

PH0691526

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 29 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
**

Colorado County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Bounded by Milam, Spring, Travis & Walnut

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

10

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY

Colorado

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Colorado County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Colorado County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark & Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1969 & 1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in south central Texas about 50 miles west of Houston is Columbus, a small community of about 3600 people. One of the oldest towns in Texas, Columbus serves as the county seat of Colorado County and contains a wealth of Greek Revival and Victorian architecture. Dominating the historic town is the Colorado County Courthouse which stands in the center of the courthouse square surrounded on three sides by predominantly Victorian commercial structures and on the fourth side by residences.

Designed in 1890 by the well-known architect Eugene T. Heiner from Houston, the 19th century, three-story, brick courthouse represented the typical late 19th century imposing Victorian public structure. Martin, Byrne and Johnston, builders of numerous Texas courthouses, were the contractors. The Greek cross plan of the building with one entrance on the ^{east} north, west, and south and two entrances on the ^{north} east differs slightly from the typical plans of the period. The original building contained a hipped roof with cresting over each of the dominant masses and a small pediment over the central entrance bay. Rising from the center of the roof was a tall clock tower with a truncated hipped roof and corner bartizans surrounding the clock face. In 1909 a tornado destroyed the tower and much of the roof. Subsequent remodeling retained the original three floors, but changed the roof and tower.

The present building contains the original three floors and ornamentation. Each facade contains a projecting wing with a central projecting bay. The corners of the smooth brick wall surfaces are accented with large rusticated cut stones. A variety of window sizes are ornamented generally by stilted segmental arches on the first two floors and round arched openings on the third floor. Across the ^{south} east facade, the tall two-story windows express the two-story space of the district courtroom. Marking the first floor level is a raised, smooth stone water table at floor level and rusticated limestone beltcourse at sill level. Decorative beltcourses on the second floor match the ones on the first floor, while a single rusticated beltcourse defines the third floor. Vertical interest is expressed by the coupled inset panels visually joining the first and second floor windows, while single recessed panels link the second and third floor openings. Brick pilasters, beginning at the second floor beltcourse, frame this vertical expression terminating with the arch above the third floor window. Finally, each projecting pavilion contains a dentilled cornice, frieze and wide pedimented gable across the entire wing. The dentils of the pediment accentuate the classical feature. Rising from the central mass over the courtroom is a copper dome resting on a square drum. One-story additions have been added at the ^{southwest} northeast & southeast corners.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890-91

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eugene T. Heiner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Colorado County Courthouse forms the nucleus of the Columbus town square which is surrounded by commercial structures on three sides and residences on the east. The courthouse square represents a typical small Texas town plan with the courthouse as the dominating visual feature. In addition to the Victorian commercial structures around the courthouse there are a number of Victorian homes within several blocks of the town center. Displaying a combination of Victorian and Classical Revival features, the courthouse also serves as a symbol of Colorado County's interesting historical development.

The site of Colorado County was one of the first areas settled by empresario Stephen F. Austin. In August, 1823, Stephen F. Austin, the Baron de Bastrop, a surveyor, and some Negro slaves surveyed 170 acres on the Colorado River 8 miles above the Atascosito crossing. This present site of Columbus was to be the capital and headquarters for the Austin Colony. But the site was abandoned and another location selected on the Brazos River.

When Sam Houston's army retreated from Gonzoles in 1836 after the fall of the Alamo in the Texas War for Independence, it camped on the east bank of the Colorado River near the site of Columbus. Here Houston's army began to drill and train his army until he learned of the massacre at Goliad. The news created havoc among the Anglo settlers and in retreat Houston's army burned the buildings at Columbus.

One of the original counties of the Republic of Texas, Colorado County was created in 1836 and organized in 1837. Since General Houston had burned all of Columbus' buildings, the first district court was held under a live oak tree and presided over by Robert M. Williamson in April 1837. The tree still stands to the east of the present courthouse in the center of a bordering street. Four courthouses preceded the present courthouse which was built in 1890-91. Although Columbus had grown rapidly following the Civil War, the 1880's and 1890's brought important changes to the town. The courthouse square began to flourish with new business structures, including the 1886 Stafford Opera House at the southwest corner of the square. Built by millionaire cattleman and banker, R. E. Stafford, the Opera House became the center of social and cultural activities in the area. (See National Register submission,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Columbus, Texas Sesquicentennial Booklet, 1973.
 Robinson, Will, Notes from personal Texas Courthouse file, 1976.
 Webb, Walter Prescott, ed., The Handbook of Texas, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 73,803,0 3,288,54,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marie D. Landon, Historian
Joe R. Williams, Project Director
 ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission DATE April 27, 1976
 STREET & NUMBER Box 12276 Capitol Station TELEPHONE 512 475-3094
 CITY OR TOWN Austin STATE Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Texas State Historic Preservation Officer DATE April 27, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 5/12/76
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 6.25.76
 ACTING KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
RBL for WJM 7/9/76

Property Colorado County Courthouse

State Texas

Working Number 4.29.76.3236

Colorado
76002015

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

[Handwritten signature]

CONTROL

OK *PL*
5.3.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
Rutterbaum
6/1/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Question of whether entire square should have
been winnowed.
Minimum state of architectural sign.*

Call *Accept*
Lelovich
6.3.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
COLE
6-4-76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

[Handwritten signature]
6.25.76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JUL 12 1976

Federal Register Entry _____

8-3-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Colorado County Courthouse
Columbus, Colorado County, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 7-20-70
Texas Historical Commission

Northwest oblique

Photo #1 *of 4*

JUL 12 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Colorado County Courthouse
Columbus, Colorado County, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 7-20-70
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique

Photo #2 *of 4*

JUL 12 1976



Colorado County Courthouse
Columbus, Colorado County, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 7-20-70
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique
Photo #3 *of 4*

JUL 12 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



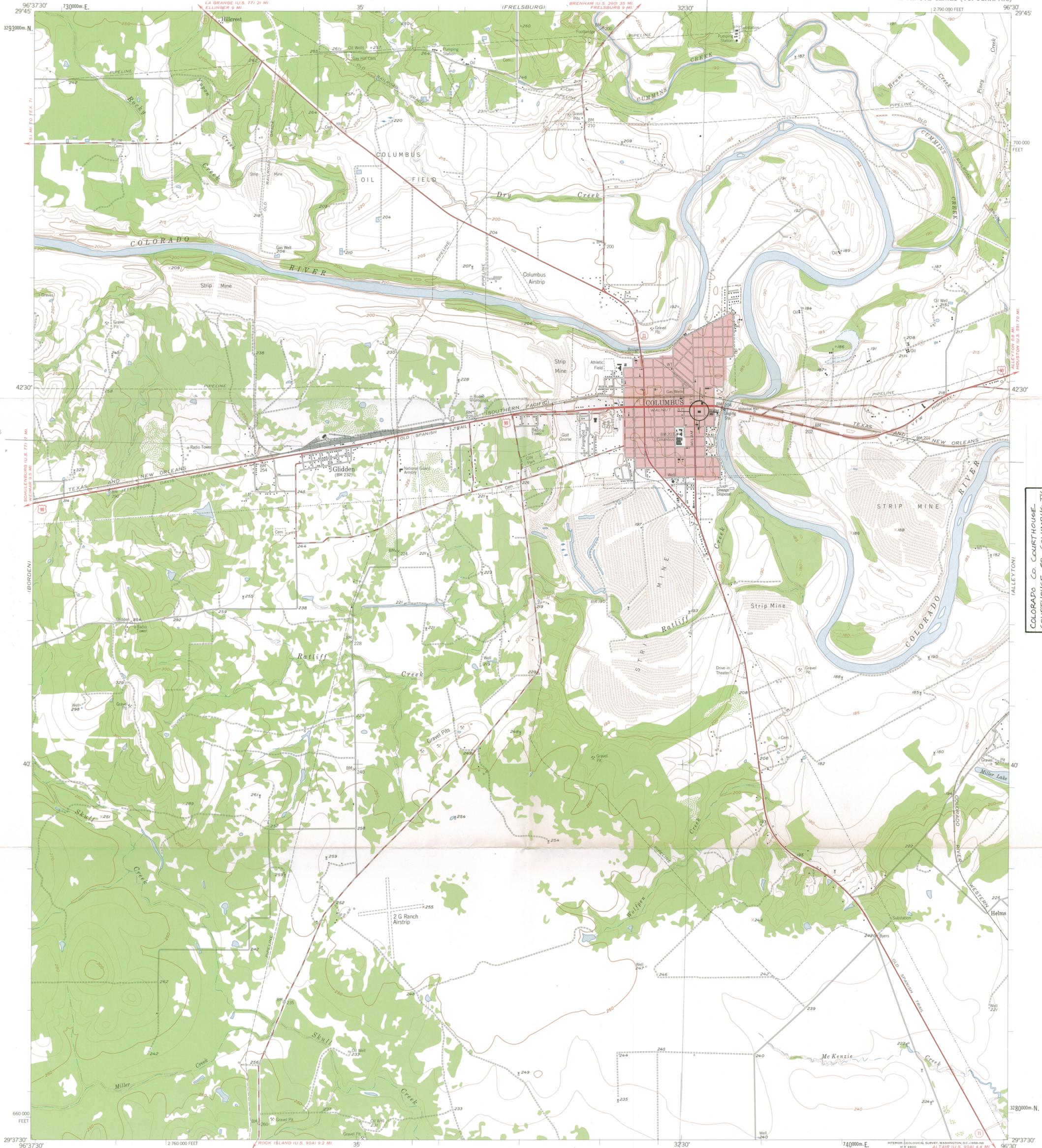
Colorado County Courthouse
Columbus, Colorado County, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 7-20-70
Texas Historical Commission

Detail at southwest corner of building.
The tall two-story windows express
the two-story space of the district
court room.

Photo # 4 of 4

JUL 12 1976



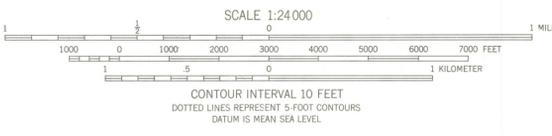
COLORADO CO. COURTHOUSE,
COURTHOUSE SR., COLUMBUS, TX.
U.T.M. REFERENCE:
14/738030/3288540

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
and by planimetric surveys 1957. Aerial photographs taken 1956 and 1957
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
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown



TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1957



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 2, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

2996-314

COLUMBUS, TEX.
N2937 5—W9630/7.5
1957



Texas Historical Commission
Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer
Executive Director

National Register Dept.
Washington, D.C.

