North Clinton, East			
CITY OR TOWN:		Courthouse	
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Texas		048	De Witt
			CODE
			123
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
DATE OF PHOTO:		April 29, 1970	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
		108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View from the southwest			





NPS Number 71.5.48.0031

Title: De Witt County
Courthouse

Loc. Dewitt Co., Texas
main facade from
the NE

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		TEXAS
COUNTY		De Witt
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
71-548-0031	5/6/71	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: De Witt County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bounded by North Gonzales, East Live Oak, North Clinton, East

CITY OR TOWN: Courthouse

Cuero

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	De Witt	123

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

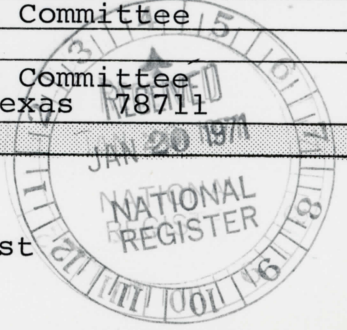
DATE OF PHOTO: April 29, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Main facade from the northeast





NPS Number 71.5.48.0031

Title: De Witt County
Court house

Loc. De Witt Co, TEXAS
main elevation from
north

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

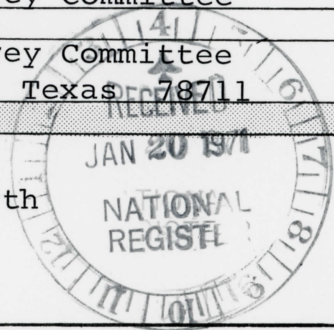
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		TEXAS
COUNTY		De Witt
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
715.48.0031	5/6/71	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:	De Witt County Courthouse		
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Bounded by North Gonzales, East Live Oak, North Clinton, East			
CITY OR TOWN: Cuero Courthouse			
STATE:	Texas	CODE	COUNTY:
		048	De Witt
			CODE 123
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee		
DATE OF PHOTO:	April 29, 1970		
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711		
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Main elevation from the north			



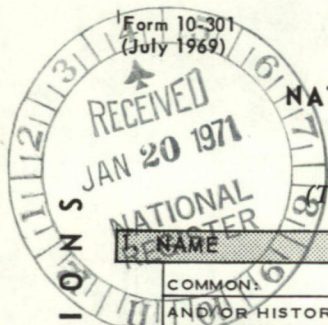
Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE		TEXAS
COUNTY		De Witt
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
71.5.48.00.31	5/6/74	



1. NAME De Witt County Courthouse

COMMON: De Witt County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Bounded by North Gonzales, East Live Oak, North Clinton, East

CITY OR TOWN: Courthouse

Cuero

STATE: Texas

CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<u>048</u>	<u>De Witt</u>	<u>123</u>

