

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: <b>TEXAS</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Lavaca</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.3.48.0011</b>	DATE <b>3/11/71</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Lavaca County Courthouse**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bounded by LaGrange, 2nd, 3rd, Main streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hallettsville**

STATE <b>Texas</b>	CODE <b>77964</b>	COUNTY: <b>Lavaca</b>	CODE <b>285</b>
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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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**County of Lavaca**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Lavaca County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hallettsville**

STATE: <b>Texas</b>	CODE <b>048</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Lavaca County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bounded by LaGrange, 2nd, 3rd, Main**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hallettsville**

STATE: <b>Texas</b>	CODE <b>048</b>
------------------------	--------------------

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**

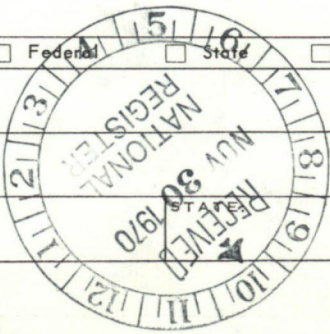
DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:  
COUNTY:  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
**71.3.48.0011 3/11/71**



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

A Richardsonian courthouse strongly influenced by the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The raised three-story building is of limestone, cruciform in plan, with a hip roof and heavy towers with pyramidal roofs and dormers flanking the side arms. The front arm of the cross is longer than the others and has an attached one-story porch with Romanesque arches. The windows are tall and narrow of the one-over-one double-hung sash type. Those on the first and second story have stone lintels. The windows on the third story are arched. A two-story arch frames the paired windows of the second and third stories. A segmental arch varies this pattern above the main opening. The three minor entrances are inset in Romanesque arches. A tall central tower has two-story slit-like windows much like those in the Richardson building in Pittsburg, with clock faces above, all contained in a tall arch. The top story of the tower has a trabiated open belvedere and is crowned with a four-part pyramidal roof.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

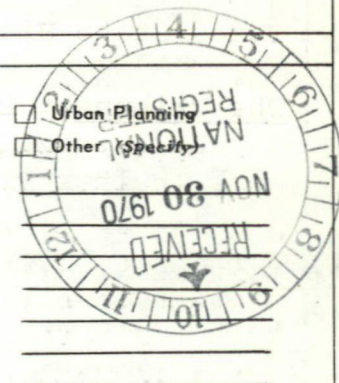
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1897

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Lavaca County encompasses an area of approximately 950 square miles. Its land originally was included in grants belonging to Stephen F. Austin and Green C. DeWitt. The Texas Congress created a "judicial" county from fragments of Fayette, Colorado, Jackson, Victoria, and Gonzales counties, naming it La Baca. In 1846, Lavaca became a regularly constituted county with 140 taxpayers.

From 1846 to 1852, the county seat changed locations several times. The two contenders for the honor were Petersburg and Hallettsville, but Hallettsville became the seat only after two elections and a violent archive war. Petersburg was five miles west of Hallettsville and grew rapidly when Lavaca County was organized. Without waiting for an election, the town built an \$800 courthouse. County Commissioners called an election and Hallettsville won. When Petersburg citizens burned the returns, the commissioners called another election. Again, Hallettsville won, and again Petersburg refused to give up the county records. Under the direction of Mrs. John Hallet, Hallettsville citizens went to Petersburg and took the records.

Until the county built a new courthouse, the commissioners convened in Mrs. Hallet's home, now the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Finkelstein. About 1852, the Hallets donated a town-site and additional lots to the Commissioner's Court. The lots were offered for sale to the public and the proceeds were used to erect the permanent buildings of the county.

By 1865, the Hallettsville courthouse was in such poor condition and the space it offered so limited, that the court called for the submission of bids for a new building. When the court accepted plans in 1873 the contract went to J. E. Dietz and Co. for a bid of \$16,500.00 First materials for the structure arrived January, 1874, and Dietz completed the building November, 1875. The old courthouse was sold at public auction to Jonathan Speary for \$330.

(See continuation sheet #1)



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Lavaca	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71,348,0011	3/11/71

(Number all entries)

8. (cont'd)

The courthouse was repaired in 1894, and a belfry was built on the roof, but March 8, 1897, the County Commissioners, Judge, and Clerk voted to have a new courthouse built. T. Heiner of Houston was employed as architect, and A. T. Lucas was awarded the contract for the lowest bid of \$62,500. W. W. Otten of Houston provided sewers and plumbing for \$2,775. and Diebold Safe and Lock Company installed the vaulting for \$6,150. Seth Thomas Clock Comapny was given a contract on November 19, 1898, to build a clock tower for \$1,350, and Commissioners Emil Gieptner and Vogt were assigned to arrange the yard and fence for the new courthouse. Finally, the Commissioners Court issued eighty bonds at \$1,000 each at an interest rate of 5% to be paid in forty years.

Until the Commissioners accepted the courthouse May 12, 1899, they rented the operahouse from Kahn and Stanzel for \$65 and two rooms from D. E. Raab for \$8 a month. May, 1936, the County Commissioners employed John C. Moore to make general repairs to the courthouse. They gave J. R. Goode the plumbing contract. Total cost of the repairs was \$13,533 and included a remodeling of the basement, and the addition of offices for the county auditor, agriculture agent, and home demonstration agent.





9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coursey, Clark. Courthouses of Texas. Brownwood, Tex. 1962.

"Original Courthouse Stood at Petersburg." The Tribune.

Hallettsville, Texas. Nov. 24, 1936. p.1, col.3.

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

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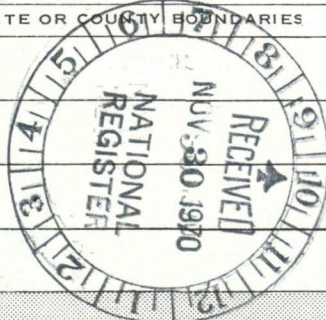
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		29° 26' 41"	96° 56' 32"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .5 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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: 11-5-70

STREET AND NUMBER: 108 W. 15th Street,

CITY OR TOWN: Austin STATE: Texas CODE: 048

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Name: Walter G. Johnson  
Title: State Liaison Officer  
Date: 11-16-70

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

Ernest A. Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 11 1971

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Smutogh  
Keeper of The National Register

FEB 22 1971

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Lavaca County Courthouse

Lavaca STATE Tex.

3/29/71

## RECEIPT

## PROPERTY

## REGISTER NUMBER

DATE OF RECEIPT	YES	NO	NUMBER
11/30/70	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
DATA PAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
PHOTO (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
PHOTO DESCRIP (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MAP (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MAP DESCRIPTION (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
LOGGED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ACKNOWLEDGE	11/30/70		

71,348.0011 3/11/71

## RESUBMIT

## REVIEW

ok

5 Marcus

2/12/71

## HISTORIAN

ok

Levy

2/17/71

## HISTORIAN

## ARCHITECT

ok

Chambers

2-18-71

## ASST. KEEPER

## KEEPER

ok

Wm

2/22/71

## ENTRY

## CHIEF, OABP

ok

Ell

3-11-71

## EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

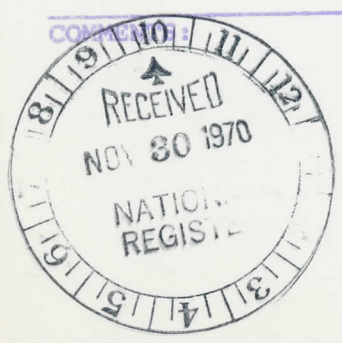
## Date

Federal Register Entry ~~4/6/71~~ 5/4/71

Annual Edition Entry \_\_\_\_\_

Logged 3/11/71  
Card 3/11/71

WORKING NUMBER 1130.70.4









2  
NPS Number 71.348.0011

Title: Lavaca Co. Court-  
house

Loc. Lavaca Co, Texas

View from the NW

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER







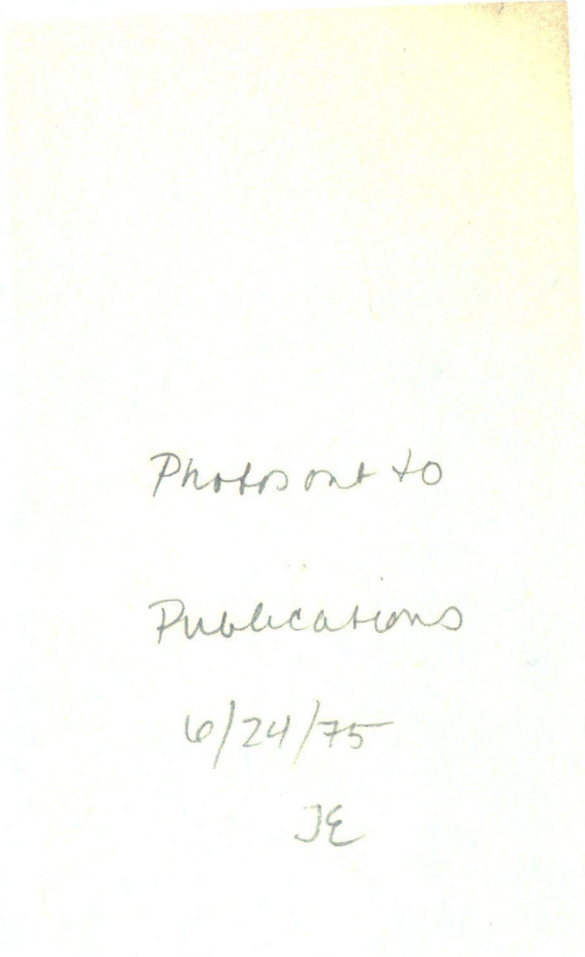
2 NPS Number 71.3.48.0011

Title: Lavaca County  
Court house

Loc. View from the NE

Lavaca Co, Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Photocopy to

Publications

10/24/75

JE



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

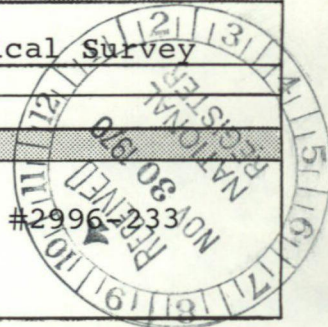
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

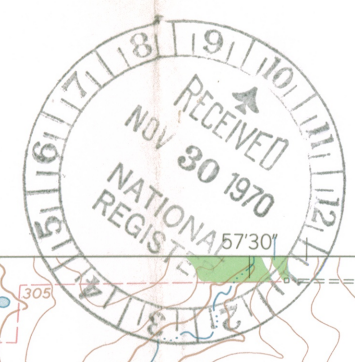
STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Lavaca	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
76.3.48.0011	3/11/77

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Lavaca County Courthouse	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Bounded by LaGrange, 2nd, 3rd, Main streets			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Hallettsville			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	Lavaca	285
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1962			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.		Texas Map Reference #2996-733	
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



