

PH0691569

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 24 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1977

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
* Concho County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Public Square, Paint Rock
CITY, TOWN
Paint Rock
STATE
Texas
VICINITY OF
CODE
048
COUNTY
Concho
CODE
095
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Concho County
STREET & NUMBER
Public Square
CITY, TOWN
Paint Rock
VICINITY OF
STATE
Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Concho County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Public Square
CITY, TOWN
Paint Rock
STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 7/31/76

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Concho County courthouse designed by architect, F.E. Ruffini and built in 1886 under the supervision of his brother Oscar, is a two-story structure of native stone. Built in the Second Empire style much favored for public buildings of the period, its dominant visual feature is its characteristic Mansard roof, treated with much greater elaboration than some of its contemporaries such as F.E. Ruffini's Blanco County Courthouse. The roof rises in three sections featuring elegantly enframed circular dormers, contrasting cornice and trim, all of galvanized iron, and wrought iron cresting over the entry pavilion.

At each elevation the entrances are emphasized by a triangular pediment from which a Mansard-roofed pavilion rises. Projecting bays flank the north and south entries with cornices slightly higher than the adjacent wall surfaces. The walls are laid up in cream-colored ashlar masonry with substantial cut stone quoins and a string course between floors. A wide cornice is carried on ornamental brackets. Tall, narrow windows are capped with stilted arches of cut stone and a cut stone string course runs from the base of the arch and the band across the facade.

The courthouse is laid out on the traditional cross axial plan with wide corridors that divide the ground floor into four equal quadrants. The disposition of the interior spaces follows the massing of the outside walls. Offices and storage were allocated in the original plan to the county and district clerks, sheriff, county treasurer, tax assessor, surveyor, county judge and chambers for the commissioners' court. Stairways at either side of the east-west hall rise simply to a graceful curve at the top. The second floor is occupied by an imposingly scaled courtroom and several jury rooms. Much historic detail is preserved in the interior finish particularly in the pressed metal ceilings and handsome wooden staircase.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Concho County ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

A records vault has been added to the exterior of the building at the northeast corner. This is an unpainted concrete structure rising one story with the parapet line falling just below the first-floor stringcourse. There is one simple opening in the east wall.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Concho County Commissioners' Court Minutes, October 5, 1885; October 29, 1885; March 17, 1886; June 21, 1886

Robinson, Willard B. & Webb, Todd, Texas Public Buildings of the Nineteenth Century, University of Texas Press, Austin. 1974

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ~~8~~ acres 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

see letter below 4.18.77

A 14 | 412640 | 3486140
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | []

D [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Junction U.S. 83/F.M. 380

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Willard B. Robinson, Professor of Architecture
S. Elizabeth Sasser, Research Assistant

DATE 7/31/76

ORGANIZATION Ranching Heritage Center

DATE 806-742-2430

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 4499 Texas Tech University

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Lubbock STATE Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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.

[Signature]
 SHPO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE 9/22/76

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10/2/77
 DATE 11.2.77

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CONTINUATION SHEET Concho County ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Apart from such work as F.E. Ruffini's design for the old main building for the University of Texas, the brothers were known chiefly as designers of courthouses. By the mid 1880's they had developed a full-blown architectural vocabulary for this building type. Oscar Ruffini's Sutton County Courthouse (1891), and F.E. Ruffini's Blanco County Courthouse (1885), exemplified the style which appeared in a somewhat more decoratively evolved form in the Concho County Courthouse. While a high central tower was usual on many nineteenth century courthouses, the Ruffini's developed the Mansard roof of the Second Empire style as a dominant visual element in a composition lacking a tower. Also in contrast to the complicated massing of recessed bays and projecting pavilions usually encountered, the Ruffini's substituted a simpler geometry of superimposed elements in the facades.

By March 17, 1886 construction on the Concho County Courthouse was almost completed, and at that time the commissioners' court contracted the firm of Thomas Kane and Company of Chicago to furnish the courthouse for a sum of \$1,212.00.

On June 21, 1886, Oscar Ruffini made his final report to the county commissioners stating that the wrought iron cresting above the entrance pavilion was yet to receive one coat of black paint.

Despite its small population, Paint Rock continues to serve as the county seat of Concho county and the courthouse remains in use with relatively few modifications of the architectural fabric.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Concho County ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The Concho County Courthouse has both governmental and architectural significance. From the time of its completion to the present it has served the needs of county government--in addition, for many years it served other purposes, including dances and religious services. Located in a town with only several hundred residents, it is a good example of Second Empire style and the architects of the structure were among the early professionals in the state. The supervising architect, Oscar Ruffini, was the first professional to establish an office in West Texas.

Property Concho County Courthouse

concho

State Texas Working Number 9.24.76.4183

77001433

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 9.27.76

HISTORIAN

accept
B. Groover
1/4/76

8 acres? state signif.?

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

no statement of significance,
no discussion of other additions,
no justification of acreage }
Called 11.16.76
Lebovich

~~Call/Return~~
Lebovich
11.16.76
Accept

ARCHEOLOGIST

will
level as
soon as
possible

~~called~~
Lebovich
9.27.77

OTHER
9.18.77

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4.22.77

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hunt
12.2.77

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 12.6.77

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 7 1977

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

SEP 24 1976

Concho County Courthouse
Paint Rock, Texas

Mike Yancey, 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique
Photo #143

NOV 7 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Concho County Courthouse
Paint Rock, Texas

SEP 24 1976

Mike Yancey, 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique
Photo #2 of 3

Doc
NOV 7 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

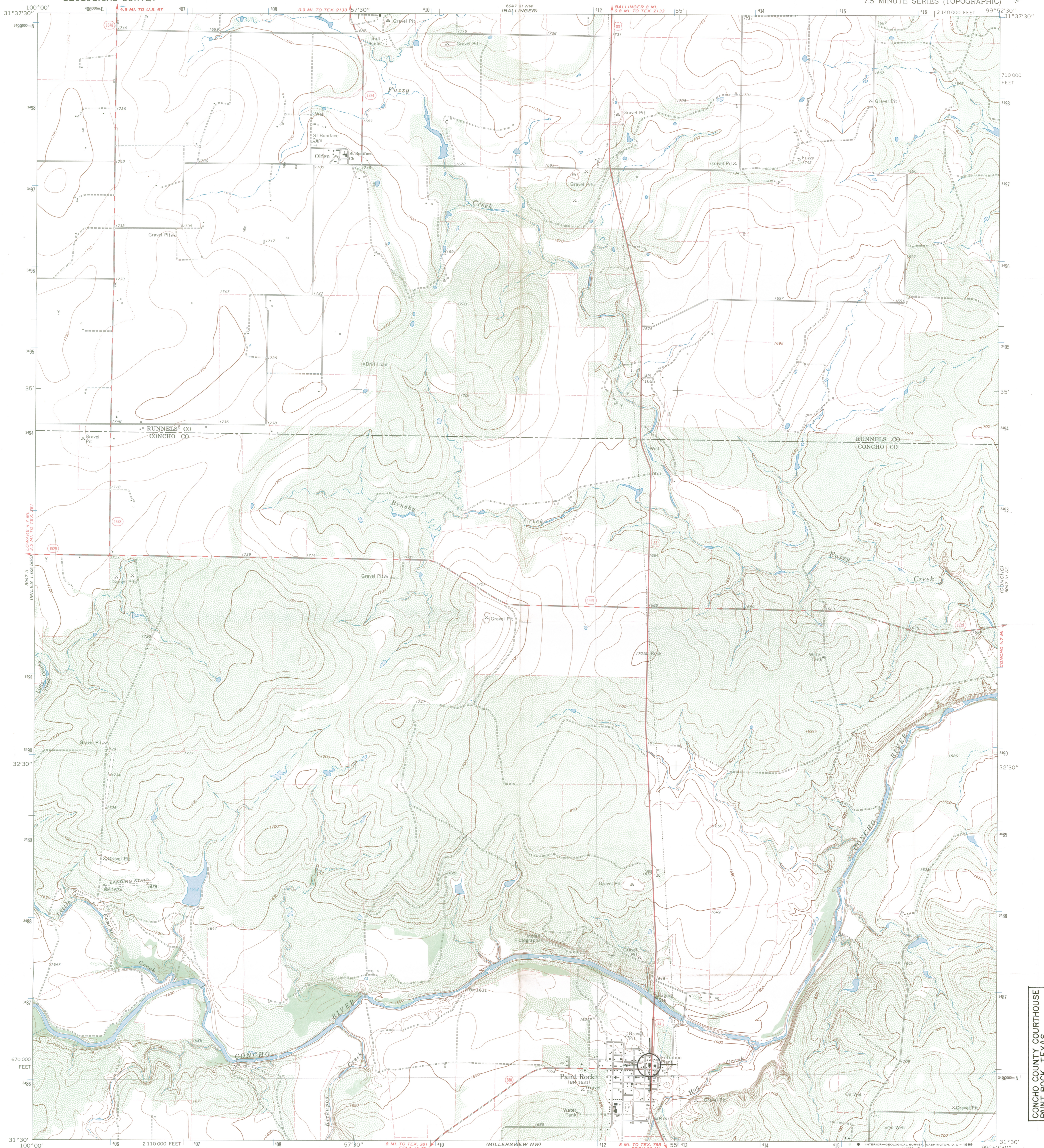
Concho County Courthouse
Paint Rock, Texas

SEP 24 1976

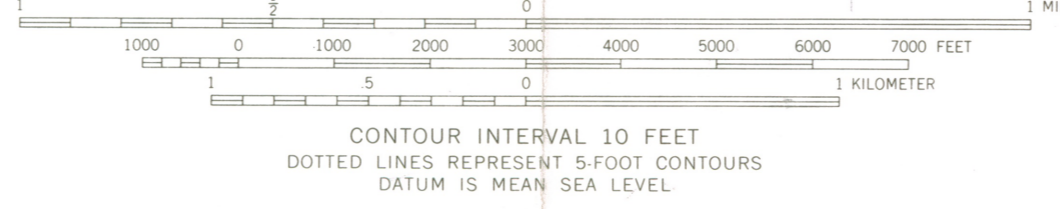
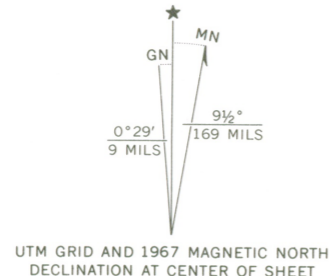
Mike Yancey, 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique
Photo #3 43

Joe
NOV 7 1977



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



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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

PAINT ROCK, TEX.
N3130-W9952.5/7.5
1967
AMS 6047 III SW-SERIES V882

3199 -322

NOV 7 1977

CONCHO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PAINT ROCK, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE:
147412640/73486140



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



April 13, 1977

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

Dear Bill:

Enclosed are the continuation sheets for the Concho and Caldwell County Courthouses. The acreage for the Concho building should be changed from 8 to 3 acres. Mr. Robinson also indicated that the Caldwell County Courthouse should be 3 acres.

Let me know if you need more information on these.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marie".

Marie D. Landon
Coordinator, National
Register Submissions

MDL/s

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered NOV 7 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Concho County Courthouse	Paint Rock Concho County

Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Robert C. Krueger

Regional Director, Southwest Region

880 Mott/js 11/9/77

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

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/4/76
Reviewer: INITIALS: JG

NR DOE NOV 7 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Concho County Courthouse

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER Public Square
CITY, TOWN Paint Rock CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Texas VICINITY OF 048 COUNTY code
Concho 095

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
- Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable-9

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED
FAIR UNEXPOSED Reconstructed Unknown
Unexcavated Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *courthouse*

now- *courthouse*

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION entertainment
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC CONSERVATION LAW/Gov't/politics SCIENCE health
AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS LITERATURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN recreation
ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION MILITARY TRANSPORTATION settlement
ART ENGINEERING MUSIC urban & commun
COMMERCE EXPLORATION PHILOSOPHY OTHER (SPECIFY) planning
COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO
county's first permanent courthouse

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder: *F. E. Ruffini*
Oscar Ruffini
landscape/garden designer:
interior decorator: *Thomas Kane & Company*
of Chicago

engineer:
artist/artisan:
builder/contractor: *J. B. Kane & John Cormack*
(of Kane & Cormack Contractors & Builders)

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal

(label role
&
appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1886*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): *1886-present*

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY
OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre)

8

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The Concho County Courthouse was designed by F. E. Ruffini, whose brother Oscar Ruffini served as supervising architect after his death; both were prominent Texas architects well known for designing courthouses. It was the county's first permanent courthouse, and has served as the county seat since 1885.