

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Camp Colorado Replica
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial

2. Location

Street & number: Coleman City Park, 1700 N. Neches
City or town: Coleman State: Texas County: Coleman
Not for publication: [] Vicinity: []

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 at the following levels of significance:
[] national [] statewide [] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [] A [] B [] C [] D

Signature of certifying official / Title: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 3/6/18
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
[] entered in the National Register
[] determined eligible for the National Register
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register
[] other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Recreation and Culture: Museum

Current Functions: OTHER (public meeting space)

7. Description

Architectural Classification: OTHER: WPA Rustic

Principal Exterior Materials: Stone/limestone, Wood

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6-7)

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

X	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.
X	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: NA

Areas of Significance: Social History, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1936-1937

Significant Dates: 1936, 1937

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Architect unknown; S.C. Cooper (Engineer)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-11)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 12)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 31.847379° Longitude: -99.425868°

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated area is a portion of Coleman City Park in Coleman, Texas. The area is a right trapezoid with the building at the center, measuring approximately 113 feet on the north, 100 feet on the west, 172 feet on the south, and 125 feet on the northeast (bounded by the park road). This boundary is sketched on the accompanying map on page 14.

Boundary Justification: The nomination includes all property historical associated with the building. The nominated parcel is a section of the city park that includes the footprint of the building and approximately 30 feet of adjacent land to the north, west, and south. The east boundary is a park road. The park has not yet been evaluated due to the specific focus of the Texas Centennial theme.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator
Organization: Texas Historical Commission
Street & number: P.O. Box 12276
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip Code: 78711
Email: gregs@thc.texas.gov
Telephone: 512-463-6013
Date: December 15, 2017

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 13-14)
Additional items (see continuation sheets 15-19)
Photographs (see continuation sheets 5 and 20-30)

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photograph Log

Camp Colorado Replica
Coleman, Coleman County, Texas
Photographed by Gregory Smith, May 2017

Photo 1 West Elevation	Photo 12 Main meeting space (east room), facing east
Photo 2 Northwest oblique	Photo 13 East room fireplace, facing southeast)
Photo 3 Southwest oblique	Photo 14 East room through doorway from west room, facing east
Photo 4 West facade	Photo 15 West room, facing northeast
Photo 5 North elevation	Photo 16 West room fireplace, facing north
Photo 6 East elevation	Photo 17 West room, facing east wall and doorway to east room
Photo 7 East elevation	Photo 18 Doorway from breezeway, looking into south room, camera facing southwest
Photo 8 Southeast oblique	Photo 19 South room fireplace on south wall, camera facing southwest
Photo 9 Yard to the southeast	Photo 20 South room ceiling and underside of original roof
Photo 10 Breezeway, facing east towards addition	
Photo 11 Dedication stone, southwest corner of building	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Description

The 1936 Camp Colorado Replica in Coleman, Coleman County, Texas, is a single-story 3-room limestone L-plan building with a central breezeway on a concrete foundation. Set near the heart of a city park, the building features a full-width front porch with a shed roof on its primary west elevation, with a long 2-room unit (running east-west) on the north, and a 1-room unit to the south, all covered with a hipped metal roof. The approximately 18-inch-thick walls are composed of brick and concrete, with a rough-cut limestone veneer laid in irregular courses. The original front doorway on the north wing has been infilled with stone, leaving the entrances to both wings from the breezeway. Tall windows openings, with non-historic metal sash windows, are irregularly placed on each elevation, and each of the three exterior stone chimneys serves one of the rooms. The east end features a rock bathroom addition that blends with the original rock exterior, and a flat-roofed metal storage building that is tucked within the building's ell. Despite some modifications, the building retains nearly almost all its original fabric and retains a good degree of integrity.

Coleman County is just north of the geographic center of Texas. The Camp Colorado Replica is at the heart of Coleman City Park, a roughly 18-acre triangular parcel between North Neches Street and Hords Creek on the north side of the county seat of Coleman. The terrain is relatively level, and the park contains a mix of open green space (primarily on the west side) and tree-shaded lawns and playgrounds to the east, along the creek. An asphalt circulation road runs along the park's perimeter, while a curved road accessing the rear of the nominated building runs through the center of the park. The Camp Colorado Replica is set within a small grove of trees, and stands as the only major building in the park.

The building faces west, and features a full-width front porch on its primary elevation. The L-plan building has a three-rooms, with a 2-room unit extending east to the north of a wide central breezeway, and a 1-room unit to the south, all under a metal hipped roof, which gives the building the appearance of a symmetrical dogtrot form. The porch has a concrete surface, finished at the promoters with stone, and debarked natural cedar support posts. The north side of the primary elevation has a single window to the right of what was once the original central doorway, which was infilled later with stone, in a manner that minimizes the effect of the alteration. The unit to the south of the breezeway features two symmetrically-placed windows and a dedication stone set into the wall near the southwest corner. The stone reads:

Replica
Administration Building
Camp Colorado
Established 1856
Abandoned 1861
Erected 1936 by
Federal and Texas Centennial
Commission
Works Progress Administration
And
City of Coleman
E.P. Scarborough - Mayor
H.H. Scott - Commissioner
C.H. Shore - Commissioner
S.C. Cooper - Engineer

The north elevation is the longest, as it contains the two-room wing as well as a bathroom addition at the rear. A rock chimney, serving the front room, is rear the far east side of this elevation. The chimney is flanked on the left by a window, and on the right by what appears to be a scar from the infill of a smaller window. Two additional windows to

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the east open to the larger meeting room (referred to as the “east room” in this nomination). At the far east end of this wing is the rock bathroom addition, with two restrooms that are accessed from the rear exterior of the building. The chimney that serves the east room appears to extend from the addition, which was built around the chimney.

The west elevation features the bathroom addition to the right and the short end of a windowless metal storage unit to the left. Each bathroom projects from the original west wall, separated by the chimney, with the space between them connected by a stone wall that is flush with the bathroom walls. A chain-link fence with a swinging gate secures a small covered waiting area outside the restrooms. The metal storage unit nestled inside the ell runs alongside the south side of the 2-room wing, but is not attached to the original building. To the southeast of the building is a circular limestone planter, which may have been built to resemble a cistern. Planting beds set in a circular pattern with low-profile rock edging are also in this area, along with a display collection antique metal farm implements and a windmill.

The south elevation features the long side of the metal storage unit to the right, and the projecting square-plan south wing of the original building. The windowless south elevation features an exterior chimney, partly obscured by trees and bushes growing close to the building.

The interior of the building is accessed through the central breezeway. The north wing features two rooms: the west room, measuring 20x22 feet and now used as a kitchen, and the larger east room (40x22 feet) that is used as a public meeting space. Because the front door that originally led to the west room has been infilled, one enters this portion of the building through the east room. Both rooms have been finished with non-historic composite tile floors, plaster walls, and dropped ceilings with exposed heavy wood beams. The fireplaces in each room have been covered with wood bead board, but the rough-hewn solid pecan mantelpieces are intact. The south room (approximately 22x22 feet) is accessed via a door off the breezeway, and currently houses a variety of historic artifacts. The walls have been plastered, but the ceiling is unfinished, revealing the original volume of the room, with exposed wood beams, rafters, and the visible underside of the original cedar shake shingles.

The Camp Colorado Replica building has been modified but retains most of its fabric, most notably the load-bearing stone walls, as well as its central breezeway configuration. The windows have been replaced but are set within the original openings. Other changes, including the infilling of the front door and possibly one window on the north side, and the addition of bathrooms to the east, have utilized rock construction that minimizes the effect of these changes. The original roof has been covered with sheet metal, but based on the exposed shingles that can be seen in the south room, the original roof materials may be intact. The building therefore retains a very good degree of integrity.

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The 1936 Camp Colorado Replica in Coleman City Park, Coleman County, Texas, was a major product of the Texas Centennial program of the mid-1930s. One of only sixteen Centennial projects classified as a “restoration,” the 3-room limestone building was designed to evoke the feeling of the demolished administration building of the short-lived Camp Colorado (1857-1861), approximately twelve miles east-northeast of Coleman. Based on conjecture but utilizing stones from the original military facility, the replica was built as a tribute to the county’s early history and to serve as a public meeting space and museum within the city park. Built at the height of the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration, following designs by City Engineer Clarence (S.C.) Cooper, the replica stands as an enduring public works project in the city. The property is nominated to the National Register at the state level of significance under the multiple property submission *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*. It is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Social History as the product of the concerted statewide effort to commemorate historic persons and events important to Texas history in the 1930s. The building is also significant under Criterion A at the local level of significance as a facility that served as meeting space for a variety of organizations, including clubs for men, women, and children, as well as a place to display historic artifacts related to county history. The building is also nominated under Criterion C at the local level as a good example of a WPA Rustic Style park building. The property need not meet Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) because the building has a non-commemorative primary function as a public meeting space. The building need not meet Criteria Consideration E (Reconstructed Properties), because its design was intended to evoke a historic building, but not (despite its name) replicate one in its original location. The period of significance is 1936-37, when it was constructed and formally dedicated.

Camp Colorado¹

After the annexation of Texas by the United States, the federal government built a series of military bases along the Texas frontier to help protect freight and stage lines, and to promote settlement. Camp Colorado was established by the U.S. Army in 1855 in present-day Mills County, approximately 38 miles southeast of Coleman, Texas. In 1856, the camp was temporarily moved to a site along Mukewater Creek, along the route between Fort Belknap and Fort Mason, but the post was moved again in 1857 to a site along Jim Ned Creek, approximately 12 east-northeast of present-day Coleman. During its short life as an active military base between 1857 and 1861, the presence of Camp Colorado helped stabilize the area for Anglo settlers, and led to the growth of a non-military population. Buildings within the camp were mostly made of adobe, with some rock components, with wood-shingled roofs, pine floors, and wooden doors and windows brought in from East Texas. The buildings included a commissary, officers’ quarters, a guard house, barracks, a bakery, and blacksmith shop.² At the start of the Civil War in 1861, the federal army abandoned the camp, and some of the remaining soldiers joined the Confederacy. Texas Rangers occupied the site during the war, but the federal government never returned to reestablish the post in the aftermath of the Union victory. In the 1870s, English immigrant H. H. Sackett purchased the property as part of a ranch, and in 1879, Sackett dismantled the main building, which was made of stone, and repurposed the materials to build a store and ranch house, which was attached to former guardhouse. Sections of rock wall and the camp cemetery remain.

¹ Partially adapted from *Handbook of Texas Online*, Beatrice Grady Gay, "Camp Colorado," accessed November 17, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qbc08>. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

² Ernest Glynn Mitchell, “History of Coleman County” (1949), 20.

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Coleman County, Texas³

Coleman County is just north of the geographic center of Texas, and encompasses 1,280 square miles in the transitional area between the Edwards Plateau and the Rolling Plains. Lipan Apaches and Comanches lived in the area before Anglo settlement spurred by the establishment of Camp Colorado (1857-1861). Coleman County was formed in 1858 from parts of Brown and Travis counties, and was formally organized in 1864, after which settlement increased, with noteworthy ranches established after the Civil War. Camp Colorado became an important settlement and served as the county seat (1864 to 1876), before a new seat was established at Coleman, near the center of the county. The community of Santa Anna, about nine miles southeast of Coleman, was also settled in the 1870s, with a post office opening in 1879. The county prospered in the late 19th century, mostly due to a strong agriculture economy and over 400 farms. The 1910 census reported county farm products, including cotton, valued at \$6 million. The population of the county seat more than doubled in the first decade of the 20th century, from 1,362 in 1900 to 3,406 in 1910. During the teens, however, drought contributed to a weakened agricultural output, but the 1916 discovery of natural gas, followed by the discovery of oil in 1917, helped boost the overall economy. The oil industry grew through the 1920s, and the county population reached an all-time high in 1930 (23,669), but a combination of a weak farm economy and modest growth in oil led to hardship during the Depression. The city of Coleman became a center for meat-processing and wool, as well as a manufacturer center for a variety of industries, including brick and clay tile, clothing, leather goods, office supplies, and furniture.⁴ In the postwar period, the county population continued to decrease, but the oil industry grew, and agriculture remained stable. The population of the city of Coleman topped out in 1960 (6,371), at the time of peak oil production. By 1968, oil production was cut in half, to about a million barrels.

Camp Colorado Replica

In 1935, citizens of Coleman County pursued two different Centennial projects. A delegation from Santa Anna, in east-central Coleman County, sought funds for a building to serve as a meeting space for the Ex-Texas Rangers Association, while citizens from the city of Coleman petitioned for funds to build a replica of a building from Camp Colorado in the city's park, the original of which had stood about 12 miles east of town. In June 1935, the Advisory Board of Texas Historians met in the Senate Chamber of the Texas State Capitol to hear reports from delegations from 29 counties who requested allotments from the Centennial funds for special projects. The delegation from Coleman County, which hailed from Santa Anna, requested "an allotment of \$10,000 for a Club Building for the use and benefit of the Ex-Texas Rangers Organization" in Santa Anna.⁵ This project, however, was not recommended for funding.

Meanwhile, the delegation from Coleman was actively pursuing the Camp Colorado Replica project.⁶ On July 30, 1935, the Advisory Board of Historians again met in Austin, and heard reports from 15 counties. This time, the Coleman County delegation consisted of prominent residents of the city of Coleman, including Mayor E. P. Scarbrough, School Superintendent C.H. Hofford, and Chamber of Commerce President J.B. Atkinson, who requested funds to build a replica of a Camp Colorado building.⁷ The board indicated that no funds would go towards the building of replicas "anywhere in the state," but considered funding the restoration of the original buildings at the

³ Partially adapted from *Handbook of Texas Online*, Rusty Tate, "Coleman County," accessed November 17, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcc15>. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Modified on January 25, 2016. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

⁴ "Coleman, Texas," June 12, 2010, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hfc10>.

⁵ Bulletin 2, Advisory Board of Texas Historians minutes.

⁶ "Centennial Plans Progressing Well; Exhibits Planned," *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, July 11, 1935.

⁷ While J. Frank Dobie had favored the Santa Anna Rangers project, his handwritten notes regarding the Camp Colorado project include the mysterious word "Improdicible," underlined twice for emphasis. While this is not a known word in English nor Spanish, one could infer that Dobie did not personally approve of the proposal. J. Frank Dobie papers, Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

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former camp site if the county would purchase the property and deed it to the state.⁸ By the end of August, the Texas Centennial Commission looked favorably on the replica proposal, which would be built as a permanent park building in Coleman, but did not commit to funding it.⁹

In September 1935, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) pledged to partially fund the replica project, in the amount of \$1,494 of the total cost of \$3,812.85, cover the cost of 27 men working for three months.¹⁰ In October, the Centennial Commission continued to express doubts about building the replica in the city park rather than at the original site, while the city delegation argued that a reconstructed building at the original site “would not be accessible to [the] majority of people.”¹¹ By the end of October, however, the Commission relented, and offered \$2,100 for project materials, probably at the urging of State Senator Walter C. Woodward of Coleman, who sent a telegram to Chamber of Commerce Secretary Cooper that exclaimed “Happy to report Centennial Commission approved today building of Camp Colorado fort building at City Park.”¹² In November, the WPA formally approved funding for labor.¹³ In February 1936, the city commissioners were informed that \$1,800 in funds for materials would be provided by the federal (and not the state) Texas Centennial Commission, which was formally approved in April.¹⁴

Many crucial project details needed to be worked out. The original Camp Colorado administration building had been demolished in the 19th century, leading city officials to meet with Mary Sackett, the widow of Henry Sackett, the man who had dismantled the building in 1879, to obtain a description of it from her memory. City-County Engineer Samuel Clarence (S.C.) Cooper prepared a scale drawing based on this description, and upon showing it to Mrs. Sackett, she reportedly “wept, and stated that the drawing was indeed exactly as she remembered the building.”¹⁵ No architect was found to take on the project, so Cooper completed the plans for the replica in consultation with a contractor, which would be built with materials salvaged from the old corral and stockade at the camp site, as well as portions of the original doors.¹⁶

In mid-December, Cooper and contractor Vernon Sewell presented the completed plans and cost estimates to the WPA office in Brownwood, and sent duplicates to the Commission of Control in Austin.¹⁷ Construction efforts stalled until the summer of 1936, while plans for museum exhibits to be housed in the building began in earnest. Chamber of Commerce Secretary Cooper (no relation to the city engineer) requested that anyone in the county “possessing historical data, relics, or mounted wildlife of this area” to consider loaning it for display in the replica.¹⁸ Another proposed exhibit was a scale model of the original fort. In April, Fred Sackett, whose father had purchased Camp Colorado in the 1870s, donated two old branding irons to Ben Robey, chairman of the Coleman Centennial celebration,

⁸ “Possibility Fort at Camp Colorado Will Be Rebuilt,” *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, August 1, 1935.

⁹ A local newspaper prematurely interpreted the commission’s interest as a promise. “Camp Colorado Memorial Project Practically Certain,” *Coleman County Chronicle*, August 29, 1935.

¹⁰ “27 WPA Projects Totalling (sic) Over Half Million Dollars Approved at District Office,” *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, September 12, 1935.

¹¹ “Centennial Board Takes No Action On Local Project,” *Coleman County Chronicle*, October 24, 1935.

¹² “Miniature of Colorado Camp Will Be Built,” *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, October 31, 1935.

¹³ “WPA Will Supply Labor for Replica of Camp Colorado,” *Coleman County Chronicle*, November 7, 1935.

¹⁴ “Replica May Be Dedicated by Governor,” *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, April 25, 1936.

¹⁵ Coleman County Historical Commission, *A History of Coleman County and Its People (Vol. 1)*, 21.

¹⁶ “Replica of Camp Colo. To Be Built of Original Rock,” *Coleman County Chronicle*, November 14, 1935; “Cooper Drafting Plans for Camp Colorado Replica,” *Coleman County Chronicle*, November 21, 1935; “Estimate is Filed on Camp Colorado Replica This Week,” *Coleman County Chronicle*, December 19, 1935.

¹⁷ “Plans On Replica Completed, Taken to B’wood WPA,” *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, December 19, 1935.

¹⁸ “City Commission Approves Replica at Camp Colorado,” *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, November 28, 1935. Newspaper articles from early 1936 reported that the building would also serve as living quarters for a park caretaker, but the building was often referred to as a “museum.”

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for display in the museum.¹⁹ Robey continued his call for the loan of museum artifacts through the year, which were stored at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Construction of the replica began in July 1936, with the quarrying of rock and laying of the concrete foundation. In August, the city hired a San Angelo rock mason by the name of McIntosh to supervise construction.²⁰ The work was completed in mid-November, and City Commissioner H.H. Scott announced that the building's larger room would be open as a meeting space for local groups, such as the American Legion. Two old oil lamps donated by the Nance and Sackett families were converted into electric lights and hung in the larger club room, while a lamp donated by the Collins family was wired and placed on the mantel.²¹ The replica was decorated for Christmas and hosted a PTA-sponsored card tournament (bridge and forty-two). Beginning in January 1937, the facility was used for WPA-sponsored recreational programs, including dancing, singing, drama, and handicrafts.²² By the spring of 1937, plans for a summer dedication ceremony were well underway, and the Coleman County Historical Association formed, in part to equip the new replica with artifacts and exhibits, under a mission to "perpetuate things of historical interest of this county." The Chamber of Commerce raised \$200 on behalf of the new organization.²³

The formal dedication on July 13, 1937, coincided with the opening of the annual county rodeo. Former state Senator Walter Woodward of Coleman served as the master of ceremonies, and introduced Mrs. Henry Sackett, who christened the replica with a bottle of spring water from her residence at the former camp site. Other speakers included Mayor Scarborough, George Black, president of the Ex-Rangers Association, and state Senator E.M. Davis of Brownwood, who paid tribute to the county pioneers. District Attorney A.O. Newman presented the mayor with a photo of Sen. Woodward, for display in the replica. Among the attendees were dozens of "old-timers," each of whom claimed county residency of over sixty years.²⁴

Through the postwar period, the replica continued to serve as a meeting space. In 1969, a local history museum formally opened in the building. Displays included a life-size horse figure from the Nance Saddle Shop, a wood cook stove, a large camera from the Moore Studio, and a diverse collection of large and small items, including bottles, Indian artifacts, medical instruments, hardware, barb wire, and license plates. Items displayed outside included a fire truck, road grader, stalk thresher, and 1915 tractor.²⁵ In 1974, the rear addition was added to house artifacts. Although no longer functioning as a museum, the south room is still used to store a variety of historic artifacts.

The building's stylistic influences are difficult to pinpoint, as it was intended to be both a replica of a nonextant 19th century building for which no plans were available, as well as a modern and functional community meeting space. While rustic-styled buildings and structures were common products of various New Deal programs, the city engineer who drew up the plans for the replica was more likely inspired (and directed) to create a faithful reproduction, rather than consciously design a building in the favored rustic style common in contemporary park buildings. The building is architecturally significant under Criterion C at the local level as a high-profile example of WPA Rustic design, and as the city's only major product of a WPA work relief program that displays the craftsmanship associated with that program, regardless of the designer's intent or inspiration.

¹⁹ "Branding Irons Used on Odd Sackett Ranch In Pioneer days Donated For Local Museum," *Coleman County Chronicle*, April 30, 1936.

²⁰ "Rock Mason Hired To Supervise Work On Park Replica," *Coleman County Chronicle*, August 13, 1936.

²¹ A published history of the county reported that "many items of historical interest were displayed in the Replica in 1936, and tragically many of the items disappeared. Apparently, security measures were not adequate at the time." *A History of Coleman County and Its People (Vol. 1)*, 21.

²² "Children To Be Taught Art of Recreation," *Coleman Democrat Voice*, January 7, 1937.

²³ "History Group To Be Formed, Equip Replica," *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, March 25, 1937.

²⁴ "Tribute Paid Old Settlers At Dedication," *Coleman County Chronicle*, July 15, 1937.

²⁵ *A History of Coleman County and Its People (Vol. 1)*, 21-22.

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- "Centennial Plans Progressing Well; Exhibits Planned," *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, July 11, 1935.
- "Children To Be Taught Art of Recreation," *Coleman Democrat Voice*, January 7, 1937.
- "City Commission Approves Replica at Camp Colorado," *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, November 28, 1935.
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- Mitchell, Ernest Glynn. "History of Coleman County." University of Texas Master's Thesis, 1949.
- "Plans On Replica Completed, Taken to B'wood WPA," *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, December 19, 1935.
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- "Replica May Be Dedicated by Governor," *Coleman Democrat-Voice*, April 25, 1936.
- "Replica of Camp Colo. To Be Built of Original Rock," *Coleman County Chronicle*, November 14, 1935.
- "Rock Mason Hired To Supervise Work On Park Replica," *Coleman County Chronicle*, August 13, 1936.
- "Tribute Paid Old Settlers At Dedication," *Coleman County Chronicle*, July 15, 1937.
- "WPA Will Supply Labor for Replica of Camp Colorado," *Coleman County Chronicle*, November 7, 1935.

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Coleman County, Texas



Location Map

Google Earth, accessed November 16, 2017
31.847379° -99.425868°



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

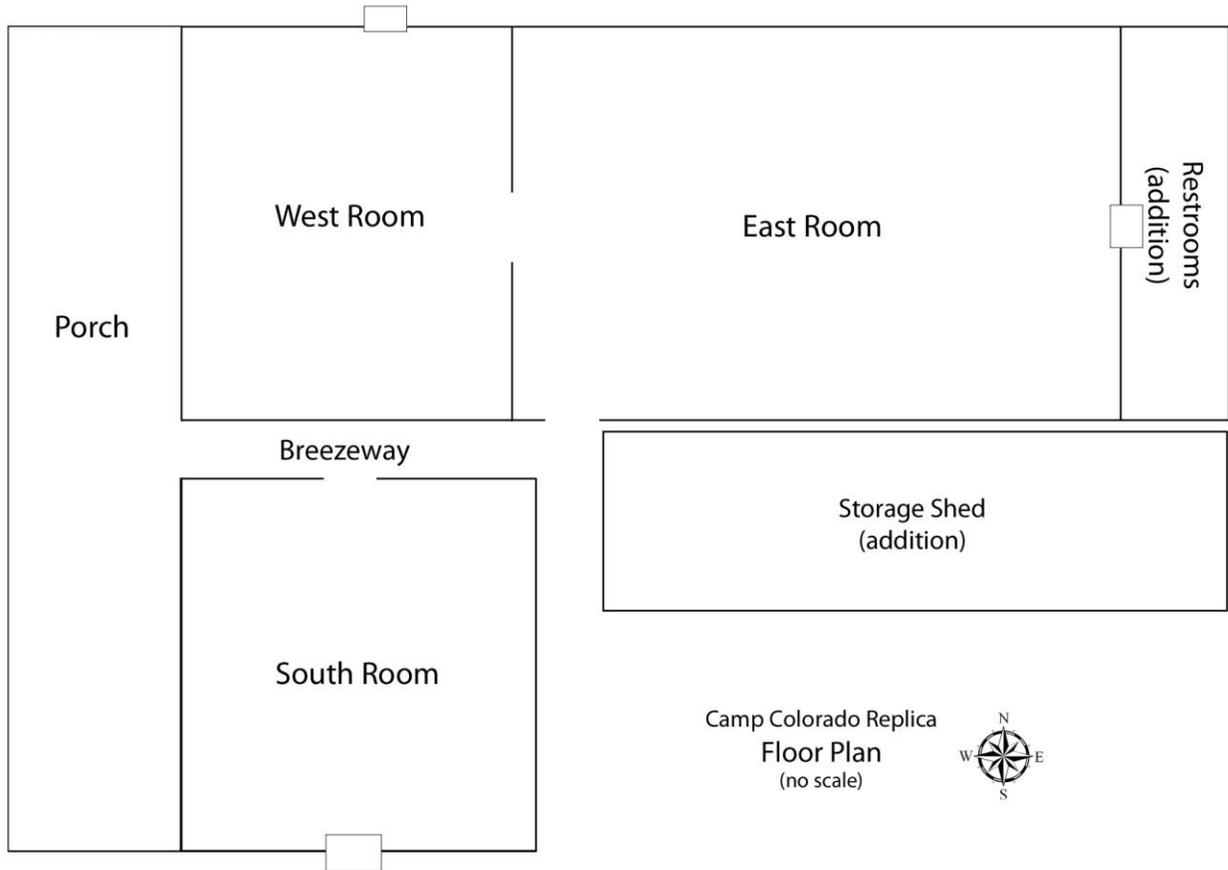
Camp Colorado Replica, nomination boundary

Source: Google Earth, accessed November 16, 2017



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Sketch Plan (2017)



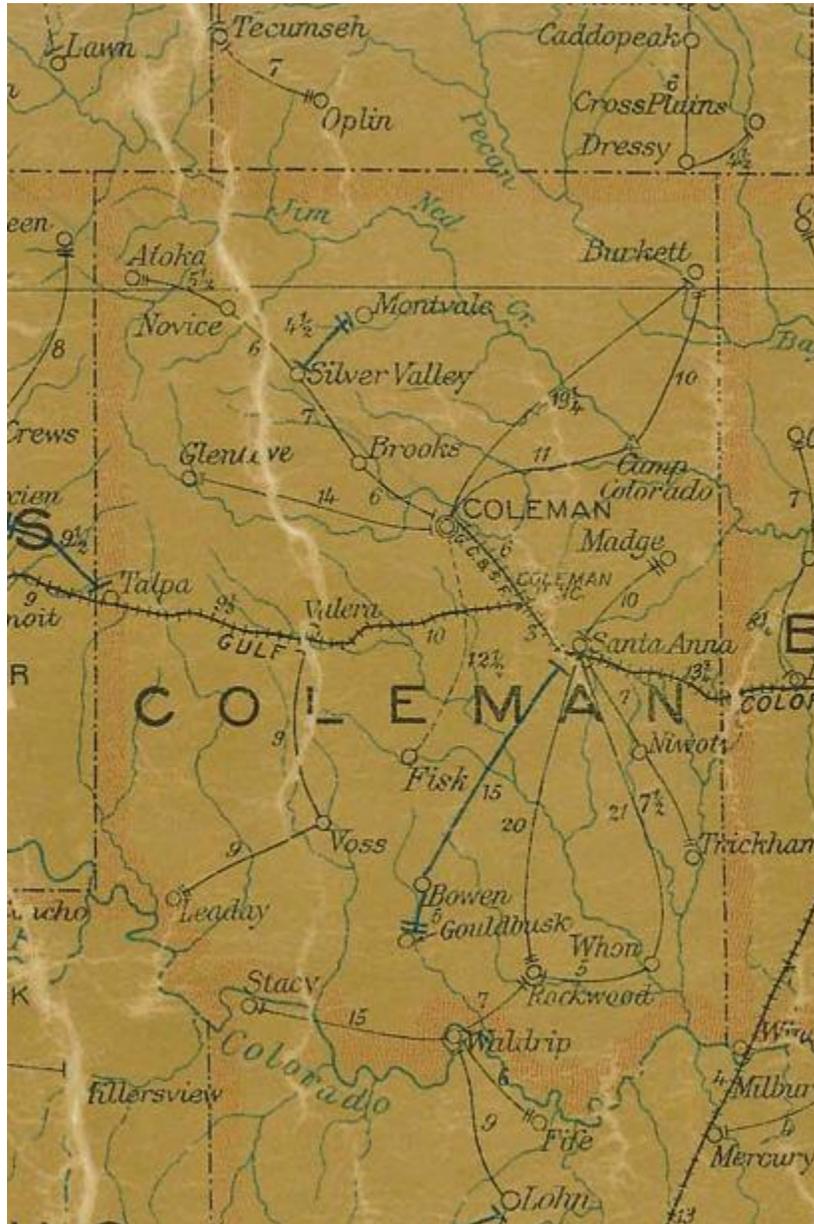
Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

1907 Texas state map #2090 (detail) showing Coleman County

Original on file with Texas General Land Office

Source: <http://www.texasescapes.com/Counties/Coleman-County-Texas.htm>

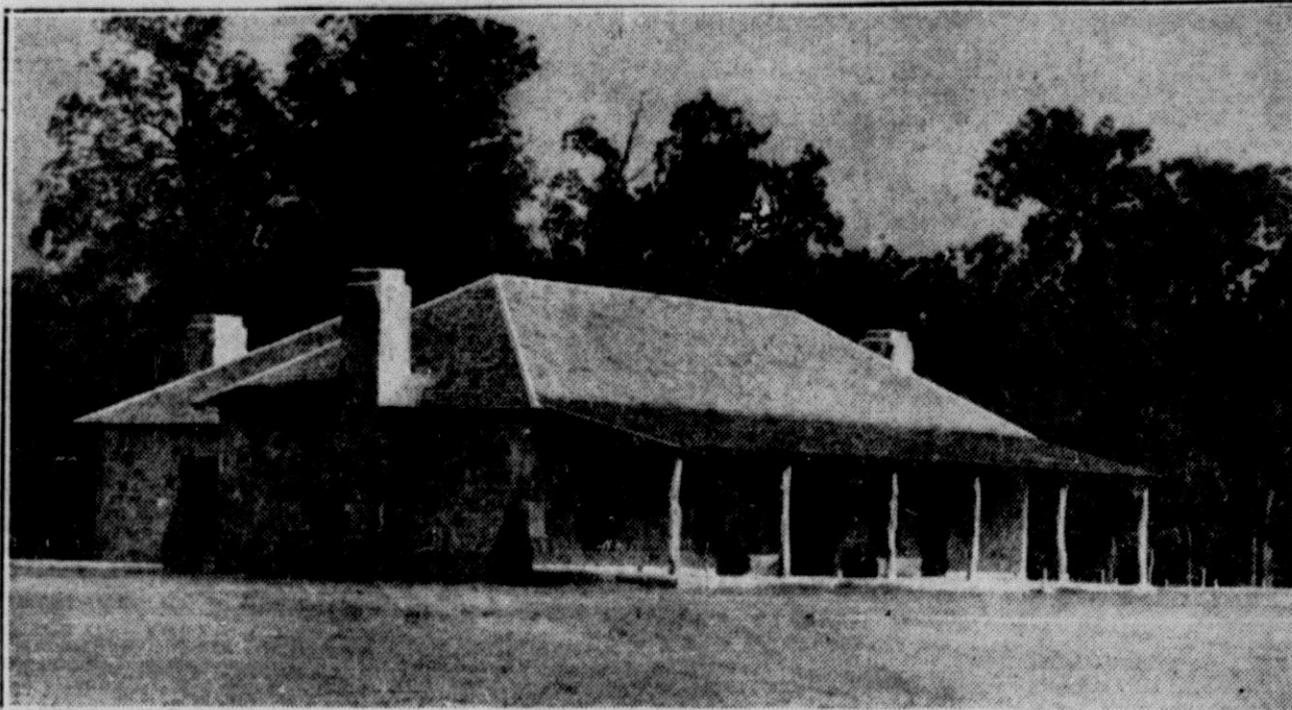
The original Camp Colorado location approximately 12 miles east-northeast of Coleman.



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Abilene Reporter-News, July 13, 1937

COLEMAN DEDICATES REPLICA OF CAMP COLORADO FORT



Pictured here is the replica of old Camp Colorado fort, which Coleman is dedicating today in connection with the annual meeting of the Coleman County Pioneers association and the opening of the three-day rodeo tonight.

At 3 o'clock, Senator Walter

C. Woodward of Coleman, was to call the crowd to order in the city park, where the replica is located. Senator E. M. Davis of Brownwood was to be the principal speaker.

The dedication and christening was to be made at the hands of Mrs. Mary Sackett,

herself a pioneer of the county who resided for many years within a stone's throw of the original Camp Colorado Fort. She was to break a bottle of spring water from the spring that served the federal soldiers, who formerly resided at the old fort. (Staff photo).

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Camp Colorado Replica, shortly after completion

Source: *Monuments Erected by the State of Texas to Commemorate the Centenary of Texas Independence*, Commission of Control (1938), page 47.



CAMP COLORADO
COLEMAN

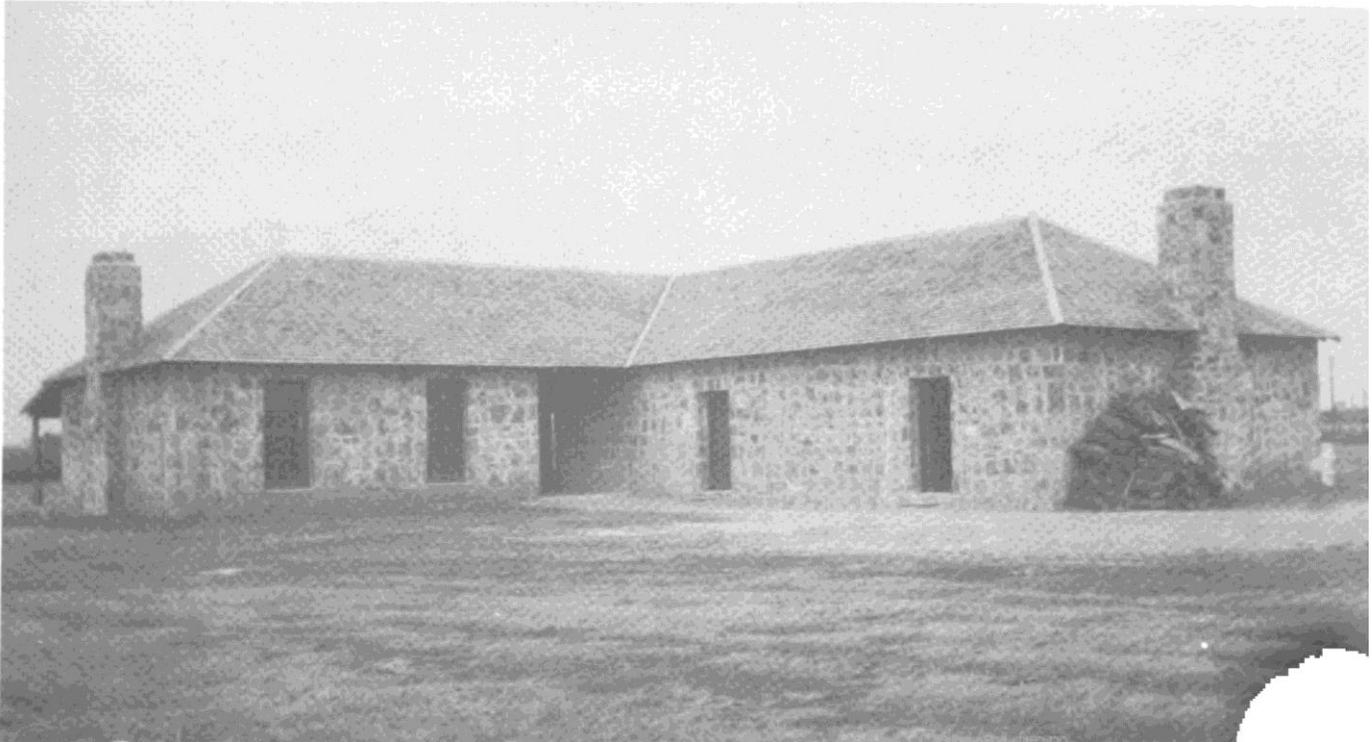
The construction of the replica in the Coleman City Park of the administration building of Camp Colorado, originally built in 1856, was made possible by an allocation of \$1800 by the Commission of Control, a contribution of \$760.09 by the City of Coleman, and a Works Progress Administration project amounting to \$1598.57. The replica contains three rooms: one is to contain a complete miniature replica of Old Camp Colorado and a large relief map showing all early trails, roads, and military posts in the region; a second room is used for museum displays; and the third room serves as a meeting place for the American Legion, Boy Scouts, The Old Settlers Association, and other organizations.

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Camp Colorado Replica, shortly after completion

Source: *Monuments Erected by the State of Texas to Commemorate the Centenary of Texas Independence*, Commission of Control (1938), page 47.

REAR VIEW



2017

Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photographs

All photos taken May 2017 by Gregory Smith

Photo 1

West Elevation



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 2
Northwest oblique



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 3
Southwest oblique



Photo 4
West facade



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 5
North elevation



Photo 6
East elevation



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 7
East elevation



Photo 8
Southeast oblique



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 9
Yard to the southeast



Photo 10
Breezeway, facing east towards addition



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 11

Dedication stone, southwest corner of building



Photo 12

Main meeting space (east room), facing east



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 13
East room fireplace, facing southeast)



Photo 14
East room through doorway from west room, facing east



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 15
West room, facing northeast



Photo 16
West room fireplace, facing north



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 17

West room, facing east wall and doorway to east room



Photo 18

Doorway from breezeway, looking into south room, camera facing southwest



Camp Colorado Replica, Coleman, Coleman County, Texas

Photo 19
South room fireplace on south wall, camera facing southwest



Photo 20
South room ceiling and underside of original roof



- end -