Photos for the nomination of the Colorado County Court-
house, Columbus, Texas, will be mailed as soon as possible.

Joe R. Williams
Director, National
Register Dept.



4.29.76



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 12276 CAPITOL STATION AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 20, 1976

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed are four photographs of the Colorado County Courthouse in Colorado County that was recently submitted to the National Register. On viewing the property last week, I discovered that the directions indicated in item #7 of the nomination are incorrect and I am sending a copy of that page with the corrections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie D. Landon".

Marie D. Landon
Historian, National Register
Programs for Texas

MDL/s
Enclosures

May 30, 1977

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh,

This letter is in reply to your kind letter of May 9, 1977 regarding the store building at 1124 Milam Street, Columbus, Texas, which is located in the Colorado County Courthouse Historical District.

I am enthusiastic about the possibility of the building being listed in the National Register of Historical Places.

We have, to date, been uncertain about the exact age of this building, but it was probably constructed very soon after the Chrenworth Building (now owned by Mr. Harold Untermeyer) which is the building adjacent to it on its north side. Old newspaper articles and county records refer to the Chrenworth's Stand on Milam Street and the Gegenworth Stand on Milam Street and Spring Street. At any rate we think the building was built not long

2
after the A.M. Ehrenworth Building was constructed. This building bears the date 1875 on its facade. Further research may pinpoint the date. Our family's earliest information concerns my great grandfather, George Martin Gegenworth (He never used the middle name or the initial "M.") He was a German immigrant arriving we believe by boat in Galveston Texas in about 1848 with his family who traveled to Columbus and settled there. He was born September 27, 1831 in Germany. He married Stranziska (or Strancesca, Stranscesca, Strancis, Strances or Stranciska) Neumann or Neumann who was born in Bullendorf or Bullandorf Germany near Berlin January 3, 1842 and came with her father and mother Ferdinand (or Frank) and Marie Anna Neumann and six brothers and sisters in 1854 on the ship Minna, according to the book New Homes in a New Land - 1847-1861 written by Ethel Vander Geue. They landed at Galveston and traveled inland. Mr. Neumann purchased acreage eight miles northeast of La Grange in what is sometimes referred to as the Briegel Settlement. It was in Hayette County near Hayetteville or Roundtop, Texas. One of the Neumann's

3.
children, the youngest, died on the boat on the way to Galveston.

Mr. (M.) Regenworth became the owner of a Bakery, Confectionery and Grocery store. Mr and Mrs Regenworth's first child Annie Georgia Regenworth Hastings was born January 14, 1862. In that same year Mr. Regenworth was inducted into the Confederate States Army and served as a private in Company B, 5th Texas Infantry Regiment in "Wood's Brigade" until the end of the war. He was wounded in the lower jaw and made his way home "as best he could" crossing the Mississippi on a log. After he returned home in 1865 he became an established business man who advertised often in the Colorado Citizen as the proprietor of a Bakery, Confectionery and Grocery store which he operated until his death in 1886. Attached to this letter are copies of advertisements which appeared in the citizen.

One day, on Monday October 27, 1970, while working on the building, the late Mr Goepfinger of Columbus, a long time friend stopped to chat for a few minutes with me. He told me

4.
that he remembered the store well, - that when he was a little boy he bought "phosphates" there. "soda water wasn't in a bottle". He also said he "bought the best bread there" Mr Hoepfinger was 89 at the time he told me this story and was still walking to town regularly.

After the Civil War Mr and Mrs Gegenworth had two more children, George Andrew Gegenworth born September 14, 1864 and Matilda C. Gegenworth Garner on November 21, 1873. The son George never used his middle name or initial. He had a brother or uncle named Andreas or Andrew who I think was in a similar business, according to advertisements I have seen in the Colorado County Citizen. I believe he left Columbus. Years later we learned of his death in Ohio and not much is known of him.

Mr. Gegenworth also sold fresh country produce and "Stancy Groceries, Berwick Bay Oysters served in all styles, a specialty"

From a great granddaughter, Mrs Lynn (Clarence) Howler, recently deceased, came the story of customers being served at marble top rectangular Victorian tables

5.
This same type table, now of course classed as antique tables are found in many homes today handed down from ancestors. Mrs Fowler inherited two of them as did my sister. Mrs Fowler's grandmother told her of their origin.

The rear and front of the store was constructed of hand made bricks which were formed and fired on the banks of the Colorado River. One of the men, Mr. James Burford who helped us repair the building said he remembered the many "night fires" along the river's banks when he was a boy. He was quite elderly when he was employed by us and died just a few days after my husband's death in August 1974.

Mr Rhine climbed to the very top of the building and rebuilt a section with the same bricks which had broken off and fallen on the roof.

A skylight remains intact above the new ceiling, and if one knows where to look three arches remain and can be seen at a point between the store and the added warehouse area. Originally a loading platform extended from the rear of the building.

4.
when my great grandfather died on August 22, 1886, George, his son was nineteen and to the best of my knowledge continued to run the store. In the Colorado County Clerk's office I found recorded a purchase deed of the building by Mrs. Franziska Segenworth from Jesse and Abie Harrison dated a short time after Mr. Segenworth's death. This has puzzled me - there is a gap in the records for we know the Segenworths had been in business at that location for a long time. An experienced researcher could probably find the explanation. In Waco Texas at the Carroll Library on the Baylor University campus I found one Colorado Citizen, Vol. XVI no. 14 dated May 30, 1878 which reads as follows:

" NOTICE

I have removed my office to the building on Milam Street, next door to J.R. Brooks' stand, where I may be found during business hours. I shall be pleased to wait upon all desiring to list their property or give in their Scholastic census

Mrs. Segenworth
Assessor Colorado County

Feb. 27, 1878

7. Mr. James Hopkins of Garwood and Columbus, a prominent member of the Colorado County Historical Society found in the Texas State Archives in Austin the following information which he delivered to me and reads as follows:

"George Bezenworth was elected Colorado Co. Assessor of Taxes Feb. 15, 1876; qualified Apr. 18, 1876; commissioned May 24, 1876. I believe he just served until 1878. The Election Register of 1870-74 was misfiled so we were not able to see it. I hope that when we go back next time, they will have located it so we can see it. I do not know if this is the first or only term that Mr. Bezenworth served or not."

Both Bezenworth gentlemen, father and son were good citizens and supported the towns endeavors. The second George Bezenworth was head of the Volunteer Fire Department, "President" of Columbus in 1914 and chairman of Decorations when Columbus celebrated its Centennial in 1923. He and Mrs Bezenworth were fine Christians and active in the Baptist church.

When Franziska Bezenworth died she left the building to her three

3.
children and the son George supposedly continued to run the business. At any rate after he constructed a new building in the block north of the original store on Milam Street in I believe 1895 (I cannot put my hands on the copy of the deed to the property today - will verify it later) the old building was rented out and had various tenants.

George (A.) Gegenworth married Alice Geraldine McDaniel on September 19, 1889 in Eagle Lake Texas. They had two daughters, Seila Francis Gegenworth Townsend, my mother, who married J. Light Townsend of Columbus and Geraldine Varina Gegenworth Boggess who married Robert Woodfin Boggess of Waco or Dallas.

In 1926 Mr (A.) Gegenworth, the son, contracted for the construction of a new and much larger building on Walnut Street. His grocery store occupied one half of the area and he divided the other one half into two stores which he rented out.

Some years after Mr. Gegenworth died, his widow, Alice Gegenworth, purchased his sister's interests in the old building on Milam Street - the original old store,

9. and later Mrs. Janet ^{Sight} Townsend Stringer and ^{my} Alie
Geraldine Townsend Rhine, Leila Regenworth
Townsend's daughters who survived her,
inherited the store building at 1124 Milam
and rented it to a number of different
business concerns. The Colorado County
Citizen, the local newspaper had its
office there at one time. A reenforced
concrete floor area is or used to be
visible where the printing press was
located. After the building was vacant
for quite a time we decided to completely
repair, restore as much as possible (or
practical) and improve it. This was
accomplished in 1969-1970 and the
building is at this time in excellent
condition and has been rented ever
since its repair.

My husband, sister and I employed
the consulting services of Mr Arthur J.
Willrodt, a Columbus architect, who was
very interested in preserving the towns
old homes and buildings. He was and
is a very prominent member of the
Colorado County Historical Society. We
asked him to assist us with color and
details which would retain the flavor
of the town and the immediate area and

10. he very kindly agreed to help us.

The "plaster" walls (I wish my husband was alive to write this) were cracked badly in places and in such poor condition that they would not hold paint or mortar so it was imperative that my husband George Rhine (another George!) reinforce them with two by fours from floor to ceiling - I forget how many inches apart. It was quite difficult to nail them to the wall as a special type of nail, as I remember, was required. He then covered the walls with an attractive and appropriate wall board which he finished off at the top with a moulding which he designed by fastening two mouldings together. Behind this moulding he designed a cove lighting which enhanced the building considerably. Mr. Rhine was at that time 57 and had retired. He had been owner of his own professional electrical and mechanical consulting and designing firm since 1945 ^{in San Antonio, our home,} He had served five years as a major in the European Theatre of World War II. The building was a real challenge to him. He thoroughly enjoyed working on it as did I. He loved working with tools

21.
We owned a large collection of modern and antique tools and had a keen knowledge of using them.

All rotten floor boards were removed and replaced with new ones treated with a wood preservative. In the process of replacing the floor boards we found a metal pole had been sawed and bent down just below the floor level in order to lay the floor. We retained a piece of the metal for possible analysis because thoughts leaped to our minds that it could have been the remains of an old flagpole from years past! Such fun! Anyway Mr. Rhine marked the spot with a silver dollar "fastened" in place. Our first and new tenant decided to cover our beautiful repaired and painted floors with vinyl squares as he would have to move heavy merchandise around and knew he would ruin the wood floors. Nevertheless Mr. Rhine cut a hole in the vinyl floor to expose the silver dollar! and of course to mark the spot!

The original high ceiling with its interesting skylight typical of its time was left intact above the new lowered

12.
ceiling and excellent lighting system.

My husband and I worked side by side on the old building for almost a year along with whatever skilled and unskilled help was available in Columbus that year. The local contractor had all the labor available working for him. We could not have very easily contracted for this work to be done for us because as you are well aware, in working with old buildings every day presents new problems which only experts can solve. We removed two partitions which had divided the store into three sections. These no doubt had been added by former tenants to meet the need of their particular business. At the time we decided to do this repair work we had no tenant as I said earlier or any prospect of one. In fact there were about five or six vacant buildings in town all in poor condition (two of those belonged to us also!) but we decided the best way to get a tenant was to put the building in A-1 condition. (We later repaired our other two buildings)

My husband found a perfect place to use some beautiful tall old doors

13. which I had bought one very rainy day in Columbus for \$2.00 a piece from a wrecking and salvage company which was demolishing the old "picture show" near the railroad tracks on Milam street so that the new Central Power and Light Co. Bldg. could be constructed on the site. Mr. Rhine first restored the doors which required quite a bit of know-how as they were pretty badly scarred and then he designed additions to the side of each door which repeated their design and hinged them together. This made it possible for large merchandise to be moved from the warehouse into the front of the store and vice versa.

I personally restored a 15' section of my grandfather's or perhaps great grandfather's old grocery counter. Our first tenant used it for five years. The new tenant Mr. Stephan Draper did not have use for it so it is at present on loan to the Magnolia Homes Sour Association and being used in the basement room of the Brandon Home, official Headquarters for the Magnolia Homes Tour, Association. The counter is of quite a unique design with its storage bins opening on the back side. My grandfather's large

Mooser safe with his name on it is stored in the warehouse area of the building at 1124 Milam. At present I am restoring the old sausage counter. I may be mistaken - perhaps it was where the tobacco was cut for I own the old tobacco cutter and also the broom holder!

I neglected to mention that Mr. Rhine and his helpers including me (I was more expert at removing old paint) repainted the entire interior and exterior of the building and designed and installed a year round heating and cooling system. The canopy over the sidewalk was rebuilt and a new roof put on it. The store now has sidewalk lighting which is very attractive. The tin roof of the building is still in fairly good condition but we watch it, inspect it and try to keep the gutters clean between the buildings so the water doesn't back up under the roof and leak inside the store.

It is my ambition to obtain a Texas Historical marker in time if I am able to furnish all the information required. Through the years it has not been

profitable to retain ownership of this building but sentiment always won out. I have always believed that the area around the courthouse would come to life again someday because of the fine old opera house (I knew it when!) the water tower museum and the court house. Of course now everything is being restored and everyone will also find it profitable to restore. Our building is bringing in a good income now.

I am inclosing one old picture (undated, my bad luck!) which Mrs Kay of Columbus gave me. I had it enlarged but it didn't help much. The 1124 Milam building is adjacent and to the left looking at the picture of the Ehrenworth (now Untermeyer) Bldg. which has the upstairs porch with white trim and gingerbread. The picture is only good enough to identify the building as being the same one we restored.

I have many records to substantiate the contents of this letter. I have pictures of the building before, during and after its repair and Xerox copies of pages from our old German Publi with birth and marriage dates. I will be pleased to send

14.
these to you if you desire them.

Recently I obtained full ownership of this building. My attorney, sister and three children accuse me of being "in love" with the building, and I suppose they're right. I loved and admired my immigrant great grandparents for their courage in coming so far to a new land though I never knew them, and I feel they deserve something to show they were here. They reared a fine family who in turn reared fine families, all proud of their country, worked hard, and in time prospered.

Thank you for your consideration in giving me the opportunity to have my building nominated for the National Register of Historical Places.

Sincerely,
Geraldine Townsend Rhine

My address has been changed from
802 W. Woodlawn
San Antonio Tex. 78212

TO: NEW ADDRESS

6415 HONEY HILL
SAN ANTONIO, TEX. 78229

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D JUN 6 1977

 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

 REPRESENTATIVE MATERIAL SENT

 TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS

DATE June 1976³
TIME OF CALL 4:30 PM

TELEPHONE REPORT

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

Marie Langdon

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Texas STATE OFFICE

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Colorado County Courthouse

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

It is part of district, but since
this is the property they want the money for + material
on other houses not yet assembled, they submitted
this one separately

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

LEBARON

TITLE

Arch Hist.

OFFICE

NR

J. Kulczycki
6-27-77
JMS
JMS

H34-880

JUN 30 1977

Colorado Co., TX.

Mrs. Geraldine Townsend Rhine
6415 Honey Hill
San Antonio, Texas 78229

Dear Mrs. Rhine:

Thank you for your letter supporting the proposed listing of the Colorado County Courthouse Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places.

The research that you have completed on your store building and thoughtfully forwarded to us will be kept on file with the historic district nomination form.

The National Register will review your comments concerning the significance of your building as part of the entire district during the review process. We will also provide a copy of your comments to the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711. If the property is accepted for listing in the National Register, notice will be placed in the "Federal Register." If additional information is needed to complete the evaluation, or if it is determined that the property does not meet the National Register criteria for evaluation (section 60.6 of 36 CFR Part 60), the nomination will be returned to the State with explanatory material.

We appreciate your efforts on behalf of historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.)

for

William J. Hartagh
Keeper of the National Register

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, Texas SHPO w/cy inc

FNP:JKulczycki:cam:6/25/77

bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region w/cy inc
Director's Reading File

880

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JUL 13 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Trost, Henry C., House	El Paso El Paso County
Kohl, Ernst Martin, Building	Denison Grayson County
Colorado County Courthouse	Columbus Colorado County
Austin "Moonlight Towers"	Austin Travis County
San Antonio Loan and Trust Building	San Antonio Bexar County
Clarksville Historic District	Austin Travis County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Richard C. White
Hon. Ray Roberts
Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle
Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez
Regional Director, Southwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

1124 MILAM STREET
COLUMBUS, TEX. 78934

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HISTORICAL SURVEY

BLDG. OWNED BY
MRS GERALDINE TOWNSEND RHINE
6415 HONEY HILL
SAN ANTONIO, TEX. 78229



Property of Mrs. George R. Rhine, Mrs. Geraldine
Townsend Rhine (widow)
6415 Honey Hill
San Antonio, Tex. 78229

Former address -
902 W. Woodlawn
San Antonio Tex. 78212

This picture shows part of the bldg at
1124 Milam street owned by George Gegenwirth

5/30/77

Note :- I have not visited the Colorado County Archives in several years. I'm sure I can get more information for you by now.

- B. Rhine

Texas. 78934

Fence Fowler

(Including ZIP Code) WITHIN THE DOTS BELOW

- ENCLOSED ARE COPIES FROM _____ FILES. YOU ARE BEING BILLED \$1.50 FOR EACH FILE REPRODUCED. SEE ATTACHED BILL.
- WE FOUND _____ PENSION OR BOUNTY LAND FILES AND _____ MILITARY SERVICE FILES THAT MAY RELATE TO THE ABOVE VETERAN. YOU MAY ORDER COPIES BY RETURNING THE ENCLOSED MARKED FORMS.
- WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO FIND A RECORD FOR A VETERAN, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT HE DID NOT SERVE. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HIM FROM THE STATE ARCHIVES.
- SEE ATTACHED FORMS/LEAFLETS. SEE REVERSE.
- PLEASE COMPLETE BLOCKS 1 (give full name), 2, AND 5 AND RESUBMIT.
- A REFUND OF \$ _____ WILL BE SENT BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT. IS ENCLOSED. REFUND AUTHORIZATION

SEARCHER <i>20</i>	FILE DESIGNATION <i>Meyersworth, George Co B 5 Texas Inf (OSM)</i>
DATE <i>3-29-73</i>	
CASHIER	

GSA FORM 6751 (REV. 3-72)

(Confederate.)

5 | **Texas.**

Geo. Meyersworth
Priv., Co. B, 5 Reg't Texas Infantry.

Age *30* years.

Appears on a

Muster-in Roll

of the organization named above.

Roll dated *Richmond Va*

May 8, 1862.

Muster-in to date *March 11*, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When *Mar. 28*, 1862.

Where *Columbus Colorado Co Texas*

By whom *Lt. J. D. Robertson*

Period *The war*

Remarks:

Book mark

(Confederate.)

5 | **Texas.**

Geo. Greenworth
Priv., Co. B, 5 Reg't Texas Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for *March & April*, 1862

Enlisted:

When *Mar 28*, 1862

Where *Columbus Tex*

By whom *Lieut. Robertson*

Period *The war*

Last paid:

By whom *Pay due from*

To what time *presentment*, 1862

Present or absent *present*

Remarks:

No. 43

I, the undersigned, Prisoner of War belonging to the Army of the West Mississippi Department, having been surrendered by General C. Kirby Smith, U. S. A. Commanding said Department, to Major-General E. R. S. Canby, U. S. A. Commanding Army and Division of West Mississippi, do hereby give my solemn parole of honor, that I will not hereafter serve in the Armies of the Confederate States, or in any military capacity whatever, against the United States of America, or render aid to the enemies of the latter, until duty exchanged, or otherwise released from the obligations of this parole by the authority of the Government of the United States

Done at Churubusco Texas
this 2nd day of June, 1865.
J. M. ...

Geo. Gegenworth
Co. B, 5 Reg't Texas Inf.

(Confederate.)

G | 5 | Texas.

Gegenworth
Pvt, Co. B, 5 Reg't Texas Infantry.

Appears on
Regimental Return
of the organization named above,
for the month of Oct, 1862.

Commissioned officers present and absent:

Station

Remarks:

Alterations since last return among the enlisted men:

Date, 1862.

Place

Remarks:

Enlisted men on Extra or Daily Duty:

...

George Hegenwirth was elected Colorado County
assessor of Texas Feb. 15, 1876; Councilman
April 18, 1876; Commissioner May 24, 1876.
I believe he just served until 1878.

The Election Register of 1876-74 was ⁱⁿ filed
so ~~we~~ were not able to see it. I hope that when
we go back next time, they will have located it so
we can see it. I do not know if this is the
first ^{or only} term that Mr. Hegenwirth served or not.

Election Register # 265 - 1874 - 1878 pages 352 - 353
Archives of the State of Texas 354 - 355

Researched by James Hopkins 1971, May

Hamily and Hancy

Grocery

By Gegenworth & Enke

They will keep constantly on hand a supply of all articles in their line of business, such as

Bacon, Flour, Sugar, Molasses,
Cheese, Crackers, meal, &c.

