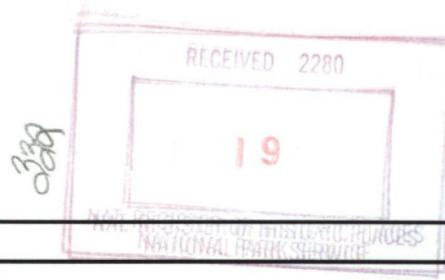


(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** San Jacinto County Courthouse

**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** N/A

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** #1 Hwy 150 at Byrd Ave, P.O. Box 944

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A

**CITY OR TOWN:** Coldspring

*407*

**VICINITY:** N/A

**STATE:** Texas

**CODE:** TX

**COUNTY:** San Jacinto

*409*

**ZIP CODE:** 77331

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ( 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 ( meets) ( does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ( nationally) ( statewide) ( locally). ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

*Feb. 21, 2003*

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*5/1/03*

---

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

---

**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 <b>TOTAL</b>

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

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:**

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/courthouse

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/courthouse

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

**MATERIALS: FOUNDATION**

WALLS	BRICK
ROOF	METAL/Tin
OTHER	CONCRETE

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

The 1916-17 San Jacinto County Courthouse is a three-story Classical Revival building in Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas. The plan is a cross axis, symmetrical design, rectangular in form with the east and west elevations longer than the north and south. Exterior walls are faced with brick fired in nearby kilns during courthouse construction. The courthouse is a substantial building on a large square landscaped with trees, sidewalks and paved pedestrian areas. Classically inspired elements of the building include columns, quoining, pediments, large entry stairs, and symmetrical arrangement. Doric columns and pediments added after 1937 replaced earlier Corinthian columns and capitals, but stay within the Classical Revival style. The courthouse is an intact example of the Classical Revival design in a public building.

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**Setting**

San Jacinto County is in the forested Piney Woods region of East Texas, with the county seat Coldspring lying about 70 miles north of Houston. The majority of San Jacinto County also lies within the Sam Houston National Forest. The Trinity River forms the north and east boundary of the county, with part of the river impounded as Lake Livingston in the 1960s. In 2000, San Jacinto County population reached 22,246, with Coldspring the second largest city in the county behind Shepherd. Coldspring is at the intersection of State Highways 150 and 156 and is also served by several Farm to Market Roads. The San Jacinto County Courthouse is the most substantial building in the commercial district. Commercial buildings occupy streets to the north and west of the square, with a county annex and residential properties occupying the south and east and adjacent blocks. The original town center was a quarter-mile to the northeast, but was abandoned following a 1915 fire and subsequent relocation of the courthouse to higher ground. The only historic building left in the older section is the San Jacinto County Jail at Slade and Loyd Streets. The jail was built in 1887 and added onto in 1911. The jail was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1982.

**Landscaping**

The courthouse grounds form a square around the 1917 courthouse. The lawn is landscaped with large trees. A sidewalk encircles the courthouse grounds, and there are paved pedestrian areas around the building. An Official Texas Historical Marker for the Coldspring townsite was dedicated in 1970. The San Jacinto Woman's League built a gazebo on the northwest corner of the square in 1976. In 1995 a veterans' memorial was dedicated on the southwest lawn. A local group, San Jacinto County Proud, had stone pavers around the courthouse and an underground sprinkler system installed in 1996. In coordination with the Texas Historical Commission, four diseased willow oaks were removed in 2000, and replaced by four red oaks in March 2001.

**Exterior**

The San Jacinto County Courthouse is rectangular in form, with the primary entrances on the east and west elevations. The building massing is a nine bay composition on its primary elevations, divided into three parts with three bays each in an A-B-A pattern. The main building body is a brick masonry field with articulated corner quoining. The window pattern alternates with double and triple window sets flanking the porticos. The first and second stories under the portico have pairs of Palladian style arched windows on either side of a central square six-light window with bracketed sills. The

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

original windows are wood, double hung sash type with 1/1 lights. The original design was novel in its presentation of the pediment porticos with columns placed in front of the façade line instead of supporting and engaging the pediment above. The extended capital blocks in corbelled brick and cast stone cap mass was a much different scale and proportion to the existing stepped down pediment facades applied in 1937 as part of a large WPA improvement program for the courthouse and seven other facilities in Coldspring. The original cast stone or concrete Corinthian capitals were dismantled and a bearing plate without a capital now rests on each column.

The facades have a high parapet with a molded cast stone band separating the roof section from the main body of the building. This structure rests almost one story out of the ground on a stucco and brick base, delineated by a stucco water table course and brick base. The mass is well proportioned with the four portico elements and window elements that form the classical composition on each façade. In 1937, façade changes included the addition of the pediments on top of the columns. The basement level is clad in brick with a stucco water table base, punctuated by small rectangular windows, several with original jail bars remaining. Entrances on the east and west elevations, accessible ramp and covered walkway lead to the basement level. The monumental stairways on each façade are the dominant feature of this level. The attic or parapet level has small double transom style windows between the frieze and the head molding.

The roof plan consists of the four-part sloped roof cross-section and the flanking flat roof areas on the west and east facades. The stucco penthouse currently has a corrugated fiberglass roof. It is probable that the penthouse structure had a foursquare hip roof. This structure will be partially reconstructed based on historic documentation. Roof access is at a side hatch at the transition point between the flanking side flat roof portion and the step up to the sloped roof at the cross axis valley intersection of the roof. The existing roof is a metal Galvalume corrugated sheet type on both the sloping and flat areas of the roof. No definitive determination has been made as to the original materials; however, from earlier photographs, it would appear that a metal roof of some type was present on the sloped areas, and the preceding flat roof area to the current one may also have been a ribbed metal. These would have been the "water shedding" type installations rather than a waterproof membrane. The existing conditions suggest that the flat areas had either a bituminous felt base or primary waterproof membrane with or without a sheet metal covering.

**Interior**

Although the north and south entrances are secondary, a State of Texas pattern in the linoleum asbestos tile floor faces south as seen from the north corridor. The center of the courthouse is the featured interior space, an atrium of modest proportions in a circular configuration with concentric staircases to the second floor. The atrium originally had a stained glass lay light, presumably with a skylight or other mechanism to allow natural light to illuminate it from above. The atrium structure is formed out of circular cast in place concrete columns and beams. The two-story space is framed by the atrium "oculus" opening in the second floor where ceremonial flags ring the balustrade. The first floor accommodates much of the county's public service departments and administration offices. The second floor houses the District Courtroom and County Courtroom, along with other supporting administrative spaces. The basement or ground level primarily houses state offices and the lower vault repository for the County Clerk and District Clerk records. The south end room originally housed the County Jail, and prisoners were transferred in security up the winding Stairway #3 from the basement floor to the second floor, emerging behind the original location of the witness stand and bench. This feature is a sophisticated forerunner of today's judicial security layouts for secure transfer and containment of prisoners arriving in a courtroom for arraignment or trial.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

**Changes since 1917**

It is presumed that the original penthouse may have been necessitated by lack of county funds, taking the place of a grander tower or dome. The original appears to have had a four square hipped roof with some sort of vent or ventilation cover on its center. Electric lighting was installed in the courthouse in 1933. On July 26, 1935, a dance was held in the courthouse to raise money for a fence to keep livestock off the grounds. The original Corinthian columns and corbelled capitals faced maintenance problems by 1935, and in 1937 they were replaced with pediments and Doric columns. In 1941 about one-fourth of the basement space was partitioned and used for a WPA Commodity room. In the 1950s tiles were installed on the floor and wainscoting of the first floor interior. In the rotunda, the tiles are gray and green, cut in the shape of Texas with an insert of red tile depicting the location of San Jacinto County.

In 1975-76, the courthouse underwent a large renovation project. In the interior, ceilings were lowered and central heat and air and new lights were installed. Several new partitions were built for office space, and the District Courtroom was renovated. The exterior brick was sandblasted and cleaned, and woodwork was repainted.<sup>1</sup> Also in 1976, the San Jacinto Woman's League erected a gazebo, which has since been the site of weddings and holiday celebrations. In 1987 an elevator was installed from the basement to the first and second floors. In 1990, the county appropriated \$80,000 for general courthouse repairs, including replacement of mortar, removal of the original stained glass light, and lowering of all ceilings to install central air and heat.<sup>2</sup> A county annex was also built across the street in 1990. A veterans' monument was dedicated on the grounds in 1995. In recent years, a new roof has been installed, with the design and materials approved by the Texas Historical Commission. The San Jacinto County Courthouse was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 2000.

<sup>1</sup> County Progress, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> Trapp and Faulkner, Facts About the San Jacinto County Courthouse.

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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:** GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1917-1952

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1917

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Lane, Roy E. and Dowdy, Wilkes A. – architects; Price & Williamson – builders

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-12).

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#### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-13).

**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:

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

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**Statement of Significance**

The San Jacinto County Courthouse was built in 1916-17 to replace the county's wooden courthouse that was destroyed by fire in March 1915. The design reflected the optimism and pride of the county; at its dedication, it was the fourth largest county courthouse in Texas. The relocation of the courthouse to higher ground, and the subsequent move of the entire town, was a watershed event in Coldspring history. The courthouse is nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Government, at the local level of significance for its role as the center of government for San Jacinto County. The courthouse is also nominated under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance as an intact example of a Classical Revival style public building. The courthouse retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, association and feeling to a high degree. The addition of porticos in 1937 was incorporated into the existing design and took elements from the Classical Revival vocabulary.

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**Development of Coldspring**

Coldspring started in 1847 as an outpost situated on a stage route running from Huntsville to Swartwout on the Trinity River. The town has gone through four name changes, from Coonskin to Firemen's Hill to Cold Springs in its first few years, and finally to Coldspring by the turn of the century. The name Cold Springs was adopted in 1850 when the community was platted into 14 blocks. The Cold Springs Female Institute, an early educational enterprise, operated in the 1850s. In 1870 San Jacinto County was created from parts of Liberty, Montgomery, Polk and Walker Counties. The county was named in honor of the battle of San Jacinto, which ended the Texas Revolution.<sup>3</sup> In 1871 a two-story wooden courthouse was erected to serve the new county government. In the 1870s San Jacinto County was accessible by steamboats on the Trinity River as well as by overland routes.

By 1894 the official postal name had changed to Coldspring. The first bank opened in 1907, when the population was above 400.<sup>4</sup> A fire on March 30, 1915 claimed the courthouse and several other wooden buildings. On April 12, 1915 County Commissioners met for the first time since the fire. Taking into consideration the fact that apparently residents of Cold Springs had not been very happy with their location, they began talking up the idea of erecting a new courthouse "out of this gully and sand bed," with the hope that businesses and homes would follow.

On October 8, 1915, J.M. Hansbro filed papers deeding Block 28 of the plat of Coldspring to County Judge William McMurrey for \$1. Seven local residents joined Hansbro in dedicating adjacent blocks for the new townsite, a part of the Robert Rankin league and a part of what was commonly known as the Byrd Place.<sup>5</sup> The resulting relocation of the courthouse and the town helped boost the development of Coldspring. The relocation corresponded with a Good Roads effort to put Coldspring on the Houston to Lufkin highway. That road was eventually taken through adjoining Polk County. The lumber industry has been the major economic activity in the area, along with such diverse projects as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp for black youths in the 1930s and the discovery of the Cold Springs oil field in 1945.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Woestman, "San Jacinto County."

<sup>4</sup> Wooster, "Coldspring, Texas."

<sup>5</sup> Rankin was a veteran of the American Revolution and Hansbro's grandfather.

<sup>6</sup> Wooster, "Coldspring, Texas."

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 9

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

The creation of Lake Livingston on the Trinity River in the 1960s helped boost population in the county, which had declined from 10,277 in 1900 to 6,153 in 1960. By 2000 the county population had risen to 22,246.

**Previous Courthouses**

After San Jacinto County was created in 1870, the Carnes Hotel doubled as a courtroom until a permanent courthouse could be built. The Commissioners Court paid Thomas and Werner, builders from Fort Worth, \$8,000 for a new courthouse in 1871. The two-story wooden courthouse would serve the county for 44 years. On March 30, 1915, fire destroyed the two-story wooden courthouse as well as a number of frame buildings. That portion of town was abandoned when the new courthouse was relocated a quarter-mile to the southwest, and the businesses and residences were relocated along with it. The 1917 building is the second permanent courthouse in San Jacinto County, and the only masonry courthouse the county has had.

**1917 San Jacinto County Courthouse**

Kirk Glover, editor of the San Jacinto Times, wrote that the town's decision on the location of a new courthouse would be "the most critical hour for the turning point of both our town and the entire county." Glover reminded the town of the mistake Cold Springs made in 1877 when the Houston, East and West Texas Railroad was extending its lines, and "instead of accepting said road they actually drove it away, and things have naturally stayed away."<sup>7</sup>

The Commissioners Court met in April 1915 and heard from citizens who were unhappy with their townsite. Before knowing for certain if the town would be moved, the county signed a \$50,000 contract to build a new courthouse in August 1915. On October 9, J.M. Hansbro and seven other landowners drew up a deed to donate several lots over to the county for the courthouse site. The owners of the land also promised to grade 80 foot streets around the new courthouse site.<sup>8</sup> County Commissioners auctioned the old town square in October, despite interest in converting the land into a city park. The county accepted plans and specifications from architects Roy E. Lane and Wilkes A. Dowdy of Houston, and in October the county "accepted a contract from Price & Williamson of Houston to build a concrete structure, and a starting date of January 1, 1916 was determined."

Building materials began to arrive for construction in January 1916. On January 22, a general election sustained the proposition to issue bonds "of fifty-eight thousand dollars, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable thirty years from date, for the purpose of providing a court house for San Jacinto County" and a to levy a tax to pay interest on the bonds.<sup>9</sup> On January 28, contractors Price & Williamson agreed to provide all the material and labor necessary to erect the courthouse in accordance with plans and specifications by Lane and Dowdy. In March, bricks for the courthouse were being produced at a kiln near the home of N.R. Dobson, about two blocks from the courthouse site.<sup>10</sup> Concrete work also began in March.

<sup>7</sup> San Jacinto News Times, March 29, 1984.

<sup>8</sup> San Jacinto News Times, March 29, 1984.

<sup>9</sup> Minutes, January 28, 1916, Book F, Page 367.

<sup>10</sup> San Jacinto News Times, March 10, 1916.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

According to Commissioners Court minutes, there were a couple of false starts before the progress began in earnest. The September 22, 1916 edition of the San Jacinto Times reported on a second brick kiln being prepared near the courthouse site. The second kiln was being used by October 1916. Many day laborers, both Anglo- and African-American, contributed to the building of the new courthouse. San Jacinto County went through at least three contractors to try to finish the building. After Price & Williamson began the job, contractor John Krabs began work to complete the courthouse on May 25, 1916.<sup>11</sup> By June 11, 1917, the county entered into a contract with Ed Cochran for the completion of the courthouse.<sup>12</sup> The courthouse took nearly 18 months to complete.

The glass ceiling in the center of the rotunda was purchased for \$196.00.<sup>13</sup> The newspaper reported optimistically that "all petitions [partitions] run of first floor and it will only be a short while to complete the courthouse. The streets are to be graded and a general move will take place."<sup>14</sup> Before long several homes and businesses moved to the new townsite. This was a time-consuming and laborious feat, as each building was rolled up the hill on logs. The entire move took several months to complete. The town began its move to the new courthouse site by May 1916: "The first hint of the townspeople moving came in May when C.D. Hollis bought T.L. Ross' corner store and had it moved to the new town site." The post office relocated to a room within the courthouse in June 1917, and would remain housed in the courthouse for ten years.<sup>15</sup> This left little remaining in the old townsite, with only the 1887 jail and a few wooden structures marking the spot down the hill.

In July, the county purchased official flags for the courthouse.<sup>16</sup> A July 4, 1917 celebration of the "new town" of Coldspring attracted over 2,000 people from all over East Texas, as well as entertainment from baseball games to the famous Hoo Hoo Band of Lufkin. A newspaper story mentioned that the courtroom walls were painted white in August 1917.<sup>17</sup> It appears that although the courthouse was occupied by the summer of 1917, it may not have been officially accepted by the county until May 1918, when the county paid contractor Ed Cochran "the full contracted amount of fifteen thousand for the completion of the courthouse in accordance with plans and specifications."<sup>18</sup>

In the original design, the four entrances were each flanked by four Corinthian columns topped with corbelled brick capitals that reached the height of the roof. These features were a maintenance problem by 1935. In December 1935, the Commissioners Court hired F.M. Thompson to remove falling cement from exterior pillars.<sup>19</sup> That same month, the court applied to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) for general repairs and improvements to the courthouse. Scheduled repairs included fencing, plastering, grading of the courthouse grounds, and building of concrete curbing around the grounds.<sup>20</sup> The court again had problems with the exterior columns in 1937, hiring J.W. Mills to replace the concrete leaves falling from the pillars with plaster pediments.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Minutes, May 28, 1916, Book F, Page 415.

<sup>12</sup> Minutes, May 13, 1918.

<sup>13</sup> Invoice Book 876 (5), October 1916-October 1917.

<sup>14</sup> San Jacinto News Times, January 1917.

<sup>15</sup> San Jacinto News Times, June 8, 1917.

<sup>16</sup> Minutes, 1917, Book G, Page 34.

<sup>17</sup> San Jacinto News Times, August 17, 1917.

<sup>18</sup> Minutes, May 13, 1918.

<sup>19</sup> Minutes, December 9, 1935, Volume I, Page 473.

<sup>20</sup> Minutes, December 23, 1935, Volume I, Page 474; San Jacinto News Times September 6, 1935.

<sup>21</sup> Minutes, April 12, 1937, Volume I, Page 527.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 11

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

The 1917 San Jacinto County Courthouse is the county's second permanent courthouse and the first masonry building, following a frame structure that burned in 1915. In addition to being the seat of county government since 1917, the courthouse has served as the focus of social activity in Coldspring. The courthouse served as the rallying point for departing soldiers, relatives and friends in both World Wars.<sup>22</sup> The county also invited the public to a celebration in the District Courtroom for the opening of the new Coldspring School in 1919.<sup>23</sup> The Coldspring P.T.A. held a benefit in the courthouse in 1923.<sup>24</sup> During the 1920s through 1940s, the courtroom was used as classrooms for the Coldspring School District, dances and other social activities. In 1926 there was a traveling motion picture and vaudeville show held in the courthouse basement. In 1935 the County Fair utilized the courthouse and grounds for the county fair. The San Jacinto County Historical Commission sponsors a vendors fair the last Saturday of the month from March through November, which is the County Historical Commission's main source of income.

**Architects Lane and Dowdy**

Roy E. Lane and Wilkes A. Dowdy designed the San Jacinto County Courthouse during a brief partnership early in their careers. No other courthouses in Texas have been attributed to Lane or Dowdy, although Lane did design renovations to the Bosque and Runnels County Courthouses through the WPA program. Wilkes A. Dowdy was born in Marksville, Louisiana on June 12, 1890. Dowdy attended public schools in various Texas towns, and graduated from McKinley School in St. Louis. Immediately after graduating Dowdy moved to Denver, where he worked for two years in the office of a local architect. In 1908 Dowdy moved to Houston, where he would live and work for the remainder of his life. Dowdy worked in the Houston office of Sanguinet and Staats, and remained with that firm for a number of years. Dowdy worked for himself between 1916 and 1921, until being appointed city architect of Houston in April 1921. Dowdy planned and supervised such important Houston public projects as the Central Police and Fire Department Buildings, the Southmore School, the Barnice School, and the County and City Hospital.<sup>25</sup>

Roy E. Lane was born in Kansas City in 1884. He attended Kansas City public schools and the University of Minnesota, where he earned degrees in both architectural and civil engineering. Lane came to Texas on August 1, 1907 to work with the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad in Port Arthur. Later that year he settled in Waco, where he lived and worked until retiring to Dallas in 1936. Lane was most widely renowned as architect of the twenty-two-story Amicable Building in Waco. Other works include the Public Library and the W.C. Cameron residence in Waco, as well as WPA project alterations to Bosque and Runnels County Courthouses. During World War II Lane served as both the Chief Architect for the Pine Bluff Arsenal at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and the Chief Architect and Engineering Coordinator for the Shumaker Naval Ordnance Plant at Camden, Arkansas. Lane was President of the Texas State Association of Architects in 1918-19. In 1918 Lane was admitted to the American Institute of Architects, which he served as both an officer and as Director. Lane died on August 7, 1956 and was buried at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Trapp and Faulkner, Facts About the San Jacinto Courthouse.

<sup>23</sup> San Jacinto News Times retrospective issue, June 28, 1951.

<sup>24</sup> San Jacinto News Times, February 2, 1923.

<sup>25</sup> Davis and Grobe, "Wilkes A. Dowdy."

<sup>26</sup> Long, "Roy E. Lane."

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 12

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

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**Conclusion**

The 1917 San Jacinto County Courthouse is a distinctive landmark in Coldspring. Its setting marks a relocation of the town following a disastrous fire, and subsequent prosperity through better roads and commerce. The substantial Classical Revival style building has extensive grounds and is surrounded by a square of commercial and residential buildings. The building meets Criterion A, in the area of Government, by its role as the seat of county government since 1917. The courthouse has been the center of civic, governmental, and social activities since its construction. The building meets Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as an intact example of Classical Revival style architecture. The building retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, location, setting, association and feeling to a high degree. Changes to the original design in 1937 are incorporated well and still reflect the Classical Revival style.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**Continuation Sheet**

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San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

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Wooster, Robert. "Coldspring, Texas." In New Handbook of Texas, Ron Tyler, ed. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

**UTM REFERENCES**      Zone    Easting      Northing  
                          15            295920            3386140

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** All of Block 28, plat of the town of Coldspring. The property includes the courthouse square, bounded by State Highway 150, FM 1514, Butler Street and Cedar Avenue.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Nomination includes all property historical associated with the building.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY** (with assistance from Bob Brinkman, historian, Texas Historical Commission)

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**NAME/TITLE:** Patricia Hummel

**ORGANIZATION:** San Jacinto County Historical Commission      **DATE:** September 22, 2000

**STREET & NUMBER:** 99 Hummel Lane      **TELEPHONE:** (936) 653-4434

**CITY OR TOWN:** Coldspring      **STATE:** Texas      **ZIP CODE:** 77331

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheet MAP-15)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet PHOTO-14)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets FIGURE-16 through FIGURE-20)

---

**PROPERTY OWNER**

---

**NAME:** San Jacinto County, ATTN: County Judge Joe Adams

**STREET & NUMBER:** #1 Hwy 150 at Byrd Avenue, P.O. Box 944      **TELEPHONE:** (936) 653-4331

**CITY OR TOWN:** Coldspring      **STATE:** Texas      **ZIP CODE:** 77331

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 14

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

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### **Photograph Inventory**

**San Jacinto County Courthouse  
#1 Hwy 150 at Byrd Ave  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas**

**All photographs taken by Patricia Hummel, September 2002**

West elevation  
Camera facing east  
Photo 1 of 2

North elevation  
Camera facing south  
Photo 2 of 2

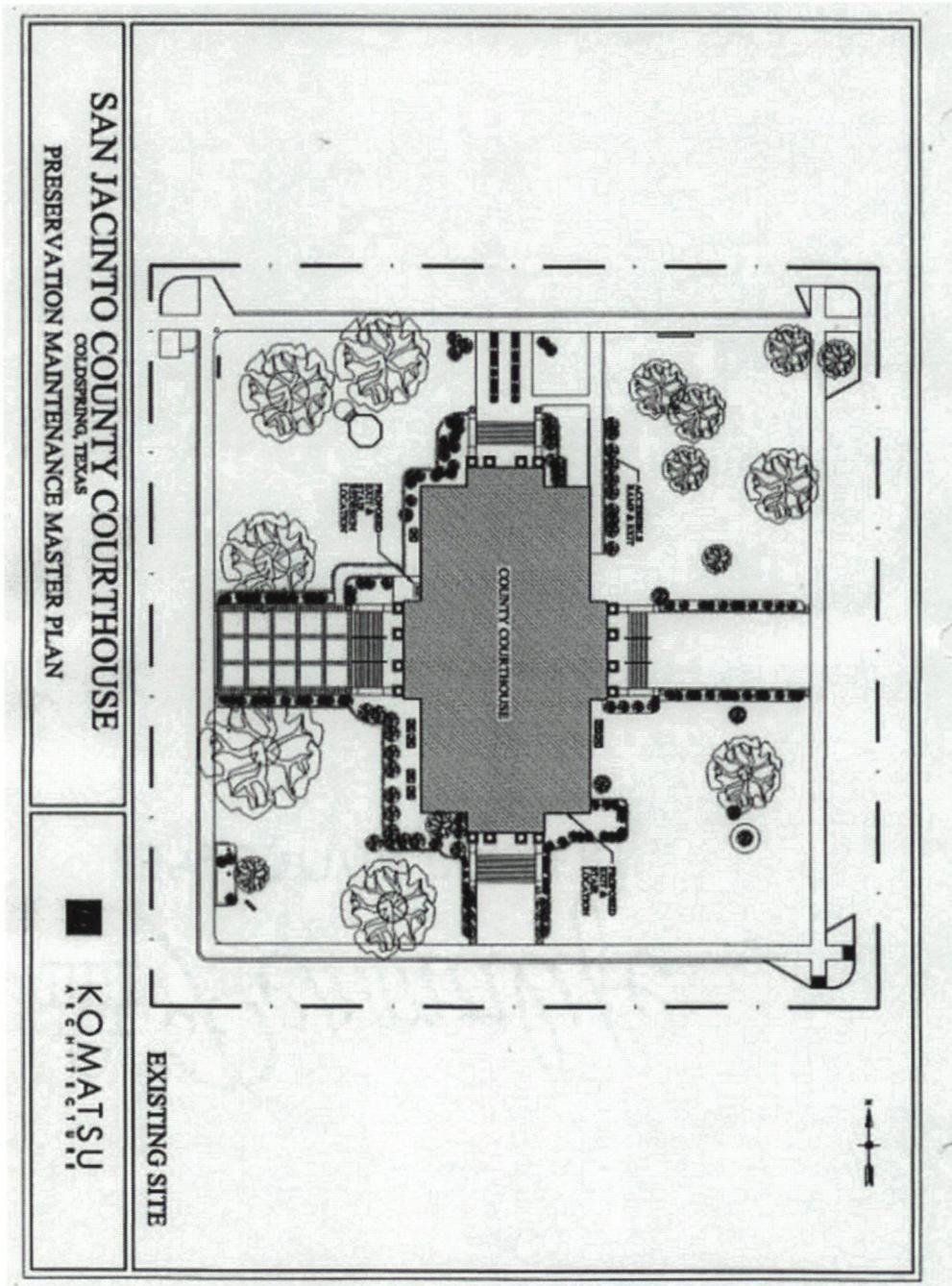
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 15

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

Site plan of San Jacinto County Courthouse. Source: San Jacinto County Courthouse of 1917: Preservation Maintenance Master Plan.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 16

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

**Figure 1. 1917 photograph of San Jacinto County Courthouse. Source: San Jacinto County Courthouse of 1917: Preservation Maintenance Master Plan.**



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 17

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

**Figure 2. 1920 photograph of west elevation of San Jacinto County Courthouse. Source: San Jacinto County Courthouse of 1917: Preservation Maintenance Master Plan.**