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

United States De partment of the Interior Geological Survey

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1958, 1960

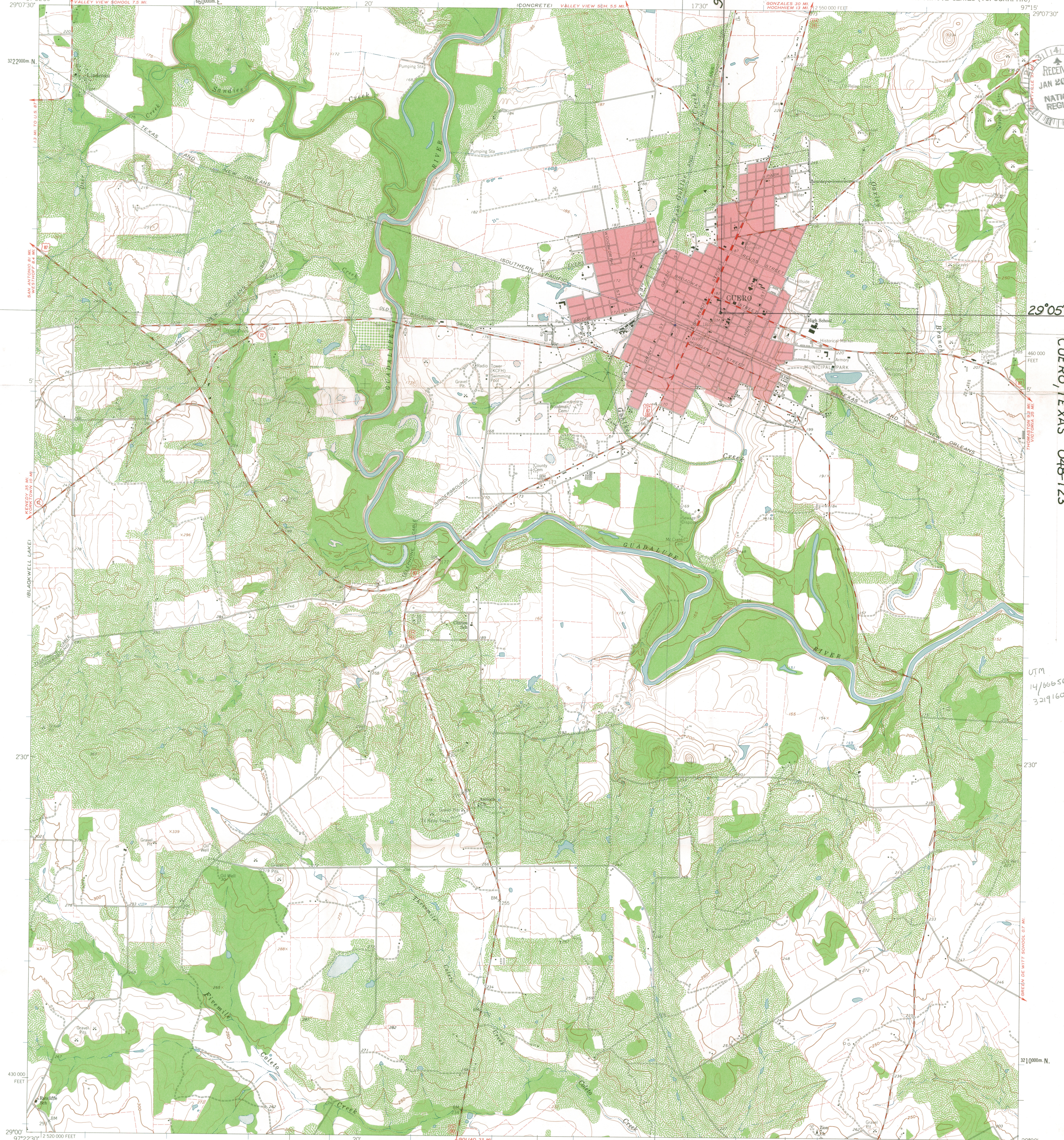
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

Texas Map Reference #2997-121

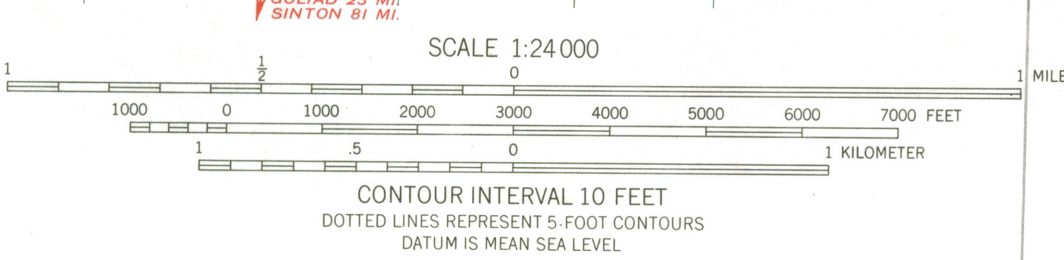
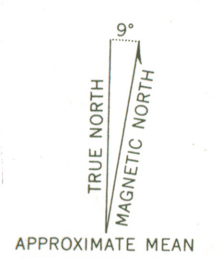
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



DE WITT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
BOUNDED BY N. GONZALES E. LIVE OAK,
N. CLIMON AND E. COURTHOUSE
CUERO, TEXAS 048-123

UTM
14/666560
3219160
HL

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1958. Field check 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
south central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
where generally visible on aerial photographs
This information is uncheckered
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt - - - - -
U.S. Route □ State Route ○

CUERO, TEX.
N2900-W9715/7.5
2997-121

MAY 10 1971

H30-NR

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Hon. Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Bentsen:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register MAY 6 1971

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711
House of Representatives

Also notified: Hon. John G. Tower Hon. Ray Roberts
United States Senate Hon. Abraham Ribicoff, Jr.
Washington, D. C. Hon. Bob Casey

cc: Director, Southeast Region

4/15/71

PDHerrick:mm

HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Dewberry (Col. John) House

Smith County
Teasleville, Texas

DeWitt County Courthouse

DeWitt County
Cuero, Texas

The 1884 Houston Cotton Exchange
Building

Harris County
Houston, Texas

MAY 10 1971

H30-HR

Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Post Office Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Latimer:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Lloyd Bentsen and John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives are being informed. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for each of the property owners. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

(signed),

Director

Enclosure

MAY 6 1971

Entered in the National Register _____

cc:

HR

PDHerrick:mmm

4/16/71

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Dewberry (Col. John) House

Smith County
Teasleville, Texas

DeWitt County Courthouse

DeWitt County
Cuero, Texas

The 1884 Houston Cotton Exchange

Harris County
Houston, Texas