



730

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

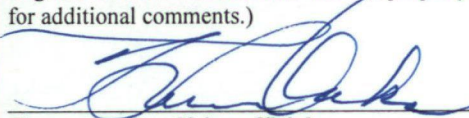
HISTORIC NAME: Lipscomb County Courthouse  
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Courthouse Square  
CITY OR TOWN: Lipscomb VICINITY: N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A  
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Lipscomb CODE: 806 ZIP CODE: 79056

1. 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  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

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  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

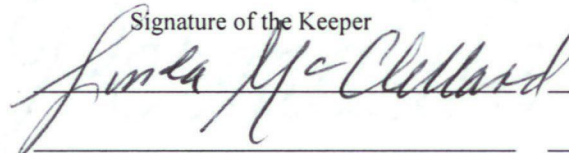
I hereby certify that this property is:

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 7/9/08  


**5. CLASSIFICATION**

**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public - Local

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	2	2 <b>BUILDINGS</b>
	0	0 <b>SITES</b>
	0	0 <b>STRUCTURES</b>
	0	0 <b>OBJECTS</b>
	2	2 <b>TOTAL</b>

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

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

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** Government - County Courthouse

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** Government - County Courthouse

**7. DESCRIPTION**

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries - Classical Revival

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION Concrete  
WALLS Brick  
ROOF Clay tile, metal, asphalt  
OTHER

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-10).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

## Narrative Description

The Lipscomb County Courthouse, completed by architect and general contractor William M. Rice in late 1916, is designed in the Classical Revival style. A 2-story building on a raised basement, the courthouse is modeled as an idealized Greek temple in buff-colored brick with cast stone columns. A second contributing building on the courthouse square, the former county jail was constructed in 1910 of cast stone blocks with a hipped roof covered with metal shingles. Two other buildings on the courthouse square, a garage and a new jail, are non-contributing.

The Lipscomb County Courthouse is a 2-story building on a raised basement, totaling 14,151 square feet, designed and constructed in 1916 by architect and general contractor William M. Rice in the popular Classical Revival style. The buff-colored brick building is situated in the center of the courthouse square in the town of Lipscomb, Texas. The courthouse's primary elevations face Fourth Avenue to the east and Main Avenue to the west, and its two secondary elevations face Main Street to the north and Oak Street to the south. To the south of the courthouse is a 1910 county jail building, now used by the county for storage, and a circa 1935 garage structure, also now a storage facility, is to the southwest. The county's Criminal Justice Center, to the southeast of the courthouse, was constructed on the square in 1972. The Lipscomb County Courthouse is surrounded by a ovoid concrete walkway approximately 10 feet in width from the building's base, with axial sidewalks leading to the surrounding streets; the remainder of the courthouse grounds is simply covered with a grass lawn. The west entrance at Main Avenue features two flagpoles erected in 1945 and a monument constructed in 1976.

## Exterior Details and Architectural Style

The Lipscomb County Courthouse is designed in the Classical Revival style popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the entrance porticoes on its two major façades modeled after a Greek temple. Broad concrete steps and brick bolsters with flat cast stone caps mark the major entrances. A single pediment, supported by four 2-story Doric columns, frames the entrance door under a projecting porch on both the east and west elevations. The round, tapered columns have cast stone bases and capitals and are covered in a rough-textured, painted stucco. These columns meet the large, horizontal entablature under the entry gable at the second floor window head, and raised metal letters that read "19 LIPSCOMB COVNTY 16" are attached to the entablature.

Four feet in height, the entablature is composed of three simple steps and a dentil course that meets the projecting cornice, made of painted galvanized metal over brick with wood blocking. Both the frieze and architrave of the entablature are flat and unadorned. The entrance porticos are covered with gable roofs decorated with the same metal cornice and dentils, but with abbreviated frieze and architrave. Originally these roofs were clad with stamped metal shingles of a "Spanish Tile" design.<sup>1</sup> The pediment is covered with the same rough textured stucco used for the column shafts. The entablature returns to the building face at the eave sides of each porch, and from those points wraps around the building. A brick parapet rises 3 feet above this entablature and is visible on all four elevations.

A buff brick blend is used for all field brick. The entry door surrounds, soldier courses, dentil courses, pilaster columns, ground level decorative work and other trim work are of a slightly darker buff brick of uniform color. This subtle color difference between the two types of brick is more apparent when the building is in shade rather than direct sunlight.

<sup>1</sup> Commissioners Court Minutes, Book 2, 10 April 1916, p. 411.

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Cast stone integrated into the building masonry work is light buff to white in color; cast stone caps over the entry stair bolsters are gray concrete, while the courthouse's columns and entablature are painted white.

The brick exterior at the ground level is covered with cement stucco, or pargeting, from below grade to a height of two feet above grade. Pargeting was used during this period as water-proofing over the exterior face of both concrete and brick masonry. Decorative rectangular panels of soldier-course brick, with squares of cast stone at each corner, appear at ground level above the pargeting and below the cast stone sill or water table at the first floor. These panels are broken in some locations by basement windows, while in other locations they remain undisturbed, giving the windows the appearance of an afterthought.

Continuous cast stone sills under first and second floor windows also wrap around the building perimeter. The first level sill course is plain, two courses in height, projecting about one inch; it meets the brick double rowlock surround at both main entries. The second level sill course, also two courses high and projecting one inch, has brick rowlock dentils beneath it and continues around the building without interruption.

North and south elevations are divided into thirds, with their larger, central sections defined by six pilasters of the darker buff brick projecting four inches from the lighter-colored walls. Cast stone capitals and bases punctuate the ends of these six pilasters, and five windows occupy the voids between the pilasters at both the first and second floors on both elevations. Directly above the central section, the District Courtroom can be seen rising above the classical cornice and brick parapet wall. Five clerestory windows with radial mullions appear on the north and south elevations of the third level.

A second contributing building, the 1910 jail is constructed of painted cast stone blocks with an irregular texture. The jail, constructed by E. S. Altmiller, has a hipped or pyramidal roof of wood framing, and composite shingles recently replaced the original metal shingles. Inside the structure, plaster on wood lath covers the walls and ceiling, and the jail cells are built as a steel cage of two-way straps. A perimeter corridor surrounds the centrally-placed cage, which was manufactured by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri. Two wood double-hung windows allow light to enter into the jail structure on both the north and south elevations, and one similar window is located on the east façade, as is the entrance door. The jail building stood on the courthouse square before the 1916 county courthouse was constructed, but it was moved to a different place on the square in 1919 at a cost of \$1,500.<sup>2</sup> Today this building is used as a storage facility, but the steel cage structure remains in place.

## Structural Systems

The Lipscomb County Courthouse has 14,151 square feet of space on four levels; the basement, first, and second levels all have the same floor areas, with a small third level intended as balcony seating for the District Courtroom. The building foundation is of reinforced concrete with spread footings on stable soil and perimeter foundation walls. The structure of the first and second floors and the east and west flat roofs is a system of concrete columns and pan joists.

The courthouse basement floor is slab-on-grade; later remodel work included a new concrete floor in the coal bin and boiler room, initially left as dirt at the time of construction.<sup>3</sup> There is a perimeter spread footing supporting the

<sup>2</sup> Commissioners' Court Minutes, Book 3, 12 May 1919, p. 162.

<sup>3</sup> Commissioners' Court Minutes, Book 2, 10 April 1916, p. 407.

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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
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reinforced concrete exterior basement walls, as well as spread footings under the interior concrete columns. Basement walls in the original contract were not to be finished; however, during construction the county added plaster finish for these walls.<sup>4</sup> Exterior walls of first through third levels are masonry with plaster interior finish.

The gable roofs on the east and west elevations are of wood framing placed over a pan joist concrete roof slab supported by the building walls and the four cast stone columns. According to the minutes of the Commissioners' Court, both gable-roofed porches of the east and west elevations were specified to have had "Spanish tile"-styled metal roofs, likely made of hot-dipped galvanized metal shingles.<sup>5</sup>

The flat roofs adjoining these gables at their eaves sit directly on the flat pan joist roof structure and originally had coal tar, felt and gravel roofs.<sup>6</sup> The central portion of the flat roof over the District Courtroom and visitors' balcony is on wood truss framework, as can be seen through voids in the plaster ceiling, defects from prior water damage. This roof likewise had a coal tar built-up roof.

There is a 42-inch-by-42-inch roof scuttle in the northeast lower roof, directly over the location of the original jury room, now the County Judge's office.<sup>7</sup> When the scuttle is lifted, the original plaster ceiling and interior opening below can be seen. Located over the County Judge's desk, this roof access is no longer used and is concealed by the current suspended acoustic ceiling.

Above the classical cornice of sheet metal on both lower and upper roofs, the roof parapets are brick faced with a cast stone cap on both sides. Original specifications called for galvanized iron flashing, regleted into the brick masonry, with counter flashing from the roof below. Conductors were also specified to be galvanized iron, along with ornamental collector heads and shoes at grade.<sup>8</sup>

## Details and Finish Materials

Classical Revival in design, the building epitomizes the period aesthetic applied to a small county courthouse. All walls are constructed of buff brick with beige brick accents, and with white cast stone, white painted stucco, and white limestone detailing. The four Doric columns of each entrance portico are hollow, heavily textured cement plaster shafts painted white, with either cement plaster or cast stone base and capitals. Inside these plaster columns are full height structural columns carrying the brick fascia, metal cornice, concrete roof slabs and gable roof structure. Formulation for exterior paints, primarily of white lead and linseed oil, are included in the specifications.<sup>9</sup> The courthouse steps at the east and west entries are of concrete, without steel noses or treads.<sup>10</sup> Brick bolsters with monolithic concrete caps flank both entries and have spread footing foundations integral with those of the building and entry steps.

