

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 16 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 19 1979

**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

Newton County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

off TX 190

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Newton

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY

Newton

CODE

351

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Newton County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Newton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newton,

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

The Newton County Courthouse dominates the town square as a provincial statement of the Second Empire Style. This style, also known in the U.S. as the General Grant style, was a mode popularized during the latter half of the 19th century, particularly for public edifices. The geographic separation of Texas from design centers hampered its acceptance of stylistic developments; thus, although the Newton County Courthouse was constructed in the 20th century, it represents the 19th century Second Empire style with its three-dimensional, mansardic massing. Originally symmetrical in plan, the square form was extended to the south with a two-story courthouse annex and jail in 1936.

Built in 1902-1903 by contractors Martin and Moody of Comanche, Texas, the three-story courthouse is composed of structural masonry walls set on a continuous brick footing five to six feet below grade, five feet wide at the base, stepping in to 24" wide at grade level. The walls are 24" thick around the vault area, 18" thick on the first and second floors, and taper to 12" on the third floor. The locally kilned bricks, originally exposed on the exterior, are laid in cement mortar and tempered with lime. In an effort to preclude the possibility of cracked walls, small mortar joints were employed to compensate for any foundation setting.

The structure originally consisted of four symmetrical facades, the north and south, and east and west being identical respectively. The three remaining original facades are composed of five projecting bays with the central bay projecting the farthest. Entrances, located in the central bays, are accentuated with bracket-supported, balustraded balconies of masonry construction. The smooth plaster walls of the bays are offset by decorative quoins and hood moldings. The moldings take the form of segmented, triangular, and rounded and flat keystone arches. A continuous architrave molding rests atop the quoins and projecting from this architrave are pairs of brackets which support the eaves, trimmed with cornice molding. The central projecting bays are crested with a classical pediment in which a floral form is denoted in shallow relief. The original structure is topped with a mansard roof composed of painted, pressed metal. The roof is pierced with both round and arched dormers as well as two chimneys. Rising from the center of the roof is a truncated clock tower. The tower consists of an open-sided belfry terminated with a pilaster-supported apron. Rising from the apron are clock facades topped with pedimented architrave and Mansard roof. Original windows were double hung with wooden mullions, and doors were wooden with glass and wood insets and over door transoms. The interior featured tile and wooden floors, high ceilings with fans, plaster walls, and wooden staircases.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Throughout the years of continual use, the courthouse has been altered several times, reflecting the changing needs of Newton County. In 1910 and again in 1925, the interior was modified to provide more functional spaces. In 1935-1936 a two-story jail was added to the south facade. The flat-roofed addition reflects some of the original design elements, though in a simplified manner. It is believed that at the time of this addition the brick walls were covered with an application of cement stucco with a coarse aggregate. In 1972 and 1973 the structure was "renovated" by contractors D.E. Walker and Sons, utilizing revenue sharing funds. At this time, the original doors and windows were replaced with aluminum and glass counterparts; the ceilings were lowered; the walls were paneled; the first floor was retiled while the second and third floors were carpeted. In addition, a stair glide was installed on one staircase, the plumbing and wiring were updated, and a central air/heat system was installed. The courthouse continues to provide the county with offices for county officials, rooms for court proceedings, offices for the sheriff, jail facilities, and spaces for public meetings. In addition, the grounds provide space for special events such as fairs and election returns.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1902-1903 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Martin and Moody, Contractors

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Exemplifying a style that was considered particularly appropriate for public buildings at the turn of the century, the Newton County Courthouse, built in 1902-1903, stands today as the focal point of Newton. The three-story, mansard-roofed structure dominates the town square with smooth plaster walls offset with decorative quoins and hood moldings and other supporting features of the Second Empire style. While the structure is a good representation of this mansardic development of the style, it is also a reminder of the tumultuous conflict that preceded the selection of Newton as county seat of Newton County.

On April 22, 1846, Jasper County was divided with a north/south axis, the eastern portion of the county being renamed Newton County in honor of Corporal John Newman, companion hero to Sergeant William Jasper of the American Revolution, under Francis Marion. The Texas State Legislature specified that the geographical center of the county be located and the county seat established within a five mile radius of the center. Quicksand Creek was originally established as the county seat, with meetings held in the home of Joseph Irvine. Due to erroneous field and survey notes, defective land titles, and local prejudices, the county seat was moved four times during the first decade of the establishment of Newton County, and a petition was filed for a fifth move. Finally, in an effort to settle this long-lasting conflict over the location of the government seat, the legislature decreed that an election be held, and Newton, receiving the most votes, was declared the county seat. Despite this final decision, the county records had to be "stolen" from Burkeville under guard and secrecy. The present structure was built in 1902-1903, constructed by contractors Martin and Moody of Comanche, Texas, at a cost of \$21,947.00. On March 30, 1903, the Commissioners Court accepted the new building which has served as the administrative offices for Newton County since completion.

Since its construction, Newton County Courthouse has served as a focal point for the town and county in both an architectural and functional capacity. Early in the century the courthouse lawn boasted a baseball diamond which served practices as well as games. The first Newton County Fair was held on the square in 1917; others have taken place in subsequent years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Robinson, Willard B., and Webb, Todd, Texas Public Buildings of the 19th Century, 1974, University of Texas Press, Austin, London, p. 145
- Webb, Walter Prescott, The Handbook of Texas, Vol. II, Marvin D. Evans Co., Fort Worth, Texas, 1952, p. 277
- Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide To The Styles, MIT Press, Cambridge and London, 1969, p. 103
- Walmer, Maurice E., Architect, Renovation Feasibility Study

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Roganville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES 3 50 7 7 5

A 1 5 4 2 7 0 3 5 3 4 1 2 0 7 8

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The courthouse square is bounded on the north by Court Street, east by Rusk Street, south by Main Street, and west by Kaufman Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Linda C. Flory, Historian, National Register Department

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission

DATE 5/9/79

STREET & NUMBER Box 12276

TELEPHONE 512-475-3095

CITY OR TOWN Austin,

STATE Texas

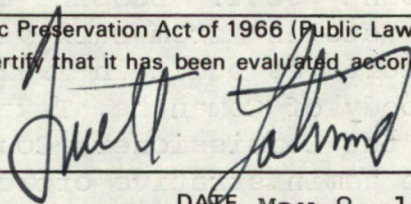
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 8, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER Bill Blewett

ATTEST: Gale Brooks for

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE July 19, 1979

DATE July 19, 1979

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The grounds have hosted a variety of political rallies with a black-board erected outdoors to publicize returns during elections. The courtroom has served as a meeting place for various county committees and task forces. On June 26, 1971, the Newton County Historical Commission marked the 125th Anniversary of Newton County with an all-day festival which included a parade, exhibits, and various programs and contests. The celebration was repeated with the addition of a trades exhibit in 1976 to denote the 130th Anniversary of the county. On March 2, 1976 the county planted a Liberty Tree on the courthouse lawn and accepted a Bicentennial Flag along with the designation of Bicentennial Community. On a regular basis, the courthouse serves as an exhibition hall for displays by local organizations such as the Newton Garden Club and the Newton County Historical Commission.

Property Newton County Courthouse

State Ga. (Newton) Working Number 5.16.79.1156

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

U/M/unclear

CONTROL

pl
OK 5.16.79

Important as seat of county government since 1903. Also symbolic because location of County Seat was highly controversial during 19th century and changed several times before an election resulted in designation of Newton.

HISTORIAN

Accept
Sheffield 7-18-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

This building has at least local architectural significance as a regional interpretation of the Second Empire Style. Though the early 1970's renovation seems unsympathetic (doors and windows especially), the building still retains the majority of its original exterior character and integrity.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Carol Brooks
7/19/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry _____

8-7-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUL 19 1979



MAY 16 1979

Newton County Courthouse

Newton, Newton County, Texas

Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 7/28/77

North Elevation

Photo # 1 of 4

JUL 19 1979
DUE



MAY 16 1979

Newton County Courthouse

Newton, Newton County, Texas

Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 7/28/77

West Elevation

Photo # 2 of 4

JUL 19 1979
DGE



MAY 16 1979

Newton County Courthouse

Newton, Newton County, Texas

Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 7/28/77

Southwest Oblique

Photo # 3 *of 4*

JUL 19 1979 *Doc*



MAY 16 1979

Newton County Courthouse

Newton, Newton County, Texas

Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 7/28/77

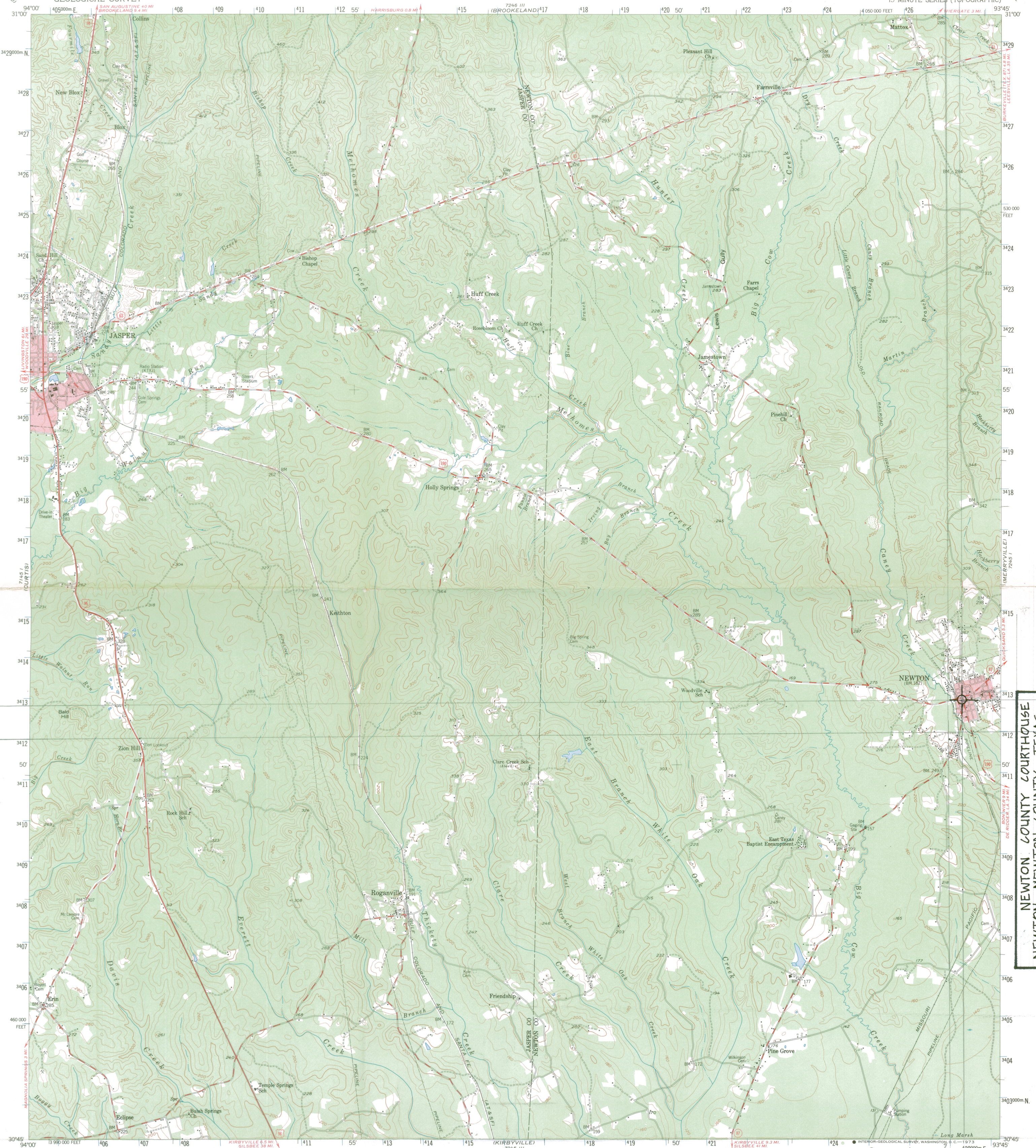
East Elevation

Photo # 4 of 4

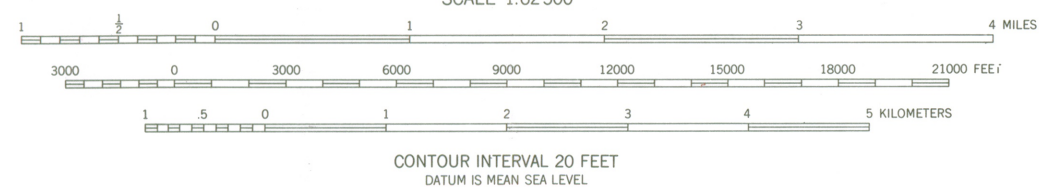
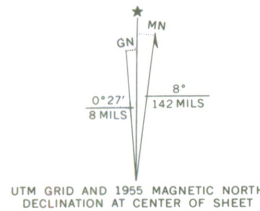
JUL 19 1979 JEC

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

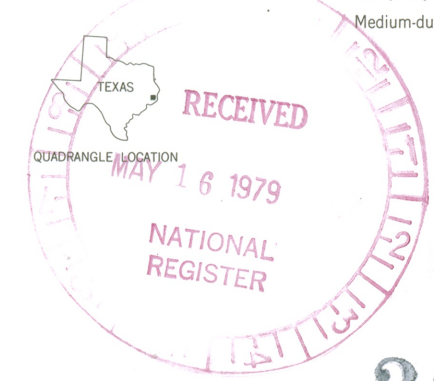
ROGANVILLE QUADRANGLE
TEXAS
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue



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



ROGANVILLE, TEX.
N3045-W9345/15
1955
AMS 7245 IV-SERIES V782

NEWTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
NEWTON, NEWTON COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/42T035/3412070

3093-330

JUL 19 1979

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **TEXAS**

Date Entered **JUL 19 1979**

Name

Location

Newton County Courthouse

Newton
Newton County

Clark Hotel

Van Horn
Culberson County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Charles Wilson
Honorable Richard C. White

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 7/25/79

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