They will keep also the best liquors, Segars, Tobacco

Just received a large assortment of all kinds of

Hamily and Hancy Groceries
comprising everything usually found
in a Grocery store 3 Store south side
Court house on Public Square.

* Columbus, Texas, July 20, 1865

5

* I have an original copy of this issue given to me by Mrs. Day of Columbus, she said she had two copies! In the same paper is an advertisement by Andrew Gegenworth and R. Gray.

I think this was Geo. M. Gegenworth's brother or uncle.

The ad at the top of the page I think was Geo. Gegenworth for he was associated one year with a Mr. Enke.

Columbus Times, November 7, 1868

Bold Attempt at Robbery

On last Tuesday evening, immediately after supper, two negroes entered the rear of the store of Mr. George Regenworth, in this city by means of skeleton keys, and commenced carrying off groceries, while trading was going on next door. Their plans were very well arranged, they having in readiness a slide with horse attached near a stable used by Mr. J. R. Carlton. The thieves had taken out a barrel of flour, one of sugar, a sack of coffee, etc. and when Mrs Carlton who had been riding, returned and discovered them, they had laid up about a years rations. One of the burglarious scamps was captured, and is now in "durance vile", but his confreere, after a hotly contested race, in which several shots were fired at him, made good his escape. Time 2:40

Colorado County Citizen

march 14, 1871

Bakery, Confectionery and Grocery Store
Geo. Segenworth

* Aug. 25, 1870

(I still don't understand these dates
at the end of the addrs. - maybe a
contract date with the newspaper?)

Colorado County Citizen

October 19, 1871

page 4 column 6 - bottom of page

* { Act. 19, 1871
Chrenworth on Milam Street
"at old stand"

* This is to verify a statement in my letter.

Independent in all Things -
Neutral in Nothing

At the bottom of page 4 last column right

Bakery, Confectioner
- and -
Grocery Store

George Gegenwirth

Informs his friends and the public at large that he is prepared to furnish Bread, Cakes, Pies, etc., at all times, on moderate terms, and of good quality. Also

Plain and Fancy Candy Wholesale!

As heretofore, he will keep constantly on hand an assortment of

Staple and Fancy Groceries!

so which he invites the attention of purchasers. Thankful for past favors, he hopes, by strict attention to business, to merit a share of the public patronage

(Columbus, Tex. Aug 25, 1870 30 tt)

* I do not understand these dates below the advertisements.

Same adol as preceding one appeared again in
the October 19, 1871 Citizen on page 3 column 6, bottom
Vol IX # 37

Colorado County Citizen

Vol XVI
no. 14

May 30, 1878
Thursday morning

Notice

I have removed my office to the building on Milam Street, next door to J. R. Brooks' stand, where I may be found during business hours. I shall be pleased to wait upon all desiring to list their property or give in their Scholastic census.

Geo. Gegenwert
Assessor Colorado County

* Feb 27, 1878

In an old Atlas 1870-80 found by Mrs. Jim Witt and me in her husband's relatives attic (he inherited the Traylor Home in Columbus). The cover of the atlas was missing as were many pages - no record of publisher either but one page told some facts about Columbus.

After listing various business firms it listed the Officials

Henry Wagenfuhr	-	County Clerk
J. A. Toliver	-	" Sheriff
J. W. Johnson		" Judge
Henry Boedecker		" Treasurer
Geo. Gegenworth		" Assessor

Colorado County Citizen

November 24, 1911

In the column Thirty Years Ago Today
Nov. 24, 1881

Advertisement:-

Only a few more weeks to Christmas,
now about that Fruit Cake? Now is the
time to make it. Full stock of Raisins,
Dates, Figs, Citron and Nuts. Also fresh
shipment of Spices. Send in your order

George Bezenworth
We Give Voting Coupons

Colorado County Citizen

October 22, 1889

Page 3, column 7 and 8

George Segenworth
- Dealer in
Confectionery and Fancy Groceries
Bakery
Fresh bread and cakes always
on hand - a full stock

Freshest Country Produce
Berwick's Bay Oysters
served in all styles - a specialty

Colorado County Citizen

Thursday, May 30, 1895

George Gegenworth
Grain and Groceries has removed
to his newly-fitted up store two
doors north of Byars and Byars
(watch this space for adol next week)

Colorado County Citizen

Vol VXXIII no. 23

August 8, 1895

Page 3, col. 1.

Those in need of Grain or Groceries
will find

Geo. Segenworth

well stocked up and selling at very low prices
He solicits a share of patronage and promises
fair treatment. Store two doors north of
Byars and Byars

Nov. 14, 1895

Colorado's County Citizen

Vol XXXIII no. 37

page 3 col. 4

"Weimar Locals"

Mr George Gegenworth, our George Gegenworth,
the Columbus George, and everybody's George,
George the rustler, fair-minded George,
and alias George was in Weimar Monday
selling fat and bacon to our merchants,
Hurrah for George!

Vol 44 Thursday morning March 1, 1906 #3

Page 3 Col. 4+5
Top of page

Guessing Contest

To enlarge the use of already popular Angel Hood Flour, I have decided to put on a guessing contest, in which I will award two prizes. In my d-lay window may be seen a very large sack, which is full of — Angel Hood Flour. To each and every cash purchaser of — worth of goods from me will be given the privilege of one guess at the weight of this sack of flour. The party making the closest estimate will win a handsome 15 piece tea set and the next nearest a 48 lb. sack of Angel Hood Flour. No one knows the weight, and the contest is now on to last thirty days. Every dollar spent entitles you to — vote and I will give the most and best goods obtainable for your money. Come around and have a look at th — huge sack of flour. I guess you will guess in my guessing contest

Geo Regenworth

* The blank spaces sometime indicated the print could not be read.

Colorado County Citizen

Nov. 17, 1911

page 4

George Gegenworth is listed as one of
the nine Directors of the Citizen
Also a stock holder of Citizen (41)

Sodge Directory
Columbus Lodge No. 51

100 F

Meets regularly every Thursday evening at their brick hall on Milam Street. Transient brethren respectfully invited.

Geo. Gegenwirth, N. G.,

W. C. Papenberg, Secretary

Colorado County Citizen

Friday, April 24, 1914

23 lbs Granulated Sugar for \$1.00
An deal with Votan Goods

1 package Votan Tea - 40¢

1 box spice, any kind 10¢

1 can Votan Coffee 40¢

1 bottle Votan Extract

any flavor you want - 10¢

Total \$1.00

See our Show Window

George Gegenwirth
"Where Quality Counts"

Colorado County Citizen

Friday November 19, 1915

Page 4
Column 5 and 6

Geo. Segenworth's
Prices on
Pure Louisiana or Texas Salt

25 lb. sacks fine or coarse, per sack	20¢
50 lb. " " " " " "	40¢
100 lb. " " " " " "	60¢
Rock salt per 100 lb. sack	75¢

I have two cars on hand and need the room, is the reason I am making a cut price.

Geo. Segenworth
Leader of Low Prices

Colorado County Citizen

Friday, October 20, 1922 p. 3 col. 2

" Sidelights of the Methodist Church Jubilee "

The day of miracles is not past. Neither Geo. Segenworth, nor Rev. Townsley got choched on a chicken bone at the great feast. But Mr. Segenworth had to go to Dallas for rest and treatment and Rev. Townsley stopped talking for about thirty minutes. Serious indeed!

- - - - -
- - - - -
- - - - -

Conversation with Mrs Georgia
Hastings in 1970 in Columbus

" Your great grandfather George Gegenworth
was wounded in the back of the tongue
in the Civil War. He made it across
the Mississippi on a log. Mr. Hastings,
(probably her husband's great grandfather)
was drowned crossing the Mississippi.

Mr. Gegenworth never was very
well after the Civil War because of
this wound. "

Mrs Hastings was George (A) Gegenworth's
nephew's wife.

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: **COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE** 2 OTHER NAMES: _____ 3 date of entry: **07.12.76** 4 county code: **089**

5 LOCATION street & number: *** SEE REVERSE** city / town: **COLUMBUS** vicinity of: _____ state: **TX** county: **COLORADO** 6 NPS REGION: **SOUTHWEST**

7 OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) 8 ADMINISTRATOR: _____

9 EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL 10 FUNDED? YES NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: **10TH** 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: _____ NO 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: _____ NO 15 ACREAGE: **1 ACRE** if state who prepared form? **SHPO** LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION deteriorated altered original site excellent ruins unaltered moved good unexposed reconstructed unknown fair unexcavated excavated 17 features: INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 20 SAVED? YES NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS / GOVT-21 RECREATION-28 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 TRANSPORTATION-25 22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' 'oldest' 'only'

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: **COURTHOUSE** 24 dates of initial construction: **1890-1891** 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: _____ CURRENTLY: **COURTHOUSE** major alterations: **1909 - TORNADO** historic events: _____

26 architectural style(s): **NEO-CLASSICAL REVIVAL ELEMENTS** 27 architect: **EUGENE T. HEINER** 28 master builder: _____ 29 engineer: _____

30 landscape architect / garden designer: _____ 31 interior decorator: _____ 32 artist: _____ 33 artisan: _____ 34 builder/contractor: **MARTIN, BYRNE, & JOHNSON**

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: _____ EVENTS: _____ INSTITUTIONAL: _____

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP **BRICK, 3 STORIES, RECTANGULAR, CROSS-GABLED ROOF WITH PEDIMENTED ENDS AND SHALLOW CENTRAL DOME WITH CLOCK FACES, ENTRANCES WITH TRANSOM IN SEGMENTAL-ARCHED RECESSES, SEGMENTAL- AND ROUND-ARCHED WINDOWS, RUSTICATED CORNER PILASTERS, BELT COURSE WITH paneled SPANDRELS, DECORATED AND paneled FRIeze, MODILLION CORNICE; ROOF AND TOWER ALTERED AFTER 1909 TORNADO. NEO-CLASSICAL REVIVAL ELEMENTS. SITE OF ONE OF THE EARLIEST AREAS SETTLED BY COLONIST STEPHEN F. AUSTIN; EXAMPLE OF THE WORK OF PROMINENT TEXAS ARCHITECT EUGENE T. HEINER.**

reviewers initials: **GREFF** date: **7.13.77**

* ⑤ BOUNDED BY MILAM, SPRING, TRAILS AND WALNUT STS.