

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
**Texas**

COUNTY:  
**Crockett**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
**DEC 27 1974**

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Crockett County Courthouse**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**907 Ave. D**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ozona**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**21--0. C. Fisher**

STATE: **Texas** CODE: **048** COUNTY: **Crockett** CODE: **105**

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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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:  
**Crockett County**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**907 Ave. D**

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:  
**Ozona Texas 048**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Texas State Historical Survey**

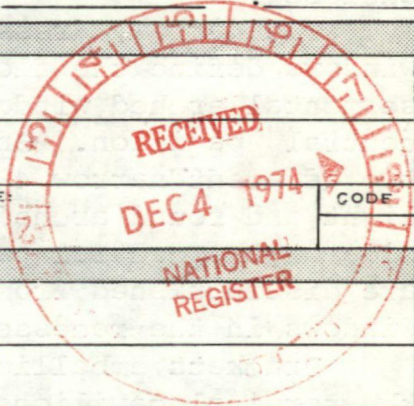
DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **DEC 27 1974**

DATE:



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Crockett County Courthouse, located at 907 Avenue D, is a two story limestone structure designed by architect, Oscar Ruffini in the popular Second Empire Style. Built as the second courthouse in 1902, only eleven years after Crockett County was organized, the structure dominated the newly founded county seat of Ozona.

The courthouse is built of hand sawed native limestone laid in large, rough-hewn, ashlar blocks. The plan is bi-laterally symmetrical and basically square with four identical five-bay facades. The five-part composition includes a central projecting pavilion, framed by two recessed bays and terminating in projecting end pavilions. While the main roof is hipped, the central pavilions form a gabled pediment and the end pavilions are topped by a pyramidal cap.

A one story classical gallery, slightly altered in later years, extends between the two end pavilions on each facade. Originally, a balustrade crowned the gallery creating a balcony, but this has been replaced by an iron railing. In addition, the central portion of the gallery at one time projected slightly in proportion with the projecting central pavilion. The east or rear gallery and a portion of the south gallery have been enclosed.

The narrow, dressed stone bands located below each row of windows define the floor distinctions. The first floor has segmental arched windows and a double door with transom in the central pavilion. On the second floor the central bay contains two adjacent narrow 4 over 4 light windows crowned by a fan light and round arched lintel. Round arched windows flank each side of the central pavilions, but the west and east facades are distinguished from the side entrances by containing double windows in the recessed bays.

Brackets embellish the eaves of the pedimented gable and the terminal pavilions. The corner pavilions are further distinguished by the modillioned entablature which forms the base of the pyramidal roof.

From the front central slope of the hipped roof rises a convex Mansard roofed tower which rests on a rectilinear base. Originally, l'oiel d' beaoufs were attached to each side of the truncated Mansard roof. An iron balustrade encircles the flat deck and supports an arc light added in 1909.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1902**

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

Because of the late settlement of Crockett County, the 1902 Second Empire courthouse is one of the earliest monuments to the county's establishment. Named in honor of the Alamo hero, Colonel David Crockett, the county is located on the Edwards Plateau of southwest Texas and is bounded on the west by the Pecos River. The county was originally created from a large outlying district of Bexar County in 1875 from which five counties were later created. The size was decreased in 1885 when Crockett became a subsidiary of Val Verde County and in 1891 the present Crockett County was officially organized.

Although the earliest inhabitants included the Comanche, Apache, Kiawa, Mescalera and Lipan Indian tribes, the first settlements were the mid-nineteenth century supply depots and outposts for wagon trains. When gold was discovered in California, the western portion of the old Chihuahua trail, surveyed and established in 1848, became a major route to the west. In 1850 the government established stage stands to furnish fresh teams for the new mail runs through this area and in 1855 Fort Lancaster was erected to insure protection for the travelers. (See National Register Submission, Fort Lancaster, March 11, 1971.) Following the Civil War Anglo-Americans began moving into this frontier region and took up unoccupied lands, but Indian depredations discouraged settlement until the United States government sent troops to the frontier posts. The Texas Legislature provided three battalions of rangers for protection of the area in September, 1966.<sup>1866</sup>

The 2,794 square miles of Crockett County is an area of rough stony land and shallow soil. Combined with the semi-arid climate, the land proved unsuitable for agriculture,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bodworth, Allan R., Ozona County, New York: Harper & Row, 1964.