Exterior face brick was specified to be No. 1 Elgin-Butler face brick, "...as per the numbers shown on elevations."<sup>11</sup> These numbers would refer to the different color blends of brick to be used. The interior structural brick was called out

<sup>4</sup> W. M. Rice to Judge W. H. Sewell, letter with invoice, 22 February 1917.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 411.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 412.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p. 414.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 411.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p. 412.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 408.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 408.

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to be "common, merchantable brick." Mortar was specified as one part Portland cement to two parts sand, with ten percent lime putty.<sup>12</sup> Portland cement, in the proportions found in this mortar, yields a high strength mortar, commonly found in the design of commercial and public buildings in the Fort Worth and Dallas area at the time.

Interior original partitions were "Gyp. Tile...of 4" x 12" x 30" blocks" with plaster finish.<sup>13</sup> Ceilings are plaster on metal lath attached to the bottom of the pan joist structure; only the ceilings under the courtroom balcony are on wood furring, with diamond mesh lath nailed in place for the finish plaster.<sup>14</sup> Finish plaster was called out as sand finish, with formula given in the specifications.<sup>15</sup> Interior finishes, however, have smooth finish plaster in rooms used for toilet rooms, and in wainscot areas below chair rail in corridors. Reference in the specifications was also made to the drawings for the design of plaster cove and capitals in the District Courtroom.<sup>16</sup>

Pediments, cornice, dentils and other decorative work run horizontally around the building and form the gable ends over the columns. All decorative metal work is white-painted galvanized iron. The pediment above the cast stone column capitals is covered with the same white-painted, highly textured stucco used to finish the column shafts. The construction of these gable ends over the colonnades is visible from inside the gable attics. Entry to both of these attics is through rooftop scuttles near the ridge, with a new metal ladder down to the concrete deck. Both scuttles were added as part of a 1972 remodel; originally, both attics were left as inaccessible spaces to allow for a clean appearance to the metal roofing tiles.

All windows on the first and second floors were wood double-hung with iron counterweights on cords, having single glass in the bottom sash and 12 or 16 panes in the top, depending upon size and location of the window. Basement windows were three panes over two in both sashes while third floor windows were single sash, hopper opening with eight radial panes. Window frames and sills were all heartwood yellow pine with sashes of northern white pine or dry cypress.<sup>17</sup> Interior window trim was heartwood yellow pine.<sup>18</sup> The first and second floor wood windows were replaced with aluminum sash hopper windows as part of the 1972 modifications.

Exterior entrance doors on east and west elevations to the first floor were paired single panel glazed wood doors in wood frames. A single panel glazed side light with wood bottom panel flanked each side, and an arched multi-light transom was placed over the doors and sidelights. Both transoms were of multiple panes, with mullions and muntins about 4 or 5 inches on center each way. These doors were constructed of northern white pine or dry cypress.<sup>19</sup> No photographs or descriptions of the basement entry doors under the west entry steps survive. Like the wood windows, these original doors were replaced with aluminum and glass doors, sidelights, and transoms in 1972.

Interior vestibule entry doors matched the design of the exterior, including side lights, but with no transom. Interior office doors were all two-panel plywood construction, with corridor entry doors to offices or departments having an upper glass panel instead. Interior corridors on the second level had either clear or frosted glass between the corridor and the exterior offices. Side entry doors to the courtroom from both corridors or from the jury room had frosted glass

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 409.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., p. 410.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., p. 411.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., p. 410.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., p. 409.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 408.

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in the upper panel. Interior doors were constructed of heartwood yellow pine, in the same frames and all with yellow pine trim.<sup>20</sup>

The basement interior corridor, with a 90 degree dogleg at the middle, connects the west entry under the first floor exterior stair with the building stair on the south elevation of the building. The first floor has an east-to-west corridor connecting both entries, central to the building elevations. A second corridor from the building stair on the south elevation connects to the midpoint of that corridor. The second floor has a "U"-shaped corridor, its bottom center connecting to the building stair and courtroom entry opposite, and each dead-end leg following around the outside of the central courtroom giving access to exterior facing offices and the jury room on both sides. The balcony has one traverse across its face connecting the stairs, with an upward aisle on each side of the five rows of seats.

The basement interior finish was added to the project during the construction. Other than the addition of two windows, three doors, and plaster finish during construction, little is known about the extent or uses of the basement space after completion of the building.<sup>21</sup> The basement floor was originally concrete except for the coal bin and boiler room, which were left unfinished. The entire floor appears to have been originally designed for storage, heating equipment and fuel. The County Clerk's vault appears to have been placed in the basement during the original construction, with exposed concrete or brick walls, and an exposed pan joist and concrete beam ceiling. Steam heat radiators, supplied by the basement coal fired boiler, tall ceilings with ceiling fans, and large double-hung windows comprised the courthouse building's original climate control system.

The first- and second-level corridor floors are finished with one-inch hexagon ceramic tile. White fields with blue-green flowers at about two feet on center, the floors are edged by a composite border 12 inches wide; between two straight rows of black tile is a blue-green and aqua floral design on an earth-colored base. A stained pine baseboard completed the flooring for both ceramic tile and for wood finish floors. All office interiors, courtroom, and the balcony had stained finish pine floors with stained pine base. Toilet rooms repeated the ceramic tile floor with concrete base. The vaults on the first floor had concrete floors with concrete bases, as did the vault in the basement.

A single staircase from the first floor connects to the basement and also to the second floor. The stairs were constructed of a concrete base with a smooth finish concrete, and treads and risers were left unadorned. The exterior balustrade is plaster, its integral endpost finished with a simple wood cap, and a wood handrail on brackets is attached to the inside wall.

All first floor, second floor, and balcony walls were sand finish plaster, either on the masonry exterior walls, interior gypsum block partitions, or on the concrete columns. Likewise, all ceilings on first and second floors, and balcony were sand finish plaster on metal lath on metal furring attached to the pan joist floor or ceiling structure. Specifications call for globe fixtures and ceiling fans. Currently none of these original fixtures survive in the building.

The District Courtroom bench, canopy, rails, main courtroom seating, balcony rail, balcony theater seats (as can be seen from the fastener locations in the original flooring) and other features were all light stained, natural wood finish. Handwritten notes regarding old court cases were made on the inside bottoms and sides of the two drawers in the bench by former District Judges during trials. Jury chairs rested upon a six-inch height platform behind a rail. This rail around all four sides of the jury box separates the audience from the court, with entry through the north end. A novel feature, the rail encloses the back of the jury box to the wall rather than connecting to the wall on each side.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., p. 410.

<sup>21</sup> W. M. Rice to Judge W. H. Sewell, letter with invoice, 22 February 1917.

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The original plaster ceiling in the District Courtroom has a decorative plaster border around its perimeter; plaster column pilasters on the sidewalls, and column capitals against the ceiling. Original globe light fixture locations in a 4-by-3 grid can be found on the original plaster, although original light fixtures and fans have been removed.

There were two pine wood staircases to the balcony level from the second floor, one on each side, entered from the corridor. The wood risers remain in place, with regular screw penetrations made by the installation of the original folding theater seats, since removed. The original wood handrail to the balcony has been removed but the original concealed internal pipe rail brace is still in place.

### Modifications to the Lipscomb County Courthouse

The Lipscomb County Courthouse has had two major interior remodels in its history. In 1972 the courtroom balcony was abandoned; its east stair was removed to facilitate a new accessible washroom, and the theater seats were removed to allow the space to be utilized for storage. New 2-by-4 lay-in ceiling systems were installed throughout the building in the majority of offices and in the courtroom. New central heat and air conditioning was installed as part of the renovation, allowing for the removal of the boiler and all of its components. The basement was completely finished, excepting the interior of the County Clerk's vault, and the County Clerk's first floor vault was modified to remove the original window fire shutters and install gypsum board over the windows.<sup>22</sup>

The 1972 remodel, designed by Doane, Notestine & Jones, included the installation of carpet over all wood floors, painting all wood work and installation of new aluminum windows. These were installed by removing the existing sashes, boxing over the frames and sills with aluminum, and installing aluminum double hung windows with horizontal panes as seen in the photographs. Exterior doors, sidelights, transoms and wood frames all were replaced with aluminum and single-pane glass; however, interior vestibule doors and sidelights remained, as did the wood doors in the hallways, supplemented with a few new flush-panel doors. All doors on the first floor have a poor quality faux wood finish. Existing windows between corridors and offices were also kept on the second floor, but with all woodwork painted. All walls on first and second floors were covered with a veneer of ¼ inch prefinished plywood panel, reaching from base to meet the new suspended ceilings.

Also at this time, interior spaces were rearranged. While the County Clerk, Treasurer and Auditor are in their original locations, the current County Judge's office occupies the former jury room, and the Sheriff's office was relocated to the new Law Enforcement Center and Jail building, also designed by Doane, Notestine & Jones and constructed on the courthouse square in 1972.

A second renovation, designed by Miskimen and Associates, was completed in 1986 to provide accessibility to all floors of the building. This involved the addition of an exterior entry vestibule and elevator shaft enclosure on the south side of the building; spatial modifications to accommodate elevator lobbies on the basement, first and second floors; and modifications to the accessible restroom on the second floor.

Many of these later modifications to the building—especially the replacement of the historic wood windows and doors, and the installation of plywood paneling and dropped ceilings in the interior—are reversible, and the building's overall historic fabric retains a good deal of its integrity.

<sup>22</sup> Commissioners' Court Minutes, Book 6, p. 296.

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**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 VALUES, 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:** 1916

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1916

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** William M. Rice

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheet 8-11 through 8-15).

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-16 through 9-18).

**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

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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1916 Lipscomb County Courthouse is the most prominent historic building in one of the least-populated counties in the state of Texas. The courthouse is the focal point of the unincorporated town of Lipscomb, with a population of less than 50, and it serves as both the governmental and social center for the county's residents. Classical Revival in style, the building epitomizes the period aesthetic applied to a small county courthouse. Designed by architect and general contractor W. M. Rice of Amarillo, this building of buff-colored brick is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Government, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance.

### Lipscomb County, Texas

Lipscomb County, at the far northeast corner of the Texas Panhandle region, is bordered on the north and east by Oklahoma, and on the south by Hemphill County and west by Ochiltree County, Texas. It is located 131 miles northeast of Amarillo, Texas, and the population has strong bonds in both Texas and Oklahoma. The county has 934 square miles of flat prairie terrain with some rolling hills, bluffs, and broken countryside. Soils range from sandy loam to black, supporting native grasses, wheat, grain sorghums, corn and alfalfa. Native trees include various kinds of oak, pecan, and elm.<sup>23</sup>

County buildings in the town of Lipscomb include the 1916 courthouse; the 1972 Law Enforcement Center and Jail; a garage constructed circa 1935 and the 1910 jail, both used as storage; four district maintenance barns and the stock show metal barns. The current population of the town of Lipscomb is 42, with most residents either associated with county government or with the local agricultural economy. Lipscomb has the dubious distinction of being the only county seat in the Panhandle region that never has had rail service.<sup>24</sup> Other Lipscomb population centers include the towns of Booker, Follett and Higgins, with a total county population of 3,140.

Lipscomb is a relatively poor county. Blessed with oil and gas reserves, Lipscomb County had prospered before oil prices slumped in the 1990s. Today Lipscomb is an agricultural county with a very small but stable population, limited oil production income, no major urban centers and no major employers.<sup>25</sup>

The state legislature organized Lipscomb County in 1876 from the Bexar District and named it in honor of Abner Smith Lipscomb, a South Carolina-born attorney.<sup>26</sup> Lipscomb had served as Texas's Secretary of State under the Mirabeau Lamar administration in 1840 and was appointed a justice on the Texas Supreme Court in 1846, serving until his death in 1856.<sup>27</sup> Alex Young, Lipscomb County's first small rancher, arrived at Kiowa Creek in 1877.<sup>28</sup> Ranches dominated the young county—nicknamed the "Cattlemen's Paradise" in several state newspapers—when the first railroad arrived

<sup>23</sup> Donald R. Abbe, "Lipscomb County," in *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed on 19 November 2007 at: <<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/LL/hcl10.html>>.

<sup>24</sup> F. Stanley, *The Lipscomb, Texas Story*. While the railroad did come to the county in 1877, it bypassed the town of Lipscomb.

<sup>25</sup> Abbe, "Lipscomb County," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

<sup>26</sup> Abbe, "Lipscomb County," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

<sup>27</sup> Mary J. Highsmith, "Lipscomb, Abner Smith," in *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed on 9 April 2008 at: <<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/LL/fli14.html>>.

<sup>28</sup> Abbe, "Lipscomb County," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

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in 1877.<sup>29</sup> J. W. Arthur established Lipscomb as a town site in 1886, and the town of Lipscomb was made the county seat after a heated election the following year.<sup>30</sup>

## 1887 Courthouse Building

The original Lipscomb County Courthouse was located on a tract of land donated by J. W. Arthur and designated as Block 13.<sup>31</sup> This block is the northeast adjacent block to the current courthouse square. The original courthouse building—designed by E. M. Fennell and C. C. Elybs and accepted by the county on 10 September 1887—was constructed by Goff and Condon at a cost of \$1,695.25 and completed on 28 January 1888.<sup>32</sup> This modest courthouse was a single story, wood frame structure with tall ceilings, plaster interior finish, and clapboard siding, and it included all county offices, the courtroom, and the jail.<sup>33</sup> Upon completion of the second county courthouse in 1916, this small building was sold to George Schoenhals, Sr., who dismantled and salvaged the lumber for the construction of his new home.<sup>34</sup>

## 1916 Courthouse Building

Planning for the second county courthouse was initiated on 8 November 1915 when 106 residents petitioned the county to order an election authorizing the sale of bonds to fund a new building.<sup>35</sup> The bond election, held on 11 December 1915, authorized \$25,000 in bonds issued at 5.5 % interest for the new construction.<sup>36</sup> On 13 December 1915, the Commissioners' Court hired Amarillo architect W. M. Rice to design a new building meeting this fixed budget, for a 5% fee.<sup>37</sup> On 11 January 1916 the Commissioners Court raised this budget to \$35,000, at the increased interest rate of 6%, as they had become convinced that the first budget was inadequate for construction of "...a quality Court House."<sup>38</sup>

Construction documents were completed, approved by the Commissioners' Court, and issued for bid on 13 March 1916.<sup>39</sup> Advertised in the daily newspapers *Lipscomb Lime Light*, *Dallas News*, and *Daily Oklahoman*, four contractor's bids—including one from W. M. Rice—were received for evaluation on 10 April 1916. All were over budget by \$1,500 to \$4,800. The contract was awarded to Rice for \$34,000, after negotiations and deletion of the steam heating system, which would be installed later.<sup>40</sup> Rice selected one of the other bidding contractors, B. S. Altmiller, to

<sup>29</sup> H. Allen Anderson. "Lipscomb, Texas," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* Also see "Railroad Lands" in *A History of Lipscomb County, Texas*, p. 27. The first railroad lines in Lipscomb County—none of which actually passed through or stopped in the town of Lipscomb—were the Houston and Texas Central Railroad, the Houston Tap and Brazoria Railroad, the Houston and Great Northern Railroad, the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos, and Colorado Railroad.

<sup>31</sup> Commissioners' Court Minutes, Book 1, p. 9.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-13; and *A History of Lipscomb County, Texas*, p. 30.

<sup>33</sup> Stanley, *The Lipscomb, Texas Story*, p. 6.

<sup>34</sup> *A History of Lipscomb County, Texas*, p. 30.

<sup>35</sup> "Petition" dated 8 November 1915.

<sup>36</sup> Commissioners' Court Minutes, Book 2, p. 369.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 379.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 390.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 398.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 402-416.

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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

serve as superintendent for the construction project.<sup>41</sup> Altmiller had been the general contractor for the 1910 County Jail building, and the Commissioners' Court approved his appointment for this project.<sup>42</sup>

Local oral histories include descriptions of the construction materials brought by rail to the town of Follett and then by mule team wagons to Lipscomb.<sup>43</sup> Materials included all concrete, sand, and aggregate; steel reinforcement; brick and stone masonry; and all doors, windows, frames, trim, cabinetry, tile, plaster and other finish materials. At the time of construction, there were no local industries or resources for production of these materials, only ranches and cows.

Correspondence at the completion of construction indicates amicable settlement of accounts between the W. M. Rice Construction Company and Lipscomb County. Two additional windows and four interior doors were added to the basement, and the basement walls were plastered. The steam heating plant was also added back at the cost of \$1,897, as shown in the final statements of account on 10 February 1917.<sup>44</sup> County records indicate that the final settlement was not paid until 7 March 1917, after the building's occupancy.<sup>45</sup>

The Commissioners' Court purchased furniture for the new courthouse from Art Metal Construction Company, Inc., of Jamestown, New York. Furnishings included judge's bench, canopy, platform, witness box, jury box, and additional courtroom furniture, as well as pieces for the County Judges' office, County Clerk's room, Sheriff and Tax Collector's office, and District Courtroom.<sup>46</sup>

There is no archival evidence to suggest that a landscape plan for the Courthouse was included as part of the construction contract, and there is no mention of site improvements in the architectural specifications found in the Commissioners' Court Minutes, which functioned to some extent as part of the contract for construction between the county and Rice.<sup>47</sup> After completion of the building, improvements to the grounds included concrete flatwork and the planting of shrubs and trees as selected by the Judge and Commissioners, which the county installed over several years.

## William M. Rice, Architect and General Contractor

William M. Rice, designer and builder of the Lipscomb County Courthouse, is a rather enigmatic figure. According to conflicting census records, he was born in either the state of Missouri or the state of Kansas, although the date of his birth is not given.<sup>48</sup> No record of his education or training in the building trades has been located.

Rice and his second wife, Edna, had three sons, Harold, Eugene, and Claude.<sup>49</sup> The Rice family lived in Amarillo, Texas, from 1910 through 1924, according to city telephone directories.<sup>50</sup> Over the years Rice changed the emphasis of

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 435.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., p. 52.

<sup>43</sup> Author's conversation with Judge Willis Smith, 25 February 2000.

<sup>44</sup> Account Statement, W. M. Rice Construction Company to Lipscomb County, 10 February 1917.

<sup>45</sup> W. M. Rice to Judge W. H. Sewell, 21 February 1917.

<sup>46</sup> Commissioners' Court Acceptance of Furniture Proposal, unsigned, dated 12 February 1917. Two separately typed Commissioners Court orders are dated 12 February 1917: one of these two orders refers to the contract for purchase of the furniture, originally dated 9 October 1916, and was changed to read 11 December 1916.

<sup>47</sup> Commissioners' Court Minutes, Book 2, pp. 402-416.

<sup>48</sup> 1910 and 1920 U. S. Census.

<sup>49</sup> 1910 U. S. Census.

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Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

his professional practice from architecture to building construction and back again: in 1912 he advertised his firm in the directory as "Architects and Builders"; in 1913 as "General Builder"; and in 1914 as "General Builder, brick stone steel and reinforced concrete specialties." At the time of construction for the Lipscomb County Courthouse, 1916 through 1917, Rice had two entries in the Amarillo directory, as "Architect" and "General Builders"; yet from 1918 through 1924, Rice again advertised his firm as "General Builders" only. The 1924 directory listing also includes a photograph of the Limestone County Courthouse and text reading, "General Construction Work; We Specialize on [sic] Court Houses, School Houses, and other Public Buildings." The Rice family does not appear in Amarillo city directories after 1924.<sup>51</sup> Rice died in 1925 during the construction of the Cochran County Courthouse, a project for which he was serving as general contractor, and the building was completed by Sampson Construction Company of Amherst, Texas.<sup>52</sup>

W. M. Rice was the architect of the 1916 W. A. Bacon residence in Lubbock, Texas.<sup>53</sup> He also was the architect and general contractor for the Lowery-Phillips School in Amarillo, now demolished.<sup>54</sup> During the same year in which he designed and built the Lipscomb County Courthouse, Rice was also associated with the construction of two other county courthouses in Texas: as architect, Rice designed the Classical Revival style Lynn County Courthouse, Tahoka; and as general contractor, Rice built the Parmer County Courthouse, Farwell (1916, designed by C. Risser as a buff brick Beaux Arts structure).<sup>55</sup> He then continued his career as a general contractor, building four additional Classical Revival style county courthouses: the Briscoe County Courthouse, Silverton (1922, designed by the Amarillo firm of Smith & Townes); the Limestone County Courthouse, Groesbeck (1924, designed by R. H. Stucky); the Wood County Courthouse, Quitman (1925, designed by C. H. Leinbach); and his last, the Cochran County Courthouse, Morton (1926, designed by W. R. Kaufman).<sup>56</sup>

Two other Classical Revival style county courthouses in Texas, the Dallam County Courthouse, Dalhart (1922, designed by Smith & Townes) and the Freestone County Courthouse, Fairfield (1919, designed by W. R. Kaufman) are virtually identical in elevation to Rice's 1916 design for the Lynn County Courthouse, Tahoka.<sup>57</sup> Differences in brick color, size of cornice, and window trim detailing treatments do not hide the identical nature of exterior wall elevations, plan profiles, colonnades, and fenestration. One additional commonality between these three courthouse buildings is the general contractor who built them, A. D. Rogers.<sup>58</sup> It is possible that Rice sold his design for the Lynn County Courthouse to Rogers, who then promoted new courthouse construction to Freestone and Dallam counties and hired the other architects for minor design modifications. Selling courthouse designs to contractors was a frequent procedure by the noted Texas architect James Riely Gordon.<sup>59</sup> Although it cannot be confirmed at this time, it is possible that Rice

<sup>50</sup> Amarillo city telephone directories, 1907 through 1926.

<sup>51</sup> Amarillo city telephone directories, 1907 through 1926.

<sup>52</sup> Joseph P. Wier to Judge Willis Smith, 25 August 1991.

<sup>53</sup> "The Episcopal Center for the Diocese of Northwest Texas," facsimile sent to author, 8 June 2000.

<sup>54</sup> H. Allen Anderson, "Lowery-Phillips School," Handbook of Texas Online, 20 June 2000.

<sup>55</sup> Kelsey and Dyal describe the Parmer County Courthouse as "Texas Renaissance" in style, a term utilized by Willard B.

Robinson in "Texas Renaissance," the fifth chapter of his book The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails, and Municipal Buildings (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1983). According to these authors, this term describes buildings in the Beaux Arts, Renaissance and Classical Revival, and Mission styles that also reference their locations within Texas. As Kelsey and Dyer suggest, "the county name and the Texas star often are prominently displayed on these buildings, and a heroic statement may be engraved on the frieze or over the entrance." See Kelsey and Dyal, p. 18.

<sup>56</sup> Joseph P. Wier to Judge Willis Smith, 25 August 1991

<sup>57</sup> Kelsey and Dyal, The Courthouses of Texas, pp. 86, 111, 183.

<sup>58</sup> Author's telephone conversation with Brad Patterson, April 2000.

<sup>59</sup> Author's conversation with Arthur Ostertag Weinman, 1979. Weinman had a relative employed in Gordon's practice.

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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
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engaged in the same practice; further research should be done to compare the plans and elevations of these three county courthouses in order to determine if they are all, in fact, the same design by Rice.

### Architectural Significance of the Lipscomb County Courthouse

The 1916 Lipscomb County Courthouse is a significant example of the Classical Revival style frequently utilized throughout Texas for civic buildings during the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Temples of justice, the courthouses of this period employed an architectural imagery with origins in ancient Greece, but updated through the lens of the French *École des Beaux-Arts*. The study of Greek and Roman structures among Beaux-Arts-schooled architects resulted in monumental buildings with symmetrical façades, large windows, attic stories and parapet walls. Applied to the county courthouses of Texas, the Classical Revival style represented the ideals of democracy in a rapidly growing state.<sup>60</sup> The Lipscomb County Courthouse is an excellent example of the style's widespread application during this period, even in more isolated rural counties.

Surrounding the courthouse square in Lipscomb are sixteen one-story, wood frame buildings constructed between 1890 and 1920, remnants of the town's early years. The 1916 Lipscomb County Courthouse towers above them all, a well-maintained brick building that stands apart from its surroundings even as it brings county residents together. The courthouse has served the local community for over ninety years. Beyond its formal role as the center of county government, the courthouse and its square represent the heart of public life in Lipscomb County, and the building's design exemplifies the dominance of classical motifs on Texas county courthouses during this period. The Lipscomb County Courthouse is therefore nominated to the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Government and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance.

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<sup>60</sup> Willard B. Robinson, *The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails, and Municipal Buildings* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1983), 262-269; Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993); and Lester Walker, *American Shelter* (Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1996), 178-179.

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Lipscomb County Commissioners' Court Minutes

- Book 1, p. 1, June 18, 1887.
- Book 1, p. 3, June 25, 1887.
- Book 1, pp. 5-6, August 8, 1887.
- Book 1, p. 9, September 10, 1887.
- Book 1, p. 13, September 24, 1887.
- Book 1, p. 41, March 3, 1888.
- Book 1, p. 48, May 23, 1888.
- Book 1, p. 485, May 10, 1910.
- Book 2, p. 52, June 11, 1910.
- Book 2, p. 369, November 8, 1915.
- Book 2, p. 379, December 13, 1915.
- Book 2, p. 390, January 11, 1916.
- Book 2, p. 398, March 13, 1916.
- Book 2, p. 400, March 13, 1916.
- Book 2, p. 402, April 10, 1916.
- Book 2, p. 435, May 8, 1916.
- Book 2, p. 439, May 27, 1916.
- Book 2, p. 481, May 27, 1916.
- Book 3, p. 162, May 12, 1919.
- Book 5, p. 527, December 12, 1966.
- Book 5, p. 541, March 13, 1967.
- Book 5, p. 553, May 8, 1967.
- Book 5, p. 560, June 12, 1967.
- Book 6, p. 172, November 9, 1970.
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- Book 6, p. 197, February 19, 1971.
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- Book 6, p. 296, June 12, 1972.
- Book 6, p. 300, July 10, 1972.
- Book 6, p. 308, August 14, 1972.
- Book 6, p. 312, September 11, 1972.
- Book 6, p. 316, September 11, 1972.
- Book 6, p. 362, June 14, 1973.
- Book 6, p. 566, January 12, 1976.
- Book 7, p. 519, April 12, 1982.
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- Book 7, p. 639, June 19, 1983.

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Book 7, p. 673, August 8, 1983.  
Book 8, p. 114, May 14, 1984.  
Book 8, p. 187, October 8, 1984.  
Book 8, p. 259, January 14, 1985.  
Book 8, p. 301, March 11, 1985.  
Book 8, p. 327, April 8, 1985.  
Book 8, p. 410, August 12, 1985.  
Book 8, p. 455, November 1, 1985.  
Book 8, p. 496, January 13, 1986.  
Book 8, p. 525, February 24, 1986.  
Book 9, p. 561, January 28, 1991.  
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Book 10, p. 799, June 28, 1997.

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Notice of Bond Election Lipscomb, 10 November 1915.

Petition for Courthouse Bond Election, 8 November 1915.

W. M. Rice Construction Co. to Judge W.H. Sewell, letter with attached statement, 22 February 1917.

W. M. Rice Construction Co. to Judge W.H. Sewell, letter with clarification of statement, 3 March 1917.

**Drawings**

Arthur Weinman Architects, Lipscomb County Courthouse Historic Preservation Master Plan, 2000.

Hand drawn town plan, including names of buildings, by Opal Hill, provided by Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna.

**Photographs**

Historic photographs are courtesy of Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna.

Current photographs by Gretchen Gause, Arthur Weinman Architects, February 2000.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	14	36242E	4034851N

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** The property is in the center of the Courthouse Square bounded by Main Street (Spur 188) on the north, by Fourth Avenue on the east, by Oak Street on the south, by Main Avenue on the west.

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

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME/TITLE:** Arthur Weinman, AIA, with assistance from Rachel Leibowitz, Texas Historical Commission

**ORGANIZATION:** Arthur Weinman, Architects

**DATE:** 9 April 2008

**STREET & NUMBER:** 550 Bailey Avenue, Suite 332

**TELEPHONE:** 817-737-0977

**CITY OR TOWN:** Fort Worth

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 76116

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS**

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheets PHOTO-26 through PHOTO-34)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets FIGURE-19 through FIGURE-25)

**PROPERTY OWNER**

**NAME:** Lipscomb County, Texas (Willis Smith, County Judge)

**STREET & NUMBER:** Lipscomb Courthouse Square

**TELEPHONE:** 806-862-4131

**CITY OR TOWN:** Lipscomb

**STATE:** Texas

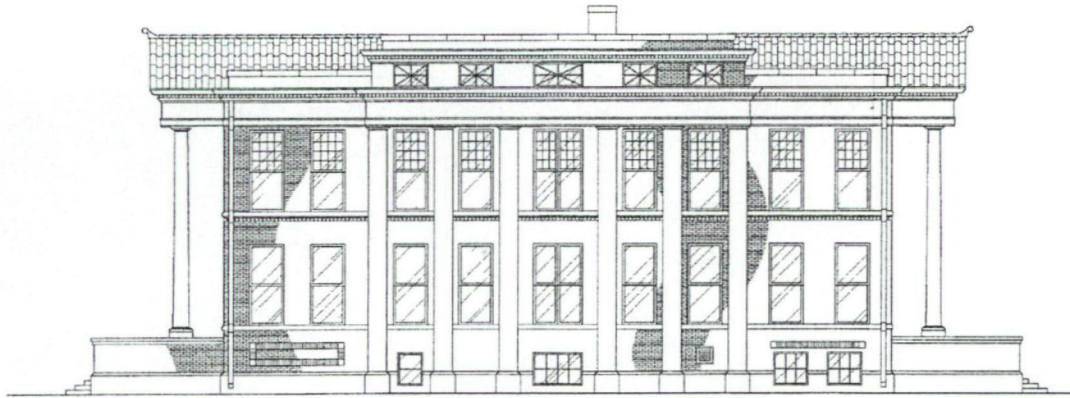
**ZIP CODE:** 79056

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Section FIGURE Page 19

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas



NORTH ELEVATION  
ORIGINAL BUILDING



NORTH ELEVATION  
CURRENT ELEVATION



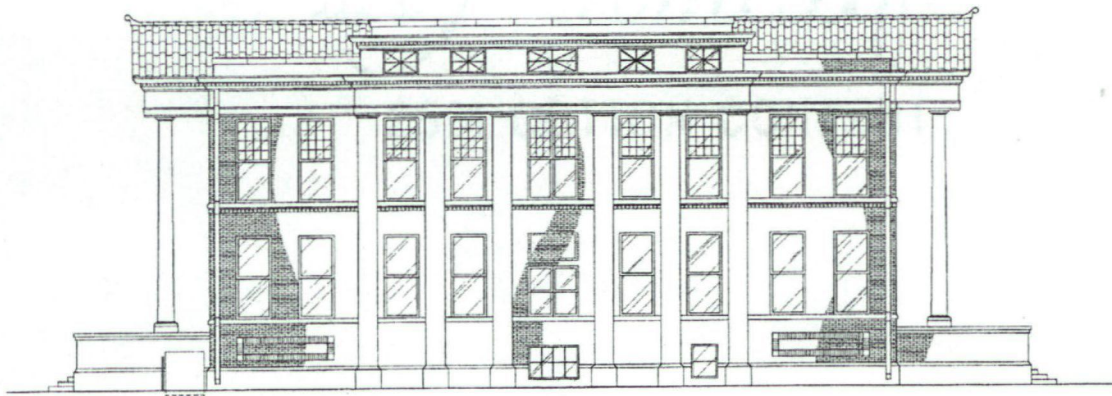
**Figure 1.** Lipscomb County Courthouse, north elevation, original and current (Weinman Architects)

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Section FIGURE Page 20

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas



SOUTH ELEVATION  
ORIGINAL BUILDING  
0' 1' 3' 5' 10' 20'



SOUTH ELEVATION  
CURRENT ELEVATION  
0' 1' 3' 5' 10' 20'

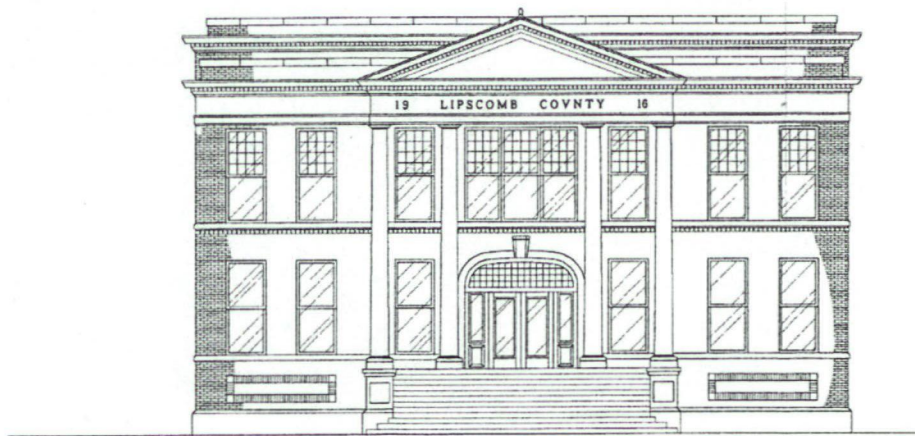
Figure 2. Lipscomb County Courthouse, south elevation, original and current (Weinman Architects)

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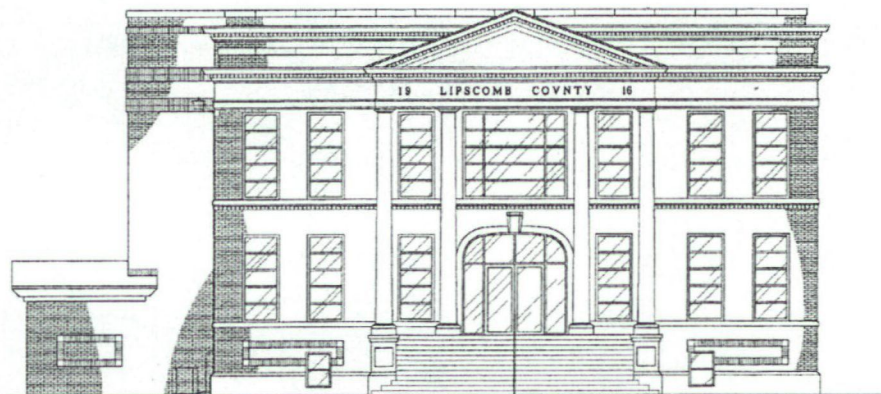
Section FIGURE Page 21

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas



EAST ELEVATION

ORIGINAL BUILDING



EAST ELEVATION

CURRENT ELEVATION



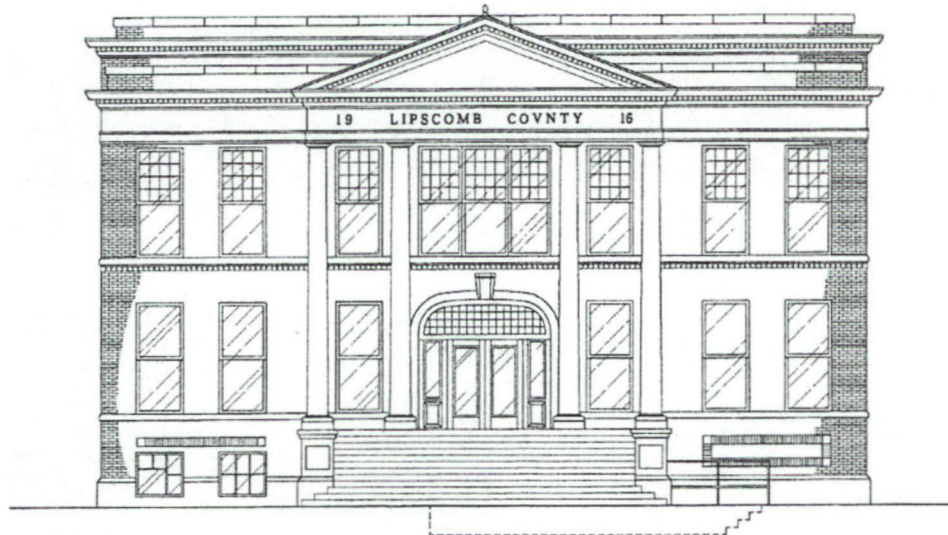
Figure 3. Lipscomb County Courthouse, east elevation, original and current (Weinman Architects)

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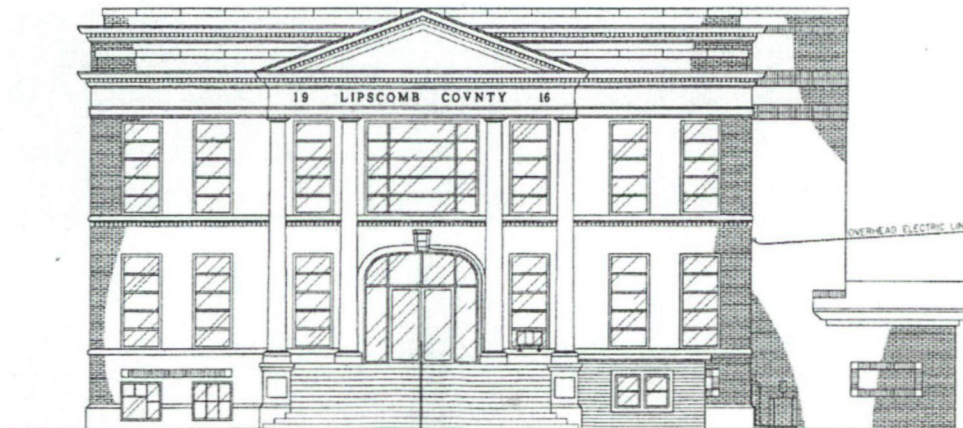
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 22

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas



WEST ELEVATION  
ORIGINAL BUILDING



WEST ELEVATION  
CURRENT ELEVATION



Figure 4. Lipscomb County Courthouse, west elevation, original and current (Weinman Architects)

