

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0683515

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 30 1978
DATE ENTERED

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
Old Brazoria County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON
Angleton Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Public Square

CITY, TOWN
Angleton

STATE
Texas

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
22

COUNTY
Brazoria

CODE
039

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CODE
039

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 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 checked="" 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 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 Brazoria

STREET & NUMBER
Public Square

CITY, TOWN
Angleton

STATE
Texas

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER
Public Square

CITY, TOWN
Angleton

STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 on a two-block square, this County Courthouse was built on the same plans that had been used for the construction of the Courthouse in the nearby community of Bay City in the adjacent Matagorda County. The plans developed by Houston architect Eugene T. Heiner, who also designed a number of courthouses for other counties, conformed to the general trends of the period. They called for a rectangular building with offices on the ground floor and courtroom and offices on the second story. As was typical, corridors extending through the building on the two axes on the ground level provided communication to the various spaces. The high-ceiling courtroom was well expressed by the exterior mass and large windows. In 1897 the building was accepted by the commissioners' court as being complete.

The building was substantially built with masonry. The exterior walls were stone veneered with Houston face brick, with stucco trim.

In 1927 the building was remodeled after the plans of J.A. Tempest. A tower, which was ninety feet high and located on the south side, was removed. Additions evidently were made on the east and west; original roof details were removed and Italian Renaissance features were added on the south. The center section on the north facade with its Roman and stilted arches is the most original in design. Exterior walls were covered with stucco. Noteworthy features on the interior include iron stairs, oak rails, and Art Nouveau decoration.

Located to the south is a 1940 Art Deco courthouse, to which an addition was made in 1976. The 19th-century temple has been converted into a library.

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

1897

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Eugene T. Heiner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old courthouse building possesses architectural and governmental significance. It was built shortly after the county seat had been moved from nearby Angleton--only two years earlier, a beautiful and expensive Romanesque Revival temple of justice designed by James R. Gordon had been completed. The Angleton building has served county functions for over three-quarters of a century.

The history of Brazoria County dates back to the days in which Texas, along with Coahuila, was a part of a co-state of Mexico. Under Mexico, the municipality of Brazoria was organized in 1832. A group of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred" colonists settled within the boundaries of the present county. Late in 1836, following the Texas Revolution, Brazoria County was established as a part of the Republic of Texas. Prior to the Civil War, sugar and cotton plantations produced much of the county's wealth. After the war the economy declined, but near the end of the century agriculture again was contributing substantially to the county prosperity.

When the county was organized in 1836, the town of Brazoria was established as the county seat. By 1837 it was reported that the community contained "a handsome courthouse and many neat dwellings."

By the 1890s county prosperity had developed sufficiently to finance a new temple of justice. In 1893 the old courthouse was condemned and bids, to be accompanied by plans and specifications, were invited. However, for an unknown reason, all bids were rejected. After a committee visited courthouses that had been designed by George Dickey, Eugene T. Heiner, and J. Riely Gordon, the commission was awarded to Gordon for a new courthouse, which was built in Romanesque Revival style.

At about the time the commissioners' court accepted the new building, the town of Angleton was founded. To attract transportation interests, land was donated to the Velasco Terminal Railroad. Shortly thereafter, in an election, county voters determined that the county seat should be moved from Brazoria to Angleton. After the seat of government was moved the former community declined.

In 1896 county commissioners advertised for bids on a courthouse

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 30 1976
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER PAGE 8a

and jail "depicting those at Bay City." Early the following year the privilege to use the plans for these buildings was purchased from architect Eugene T. Heiner of Houston. The courthouse was then built by contractor Tom Lovell for about \$30,000. This edifice was remodeled in 1927 according to the plans of J.A. Tempest.

After another new courthouse was erected in 1940, this building was converted into a library. Subsequently in 1976 a large addition was made to the 1940 building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commissioners' Court Minutes, Office of the Brazoria County Clerk, Brazoria County Courthouse.

Galveston Daily News, February 8, 1897.

Houston Daily Post, January 2, 1898.

Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), July 22, 1837.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY About an acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	2,6,3,5,4,5	3,2,2,8,9,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The building is bounded on the north by Cedar Street; on the east and west respectively by Chenango and Velasco. The new 1976 courthouse faces the old building on the south.