Carson, Mrs. Ira, Ozona, Texas, Crockett County 1891-1966, Diamond Jubilee. Published for benefit of Crockett Co. Historical Society and the Fort Lancaster Development Project, 1966.

Texas Historical Commission Marker Files, Crockett Co. Courthouse, 1966.

See Continuation Sheet # 3

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

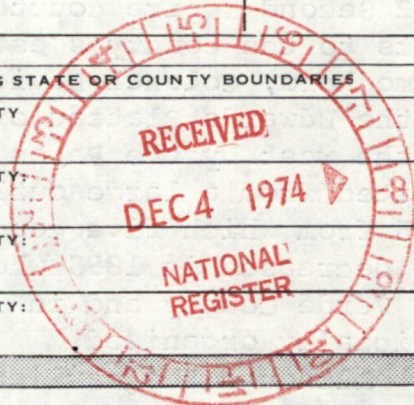
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30° 42' 38"	101° 11' 59"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
14/289310  
3399420  
ED

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 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:  
**Marie D. Landon, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Texas Historical Commission** DATE: **11-18-74**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P. O. Box 12276**

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  Local

Name: Truett Latimer  
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: November 18, 1974

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

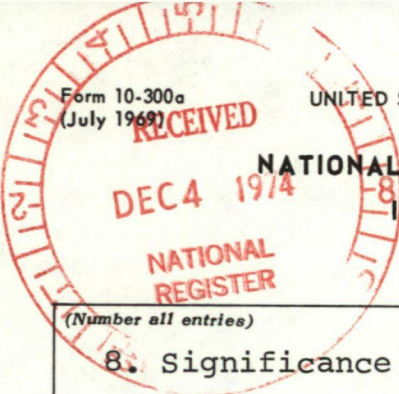
AR Montrose  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/27/74

ATTEST:  
W. H. ...  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: DEC 26 1974





**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)# 1

STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Crockett	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
DEC 27 1974		

(Number all entries)

**8. Significance Continued.**

but by the 1880s settlers began buying land for cattle and sheep grazing. William Perry Hoover founded the first cattle ranch in 1881 and today 99% of the land is used for grazing.

The first town, Emerald, was founded in 1889 by representatives of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, who owned some land about seven miles east of present day Ozona. With visions of laying railroad tracts through the area, an immigration agent from Fort Worth was hired to encourage settlement and a church, schoolhouse and saloon were provided. Mr. E.M. Powell, a surveyor in West Texas also owned land in the county. Upon learning of the county organization he drilled a well on his property and named the site Ozona. Anxious for the county seat to be founded there, he offered to donate land for a public school, public plaza, courthouse, jail, water works and recreation park.

Crockett County was organized on July 1, 1891 and a week later they voted to create the county seat at E.M. Powell's site. The people of Emerald literally moved their settlement to the site of Ozona and became the county seat's first citizens. A pioneer lawyer in Crockett County, Charles E. Davidson, was elected the first county judge and was instrumental in the town's development. Having grown up on an Iowa farm, he received his education from the University of Iowa and then received a law degree in California. He practiced law in California, Austin, Texas, and in 1883 moved his practice to San Angelo, 85 miles from present day Ozona. When the citizens of Crockett County began organizing the county, Davidson, who owned cattle and some property there, was petitioned to run for county judge. First elected in 1891, he held the same office for 52 years and was largely responsible for the erection of the present courthouse in 1902.

