

PH 671061

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	DEC 20 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 Milam County Courthouse and Jail

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Courthouse: Public Square
Jail: South Fannin and East First Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Cameron VICINITY OF // CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Texas CODE 048 COUNTY Milam CODE 331

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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME County of Milam

STREET & NUMBER Public Square

CITY, TOWN Cameron VICINITY OF STATE Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk, Milam County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Public Square

CITY, TOWN Cameron STATE Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1970
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Austin STATE Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the center of the public square the Milam County Courthouse is a monumental edifice on a cruciform plan. As was typical in Texas, offices for county officials were located on the ground floor and were accessible from corridors passing through the building on both axes. A spacious district courtroom occupied a large volume in the second and third stories. Additional offices also were provided on these levels in the areas not occupied by the courtroom. Stairs at the east and west entrance provided access to the upper stories.

To meet changing needs, the interior has been somewhat remodeled. The north entrance has been closed and the hallway made into office space. Other changes include the modification of upper floor areas to develop more office space.

The Milam County Courthouse is an outstanding example of Renaissance Revival design. The identical north and south facades are five-part compositions while the east and west fronts are three-part designs. Each of the four fronts has a projecting center pavilion emphasized by a portico and triangular pediment. The entire massing was originally dominated by a central tower, clad with a decorative sheet metal skin rising above a Mansard roof with convex curvatures. Four clock faces projecting from the convex-curved roof covering this tower regulated community activities. Perched on a cupola above all was a statue of the Goddess of Justice serving as an ever-present reminder of one of the primary functions of the edifice.

A three-part vertical composition conforms to typical Renaissance tradition: the base was emphasized by quarry-faced ashlar masonry; the center section, encompassing two stories, was tied together with pilasters of cut stone in colossal order with Corinthian capitals and smooth shafts supported upon pedestals; the terminal section of the composition was formed by a wide entablature originally formed with sheet metal.

The details elaborate on the Renaissance theme. A cut-stone water table forms a base for the ground-story masonry while a strongly profiled cut-stone string course terminates this section. Above this course appears another cut-stone stringcourse which is more subtle in scale and which follows the window spandrels and walls in and out.

The development of the designs for the openings provides variety. On the ground floor double window openings are contained within panels formed by pilasters; on the upper two floors, triple openings also spanned by lintels are contained within panels defined by pilasters at both salient and reentrant angles. Below each window is a spandrel of cut stone. Paired windows spanned with Roman arches with pronounced sculptured keystones appear in the third story of the entrance pavilions as well as over the paired windows flanking the north and south facades; these arches have cut-stone voussoirs with pronounced archivolts. The single third-story windows between the salient and reentrant angles are spanned by Roman arches with quarry-faced voussoirs.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Milam County ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

On the second story, below the Roman-arched openings the paired windows are flanked by pilasters with capitals incorporating bead work and supporting an entablature, all of cut-stone. Above the entablature triangular pediments appear over each opening.

The four entrances are announced by porticos surmounted by non-functional balconies. Paired stone columns support an entablature of stone, above which was originally a balustrade. This has now been replaced by a simple parapet.

The exterior has been modified but still retains much of its original character. During the 1930s many details were removed. The Goddess of Justice, which has been the target of at least one sharpshooter, was taken down. Then the exterior sheetmetal work, which evidently had deteriorated, was removed. Included in this was the tower which had been considered a problem because of visitations by "young, indiscreet, and often times imprudent and irresponsible parties". In addition, the entablatures and roof balustrade were replaced by a new cut-stone parapet which now conceals the roof. Much of this work was financed by Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works Funds, with J.E. Johnson as architect and McClellan, Brown and McClellan, as contractors. More recent alterations include installation of new glass and aluminum doors and window sashes.

Among the finest remaining nineteenth-century calaboooses in Texas, the Milam County Jail was constructed with exterior walls of St. Louis pressed brick trimmed with stone on a cruciform plan. As was typical within the state, the ground level contained living quarters for the sheriff. On the upper floors free standing iron cages comprised the cells.

The Romanesque Revival style distinguished the building. Ashlar masonry forms base for the brick walls. Window openings to the sheriff's quarters are spanned with Roman arches comprised of stone voussoirs with prominent archivolts. The door openings on the north, east, and west are spanned with brick Roman arches, above which appears decorative corbeling and a panel of decorative geometrical patterns. The upper level openings, as well as a ground-level door on the south, are all spanned by segmental arches of stone.

The patterns of openings are similar on the north and south, and east and west. On the former pair of elevations, two evenly spaced openings appear in each arm of the masses; on the latter paired arched openings were incorporated into the ground story while single openings appear on the upper levels, all in symmetrical composition.

Romantic details further enhance the building. At the corners of the walls and towers appear turret-like features supported on corbels with carved decorative features all visually tied together by a stone string course. The walls are terminated by crenelations -- ancient military features communicating concepts of strength. Below these are decorative bands of brickwork. Chimnies decorated with corbeling contribute to the picturesqueness of the building.

DEFENSE.

IMPROPER USE.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Milam County ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

A tower rising from the center of the composition completes the skyline silhouette. Although the flat arch forms spanning the window openings do not appear elsewhere, the crenellations, stone string course and the corner features are repetitious of details found in other parts of the building.

The exterior of the jail retains virtually all its original character. Likewise the interior remains unchanged; all the cells in the upper levels remain intact and are open for visitation. On the ground level, the furnishings of the sheriff's quarters have been replaced by museum displays but the fabric remains intact.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES CH - 1890; Jail - 1893 BUILDER/ARCHITECT CH-Larmour & Watson
Jail-Pauly Jail Bldg. & Mftg. Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Milam County Courthouse and Jail possess both architectural and historical significance. The Courthouse is an outstanding example of Renaissance Revival design and the Jail embodies a design theme inspired by Medieval military architecture which was intended to symbolize strength. These two buildings have been the center of activities involving law and order throughout the twentieth century; the courthouse continues in use while the jail is now a museum.

Located in central East Texas, Milam County was named for Benjamin R. Milam, who served in the Texas army during the Texas War for independence. The county was created in 1836 from an area that had formerly been the municipality of Milam when Texas was a Mexican costate with Coahuila. In 1846, the state legislature made Cameron the county seat and the county attained its present configuration in 1856.

The present courthouse is the fourth temple of justice to serve the county. As was common, the first was a small unsubstantial work which was used only temporarily. In 1874, a fire burned the second, and along with it the county records. Pending the construction of a new building, the Phillips Hotel was rented as a courthouse. Following a dispute over the permanent location of the county seat, the county contracted for a new brick courthouse with a "cupola and weather vane" in 1875. However, within a few years this building was continuously presenting maintenance problems: the fireplace in the county judges' office smoked, offices required repairs, the roof leaked, and the cistern was too small. Finally, in 1889, a grand jury reported that this building was unsafe and recommended that the county build a new temple.

Through an advertisement in the Galveston Daily News the county judge invited architects to submit plans and specifications for a new building. The firm of Larmour and Watson of Austin were the successful competitors and early in 1890, invitations to bid on construction were published in both the Galveston Daily News and the Fort Worth Daily Gazette. Irregularities in bidding resulted in a rejection of all bidders; then following a second competition a contract was awarded to Lee and Plummer for \$82,385. The bid included removal of the old courthouse. However, William Plummer's bond was decared insufficient, resulting in a delay in construction for nearly a year. In addition, the county apparently had insufficient funds to proceed. Meanwhile, loss on money caused by the delay prompted the architects and contractor to make a claim against the county. To help settle the dispute, Jacob Larmour and A.O. Watson revised plans to reduce the cost. Construction then proceeded and on April 20, 1892, the building was officially accepted. After the Commissioners visited the courthouses in both LaGrange and Caldwell to inspect interior furnishings, the Burbrook School Furnishing Company of Dallas was awarded the contract to supply the courthouse furniture and venetian blinds.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Milam County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Office of the County Clerk, vols. A, B, C.

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

Fort Worth Daily Gazette, February 17, 1890; November 10, 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Courthouse - 3 acres; Jail - 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	6,9,3	5,6,0	3,4	1,4	5,3,0	B	1,4	6,9,3	6,0,0	3,4	1,4	5,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The courthouse is located on the public square which is bounded by Fannin and Central Streets respectively on the east and west, and First and Main Streets on the north and south.

? The acreage of the jail includes the ^{southeast} ~~northeast~~ quarter of the block ^{Northwest} ~~southwest~~ of the public square bounded by Fannin & 1st St.

Blairham 12.15.77

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Willard B. Robinson, Professor of Architecture

3/6/77

ORGANIZATION

Division of Architecture, Texas Tech University

DATE

806/742-2464

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 4499

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Willard Robinson

5-18-77

TITLE

Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. M. ...

DATE

12/20/77

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-18-77

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CONTINUATION SHEET Milam County ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The construction of jails paralleled these last two courthouses. In 1874, the firm of Larmour and Klerke were employed as architects and the following year work was contracted and completed on a brick jail with iron cages shipped from St. Louis, Missouri. However, on at least one occasion the jail was broken into, indicating a need for a more secure work, although a substantial wooden fence had been erected and steel installed on the cell floors. In 1884, additional work was done on the jail by P.J. Pauly and Brothers of St. Louis.

Finally, in 1893, it was determined that this jail was too small and a new building was needed. Two years later commissioners ordered the construction of a new calaboose. The Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company was awarded the contract for \$18,883. This new building was built on the site of the structure it replaced. During construction, a house was rented as a temporary jail. The jail is now the Milam County Museum.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Milam County Courthouse & Jail
Cameron, Texas

Will Robinson, 1977
Filed at Texas Historical Commission'

Oblique of the south elevation
Photo #1 *284*

MAY 23 1977

DEC 20 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Milam County Courthouse & Jail
Cameron, Texas

Will Robinson, 1977
Filed at THC

Northwest oblique of the courthouse
Photo #2 *24*

MAY 23 1977

DEC 20 1977



MILAM COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

JUSTICE
OF PEACE

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Milam County Courthouse & Jail
Cameron, Texas

Will Robinson, 1977
Filed at THC

Detail of south entrance

Photo #3 *84*

MAY 23 1977

DEC 20 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

THC



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Milam County Courthouse & Jail
Cameron, Texas

Will Robinson, 1977
Filed at THC

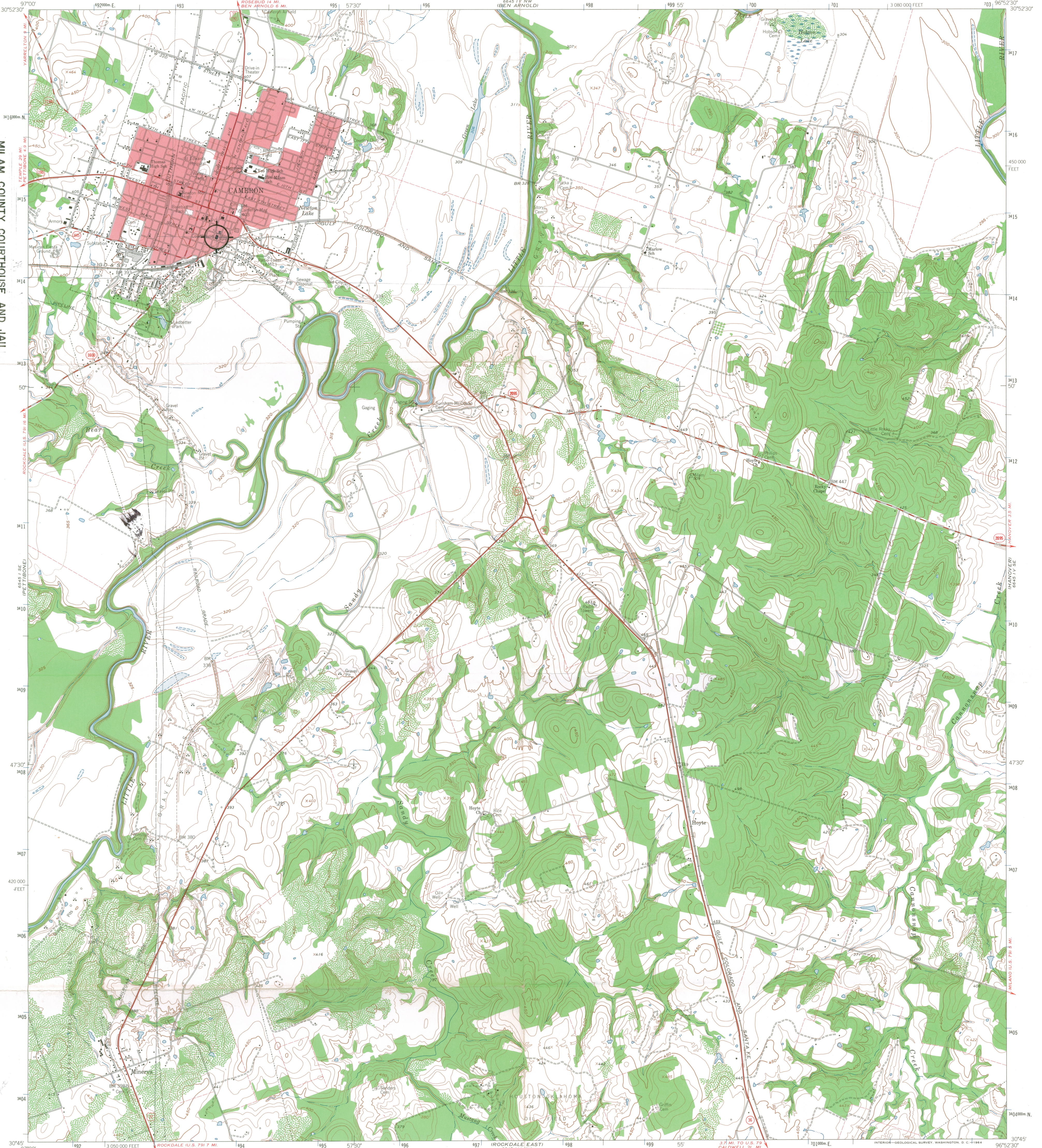
North oblique of the old county jail
Photo #4 *94*

MAY 23 1977

DEC 20 1977

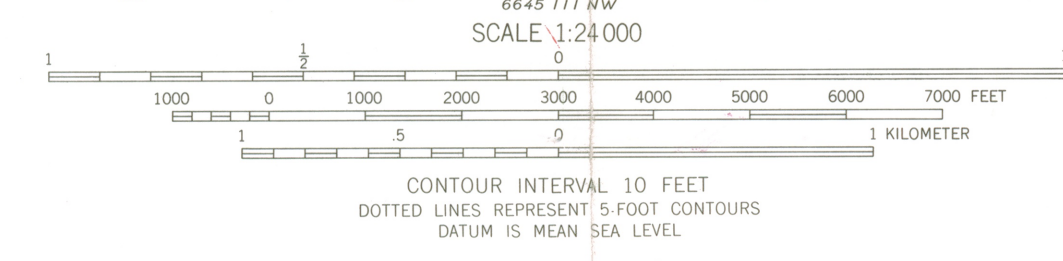
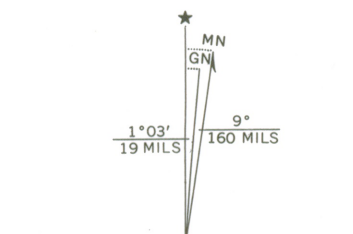
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL
PUBLIC SQUARE
CAMERON, TEXAS
14 / 693560 / 3414530



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1961
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
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



RECEIVED
MAY 23 1977
NATIONAL REGISTER

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

DEC 20 1977

CAMERON, TEX.
143045-W9652.5/7.5

1961

AMS 6645 1V SW-SERIES V882

JUN 21 1974

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3096-332

12

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 20 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Milam County Courthouse and Jail	Cameron Milam County
Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge	Bluff Dale Erath County
Denton County Courthouse	Denton Denton County
Presidio County Courthouse	Marfa Presidio County

Also Notified

Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. W. R. Poage
Hon. Omar Burleson
Hon. Ray Roberts
Hon. Richard C. White

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

Regional Director, Southwest Region

12/23/77

Mott/js

880

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Milam County Courthouse and Jail
 ② OTHER NAMES:
 ③ date of entry: DEC 20 1977
 ④ county code: 331

⑤ LOCATION street & number: Public Sq., S. Fannin and E. 1st St.
 city / town: Cameron
 vicinity of:
 state: TX
 county: Milam
 ⑥ NPS REGION: SW

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
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME NO
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME NO
 ⑮ ACREAGE
 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 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 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
 ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉒ 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 MILITARY-18 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY)
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

㉔ functions
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:
 CURRENTLY:
 ㉕ dates of initial construction:
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s):
 ㉘ architect:
 ㉙ master builder:
 ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer:
 ㉜ interior decorator:
 ㉝ artist:
 ㉞ artisan:
 ㉟ builder/contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP