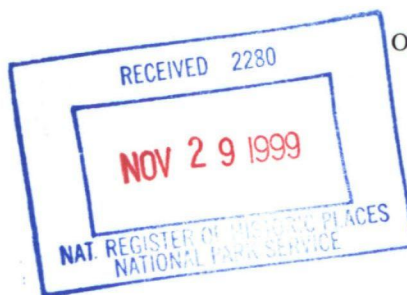


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



1623

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Central Fire Station  
**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** N/A

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 203 W. Foster  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Pampa  
**STATE:** Texas      **CODE:** TX      **COUNTY:** Gray

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A  
**VICINITY:** N/A  
**CODE:** 179      **ZIP CODE:** 79065

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this   x   nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property   x   meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide   x   locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*[Handwritten Signature]*

11-19-99

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten Signature: Wilson H. Beall]*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
12/30/99

---

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public - local

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** N/A

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

---

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/fire station = fire station

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/fire station = fire station

---

**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Beaux Arts

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
WALLS BRICK, TERRA COTTA  
ROOF ASPHALT  
OTHER

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

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Constructed in 1930, the 2-story Central Fire Station, at 203 W. Foster, continues to serve the city of Pampa. Amarillo architect William R. Kaufman incorporated modest Georgian ornamentation into the two-story buff brick building with terra cotta trim, in order to compliment the two adjacent government buildings on Albert Square: Pampa City Hall (also 1930) and the Gray County Courthouse (1929, NRHP 1998). The primary facade (north) incorporates three low-arched garage doors and a narrow bay on the east side containing a simple wooden door under a rectangular transom, all set within terra cotta trim. Exhibiting minimal alteration, the fire station retains a high degree of its historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

---

With a simple functional form prevalent since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Pampa's Central Fire Hall is a 2-story rectangular building built of buff brick with terra cotta detailing. The building's form communicates its functions, with three large bay doors on the ground floor where fire trucks are maintained, and triple sets of 1/1 double-hung wood windows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor where offices and apartment are located. The single entryway east of the garage bays is set within terra cotta trim, and is topped by a transom and Classical pediment, and a corresponding 1/1 sash window on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Windows on the sides of the building, single and paired, are similar to those on the north elevation. A rectangular-plan brick tower with a shallow gabled roof rises at the rear (southwest) corner of the building, with a single, solid garage door on the west facade adjacent to the tower. The familiar terra cotta urns (utilized by Kaufman on Pampa City Hall and Gray County Courthouse) are duplicated on top of the terra cotta coping of the fire station's parapet.

The first floor contains a stairway on the east, leading to the office, kitchen and apartment areas on the second floor. The ground floor is primarily an open room which accommodates three fire trucks. The floor is concrete. Two sliding poles are located towards the back (south) area of the apparatus room, with a staircase in the northeast corner, adjacent to the three garage doors. The second floor features nine small rooms to accommodate firefighters, as well as a kitchen, living room, and dining room. A large skylight is set over the central recreation room. Overall, the building is in very good condition, retaining a high degree of integrity.

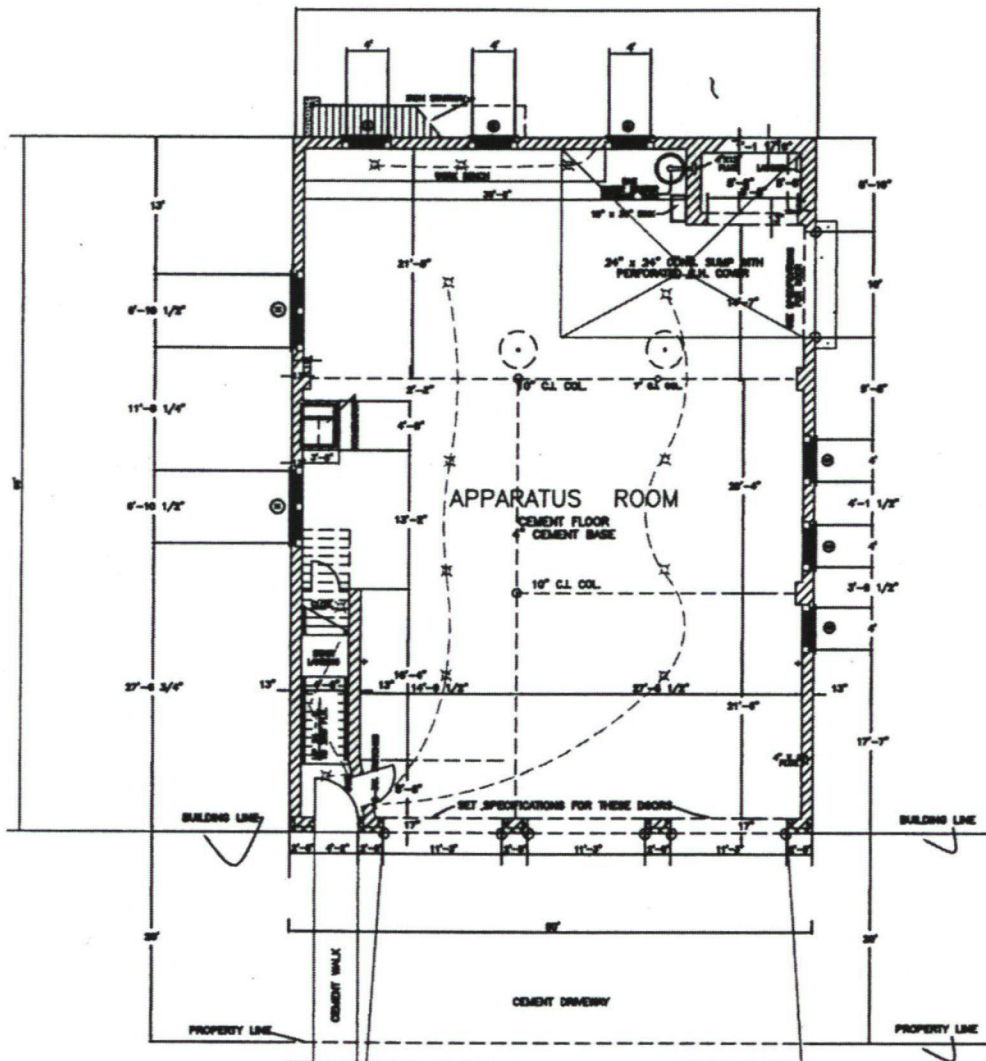
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

Plan, ground floor (Not to scale)



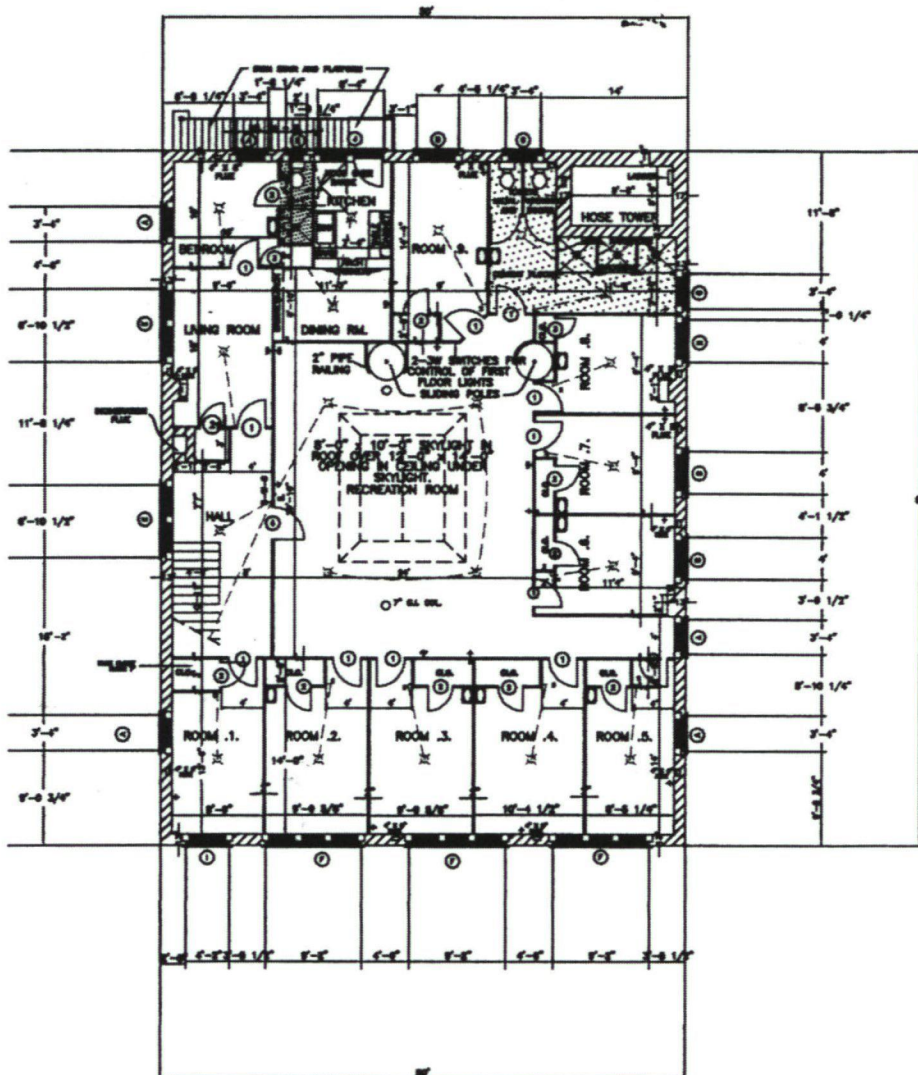
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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Not to scale)



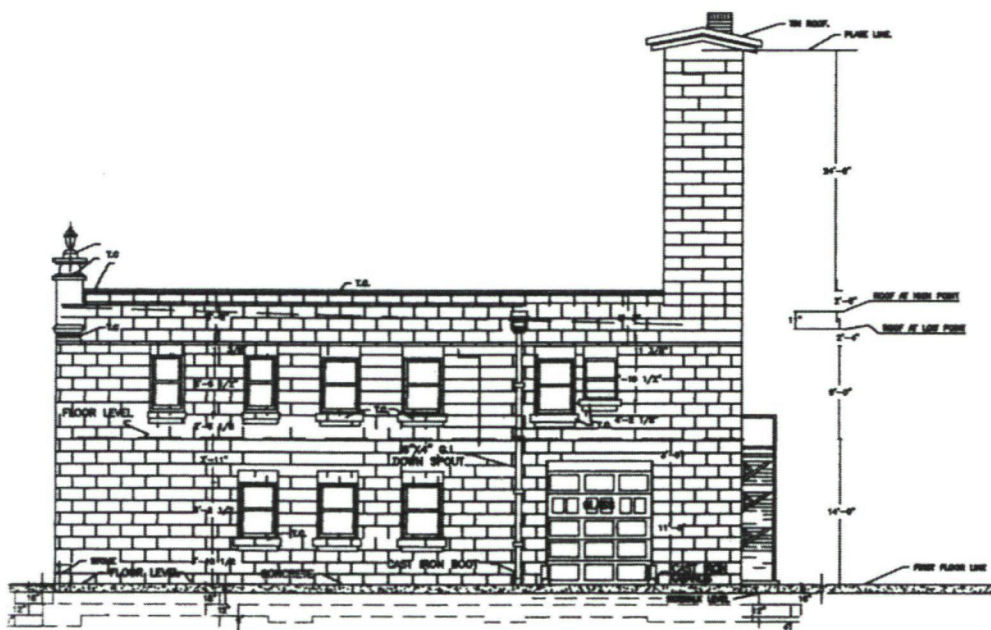
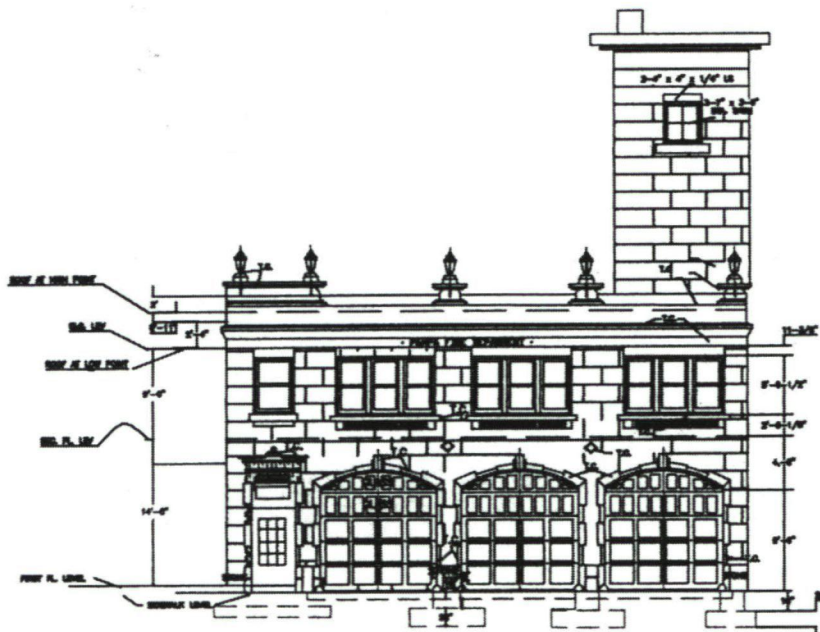
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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

Elevations



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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Architecture, Community Planning and Development

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1930 - 1949

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1930

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** W.R. Kaufman & Son, architect; Panhandle Construction of Pampa, builder

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-14).

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-15).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: *White Deer Land Museum, Pampa, TX*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

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In response to the rapid growth of the city of Pampa in the 1920's, city leaders decided to build an up-to-date fire station amidst other civic buildings as part of a grand building program for the newly prosperous boomtown. Architect William R. Kaufman incorporated Beaux Arts styling and Georgian ornamentation with a functional plan common to fire stations throughout the region. Completed in 1930, the Central Fire Station served as the city's sole fire station until 1957, and continues service as a fire station to this day, in addition to being an integral element in the "Million Dollar Row" of civic and commercial buildings constructed in the late 1920s and early 1930s in downtown Pampa. The property is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development, and under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance.

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Pampa lies in the northwest corner of Gray County, in the southern portion of the Great Plains. The county's prehistoric Plains Apaches gave way to the Apaches, who were in turn displaced by the Comanches and Kiowas. Spanish exploration of the area began after Francisco Vasquez de Coronado advanced into the Panhandle in 1541 in search of gold. Army engineers began mapping the area in 1845, followed by the arrival of buffalo hunters and traders. Native Americans were removed to Indian Territory after the Red River War of 1874. The federal government established Fort Elliott in 1875 in adjacent Wheeler County. Ranchers settled the area as early as 1877, and were soon followed by land syndicates which established vast ranches. In 1882, the Francklyn Land and Cattle Co. purchased approximately 637,440 acres in Gray, Carson, Hutchinson and Roberts Counties. In 1886, English bondholders foreclosed on the land, which became part of the newly organized White Deer Lands Co.

In 1888, the Southern Kansas Railroad extended its line through the Panhandle toward Amarillo, through present-day Pampa. White Deer Lands manager George Tyng applied for a post office in 1892, which operated under the names Glasgow, Sutton, and finally Pampa, so named because Tyng saw a similarity to the flat terrain of the Argentine *pampas* (plains) he had once visited. In 1902, White Deer Lands began to sell its holdings, leading to a land rush in Gray County. To entice potential land buyers traveling through by train, printed brochures and a display at the station house boasted of the abundant produce raised in the county. In 1916, White Deer Lands built its third and last Pampa office building, from which land sales were conducted until 1957.

Gray County was organized in 1902, and the first courthouse constructed in Lefors, in the center of the county, and home to some of the first settlers. That same year, Pampa was laid out north of the railroad, encompassing 38 blocks, bordered on the north by Browning, east by Wynne, south by Atchison, and west by West. As a farming and ranching center, the population of Pampa remained under 1,000 until the discovery of oil in 1926 transformed Pampa into a boom town. Godfrey Cabot, head of Cabot Carbon in Boston, established a carbon black plant in 1927. The city improved downtown streets with brick, churches expanded, and many downtown business owners tore down their frame buildings and erected permanent buildings, including grand



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

hotels, the Worley Hospital, city parks, and other improvements and amenities not common to most small communities in the Texas panhandle.

By the late 1920s, Pampa's growth had outstripped the city's service and facilities. A 1929 bond election resulted in \$238,000 worth of improvements, primarily to construct a new city hall, fire station, streets and parks. Central Fire Station was built on the site of the first Pampa Fire Department building (1919), a small brick building that housed a single 1920 REO fire truck and supported a six-man volunteer crew. A Ford chemical truck was added to the fleet in 1925, followed by an American-LaFrance fire truck in March 1927. In the mid-1920s, as the city's population surged (from 910 residents in 1922 to approximately 10,000 by 1926), the original single-bay fire station was replaced with a two-bay garage.<sup>1</sup> Within five years, a new fire station was necessary.

Amarillo architect William Raymond Kaufman designed the Central Fire Station, the Gray County Courthouse (1929, NR 1998), and Pampa City Hall (1930), all erected in a row just north of the grand Schneider Hotel on Albert Square. Kaufman also designed the Art Deco-style Combs-Worley Building (1931), located directly to the east of the courthouse. The area soon became known as "Million Dollar Row." The development of this area, with three compatible civic buildings by the same architect, reveals a sophisticated level of planning. The civic buildings, despite having different functions, share similar glazed terra cotta ornamentation, and are finished with buff brick. The Central Fire Station shares many characteristics with the adjacent courthouse and city hall, most notably similar materials and ornamentation. The elegant fire station, however, is the smallest, simplest, and least expensive of the three, as the city and architect opted for functionality over flamboyance. Still, the use of terra cotta detailing reveals a desire to match the gracefulness of the surrounding buildings. The Panhandle Construction Co. of Pampa completed the building in July, 1930.

Kaufman (1881-1948) was the son of Amarillo architect Davis Paul Kaufman (1852-1915). Working together in the firm of D.P. Kaufman & Son, they designed many buildings in the Texas Panhandle and nearby New Mexico, including the Elks Club, Old Grand Theater, St. Mary's Academy (1913-14), and Lowrey's Academy, all in Amarillo, the Union County Courthouse (1909) in Clayton, NM, and the Cochran County Courthouse (1926, remodeled 1968) in Morton, TX. Kaufman also designed Elizabeth Nixon Jr. High School, in Amarillo, and the Sam Houston Elementary School (1930) in Pampa. In 1939, Kaufman moved San Antonio to work in the Army Engineer's office at Fort Sam Houston. After his death in San Antonio in 1948, Kaufman's son, W.R. Kaufman, Jr., an architect trained at Texas Tech, took over the family firm.

The Pampa Fire Department remained a volunteer organization until 1948. Two substations were built in 1957, substation #1 at 317 E. 17<sup>th</sup>, and substation #2 at 1010 S. Barnes. Substation #2 was discontinued in

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<sup>1</sup> Ferne Duncan interview, 1999.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

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1993, and is used for storage. The Central Station houses three trucks, including one that can assist in rescue as with car wreck victims, a truck with a booster for grass fires, and a ladder truck.

In excellent condition overall, Pampa's Central Fire Station meets Criterion A, in the areas of Community Planning and Development, as representative of the many city services which had to grow in order to serve a rapidly expanding community, and as part of an organized civic building program spurred by the influx of oil and industry money, and the community leaders' desire to create a well-planned civic center. The completion of the fire station signaled the culmination of Pampa's civic center, and together with the courthouse and city hall, served as a tribute to Pampa's meteoric rise from a railroad stop to the commercial and industrial hub of the eastern Panhandle. The building meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as an excellent example of Beaux Arts civic architecture in the region by William Raymond Kaufman.

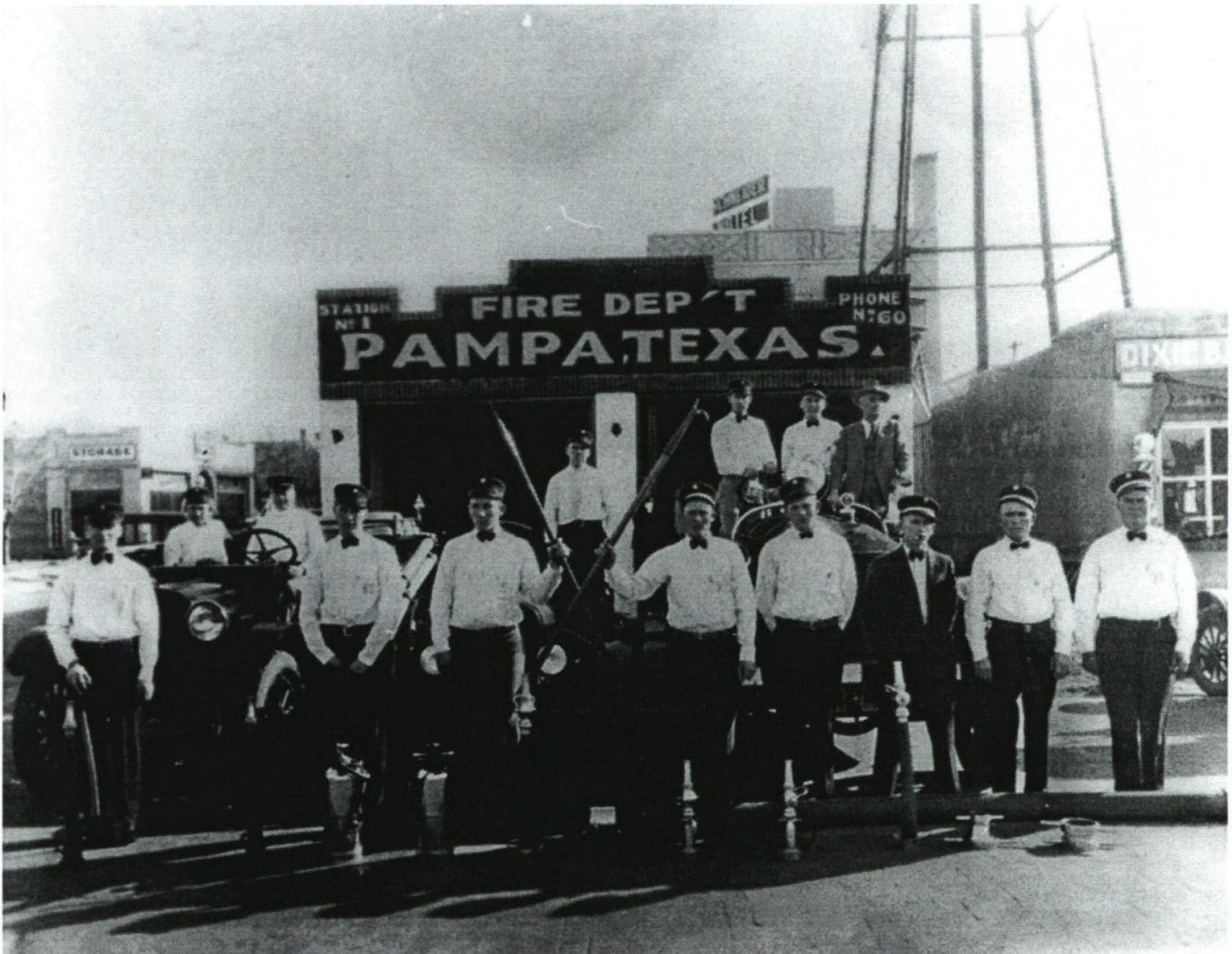
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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

Second Pampa Fire Station, photo c. 1925



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

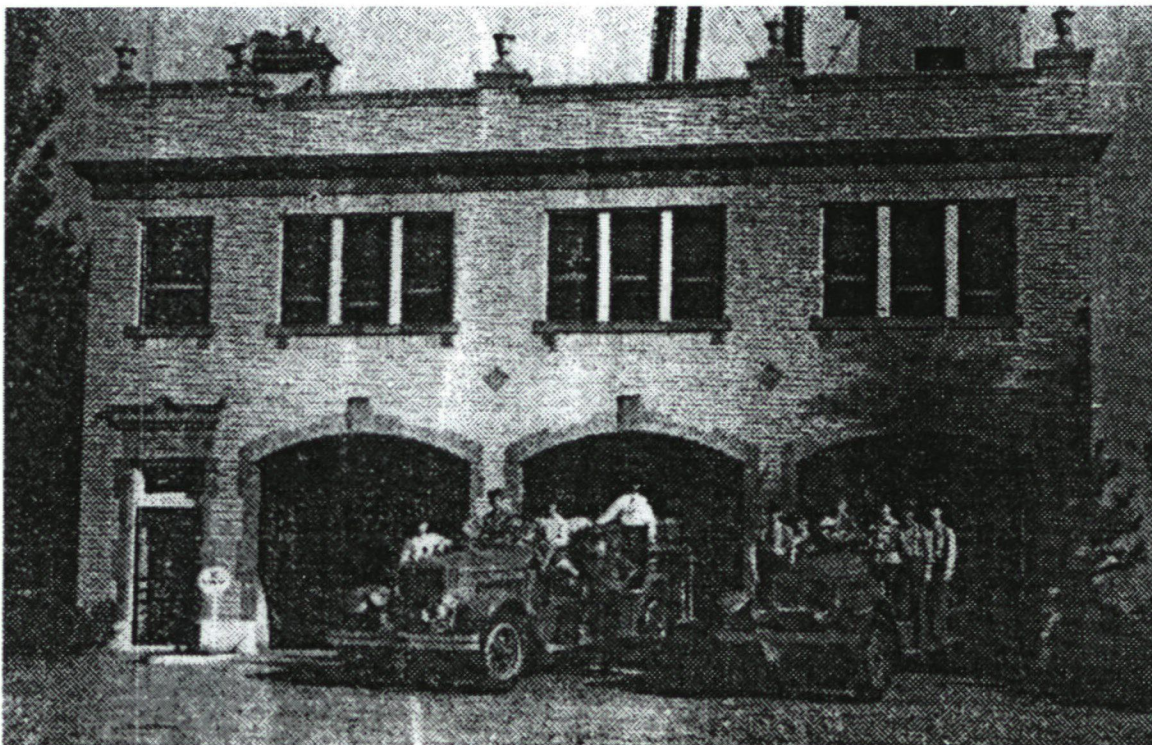
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

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Pampa Central Fire Station  
*Pampa News*, June 7, 1938



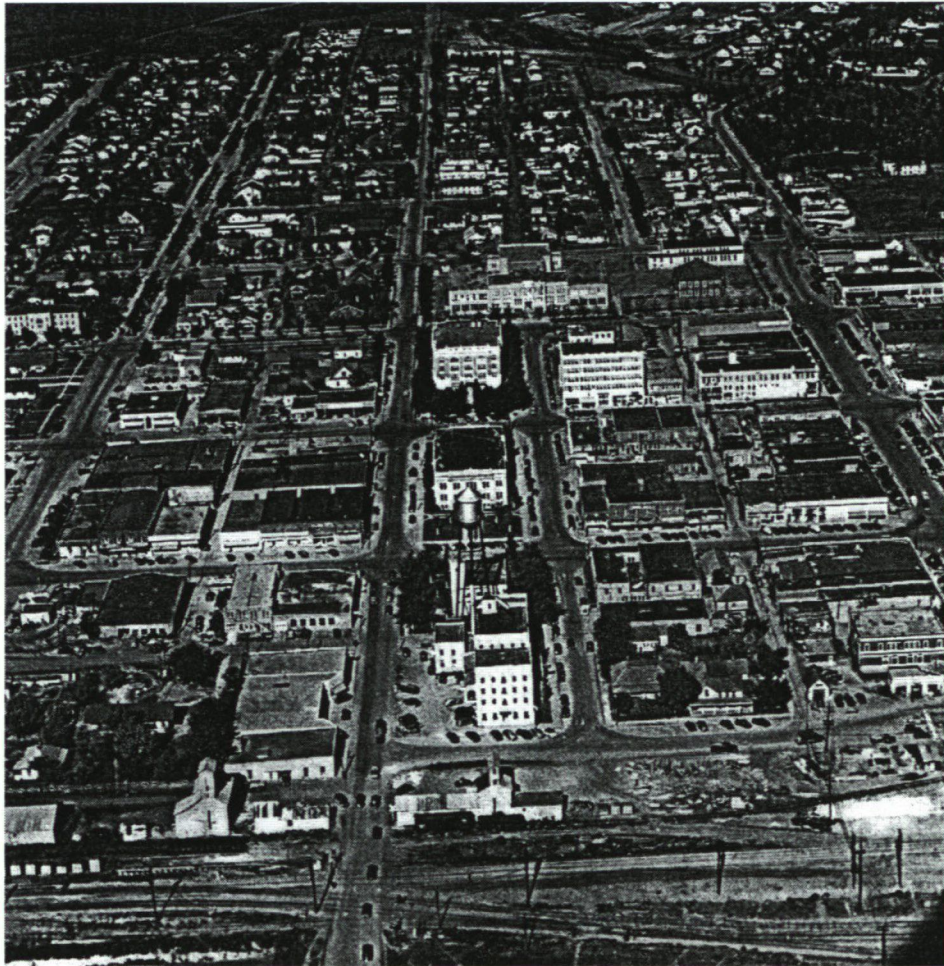
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

Million Dollar Row, Arial view, looking north, 1938



Center, from bottom to top: railroad tracks, unidentified industrial building, Schneider Hotel, water tower (no longer extant), Central Fire Station, Pampa City Hall, Gray County Courthouse

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 15

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

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Abbe, Donald R., and Sally Abbe. Historic Resources of Pampa: A Project to Prepare a Multiple Resource Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (unpublished manuscript), on file with the National Register Division, Texas Historical Commission, 1986.

Abbe, Donald R. "Gray County," in The New Handbook of Texas. Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

Anderson, H. Allen. "Pampa, Texas," in The New Handbook of Texas. Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

"Architect Built Landmarks Here." Amarillo Daily News, 17 January 1948, p. 1.

Birkes, Darlene, and Eloise Lane, Elleta Nolte. Gray County Heritage. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1985.

Duncan, Ferne, interview with Darlene Birkes, January 28, 1999.

Gray, J. L. surveyor. Map of Pampa, Gray County, Texas, 1902.

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Kaufman, William Raymond, obituary, Amarillo Sunday News-Globe, January 18, 1948.

McLean News. March 23, 1923

The Pampa News-Post, April 15, 17, June 17, 19, Dec. 11, Dec. 18, 1930.

\_\_\_\_\_, Jan. 1, Feb. 12, Feb. 13, Aug. 22, 1931.

\_\_\_\_\_, June 1, 1937. (Fiesta edition)

\_\_\_\_\_, June 7, 1938.

\_\_\_\_\_, Jan. 15, 1988.

Phillips, Claudie, Fire Chief, interviews with Darlene Birkes, Jan. 21, Jan. 25, and Jan. 28, 1999.

Prouse, F. Darlene (Mrs. Wallace Birkes). A History of Gray County, Texas, unpublished Master of Arts thesis, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1957.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

---

**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

**UTM REFERENCES**      Zone Easting      Northing  
                                 14      322100      3933940

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** Original 1902 plat, PAM-016, north 1/3 of lot

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** The nomination includes all property historically associated with the building.

---

**11. FORM PREPARED BY** (with assistance from Gregory Smith, Historian, Texas Historical Commission)

---

**NAME/TITLE:** Darlene Birkes, Chairman

**ORGANIZATION:** Gray County Historical Commission

**DATE:** 10-15-1998

**STREET & NUMBER:** 2365 Aspen

**TELEPHONE:** (806) 665-2913

**CITY OR TOWN:** Pampa

**STATE:** TX

**ZIP CODE:** 79065

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS**

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-16)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

---

**PROPERTY OWNER**

---

**NAME:** City of Pampa, Bob Eskridge, City Manager

**STREET & NUMBER:** 200 W. Foster

**TELEPHONE:** (806) 669-5750

**CITY OR TOWN:** Pampa

**STATE:** TX

**ZIP CODE:** 79065

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 16

Central Fire Station  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas

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Central Fire Station  
203 W. Foster  
Pampa, Gray County, Texas  
Photographed by Darlene Birkes  
April 1998  
Negatives on file with Texas Historical Commission

North elevation, camera facing south  
Photo 1 of 2

South elevation, camera facing north  
Photo 2 of 2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Central Fire Station  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Gray

DATE RECEIVED: 11/29/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/13/99  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/29/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/13/00  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99001623

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 12/30/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

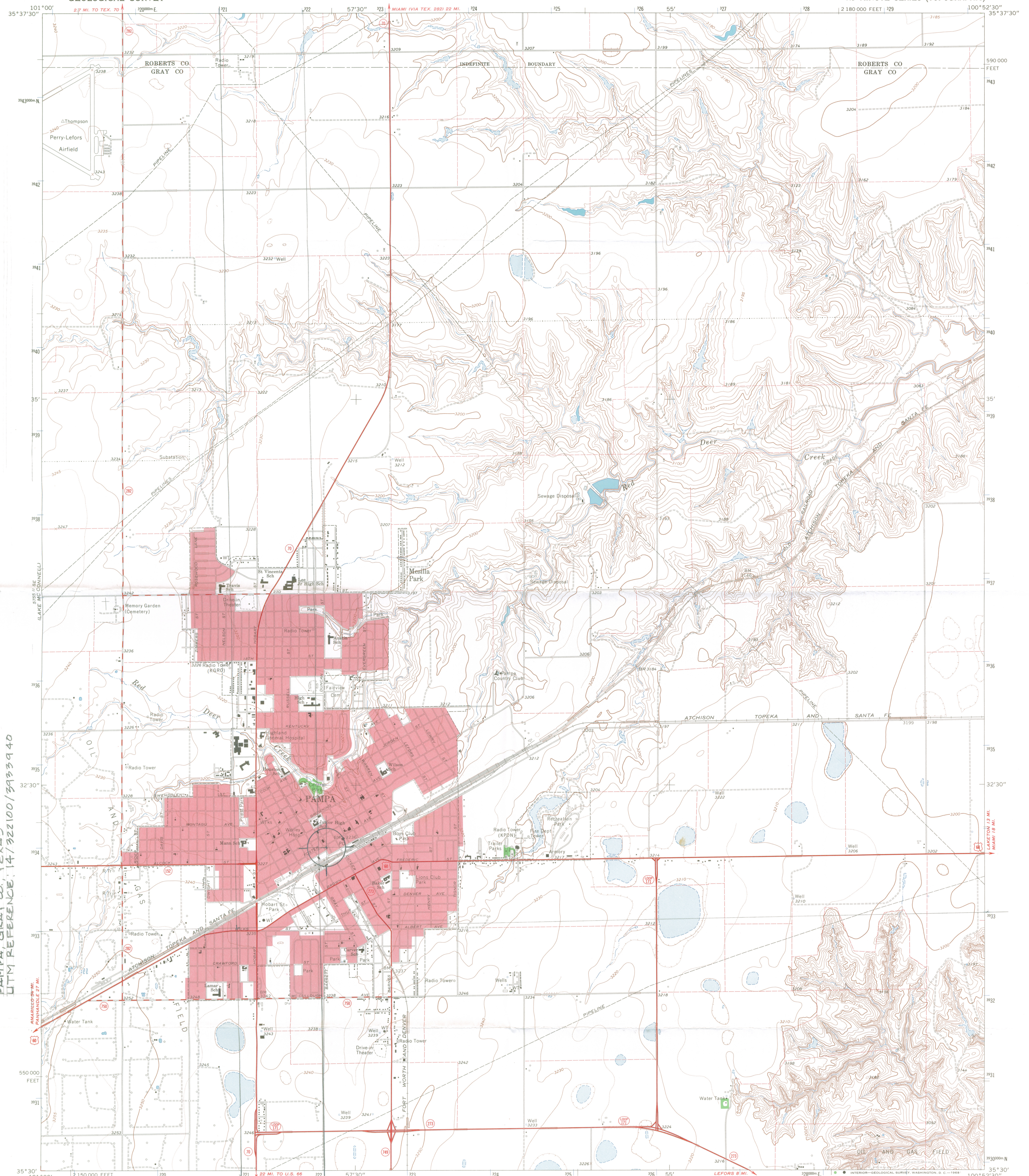
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



CENTRAL FIRE STATION  
203 W. FOSTER  
PAMPA, GRAY CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 2

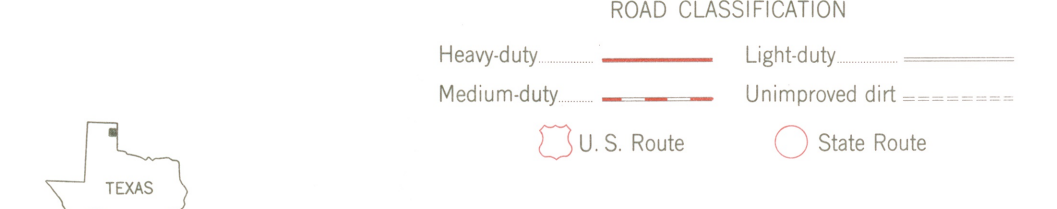
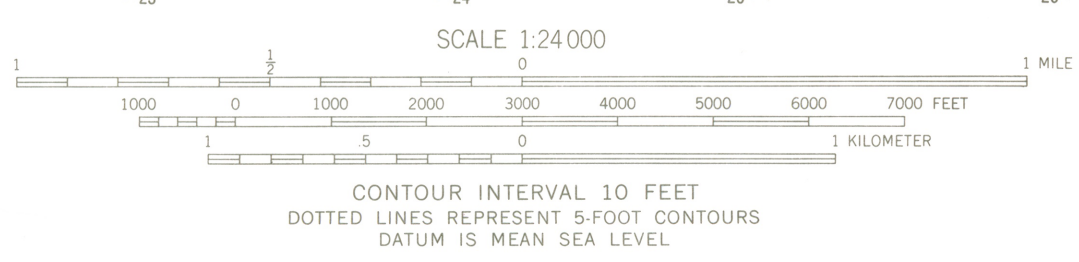
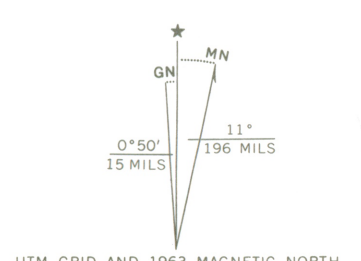


CENTRAL FIRE STATION  
203 W. FOSTER  
PAMPA, GRAY CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 2



CENTRAL FIRE STATION  
203 W. FOSTER  
PAMPA, GRAY CO., TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 14/322100/3933940

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1962 and planetable surveys 1963  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,  
north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 14, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings  
are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PAMPA, TEX.  
N3530-W10052.5/7.5  
1963  
MILLER BLUEPRINT  
P.O. BOX 2068 79768  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
1-800-253-3469  
501 W. 6TH 78701  
PH. #512-478-9793  
FAX #512-474-7099