The first courthouse was wood frame structure built in 1891 by the town carpenter Sam T. Smith. The building served the county until 1902 when the present stone courthouse and jail were built. Oscar Ruffini, a San Angelo architect was chosen to design the stone courthouse. Ruffini had earlier acted as the supervising architect for the first San Angelo courthouse in 1884, and designed the original stone courthouses of Concho, Mills, Sutton, and Sterling Counties. He had also designed numerous schools, banks, hotels and commercial buildings in West Texas. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Ruffini followed



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)# 2

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Crockett	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	DEC 27 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance Continued.

his older brother, F. E. Ruffini, to Austin and joined him in architecture practice. In 1883 Oscar moved to San Angelo for health reasons and lived there until his death in 1957.

The county official had submitted a bond issue to the citizens for \$30,000, which had been accepted in December, 1900. Mr. Ruffini's plans were then accepted in February, 1901. Two native quarries, one on the Meyers estate and the other on the Couch estate, provided Ozona with the building stone. One of Judge Davidson's requirements for the new courthouse was that it be available for social events. For a town of 1500 people in 1902 the courthouse housed not only the courtroom and county offices, but contained the largest space for a dance hall. During the first decades of the Twentieth century the two story stone structure served as a community center for social events and weekly dances.

The Oscar Ruffini courthouse is the finest example of Victorian public architecture in the area. Although the county has outgrown the facilities of the old structure, the citizens of Ozona plan to restore the building for a museum and public library.





**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) # 3

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Crockett	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 27 1974

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References Continued.

Webb, Walter Prescott, ed., The Handbook of Texas, Austin:  
Texas State Historical Association, 1950.





74002066

Crockett

Property Crockett County Courthouse

State Texas

Working Number 12.4.74.2106

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 3

Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*cm*  
**OK** 12.11.74

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*Accept*  
**Leovich**  
12-18-74

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

*Accept*  
**A. Barnes**  
18 Dec 74

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
**Cole**  
12.20.74

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*W. M.*

**DEC 26 1974**

Entered **DEC 27 1974**

National Register Write-up 1/12/75

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register Entry 2-4-75

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74







*Southwest oblique of west or main facade.*  
1971

Form No. 10-301a  
(7/72)

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)*

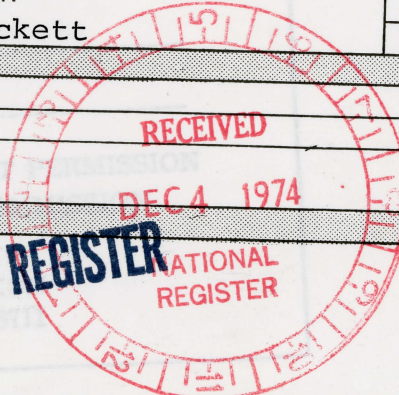
STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Crockett	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 27 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Crockett County Courthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 907 Avenue D			
CITY OR TOWN: Ozona			
STATE: Texas	CODE 048	COUNTY: Crockett	CODE 105
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: THC			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. North elevation.			

#1 of 3

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**









North elevation  
1971

Form No. 10-301a  
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

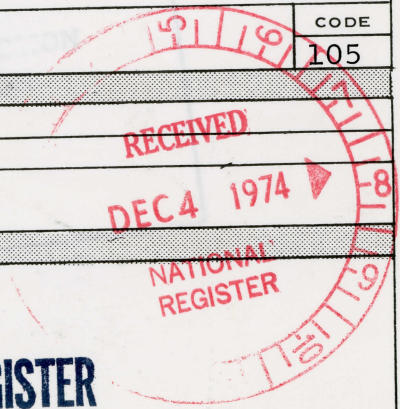
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Crockett	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	DEC 27 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Crockett County Courthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 907 Ave. D			
CITY OR TOWN: Ozona			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	Crockett	105
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: THC			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. SW oblique of west or main facade.			



