

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JUL 30 1979

date entered SEP 26 1979

## 1. Name

historic Copperas Cove Stagestop and Post Office

and/or common Martin I. Walker Historical Museum

## 2. Location

street & number 1.6 miles southwest of Copperas Cove,  
off of U.S. hwy. 190 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Copperas Cove *vic.* vicinity of congressional district 11

state Texas code 048 county Coryell code 099

## 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                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                  | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered  | <input 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 City of Copperas Cove

street & number P. O. Box 280

city, town Copperas Cove \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Texas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk, Coryell County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Gatesville \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas, 76528

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date March, 1976 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

## 7. Description

|   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input 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 central Texas, the Old Stagestop and Post Office was built on a simple plan with walls of limestone quarried in the vicinity of the site. The plan consisted two rooms, with the long axis of the building running north/south. Doorways to each room on the east and west provided for good cross ventilation during the hot months. At the ends of each room was located a fireplace. Overhead was a low attic, accessible only by ladder, with openings in the gables of the building.

The stonework adds to the significance of the structure. Local limestone, roughly dressed, was laid in ashlar pattern to form walls, some nineteen inches thick. However, the lintels and sills of the openings were cut stone. Openings near the base of the walls on the east and west provided ventilation for the space under the floor, thus assuring a longer life for the floor structure. On the west side is a stone with the inscription "Finished in August, 1878, Ogl (illegible).

The openings were detailed in a style that was typical of the times; the window sashes were six over six lights. Doors consisted of four panels. The roof structure was framed with rough sawn wood lumber. Cedar shingles were nailed over this.

The interior surfaces were plain finished and basically unadorned. Walls were plastered and floors and ceilings were finished with one-by-four tongue and groove boards. Fireplaces have cut limestone facings. Simple wooden mantles over the fireplace openings are supported by two vertical boards with sides perpendicular to the wall. These supports are enhanced with a graceful curvature.

At some unknown date a three room, frame addition was made to the building; however, this has since been removed.

Also included as a part of the Stagestop and Post Office were several other elements. A cistern and settlement basin, which have been restored, are situated near the southwest corner of the building. Also to the southwest was a storm cellar which was spanned by a barrel vault formed of rough slabs of limestone. Within this were banquettes for storage and seating. Stone steps provided access into the subterranean room. A smoke house also stood on the property near the house until destroyed in a storm in 1971.

In 1950 the building was vacated. During this time it was vandalized and allowed to deteriorate. Windows and doors were heavily damaged. The Rays donated the property to the city of Copperas Cove in 1974. It was restored during the Bicentennial of America. All of the wooden parts of the building were replaced with new material which authentically replicated the original. In addition, the stonework was repointed using Portland Cement Mortar. Today the structure is in excellent condition and is protected in its isolated setting by a chain-link fence. It now serves as a museum commemorating the pioneer history of the area.

# 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/                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention                         |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)           |

**Specific dates** 1878 **Builder/Architect** Marsden Ogletree

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Old Stagestop and Post Office is a fine example of the vernacular stone structures that dotted the nineteenth century Texas landscape. It is the only structure remaining from the original town of Copperas Cove, then known as The Cove. Having served numerous functions strategic to the locale, beginning with its original as stage relay station and post office and including home and grocery, it continues to be a major landmark in its present condition as a museum.

Evidently named for a copper spring in a cove of the nearby mountains, the town of Copperas Cove was not laid out until 1882, when the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad passed through the vicinity. Prior to this, however, Marsden Ogletree (1819-1896) had settled in the wilderness area.

In 1878 Ogletree constructed the Old Stagestop and Post Office. At first it served as a store dwelling and stage stop for individuals travelling from Georgetown to Fort Gates. In 1879 Ogletree received approval of a request he had made for a post office; he was named post-master. However, after about a year the post office was moved to the townsite location of Copperas Cove.

Subsequently the building was sold to Jesse M. Clements, who made it his ranch headquarters.

In 1923 Marvin Walker and wife bought the property. During their occupancy the spaces in the stone building were used as bedrooms; the frame addition to the back as kitchen, dining room, and master bedroom.

E.T. Ray, a former sheriff and his wife, a daughter of Walker, then acquired the property in the early 1950's. It has since been donated to the city of Copperas Cove, restored, and now functions as an historical museum.

*[Handwritten signature and date]*

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Copperal Cove Press, miscellaneous issues.

Webb, Walter Prescott, The Handbook of Texas, Vol. I, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.2 acres

Quadrangle name Copperas Cove, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

|      |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 4       | 6 | 0 | 2 | 1        | 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| Zone | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

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| Zone | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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| Zone | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

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| Zone | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is enclosed by a chain link fence measuring approximately 120 feet east to west and 100 feet north to south. Included within this fence are the cistern and cellar.

### 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

organization Texas Tech University

date 7/16/79

street & number Box 4140

telephone 806/742/2789

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/27/79

For HCRS use only

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

*William H. Graham*

date 9.26.79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Beth Grosvenor*

date 9/26/79

Chief of Registration

Property COPPERAS COVE STAGESTOP AND POST OFFICE

State Tx. Conzell Working Number 7.30.79.1806

79002928

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 4

Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*pl*  
**OK 8.1.79**

*Good example of vernacular stone building in TX. Only remaining structure from original town*

**HISTORIAN**

*accept*  
*B. Grovema*  
*9/26/79*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*accept*  
*B. Grovema*  
*9/26/79*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register Entry 11-6-79

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

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

Entered SEP 26 1979



Copperas Cove Stagestop and Post Office

Copperas Cove, Coryell County, Texas

Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 3/76

Southeast Oblique

Photo # 1

JUL 30 1979

SEP 26 1979





Copperas Cove Stagestop and Post Office  
Copperas Cove, Coryell County, TX  
Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 3/76  
Southwest oblique  
Copy made 1994



Copperas Cove Stagesstop and Post Office

Copperas Cove, Coryell County, Texas

Photo: Willard B. Robinson, 1978

Detail, Fireplace

Photo # 3

JUL 30 1979

SEP 26 1979



Copperas Cove Stagestop and Post Office

Copperas Cove, Coryell County, Texas

Photo: Willard B. Robinson, 1978

Detail, storm cellar

Photo # 4

JUL 30 1979

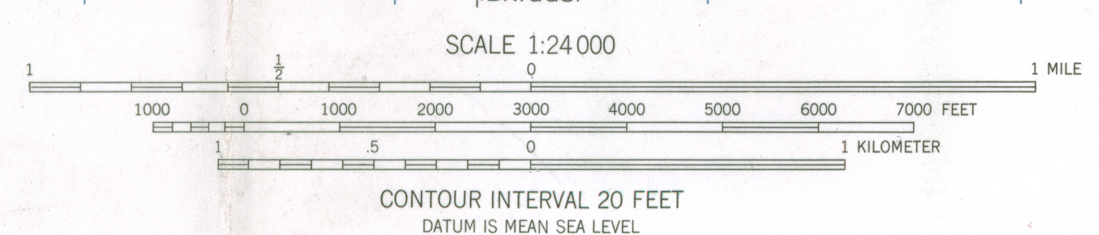
SEP 26 1979





Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Planimetric detail revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1955-1956. Field check 1958  
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

TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH  
APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION, 1958



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SEP 26 1979  
RECEIVED  
JUL 30 1974  
NATIONAL REGISTER

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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
TEXAS

COPPERAS COVE, TEX.  
SW/4 FORT HOOD 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3100-W9752.5/7.5  
1958

3197 -222

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered SEP 26 1979

Name

Location

Copperas Cove Stagestop and Post Office

Copperas Cove vicinity  
Coryell County

Callender House

Victoria  
Victoria County

Palo Pinto County Jail

Palo Pinto  
Palo Pinto County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Marvin Leath  
Honorable Joseph P. Wyatt, Jr.  
Honorable Charles W. Stenholm

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 9/27/79

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