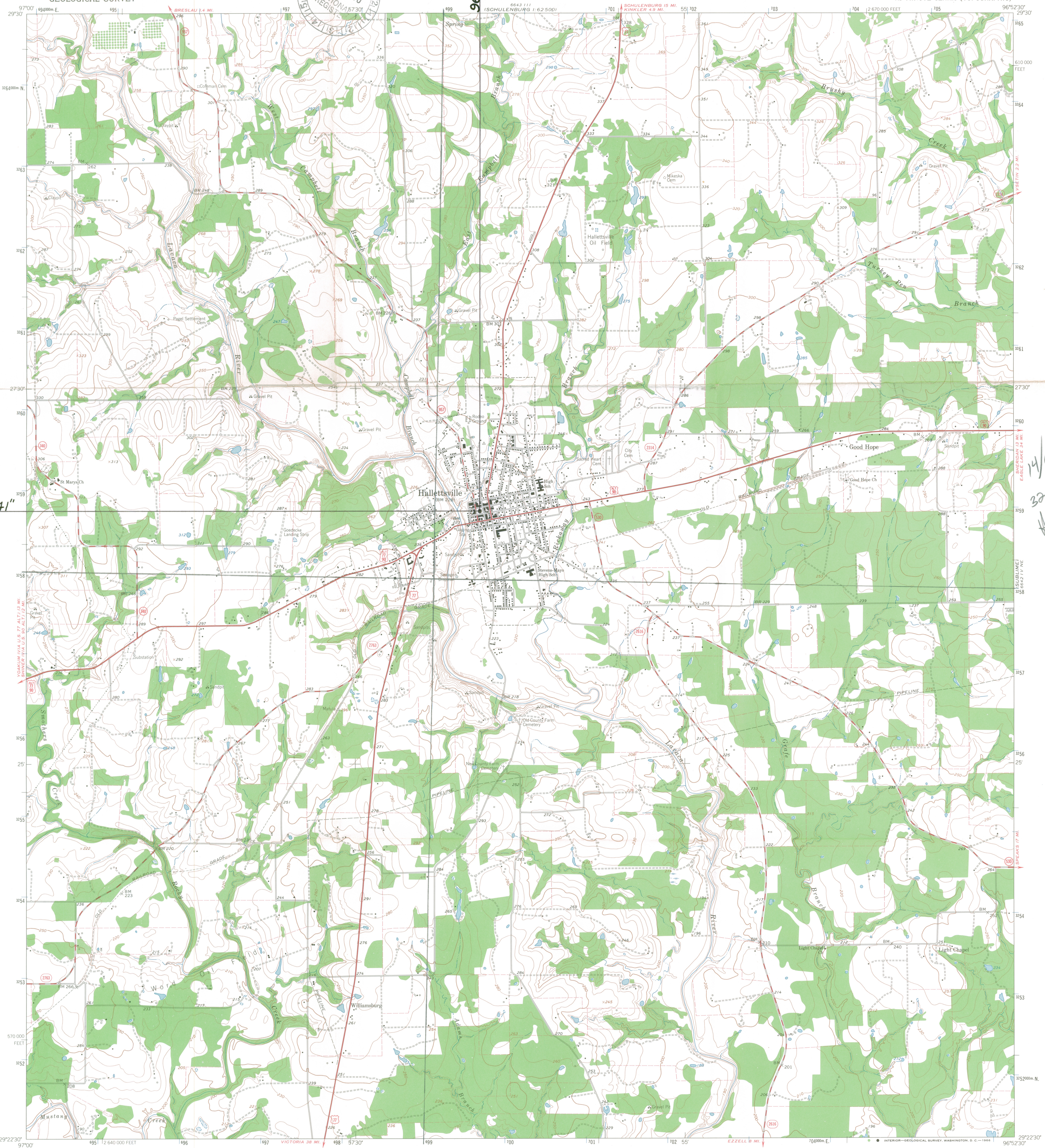




96°56'32"

HALLETTSVILLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
BOUNDED BY THIRD LAGRANGE, SECOND & MAIN  
HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS 048-285

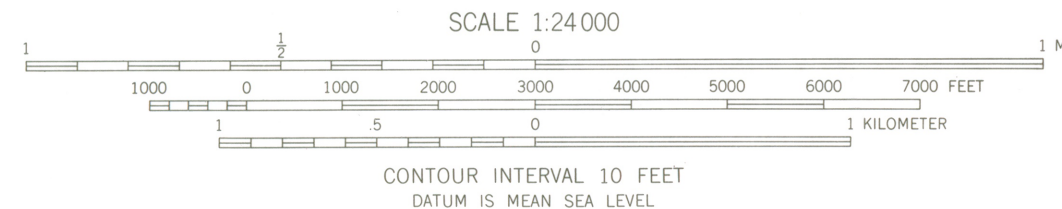
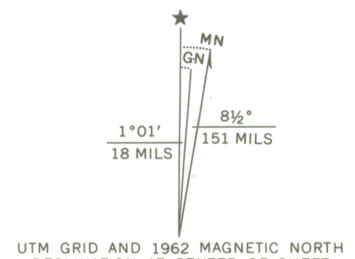
29°26'41"



864 111  
15041680  
1:62,500

14/699550  
3258840  
HF

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1962  
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 lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

HALLETTSVILLE, TEX.  
N2922 5-W9652 5/7.5

1962  
2996-233 30

APR 1 1966

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



9  
MAR 11 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

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register

MAR 11 1971

cc:  
HR

3/4/71

SMarusin:naf

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Fort Lancaster

Lavaca County Courthouse

Earle-Napier-Kinnard House

Abraham Wiley Hill House

Decatur Baptist College

Fredericksburg Memorial Library

Foy Steadman Site

Braches Home

Fort Griffin

Planters Bank Building

Crockett County, Texas

Lavaca County, Texas

McLennan County, Texas

Bastrop County, Texas

Wise County, Texas

Gillespie County, Texas

Fisher County, Texas

Gonzales County, Texas

Shackelford County, Texas

Marion County, Texas



MAR 11 1971

H30-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

MAR 11 1971

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

Also notified: United States Senate  
Hon. John G. Tower

House of Representatives  
Hon. O. C. Fisher  
Hon. Abraham Kazen, Jr.  
Hon. W. R. Poage  
Hon. J. J. Pickle  
Hon. Graham Purcell

cc: Director, Southwest Region

Also notified: House of Representatives

HR 3/4/71 Smarusin:naf

Hon. Omar Burleson  
Hon. Wright Patman

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Fort Lancaster

Lavaca County Courthouse

Marie-Napier-Kinnard House

Abraham Wiley Hill House

Decatur Baptist College

Fredericksburg Memorial Library

Foy Steadman Site

Braches Home

Fort Griffin

Planters Bank Building

Crockett County, Texas

Lavaca County, Texas

McLennan County, Texas

Bastrop County, Texas

Wise County, Texas

Gillespie County, Texas

Fisher County, Texas

Gonzales County, Texas

Shackelford County, Texas

Marion County, Texas