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, June 21, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Texas Tech University

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 4499

TELEPHONE

806-742-2464

CITY OR TOWN

Lubbock,

STATE

Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

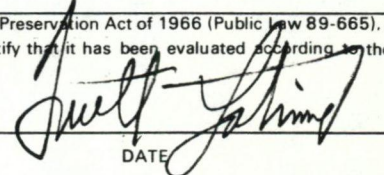
NATIONAL

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



TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Old Brazoria County Courthouse

State Texas

Working Number 8.30.78.4006

TECHNICAL

Photos 2
Maps 1

date

CONTROL

pl
8.30.78

Historical associations discussed do not pertain to this building - but to 19th century activities. Insufficient info/justification in politics and govt. We do not have good description of pre-1927 structure or original photo. Defer to architects on value of building as it now stands.

HISTORIAN

Shapiro
11-29-78
Return

THE BUILDING'S ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL PLEASURE, THAT PERTAINING TO THE ROMANESQUE RENAISSANCE STYLE, HAS BEEN ALL BUT OBLITERATED. THERE IS NO STATEMENT ASSESSING ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE - EITHER PRESENT OR ORIGINAL. INCOMPLETE V.C.D.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

RETURN
H. J. [unclear]
12/8/78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Significance / problems summarized above + on return sheet.
12-8-78 Shapiro

Southern boundary?
status of 1940s
Art Deco?

RETURN
LEBOVET
12/11/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered _____
Federal Register Entry _____ Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: Please provide a more complete description of the original building and/or supply early photographs of it. As written, the nomination does not provide enough information to evaluate the degree of change in total appearance or to determine the per cent of historic fabric that remains.

8 Statement of Significance: The present Statement of Significance does not justify the present building for listing. The architectural references appear to pertain to the original building. The historical associations cited relate to the county's 19th century history. Please justify the current building either for its architectural value or for the political/governmental associations related to this particular structure.

9 Bibliography: _____

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage: _____

UTM Reference(s): _____

Verbal Boundary Description: PLEASE PROVIDE A MORE DEFINITIVE BOUNDARY; HOW MANY BUILDINGS WITHIN THE NOMINATED PROPERTY? Southern boundary?

12 Certification: _____

Photographic Coverage: _____

Map Coverage: _____

Other: Please provide the date on which the SHPO approved the nomination.

status of 1940's Ant Deco courthouse?

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Marcella Sherfy on the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Bill Lebovich for
Chief, Branch of Registration

Date: 12/11/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED MAR 12 1979

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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AND/OR COMMON
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STREET & NUMBER
Public Square

CITY, TOWN
Angleton

STATE
Texas

VICINITY OF
CODE
039

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
22

COUNTY
Brazoria

CODE
048 039

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 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 checked="" 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 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 Brazoria

STREET & NUMBER
Public Square

CITY, TOWN
Angleton

VICINITY OF

STATE
Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER
Public Square

CITY, TOWN
Angleton

STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 on a two-block square, this County Courthouse was built on the same plans that had been used for the construction of the Courthouse in the nearby community of Bay City in the adjacent Matagorda County. The plans developed by Houston architect Eugene T. Heiner, who also designed a number of courthouses for other counties, conformed to the general trends of the period. They called for a rectangular building with offices on the ground floor and courtroom and offices on the second story. As was typical, corridors extending through the building on the two axes on the ground level provided communication to the various spaces. The high-ceiling courtroom was well expressed by the exterior mass and large windows. In 1897 the building was accepted by the commissioners' court as being complete.

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In 1927 the building was remodeled after the plans of J.A. Tempest. A tower, which was ninety feet high and located on the south side, was removed. Additions evidently were made on the east and west; original roof details were removed and Italian Renaissance features were added on the south. The center section on the north facade with its Roman and stilted arches is the most original in design. Exterior walls were covered with stucco. Noteworthy features on the interior include iron stairs, oak rails, and Art Nouveau decoration.

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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

1897

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Eugene T. Heiner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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Galveston Daily News, February 8, 1897.
 Houston Daily Post, January 2, 1898.
 Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), July 22, 1837.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY About an acre.
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	2 6 3 5 4 5	3 2 2 8 9 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The building is bounded on the north by Cedar Street; on the east and west respectively by Chenango and Velasco. The new 1976 courthouse faces the old building on the south. *South boundary*
80' south of existing courthouse
Shelby 12-21-78

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, June 21, 1978

ORGANIZATION: Texas Tech University DATE:

STREET & NUMBER: Box 4499 TELEPHONE: 806-742-2464

CITY OR TOWN: Lubbock, Texas 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

[Signature]
 DATE: Aug. 27, 1978

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION: *[Signature]* DATE: 3/12/79

ATTEST: *William Lelovich* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE: March 9, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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AUG 30 1978

MAR 12 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER PAGE 8a

and jail "depicting those at Bay City." Early the following year the privilege to use the plans for these buildings was purchased from architect Eugene T. Heiner of Houston. The courthouse was then built by contractor Tom Lovell for about \$30,000. This edifice was remodeled in 1927 according to the plans of J.A. Tempest.

After another new courthouse was erected in 1940, this building was converted into a library. Subsequently in 1976 a large addition was made to the 1940 building.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The first major influence of the courthouse at Angleton on the surrounding area was a very basic one: it was the impetus for the rapid growth of the town. Before the courthouse was built, the only structures present there were a depot, postoffice, store, hotel, and church. Establishment of the county seat at Angleton to avert an intra-county feud necessitated the construction of additional housing, stores, livery stables, cafes, and a newspaper office. Angleton became a "white-collar" town, depending almost entirely on county business and attendant services for its existence.

The courthouse provided not only financial, but physical, protection for the community. During hurricane season, the townspeople would flock to the courthouse from their flimsy wooden houses and shops at the first sign of trouble on the Gulf. Presumably, the sturdy courthouse served as a haven from the 1900 storm that devastated nearby Galveston. Also, as the tallest building in town, the courthouse was the place from which to observe rising waters of the Brazos River, which flooded occasionally.

Court sessions of the 23rd judicial court served entertainment functions as well as judicial ones. During Prohibition, the overloaded docket of State vs. Bootlegger cases called for night sessions. These were a major form of amusement, especially when fiery Bob Bassett, District Attorney, addressed the jury. A very grim event in the courtroom was the trial leading to the last legal hanging in Texas. Gallows were built on the courthouse grounds, and on August 21, 1921, the sentence was carried out.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE: _____

_____ (ATTACHED)

_____ SENT

_____ (ATTACHED)

D. W. C. H. A. _____

INITIALS _____

MAR 09 1979

Property

Old Brazoria County Courthouse

State

Texas

Working Number

8.30.78.4006

79002922

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

Art

C. Kennedy CONTROL

OK 8.30.78

Historical associations discussed do not pertain to this building - but to 19th century activities. Insufficient info/justification in politics and govt. We do not have good description of pre-1927 structure or original photo. Defer to architects on value of building as it now stands.

HISTORIAN

Sheffs 11-29-78

Return

THE BUILDING'S ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL FABRIC, THAT PERTAINING TO THE ROMANESQUE REVIVAL STYLE, HAS BEEN ALL BUT OBLITERATED. THERE IS NO STATEMENT ASSESSING ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE - EITHER PRESENT OR ORIGINAL. INCOMPLETE V.B.D.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

RETURN
12/9/78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Significance / problems summarized above & on return sheet. 12-8-78 Sheffs

Southern boundary? states of 1940s Art Deco?

RETURN
LEBOVICH
12/11/78

this den nomination should have been returned, but wasn't, the card should have been marked "threatened" but it wasn't, the nomination should have been written to reflect appearance of existing building, which it didn't.

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
lebovich
3/9/79

Based on #7, #8 continuation sheet/telephone message, and photos, I recommend listing for the following reasons - the 1927 alterations affected integrity as courthouse, but not as govt building as it went from being a courthouse to a library, the alterations were done from 7 than 50 years ago, and aside from loss of tower, this nomination exaggerated the extent of alterations.

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

4-3-79

Send-back _____

Entered

MAR 12 1979

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Old Brazoria County Courthouse
Public Square
Angleton, Brazoria County, Texas

MAR 12 1979

#1072

Southwest Oblique

Will Robinson 1977 *Brazoria County Courthouse*
negative filed at the Texas Historical Comm.

AUG 30 1978

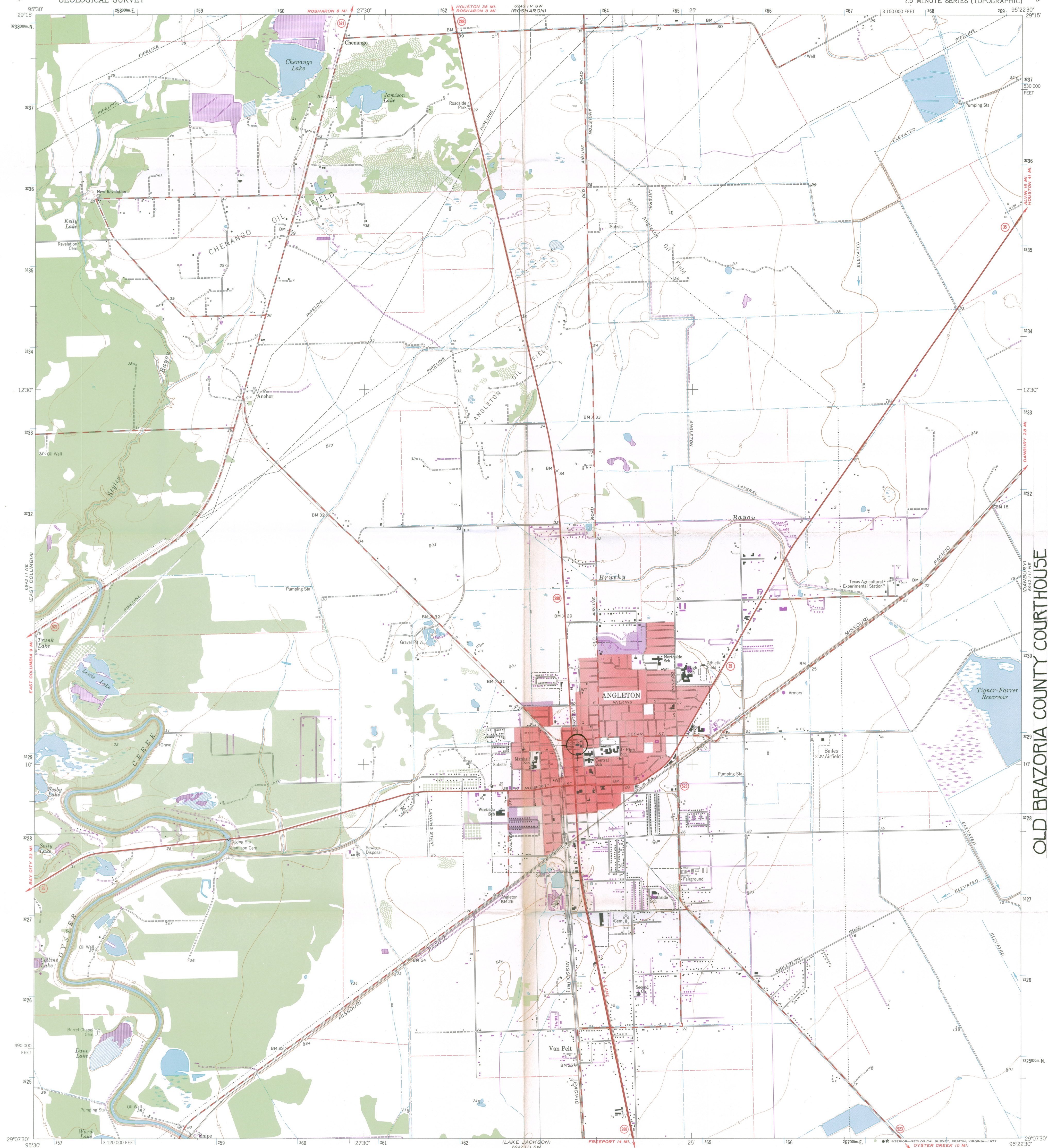


Old Brazoria County Courthouse MAR 12 1979
Public Square
Angleton, Brazoria County, Texas

Brazoria County
Northeast Oblique #5072

Angleton TX
Will Robinson 1977
negative filed at the Texas Historical Comm.

AUG 30 1978



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

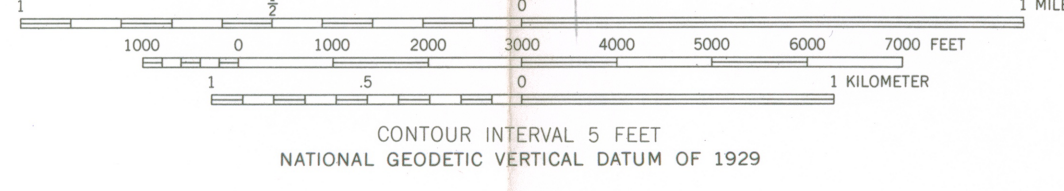
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and Tennessee Valley Authority
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1961 and 1963. Topography from 1:24 000-scale AMS map
of Angleton quadrangle. Original map by photogrammetric methods and
planimetry surveys 1943. Revised 1963

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 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

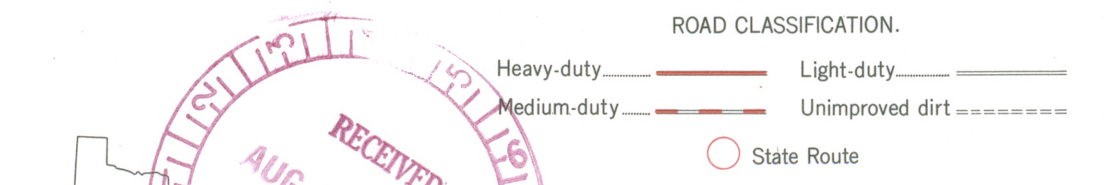
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1974. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ANGLETON, TEX.
N2907.5—W9522.5/7.5

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 6942 111 NW—SERIES V882

OLD BRAZORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PUBLIC SQUARE
ANGLETON, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15T263545/3228960

Bill

David Moore called
to ask status - demolition
threat - did not want
returned

- this is among the most
charged

ATION

DATE: 12 - 14 - 78

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER:

Sheffy

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Wanted to know status

→ This was supposed to have
been expedited (Liss called)

Told her we would hold if they
supplied

- banday

- date

- just for structure that new stands
list
architecture

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Old Beazana

TO/FROM: David Mame
Lissa

DATE: 12 - 14 - 78

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER:

Sheffy

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Wanted to know status
→ This was supposed to have
been expedited (Lissa called)

Told her we would hold if they
supplied

- bandage

- date

- just for structure that new stands
list
architecture

11th

12th

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT:

TO/FROM: David Moore

DATE: 12-21-18

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER:

DIVISION:

REPORT: Abdih

(currently used)

VBD - 80' south of existing outhouse

~~the~~ place of 1 south

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Old Brazoria

TO/FROM: see letter

DATE: 3.6.79

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER:

Sheffy

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Called Lisa to tell her we hadn't gotten the information, (Don't think she believed me.)

She will send copy of the continuation sheet right away

She read ~~my~~ me what she had written -

- well justified -

- creation of courthouse sparked business development of entire community that would not otherwise have occurred

- building log used as storm protection & lookout (hurricane.)

Told her → I would see if we could list before continuation sheet came

(over)

I didn't get file out while she was talking.

I asked her if this courthouse was or that had been remodelled - Lissa said not.

as I looked at file - it is one that has changed - & the info that Lissa wrote still pertains more to early structure.

3/7/79

Sequency of events.

Our receipt of nomination.

State call to Control to expedite - no indication of that transferred to ~~control~~ ^{control card.}

December - State called to check on status since it was in ~~the~~ jeopardy. Told them it was to be returned. Agreed to keep if they would send new information. I listed boundaries, significance, and date as information we needed. I did not apparently as for more #7.

December 21 - David Moore called with new boundary info. Said that significance information would be sent later.

Nomination put in hold.

3/1/79 - letter from SHPO saying that information had been sent, asking why we hadn't acted.

3/6/79 - Talked with Lissa, told her material had not come. She read it to me over the phone. I did not get our file at the time. Told her info sounded good. Asked if this was one of the much altered courthouses. She said she didn't think so. Told her I would check and see if we could list ~~it~~ before continuation ~~of~~ sheet arrives.

3/8/79 - Talked with Bill - he said probably, but wants to see file. I told Lissa that.

Then I looked at the file. This is one of the much altered courthouses. Lissa's new information is much better than what we have now - but still deals primarily with original structure with tower.

Obviously, we are at fault in not expediting, in not checking in hold, ~~what~~ perhaps in not communicating what we want clearly enough. What next:



Dr. Huntzger -

I recommend listing primarily to (1) avoid antagonizing Texas as Texas claims this nomination was to be expedited + additional information ~~was to~~ be sent in, but we never received.

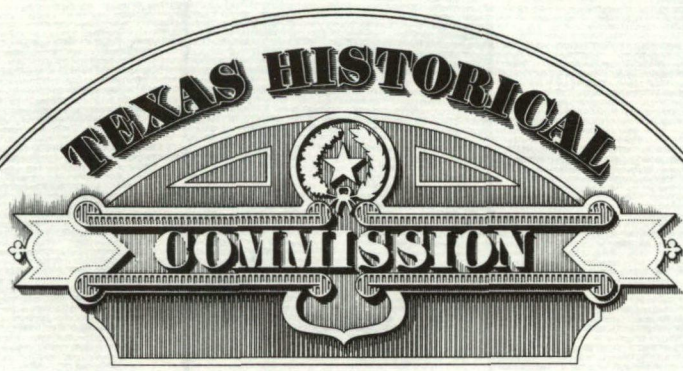
(2) Treaty.

LEBovus

3/9/79

This is not adequate nomination

Marcella



TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 12276
AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

February 22, 1979

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

The Old Brazoria County Courthouse was submitted for listing on the National Register August 29, 1978. Problems soon arose in Brazoria County, indicating that the Courthouse might be demolished. Therefore, on October 20, 1978, our coordinator of nominations called Delores Byars and requested that, if possible, the nomination be expedited. In mid- to late December, Marcella Sherfy requested additional information on the property's boundaries and recent history. That material was forwarded to Washington January 8, 1979. At this time, we have not yet received notice that the Old Courthouse has been either approved or rejected. Your investigation of this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer
State Historic Preservation Officer

TL:la

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Pension Building
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

called
3.6.79
- Told Lisa we
had never
received new
info
- she read continuation
sheet to me

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE RECD **MAR 01 1979**

RECEIVED BY _____

TITLE _____

FILE NO. _____

TELEPHONE TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

Faint, mostly illegible text in the middle section of the page, possibly a letter or report.

Large, faint, illegible signature or stamp in the lower middle section of the page.

Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page, possibly a footer or additional notes.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered MAR 12 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Toltec Club	El Paso El Paso County
Carnegie Public Library	Tyler Smith County
Old Brazoria County Courthouse	Angleton Brazoria County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen
Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Richard C. White
Honorable Ray Roberts
Honorable Ron Paul

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

NR Byers/bjr 3/14/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401.

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Old Brazoria County Courthouse
 ② OTHER NAMES: Angleton Library
 ③ date of entry: MAR 12 1979
 ④ county code: 039

⑤ LOCATION street & number: Public Sq.
 city / town: Angleton
 vicinity of: _____
 state: TX
 county: Brazoria
 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: 22
 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 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5 UNKNOWN-6
 NOT APPLICABLE-7 NOT APPLICABLE-8 NOT APPLICABLE-9
 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
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS / GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30
 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25
 ㉒ CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

㉓ functions
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:
 CURRENTLY:
 ㉔ dates of initial construction:
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 ㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉖ architectural style(s):
 ㉗ architect:
 ㉘ master builder:
 ㉙ engineer:

㉚ landscape architect / garden designer:
 ㉛ interior decorator:
 ㉜ artist:
 ㉝ artisan:
 ㉞ builder/contractor:

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

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP