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

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Jackson County Monument
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial

2. Location

Street & number: 115 W Main St., Jackson County Courthouse grounds
City or town: Edna  State: Texas  County: Jackson
Not for publication:  □  Vicinity:  □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]
State Historic Preservation Officer  Date

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]
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

Date

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]
Date of Action
5. Classification

Ownership of Property

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<tr>
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<td></td>
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Category of Property

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
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<td><strong>X</strong> object</td>
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Number of Resources within Property

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>total</td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument

Current Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Monument

Principal Exterior Materials: Stone/granite; Metal/bronze

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-6)
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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</table>

Criteria Considerations: F (Commemorative Properties)

Areas of Significance: Social History, Art

Period of Significance: 1937

Significant Dates: 1937

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

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

Architect/Builder: Josset, Raoul (sculptor); Page & Southerland (architects)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-10)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 9-11)

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
10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** less than 1 acre

**Coordinates**

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 28.977792°   Longitude: -96.647199°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The monument is on the northwest side of the Jackson County courthouse grounds. The nomination encompasses only the monument and the ground upon which it stands, an area of approximately 4.5 square feet.

**Boundary Justification:** The nomination boundary is drawn to include only the monument itself. No other structures on the property have been evaluated for eligibility due to the specific focus of this theme *(Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial)*.

11. Form Prepared By

**Name/title:** Bonnie Tipton Wilson, THC National Register Historian  
**Organization:** Texas Historical Commission  
**Street & number:** P.O. Box 12276  
**City or Town:** Austin   **State:** TX   **Zip Code:** 78711-2276  
**Email:** bonnie.wilson@thc.texas.gov  
**Telephone:** 512-463-6046  
**Date:** October 2, 2017

**Additional Documentation**

**Maps**   (see continuation sheet MAP-12)

**Additional items**   (see continuation sheets FIGURE-13 through FIGURE-15)

**Photographs**   (see continuation sheets PHOTO-16 through PHOTO-20)
Jackson County Monument, Edna, Jackson County, Texas

Photograph Log

Jackson County Monument
Edna, Jackson County, Texas
Photographer: Gregory Smith
Date: February 15, 2018

Photo 1: Jackson County Monument—camera facing southeast

Photo 2: Detail view of bronze plaque, including inscription—camera looking southeast

Photo 3: Detail view of bronze bas-relief figures and seal designed by Raoul Josset—camera looking southeast.

Photo 4: Rear oblique view of Jackson County monument—camera looking northwest

Photo 5: Jackson County monument in front of Jackson County courthouse—camera looking southeast

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.
Narrative Description

The Jackson County monument is an 8-foot-tall pink granite slab commemorative memorial with a bronze plaque, designed by architects Page & Southerland and sculptor Raoul Josset. Its design is representative of a monument subtype that was used for fifteen Centennial county markers and conforms to the general memorial style and materials (Texas granite and bronze) used most Centennial public art and markers.\(^1\) The base measures 3’9” wide, narrows by 1’ at the top of the monument, and is 1’2” in depth; it has chamfered edges. Josset designed the 5-foot-tall bronze-cast panel attached to the face with a bas-relief sculpture that depicts U.S. President Andrew Jackson (the county namesake) and an angel. Jackson appears standing in the foreground holding an open book in his right hand. The angel’s left arm and wing are outstretched, and she holds, what looks like, a palm frond down at her right side. Below the figures, the United States and Texas flags border a star encircled by a wreath of live oak and olive leaves. Below the figures, the United States and Texas flags border a star encircled by a wreath of live oak and olive leaves. A marker inscription completes the plaque, and five 1.5” bronze sunflowers are evenly-spaced in a vertical line below it. The monument was dedicated in 1937 on the northwest side of the Jackson County courthouse grounds in Edna where it remains. It faces US Highway 59. Jackson County retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, setting, and location. The monument is inscribed as followed:

JACKSON COUNTY
HOME OF THE KARANAKA INDIANS GRANTED IN PART TO STEPHEN F. AUSTIN AND TO MARTIN DE LEON * SETTLED 1824-1835 BY COLONISTS LARGELY FROM ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, KENTUCKY, TENNESSEE AND WEST OF THE LAVACA, MEXICO * ORGANIZED AS A MUNICIPALITY DECEMBER 5, 1835 ** NAMED IN HONOR OF ANDREW JACKSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ** CREATED A COUNTY MARCH 17, 1836 ORGANIZED IN 1836 WITH TEXANA, FORMERLY SANTA ANNA, COUNTY SEAT * EDNA, COUNTY SEAT SINCE 1883 * IN MEMORY OF JOHN M. HENRY FRANCIS M. WHITE, JAMES KERR, F.F. WELLS, EARLY SETTLERS ** WILLIAM MENEFEE, ELIJAH STAPP, SIGNERS OF THE TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ** WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, MARTYR OF THE ALAMO ** GEORGE SUTHERLAND, JOHN S. MENEFEE, JAMES A. SYLVESTER HEROES OF SAN JACINTO ** CLARK L. OWEN, COLONEL IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY, AND OTHER PIONEERS WHO RESIDED IN THIS COUNTY BEFORE OR DIRECTLY AFTER THE TEXAS REVOLUTION ** JACKSON COUNTY: AVERAGE ALTITUDE 75 FEET ** ANNUAL RAINFALL 37 INCHES ** CROPS AND PRODUCTS: COTTON, LIVESTOCK, CORN, DAIRYING, VEGETABLES, POULTRY, PECANS, OIL, GAS ERECTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS, 1936

\(^1\) The Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations strongly suggested that Centennial historical markers, grave markers, monuments, and statue bases be made from Texas-quarried granite. Quarries in the Texas Hill County—in Fredericksburg, Kingsland, Marble Falls, and Llano—provided grey, pink, and red granite varieties for the commemorative projects. Though there are some instances where granite was sourced out-of-state or marble used instead, most Centennial memorials used Texas stone. The report *Monuments Erected by the State of Texas to Commemorate the Centenary of Texas Independence; the Report of the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations*, includes material sources in its itemized descriptions of commemorative property types.
Statement of Significance

The Jackson County monument is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places 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 a concerted statewide effort whereby state and local governments, a variety of private organizations, and individuals worked to commemorate historic persons and events important to Texas history. The monument is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Art as a work by master sculptor, Raoul Josset. It meets Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) as a work of art that reflects early 20th century interest in recognizing historic subjects throughout Texas, which culminated in the publicly-funded statewide Texas Centennial. The period of significance for the Jackson County monument is 1937, the year it was erected.

Brief History of Jackson County

Jackson County, named for President Andrew Jackson, was formed in 1836 in the Coastal Plains region of southeast Texas. Before its establishment, Native Americans were its earliest occupants, and it was once believed to be where Rene Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle’s failed French settlement, Fort St. Louis, was located. The first Anglos to settle there received land grants from Stephen F. Austin in 1824. During the Texas Revolution, the community of Texana served as port of entry and training camp for military volunteers. After the Texan victory at San Jacinto, the municipality was organized into Jackson County. Construction of the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway in 1882 bypassed Texana, then the county seat, and the town of Edna was established along the railroad line. In an election held on January 22, 1883, Jackson County residents voted to name Edna as the county seat, and the contract to build a new courthouse was awarded on February 11, 1884.

The fertile coastal soils of the region brought an influx of farmers to Jackson County starting in 1890 and between 1910 and 1920, the population surged from 6,471 to 11,244. Newcomers introduced large-scale farming to the county, and by 1930, nearly two out of every three farmers were sharecroppers. During the Great Depression, the agricultural economy was particularly affected and many residents left Jackson County. The local discovery of oil in 1934 helped mitigate the economic slump, but during the late 1930s—when the Jackson County monument was dedicated at the courthouse grounds—the area’s poor citizens still fared badly. After World War II, Jackson County became a leading producer of rice, cattle, and petroleum products. Its population continued to steadily grow throughout the 20th century, and its fiscal stability was credited its rich agricultural economy, increasing number of manufacturing plants, and petroleum industry.

Jackson County Monument

In October 1935, the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations announced that Jackson County was a one of dozens of Texas communities worthy of Centennial commemorative monument. Their decision was based on a report compiled by the Advisory Board of Texas Historians, a three-member body whose recommendations for commemorative properties came from county applications and an internal survey of historically-significant places in Texas. The historians recommended the state appropriate Centennial funds to erect a monument “within the corporate limits of Edna, Jackson County… [and that it be made] of select Texas granite, bearing a bronze plaque on which shall be inscribed a brief history of Jackson County. The monument shall not cost more than One Thousand Dollars,

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complete and erected in place.” Few historical records exist for the Jackson County Centennial Committee, which organized in 1935 to promote local Centennial projects and area events. As the primarily liaison for the Centennial Commission of Control, they were notified when Jackson County was approved for five Centennial historical markers, four grave markers, and the Jackson County monument that were placed throughout the county in 1936 and 1937.

Planning and execution of the monument was overseen by the State Board of Control between February 1936 and June 1937. Its process began when the agency dispatched Webb Roberts to inspect sites chosen by Texas communities for Centennial monuments. Roberts approved Jackson officials’ decision to place the Jackson County monument on the northwest grounds of the courthouse in Edna where it would be conspicuous and accessible to passersby. Concurrently, the Board of Control solicited architects, artists, and monuments makers for bids to design and build the commemorative memorials. By August 1936, the agency awarded contracts to Austin architecture firm Page & Southerland, sculptor Raoul Josset, and J.W. Cearley & Sons Memorials of Yoakum, DeWitt County.

Page & Southerland designed several monument schemes for the Texas Centennial, including the one used for Jackson County (classified as “Type Y”). Fifteen Centennial monuments used the same 8’ granite slab template, and the architects worked with Josset to incorporate his individually-designed bronze bas-relief plaques into blueprints for each project. For the nominated property he chose to illustrate President Andrew Jackson, the county namesake, holding an open book. An angel appears behind Jackson with one arm outstretched and holds a palm frond at her right side. Cearley & Sons Memorials constructed the final version from Page & Southerland’s blueprint out of pink Texas granite, and Josset is credited for casting the bronze.

Josset’s designs were based on inscriptions supplied to him by the Advisory Board of Historians. Typically, the finalized marker text was the result of a collaborative effort between a local Centennial committee, which drafted the initial copy, and the advisory board chairman, Louis W. Kemp, who fact-checked and edited hundreds of inscriptions. The process produced marker text that varied in quality, a fact Kemp acknowledged when he wrote, “I, too, am disappointed with the thousand dollar county markers as a whole, but some of them are worthwhile.” Jackson County history is presented in terms of historically-significant benchmarks and people: Native American tribes that previously inhabited the area; its association with Stephen F. Austin; the establishment of a seat of government; early pioneers, and local participation in the Texas Revolution. Uniquely, it includes descriptive data regarding annual rainfall, soils, altitude, crops, and products.

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3 Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, Advisory Board of Texas Historians, “Reports of the Advisory Board of Texas Historians to the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations,” Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, 22.
5 “Monument Sites Will Be Visited,” The Austin American, February 23, 1936.
6 Drafts of Centennial monuments show Page & Southerland and Josset began working with the Centennial Division in February 1936, but their contracts were not signed until June and August 1936. Minutes, Texas State Board of Control, Centennial Division, June 2 and August 28, 1936, Centennial Division, Texas State Board of Control. Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
7 Harold Schoen, eds., Monuments Erected by the State of Texas to Commemorate the Centenary of Texas Independence; the Report of the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, (Austin: Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, 1938), 115.
8 King, 82.
9 Kemp to Dobie, August 4, 1937 in James Frank Dobie Papers, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.
10 Schoen, 115.
On June 3, 1937, the *Edna Weekly Herald* reported that the monument, “the last of the historical markers for Jackson County granted by the State Centennial Committee,” had been erected on the northwest side of the courthouse lawn. The editor provided a transcript of the marker inscription but stopped short of commenting on the artwork, writing, “in the absence of any data…from the sculptor we shall not attempt to describe the significance of the two figures—a man and a woman—which adorn the top and front of the shaft.” A pending decision by the Commission of Control to award the county with an additional historical marker to Fort St. Louis delayed the dedication ceremony for all local Centennial markers, including the Jackson County monument, to October 30, 1937. The event was a day-long program with morning and afternoon unveiling ceremonies that concluded at the courthouse. I.T. Taylor, county superintendent and chairman of the Jackson County Centennial committee, presided over the dedication.

In 1952, Jackson County residents elected to hire Houston architect F. Perry Johnston to design a modern, “but not ultra modern,” courthouse to replace its aging counterpart. The architect “fell upon the novel idea of the erecting the new courthouse around the old,” after concerns were raised over disrupting the work of county employees. The “show place on Highway 59,” was built on the back of the lot with “no frills or a lot of expensive extras,” but the new courthouse came with modern conveniences, like a sprinkler system for the spacious lawn. A 38-page special edition of the *Edna Weekly Herald* covered all architectural aspects of the courthouse construction, yet it did not mention the Centennial monument or landscaping plans that would disrupt its original placement.

**Raoul Jean Josset (1899-1957)**

“Frenchman by birth, American by law, and Texan by preference,” Raoul Josset, the most prolific sculptor of Texas Centennial monuments, was born in Fours, Nièvre, France on December 9, 1899. Educated at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and winner of the prestigious Prix de Rome, Josset also apprenticed under French sculptor Émile-Antoine Bourdelle (1861-1929). He immigrated to Chicago in 1927 and remained in the United States for the rest of his life. Josset’s career gained momentum in the early 1930s, and his aesthetic, influenced by French Art Deco and classical sculpture, was popular to American architects. His early commissions in Chicago included architectural decorations on the Palmolive building (1929), the Carbon & Carbide building (1929), and at the Century of Progress International Exposition (1933).

During this period, he was introduced to architect Donald Nelson and the two collaborated on projects for Chicago’s Century of Progress fair. On Nelson’s recommendation, architect George Dahl invited Josset to Texas in 1935 to create commemorative statues for the Central Centennial Exposition at Fair Park in Dallas. The Texas Centennial was the most intensely-creative period of Josset’s career. Upon completion of his commissions at Fair Park in 1936, the State Board of Control hired Josset to design monuments and statues for the statewide Centennial. In three years, he completed 35 monuments and 5 statues, all commemorating subjects in Texas history.

Josset’s commissions slowed after the Centennial, and he briefly pursued work outside of Texas. He returned to Dallas permanently in 1948 to share a studio with a friend, Jose Martin. There he created his final works that included: a 75-foot-long stone bas-relief for the Nelson-designed Grand Lodge Masonic Temple in Waco (1949), statue of *St. Francis of Assisi* in Lubbock (1953), and a statue of *Sam Houston* for the Masonic Temple in Waco (1957). Just as he was

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12 “Programs Set for Markers,” *The Brownsville Herald*, October 26, 1937.
14 Ibid.
15 Section adapted from *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, 24-25.
enjoying renewed professional success, Josset died suddenly in 1957. He told friends that he felt Texans appreciated his talents, saying “Texans seek [art] with meaning and…they choose with an eye of permanence, thinking in terms of years, generations, maybe forever.”

Page & Southerland

Louis C. Page, Jr. (1909-1981) and Louis F. Southerland (1906-1994) met at the University of Texas School of Architecture in 1930 and were roommates at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1933, Page & Southerland established their firm in Tyler, Texas with hopes that the nationwide depression would not affect the prosperous oil town. Unfortunately, as Southerland recalled, “the money was there but they weren’t spending it on buildings.” The partners closed the business and, temporarily, went their separate ways.

In 1935, they reopened in Austin and began looking for commissions. Page & Southerland responded to the Board of Control’s 1936 bid to design schemes for Centennial markers and monuments. Although it was not a prestigious account for the young firm, the contract for 622 historical markers and 30 monuments paid well. Between February and November 1936, the young firm produced schemes for historical markers, grave markers, and monuments that the State Board of Control used to construct these Centennial property types. The two scheme sub-types for slab monuments—Type X and Y—are differentiated by size (8’-feet-tall versus 6’-feet-tall) and the style of bronze plaque. Type Y monuments, sometimes called “county monuments” for the subject of most of the markers, were adorned with individually-designed bronze bas-relief plaques. Josset designed a template for all plaques attached to Type X monuments. Plaques on both monument sub-types had individualized marker text. Page & Southerland’s Centennial commission, a job outside their typical area of expertise, imparted a lasting contribution to the Texas cultural landscape.

There are few documents that record Page & Southerland’s Centennial work, but other records show that 1936 marked the beginning of their productive careers. In addition to many residential projects, they received two big commissions before 1940: the City of Austin Municipal Building (1937) and the Public Works Administration-funded Rosewood Courts public housing project (1938) in East Austin. Louis Page’s brother George joined the firm in 1939 and, after WWII, Page Southerland Page moved to large commercial, medical, and public building projects as they continued their practice designing residential buildings. Their success in the 1950’s and 1960’s allowed Page Southerland Page to open additional offices in Houston (1973) and Dallas (1975). Today, the firm operates as Page and designs projects worldwide.

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18 Section adapted from Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial, 23.
20 Architectural drawings by Page & Southerland and Page Southerland Page are housed at the Alexander Architectural Archive at the University of Texas and the Austin History Center. The Texas State Library & Archives Austin has drafts of Centennial monuments and marker schemes drawn by Page & Southerland in February – June 1936. The only business records pertaining to their Centennial work is in the Texas State Board of Control, Centennial Division minutes and Tom C. King’s audit report for the Centennial (see bibliography).


**Bibliography**

Centennial Markers Collection, Records, Texas Historical Commission. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.


Kemp, Louis Wiltz, Papers. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.


*Minutes of the Texas State Board of Control, Centennial Division,* May 16, 1935 to December 31, 1937 and January 3, 1938 to August 15, 1939. Texas State Board of Control records. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.


The Portal to Texas History, https://texashistory.unt.edu/.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers. www.proquest.com, *The Austin American Statesman*

Readex, NewsBank Inc. www.readex.com, *Dallas Morning News*

*Reports of the Advisory Board of Texas Historians to the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations,* Majority and Minority Reports, October 1, 1935.

Texas State Historical Association. *Handbook of Texas Online.* (https://tshaonline.org/handbook)


Maps

Map 1: Jackson County, Texas

Map 2: Google Earth, accessed February 22, 2018
Latitude: 28.977792°N  Longitude: -96.647199°W
Figures

Figure 1: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1949. The blue box indicates its approximate location. Source: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/txu-sanborn-bay_city-1942-02.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/txu-sanborn-bay_city-1942-02.jpg)

Figure 2: 1905 Jackson County Courthouse, looking southeast. The photograph was taken before the Jackson County monument was placed on the grounds, circa 1936. Source: Texas Department of Transportation
Figure 3: Jackson County monument plate, 1938.

Photographs

Photo 1: Jackson County Monument—camera facing southeast, February 15, 2018
Photo 2: Detail view of bronze plaque, including inscription—camera looking southeast, February 15, 2018
Photo 3: Detail view of bronze bas-relief figures and seal designed by Raoul Josset—camera looking southeast, February 15, 2018
Jackson County Monument, Edna, Jackson County, Texas

Photo 4: Rear oblique view of Jackson County monument—camera looking northwest, February 15, 2018
Photo 5: Jackson County monument in front of Jackson County courthouse—camera looking southeast, February 15, 2018

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