#2 of 3

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**







*Southeast oblique of south facade.*  
*1971*

Form No. 10-301a  
(7/72)

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	
Crockett	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

DEC 27 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME  
COMMON: Crockett County Courthouse  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
907 Ave. D  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Ozona  
STATE:  
Texas

CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
048	Crockett	105

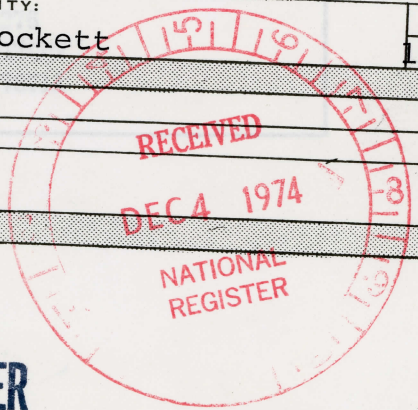
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PHOTO CREDIT: Texas Historical Commission  
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971  
NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
THC

4. IDENTIFICATION  
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Southeast oblique of south facade.

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

#3 of 3





Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

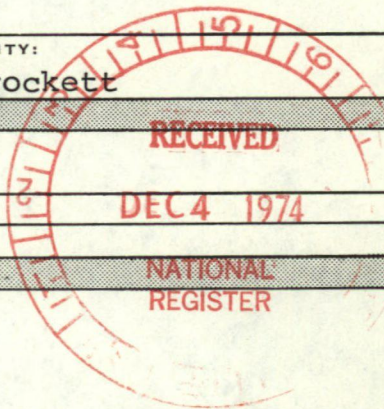
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

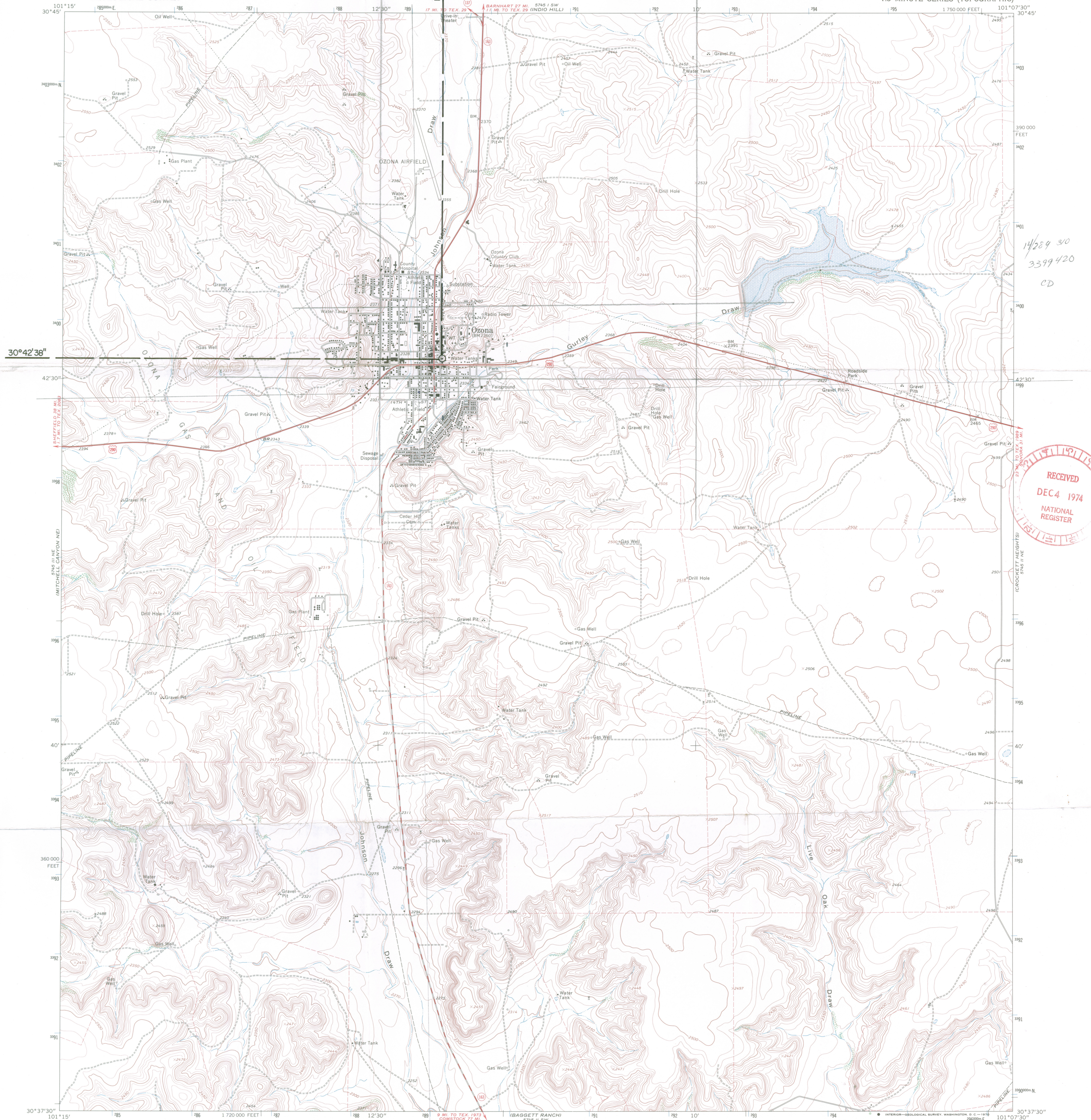
STATE	
Texas	
COUNTY	
Crockett	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 27 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

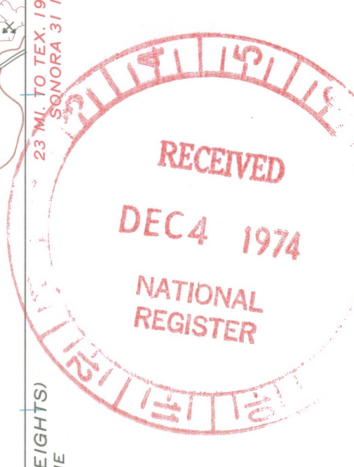
<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Crockett County Courthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
907 Ave. D			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Ozona			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	Crockett	105
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5' series			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1967			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



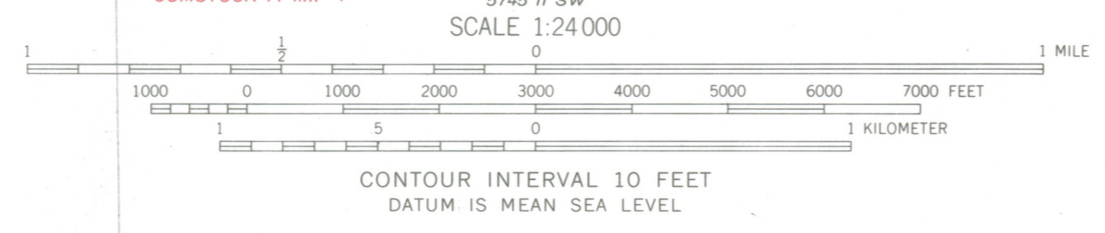
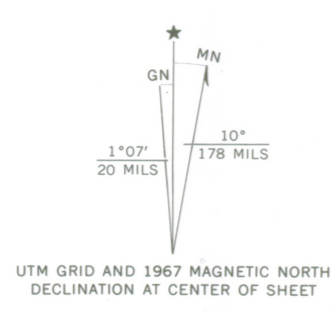




14289 310  
3399 420  
CD



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot-grid based on Texas coordinate system,  
central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 14, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines  
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject  
to controlled inundation



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



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

OZONA, TEX.  
N3037.5—W10107.5/7.5

OCT 23 1970

3001-413



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 27 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Crockett County Courthouse	Ozona Crockett County
Rogers, Edward H., Homestead (Site 41 TV 294)	Austin Travis County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower  
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen  
Hon. O. C. Fisher  
Hon. J.J. (Jake) Pickle  
Regional Director, Southwest  
Region

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

PR MMott/bsh 12/30/74