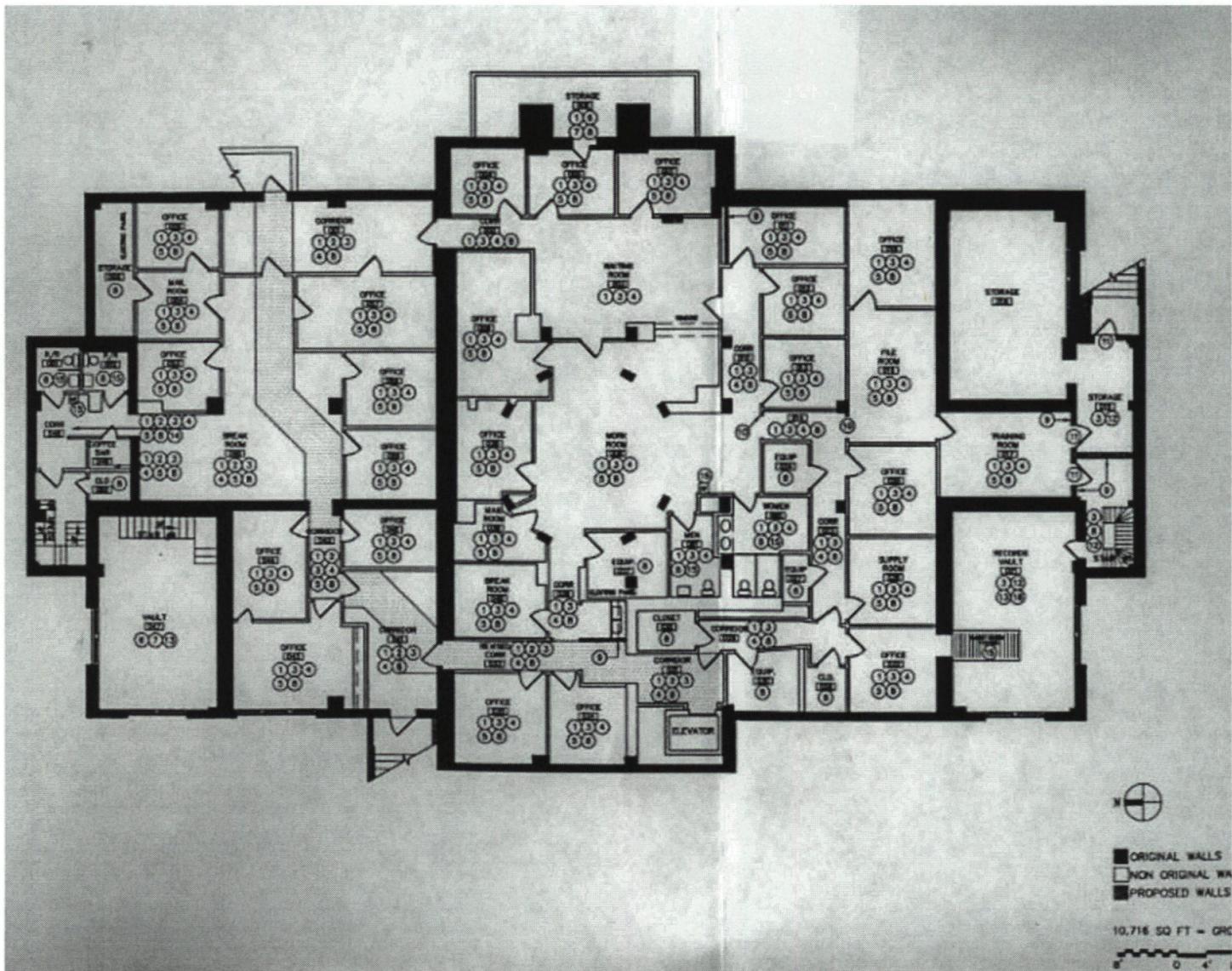
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 18

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

**Figure 3. Basement plan of San Jacinto County Courthouse. Source: San Jacinto County Courthouse of 1917: Preservation Maintenance Master Plan.**



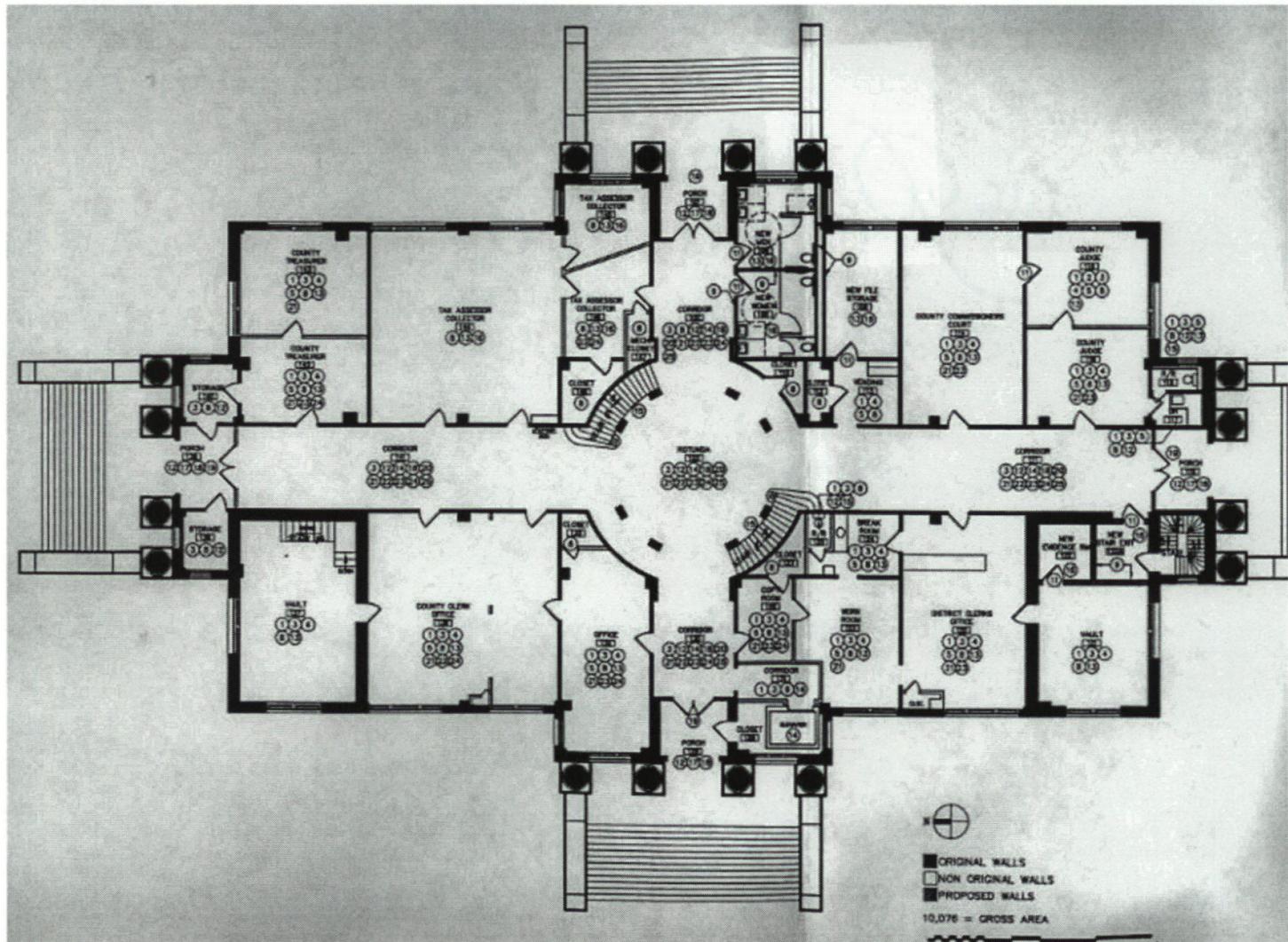
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 19

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

**Figure 4. First floor plan of San Jacinto County Courthouse. Source: San Jacinto County Courthouse of 1917: Preservation Maintenance Master Plan.**



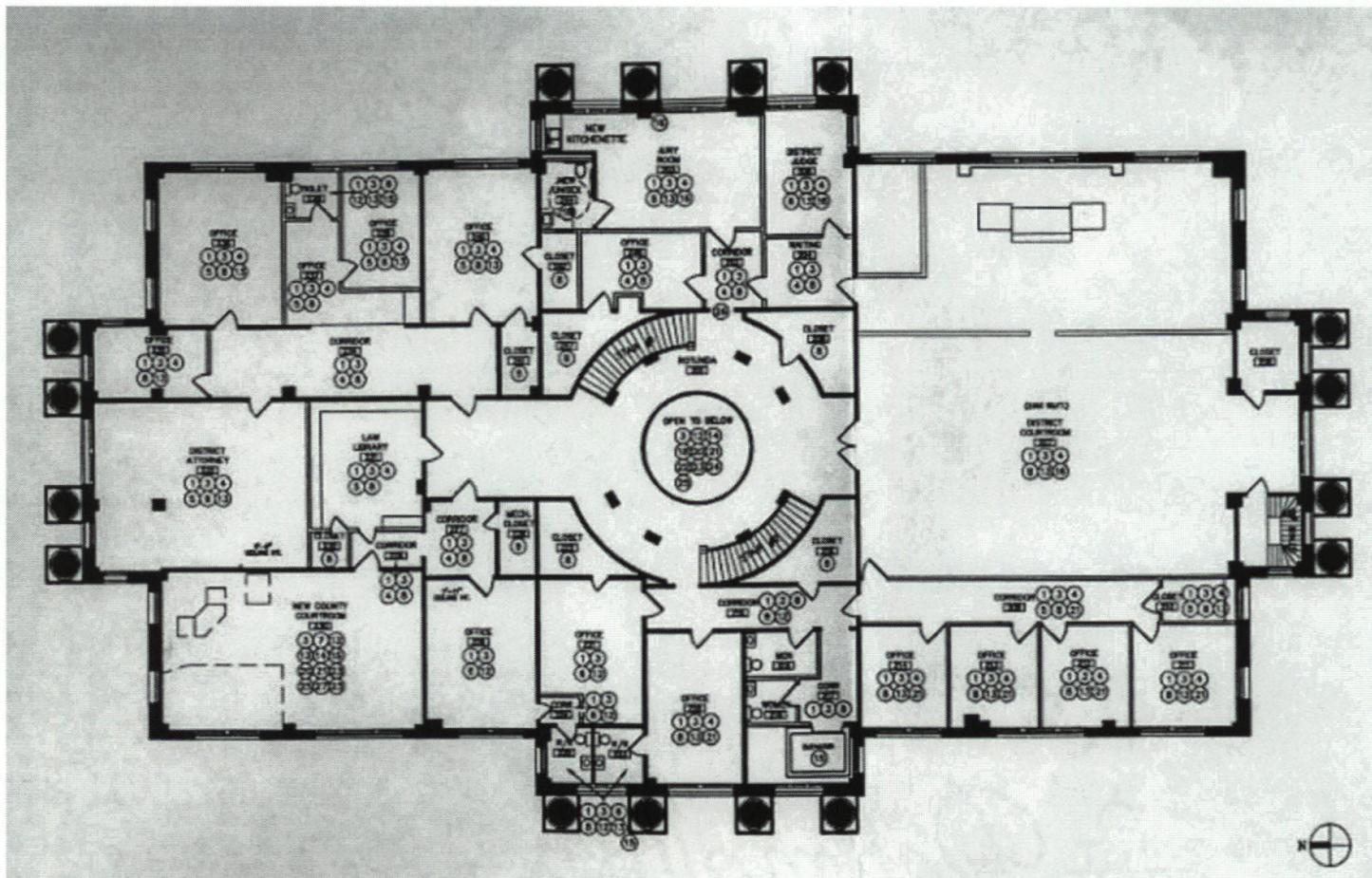
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 20

San Jacinto County Courthouse  
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

**Figure 5. Second floor plan of San Jacinto County Courthouse. Source: San Jacinto County Courthouse of 1917: Preservation Maintenance Master Plan.**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY San Jacinto County Courthouse  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, San ~~Patricio~~ Jacinto

DATE RECEIVED: 3/19/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/02/03  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/18/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/03/03  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000332

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 5/1/03 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



SAN JACINTO COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
#1 HWY 150 AT BYRD AVENUE  
COLDSPRING, SAN JACINTO CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 2

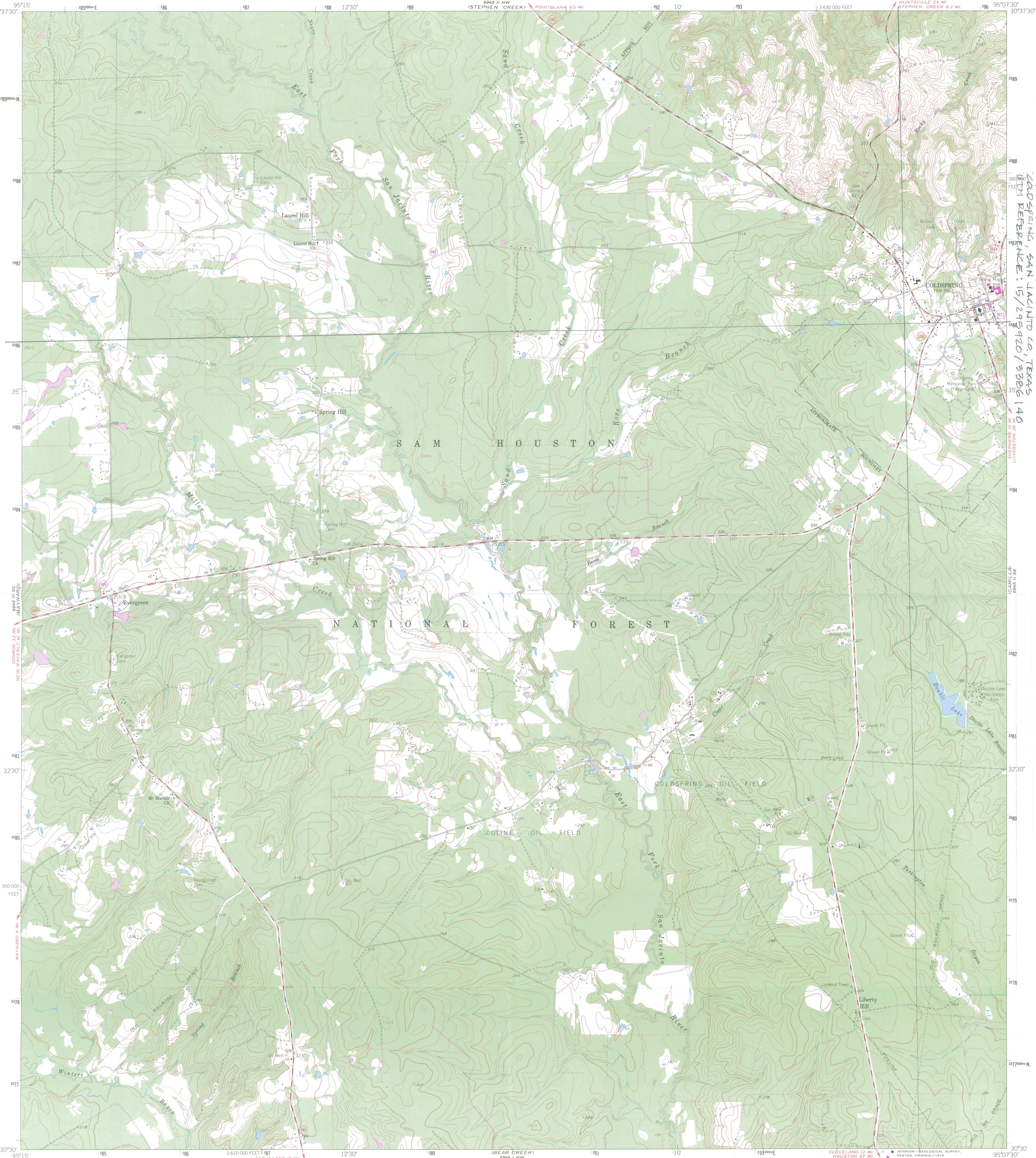


SAN JACINTO COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
#1 HWY 150 AT BYRD AVENUE  
COLDSPRING, SAN JACINTO CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 2

6945 II NE  
10 ARTHUR

6945 II NE  
IBLANTHARD



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USCGS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods

Aerial photographs taken 1958. Field check 1960

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 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines

where generally visible on aerial photographs

This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs

taken 1976. This information not field checked

SCALE 1:24000

1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5 FOOT CONTOURS

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

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