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Section FIGURE Page 23

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

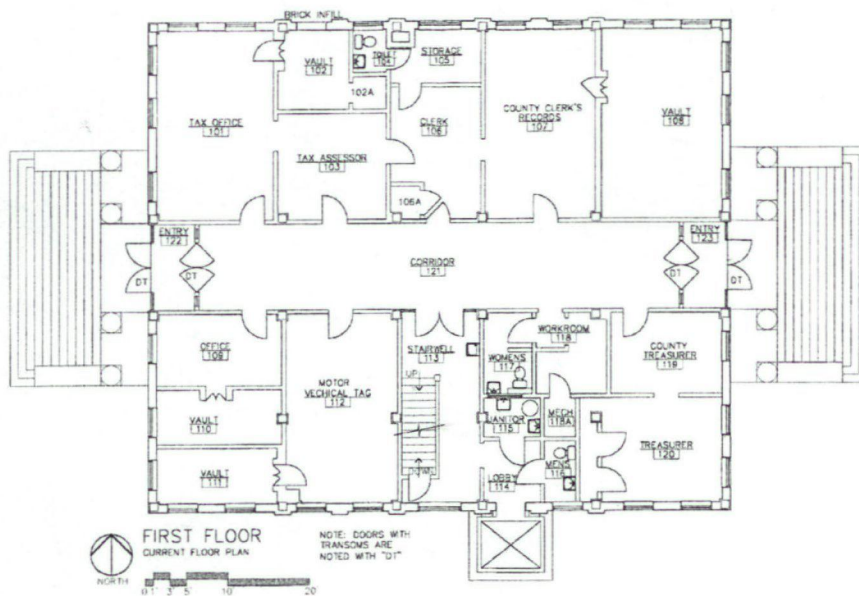
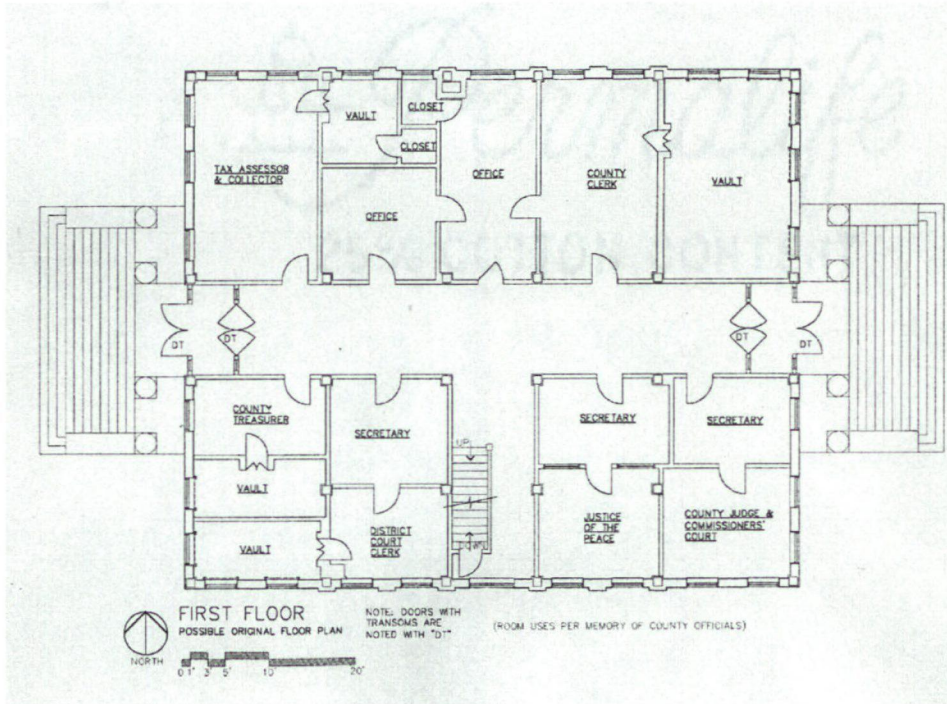


Figure 5. Lipscomb County Courthouse, first floor plan, original and current (Weinman Architects)

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Section FIGURE Page 24

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

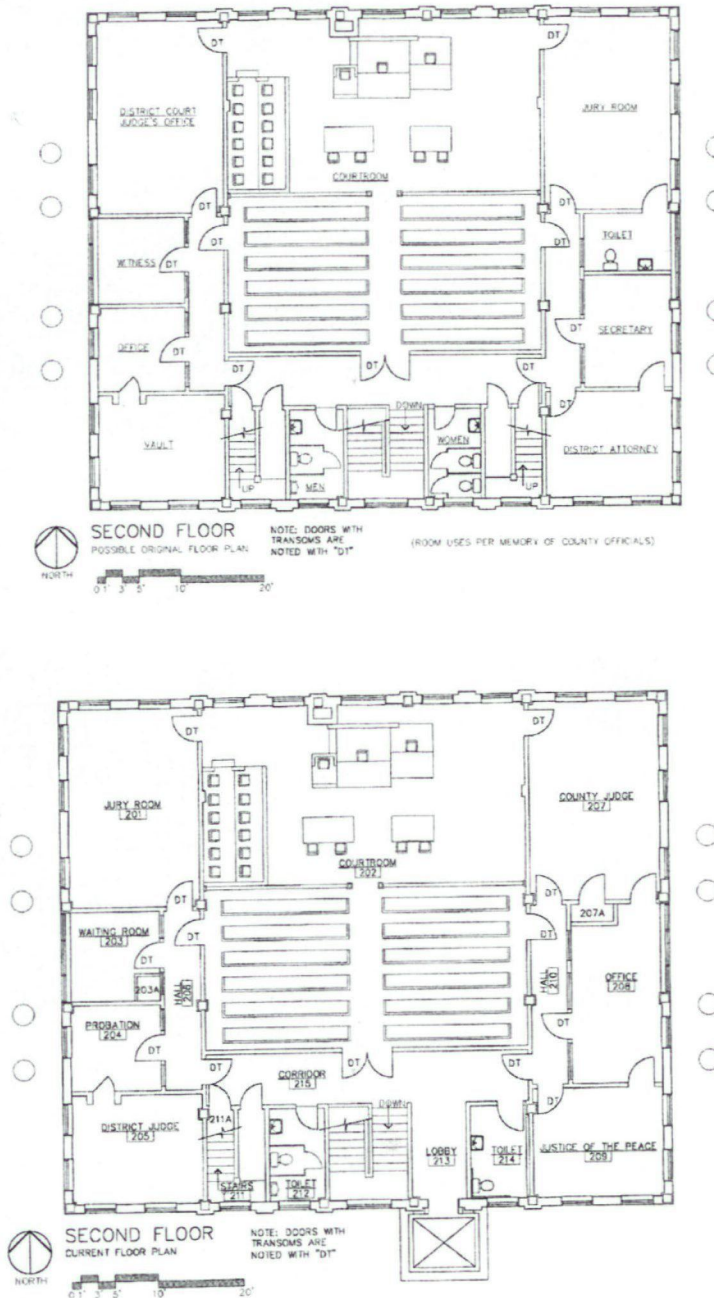


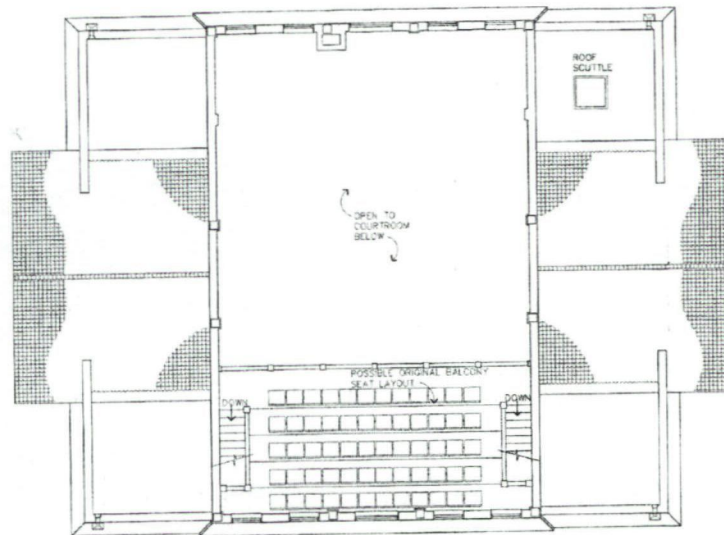
Figure 6. Lipscomb County Courthouse, second floor plan, original and current (Weinman Architects)

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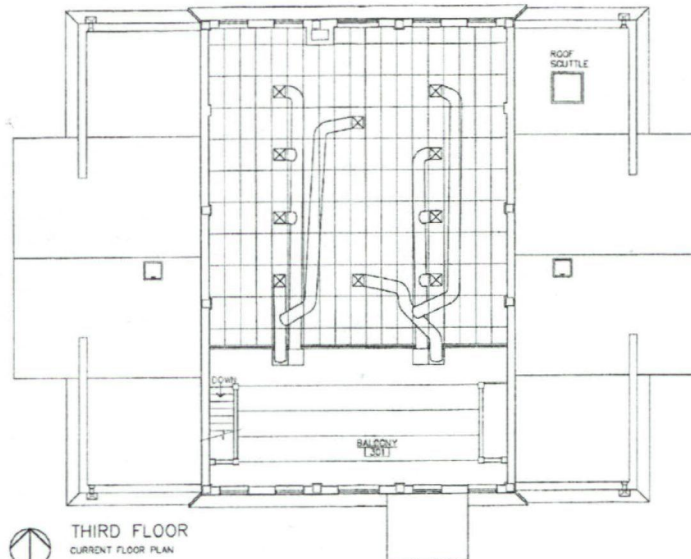
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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas



THIRD FLOOR  
POSSIBLE ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN  
NORTH  
0 1 3 5 10 20'



THIRD FLOOR  
CURRENT FLOOR PLAN  
NORTH  
0 1 3 5 10 20'

Figure 7. Lipscomb County Courthouse, third floor plan, original and current (Weinman Architects)

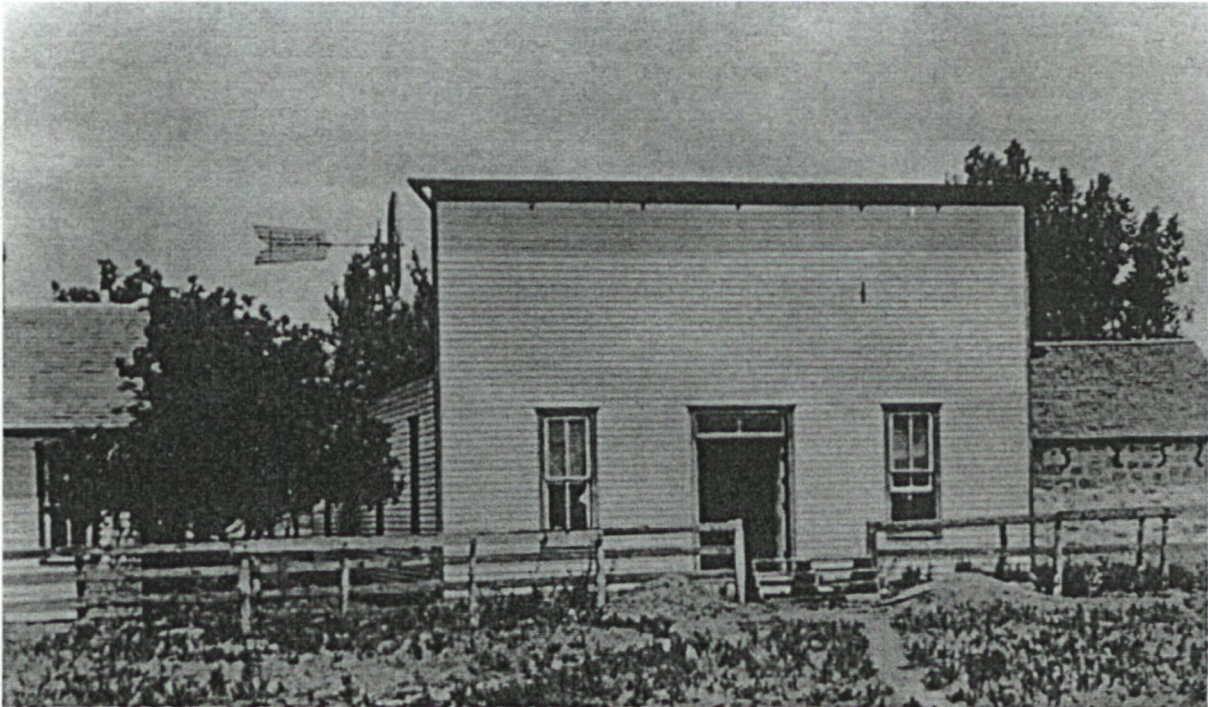
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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

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**Photo 1.** First Lipscomb County Courthouse

Photographer and date unknown (personal collection of Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna)

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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas



**Photo 2.** Lipscomb County Courthouse under construction, 1916  
Photographer and date unknown (personal collection of Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna)

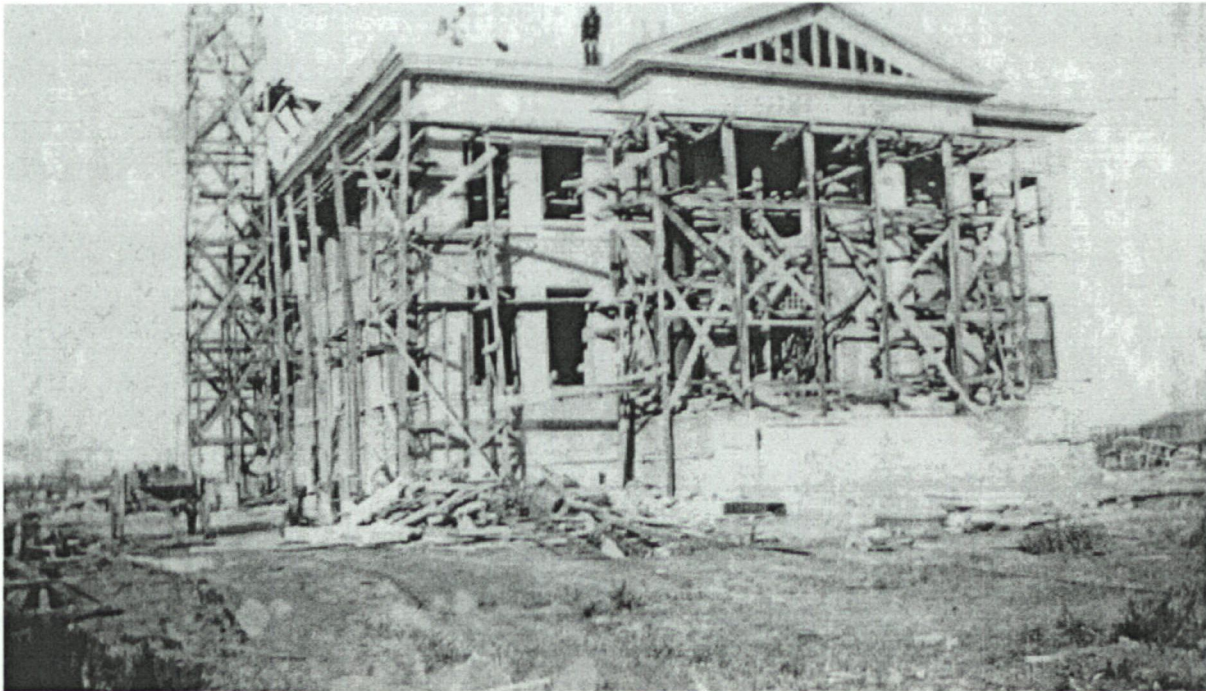
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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

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**Photo 3.** Lipscomb County Courthouse under construction, 1916

Photographer and date unknown (personal collection of Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna)

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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

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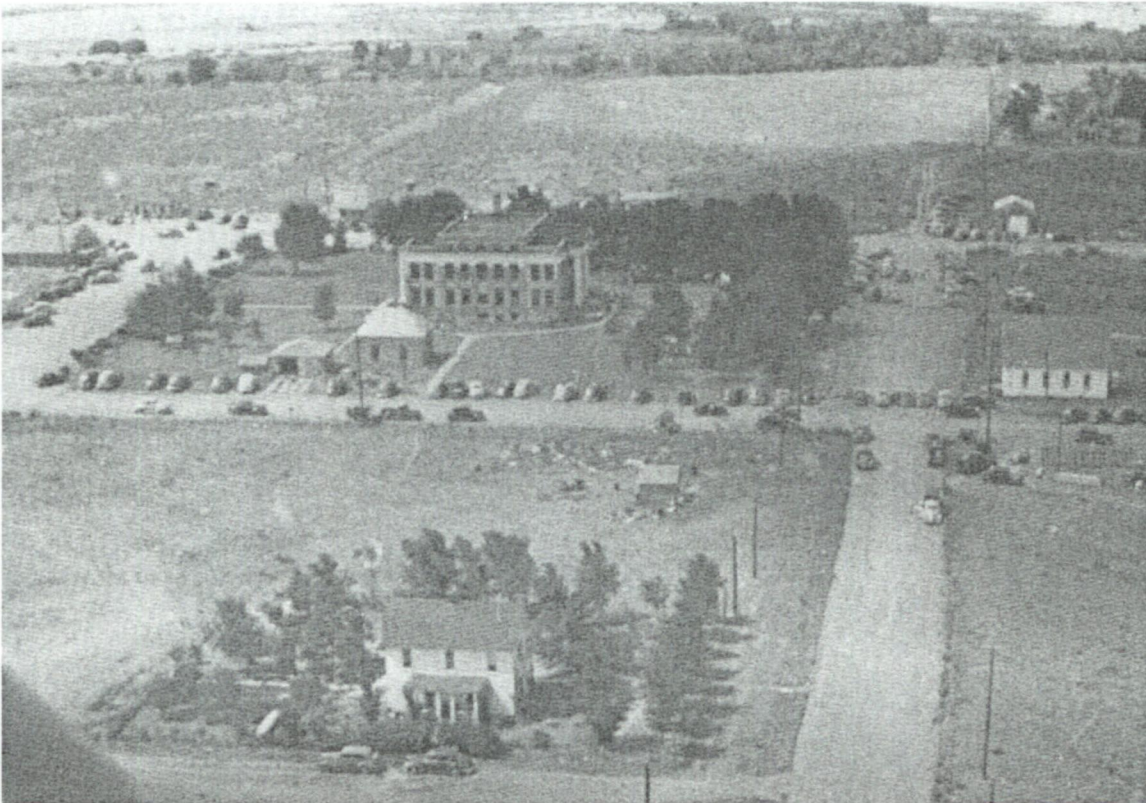
**Photo 4.** Lipscomb County Courthouse under construction, 1916  
Photographer and date unknown (personal collection of Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna)

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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas



**Photo 5.** Aerial view of Lipscomb County Courthouse Square, Lipscomb, Texas, ca. 1940.

Garage and Jail buildings are in foreground of square.

Photographer unknown (personal collection of Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna)

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Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

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**Photo 6.** 1910 Lipscomb County Jail, ca. 1940  
Photographer unknown (personal collection of Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 32

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas



**Photo 7.** Lipscomb County Courthouse and iron fence (since removed)  
Photographer and date unknown (personal collection of Debby Opdyk and Jan Luna)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 33

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

---

### PHOTOGRAPH CONTINUATION SHEET

Lipscomb County Courthouse  
Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas  
Photographed by Gretchen Gause, Arthur Weinman Architects  
February 2000  
Negatives on file with Arthur Weinman Architects, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 1 of 8  
Northeast oblique view of Lipscomb County Courthouse and Jail Building  
Camera facing southwest

Photo 2 of 8  
East façade  
Camera facing west

Photo 3 of 8  
South façade  
Camera facing north

Photo 4 of 8  
West façade  
Camera facing east

Photo 5 of 8  
North façade  
Camera facing south

Photo 6 of 8  
First floor corridor  
Camera facing east

Photo 7 of 8  
Corridor tile border, second floor  
Camera facing west

Photo 8 of 8  
District Courtroom  
Camera facing north

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

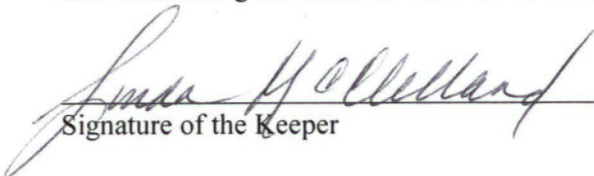
NRIS Reference Number: 08000730

Property Name: Lipscomb County Courthouse

County: Lipscomb State: Texas

Multiple Name: N/A

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

July 09, 2008  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 1: Location

The county code is, hereby, corrected to read "295."

Section 10: Geographical Data/USGS Quadrant Map

The UTM coordinates for the courthouse are, hereby, corrected to read "Zone 14 385822 (Easting) 4010624 (Northing)."

-----  
The National Register staff of the Texas Historical Commission provided the information for this amendment.

-----  
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lipscomb County Courthouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Lipscomb

DATE RECEIVED: 6/08/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/22/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000730

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 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Designed by William Rice of Amarillo  
this courthouse is one of the most promi-  
nent and distinctive (architecturally)  
buildings in a sparsely populated region  
of the state (Texas panhandle). Locally  
significant example of Classical Revival  
design, emphasis is on construction  
of buildings 1906 rather  
than continuing  
activities  
since.  
P.S. covered  
to expanded.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C+A

REVIEWER LM McCluskey DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 7/29/08

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



19 LIPSCOMB COVNTY 16

LIPSCOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIPSCOMB, LIPSCOMB COUNTY, TEXAS

NORTHEAST OBLIQUE VIEW OF LIPSCOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL BUILDING  
CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST

PHOTO 1 OF 8

FEBRUARY 2000



19 LIPSCOMB COVNTY 16

LIPSCOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIPSCOMB, LIPSCOMB COUNTY, TEXAS  
EAST FAÇADE  
CAMERA FACING WEST  
PHOTO 2 OF 8

FEBRUARY 2000



LIPSCOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIPSCOMB, LIPSCOMB COUNTY, TEXAS  
SOUTH FAÇADE  
CAMERA FACING NORTH  
PHOTO 3 OF 8

FEBRUARY 2000



19 LIPSCOMB COVNTY 16

LIPSCOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIPSCOMB, LIPSCOMB COUNTY, TEXAS  
WEST FAÇADE  
CAMERA FACING EAST  
PHOTO 4 OF 8

FEBRUARY 2000



LIPSCOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIPSCOMB, LIPSCOMB COUNTY, TEXAS  
NORTH FAÇADE  
CAMERA FACING SOUTH  
PHOTO 5 OF 8                      FEBRUARY 2000

TAX ASSESSOR - COLLECTOR

FOR THE RECORD  
EXTENDING OVER  
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AND YEAR - 2100

NEWSPAPER RACKS

CLERK

VEHICLE TAG AND TITLE



LIPSCOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIPSCOMB, LIPSCOMB COUNTY, TEXAS  
FIRST FLOOR CORRIDOR  
CAMERA FACING EAST  
PHOTO 6 OF 8

FEBRUARY 2000



LIPSLOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIPSLOMB, LIPSLOMB COUNTY, TEXAS  
CORRIDOR TILE BORDER, SECOND FLOOR  
CAMERA FACING WEST

PHOTO 7 OF 8

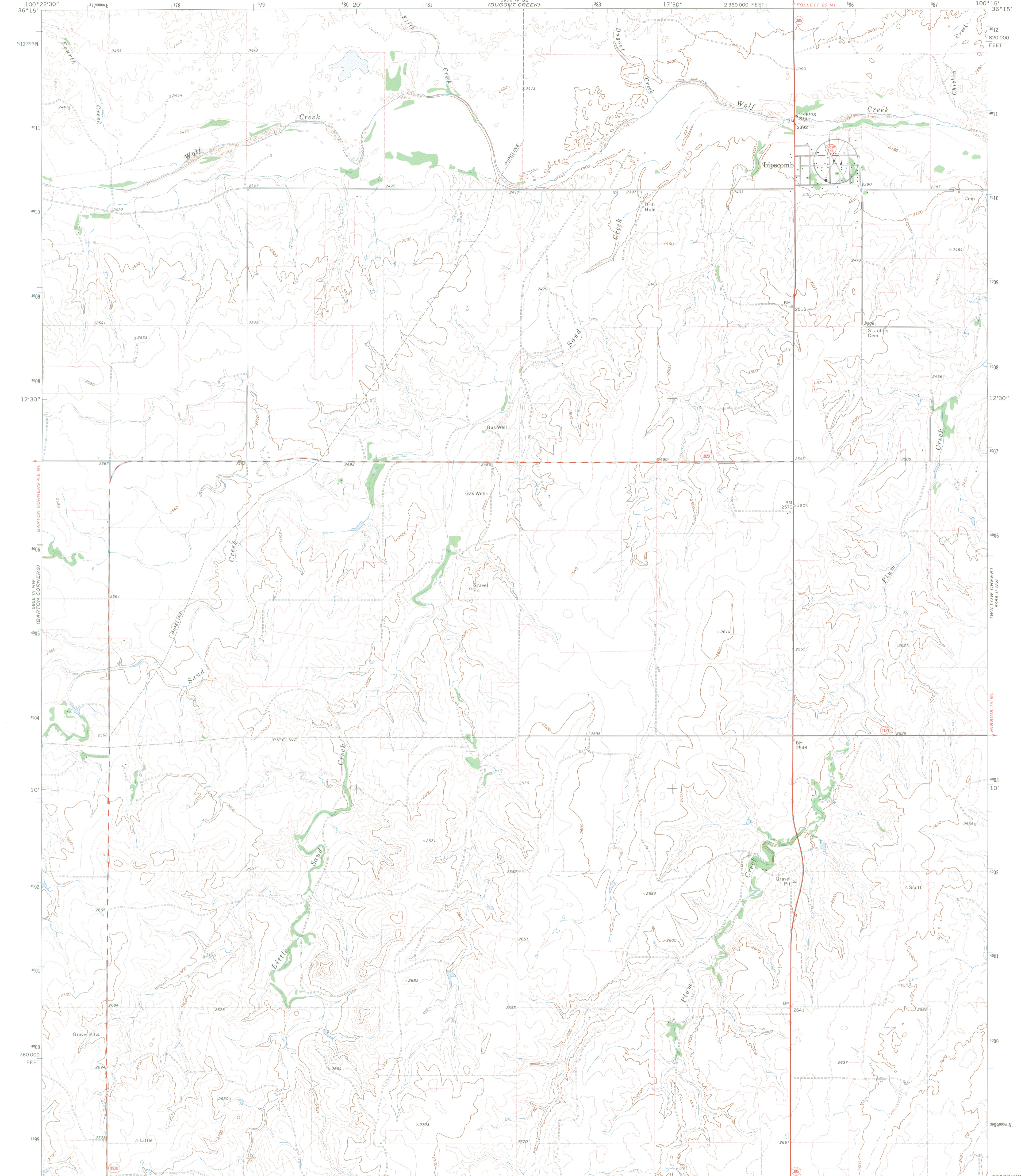
FEBRUARY 2000



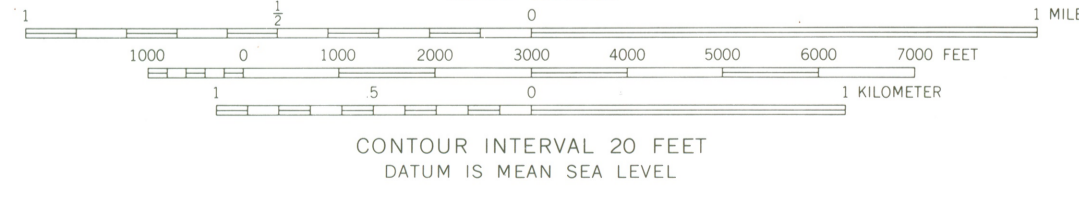
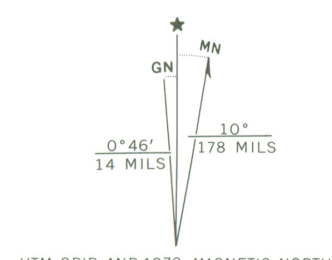
STEVEN R. EMMERT  
3rd DISTRICT JUDGE

LIPSLOMB COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIPSLOMB, LIPSLOMB COUNTY, TEXAS  
DISTRICT COURTROOM  
CAMERA FACING NORTH

PHOTO 8 OF 8      FEBRUARY 2000



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas  
coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 14, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
**3600-124**

LIPSCOMB, TEX.  
N 3607.5-W10015.75  
1972  
AMS 5956 III NE-SERIES V882



**TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

Rick Perry • *Governor*

John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*

F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*



TO: Linda McClelland  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Rachel Leibowitz, Historian  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Lipscomb County Courthouse, Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas

DATE: 11 June 2008

- The following materials are submitted regarding Lipscomb County Courthouse, Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
	Correspondence
	Other: CD with digital photograph files

COMMENTS: Enclosed in the revised nomination, addressing all concerns in your evaluation/return sheet.

SHPO requests substantive review

The enclosed owner objections (do ) (do not ) constitute a majority of property owners

Other:



"Greg Smith"  
<Greg.Smith@thc.state.  
tx.us>

To: <Linda\_McClelland@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: RE: UTM's for Lipscomb County House

07/28/2008 04:42 PM  
EST

Lipscomb County Courthouse UTM:  
Zone 14  
385822 E  
4010624 N

The photos of the Pettey House are coming your way soon.

/Greg

---

Gregory W. Smith  
National Register Coordinator  
History Programs Division  
Texas Historical Commission  
PO Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711-2276  
(512) 463-6013  
FAX (512) 475-3122  
www.thc.state.tx.us

> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Linda\_McClelland@nps.gov [mailto:Linda\_McClelland@nps.gov]  
> Sent: Monday, July 28, 2008 4:33 PM  
> To: Greg Smith  
> Subject: UTM's for Lipscomb County House  
>  
>  
> Greg--I need to do an slr for this property because the UTM  
> coordinates that are given on the map and form do not appear  
> to be correct. Can you get the correct coordinates for me?  
>  
> Thanks, Linda  
>  
> (Also, under location, the county code will be changed to "295."  
>  
>

Recommendation: SLR Return

Action: SLR Return None

Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet

State Name: TX County Name Lipscomb Resource Name Lipscomb County Courthouse

Reference No. 730 Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Problem:**

Incorrect county code - should be 295 BK  
UTM Reference Fasting # → road + more #  
Incorrect - See Map  
Should be 385- 4010---  
POS. OK

**Resolution:**

SLR: Yes No

Database Change: