



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

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

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 700 East Kleberg Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Kingsville VICINITY: N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Kleberg CODE: 273 ZIP CODE: 78363

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer Date 3/16/10
Signature of certifying official / Title
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the 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
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ other, explain
☐ See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Ball Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 5-10-10

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: PUBLIC - local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: BUILDING

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	<u>CONTRIBUTING</u>	<u>NONCONTRIBUTING</u>
	1	2 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	2 TOTAL

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/courthouse = county courthouse

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: GOVERNMENT/courthouse = county courthouse

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassical Revival

MATERIALS:	FOUNDATION	CONCRETE
	WALLS	BRICK
	ROOF	ASPHALT
	OTHER	CAST STONE

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

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Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The 1914 Kleberg County Courthouse occupies a highly prominent position at the eastern end of Kleberg Avenue, the historic main street in Kingsville, a city located near the King Ranch in south Texas. Designed by master architect Atlee Bernard Ayres, the building blends traditional Neoclassical Revival forms with Sullivanesque and Prairie School-influenced ornamentation. The three-story cubic courthouse with elevated basement is roughly centered within a rectangular grassy square dotted with live oak trees. The building's reinforced concrete structural system is sheathed by two shades of brown brick with darker brick used on the basement and first floor levels only. Decorative elements are formed from cream-colored cast stone. Four identical projecting entrance porches feature columns of unique design set *in antis* between sturdy brick piers topped by a parapet decorated with a Sullivanesque cartouche. The majority of the original fabric of the building remains intact with one major addition completed in 1966. The one-story addition, equal in footprint to the original courthouse, extends from the courthouse toward the eastern edge of the square. An example of early historic preservation efforts, the addition mirrors the design and materials of the original courthouse and preserves the original eastern porch. A 1966 modernist maintenance and mechanical building is located at the southeast corner of the courthouse square, and a 1970s war memorial building occupies the square's southwest corner.

Site Description

The historic central axis of Kingsville, Texas, extending along Kleberg Avenue, begins at the Henrietta M. King High School (1909) and terminates at the Kleberg County Courthouse Square. The courthouse, designed by renowned Texas architect Atlee B. Ayres, sits roughly in the center of this square, occupying a single city block 240 feet by 360 feet in dimension. A concrete walk encircles the square; wide sidewalks with landscaped medians originally led from the building's four entrances to the surrounding streets, dividing the square into four equal quadrants. A 1966 addition to the east side of the building altered this configuration, as did a parking area and prisoner's entry constructed at the north entrance that same year. The west and south sidewalks remain intact and in these areas the square retains much of its historic appearance. An access ramp, added after 1961, parallels the south sidewalk, while a flagpole installed the following year stands near the street outside the west entrance. A non-contributing rectangular mechanical building in the modernist style (1966) stands at the southeast corner of the square, and a non-contributing war memorial (1973–1974) occupies the southwest corner. A historical marker, erected in 1972 near the west entrance of the building, commemorates the 1568 journey of three shipwrecked Englishmen through the area that is now Kleberg County.

A few large palm trees survive at the square's perimeter and a number of live oaks trees are scattered throughout the grounds. Concrete curbs, likely installed in the early 1970s, enclose planting beds where the sidewalks meet the street to the west and south; similar planting areas adjoin the south entry porch. The low concrete curb outlines of what appear to be former planting beds in the shape of Texas and the scales of justice are found in the northeast and southwest lawns, respectively. The land immediately surrounding the courthouse square was essentially unoccupied until the 1930s. Today several small one-story buildings, constructed after 1940, sit opposite the courthouse to the north and south of the square. A large parking area is located to the west of the courthouse square, north of Kleberg Avenue. A residential neighborhood borders the square to the east.

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Exterior

The original form of the Kleberg County Courthouse, a cubic block consisting of three stories above an elevated basement, remains highly recognizable and largely intact. A one-story addition, designed by Lynn A. Evans and completed in 1966, extends toward the eastern edge of the courthouse square. The addition mimics the original courthouse design and essentially duplicates the 94'-4" by 94'-4" footprint of the original courthouse, doubling the available square footage on the first floor. The reinforced concrete structure of the 1914 courthouse is sheathed by tan brick (in colors #425 and #485) supplied by the Elgin-Butler Brick and Tile Company of Butler, Texas, with the darker shade (#485), used on the basement and first floor levels only. The building's ornament was executed in the Waco Cement Stone Company's Buff Face No. 1 Art Limestone, a cast stone product. The four façades of the courthouse were originally identical, but today only the north, west, and south facades remain essentially so.

The west façade retains the highest level of historical integrity and faces historic downtown Kingsville, functioning as the ceremonial main entrance to the courthouse. The building's cornerstone is located at its southern edge. A distinctive entry porch composed of cast stone columns of idiosyncratic design set *in antis* between sturdy brick piers marks the centrally located entrance. A stepped pyramidal form of cast stone, topped by a shallow dome, crowns the brick piers, and the columns support a frieze into which are carved letters that read: KLEBERG COUNTY COURT HOUSE. The porch cornice includes a unique geometric motif of raised half spheres in place of the more typical dentils. A cast stone cartouche of Sullivanesque design is set in the parapet above the cornice, marking each entrance with a decorative flourish. Granite steps lead from the courthouse square to the interior of the entry porch. The mosaic tile floor of the porch features an ornamental border executed in olive green and black tiles.

Brick piers—both wide and narrow and set in an A-B-B-A-A-B-B-A pattern—divide this symmetrical façade into seven bays; paired windows with transoms are set between the brick piers. The basement level windows originally followed this same pattern but they have been covered or filled. Wide piers that rise above the entrance porches feature simple brick pilasters with cast stone caps. The building's horizontality is emphasized by the lines of a cast stone curb at the grade line and three stringcourses, also of cast stone. The first stringcourse wraps the building just below the first floor windowsills, while the second forms the lintels of the first floor windows; a third extends from the porch cornice around the building, effectively uniting the four entrance porches and visually separating the first floor from the floors above. The architrave of the classically-inspired entablature forms the lintels of the third floor windows. Small vents, set in groups of three, are located in the frieze above each third floor window. The vents are set within slightly recessed decorative brickwork panels and feature star-shaped grilles. A classical cornice with dentils completes the entablature, which features cast stone brackets above each brick pier. A brick parapet, which rises slightly over the entrance bay, is capped with cast stone that extends above the projecting cornice. The piers of the façade appear to push through the entablature, thereby extending the pattern of piers and recesses seen in the main body of the building into the parapet. Flagpoles were originally installed on the roof above each entrance.

The south elevation, like the west, retains much of its historic feel. Ground level planting beds and a long access ramp for the disabled were added to the entry porch after 1966, but the historic porch has been only slightly altered. A number of windows throughout the building have been boarded over and all original entry doors, transoms and sidelights have been replaced by non-historic aluminum substitutes.

The historic feel of the north elevation is altered by the addition of a parking area and prisoner's entry outside the north entrance in 1966. A ramp with concrete sides topped by an iron railing now leads from the asphalt parking area to the

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basement level, but otherwise the original historic fabric remains intact. A simple square boiler chimney is visible on the northeast quadrant of the roof; an adjacent structure marks the location of the original elevator shaft and a stairwell leading from the basement to the roof. A fire escape, added before 1950 and later reconfigured, reaches from rooftop to the second and third floor.

The first floor of the east elevation has been significantly altered by the 1966 addition, but the look and feel of the original façade has been retained to a great degree. Careful attention was paid to extending the character of the 1914 courthouse to the addition. The second story decorative stringcourse of the original courthouse extends to form the cornice of the addition. The first floor stringcourses are likewise extended, visually connecting the addition to the earlier building. The size, form, and pattern of the cast stone ornaments are closely matched, as is the color of the first story brick. The nine-bay addition mimics the fenestration pattern of the original structure. The window openings match the earlier structure in size and configuration but are non-functional and boarded over. The central section of original 1914 porch was removed and integrated into the 1966 construction. The side extensions of the porch were eliminated to accommodate an access ramp for the disabled. The second and third floors of the east elevation are part of the original 1914 courthouse and retain their historic appearance.

A modernist-styled maintenance and mechanical building, designed by Lynn A. Evans and constructed at the same time as the 1966 addition, sits at the southeast corner of the courthouse square. The simple one-story rectangular building was designed to complement the 1914 courthouse. The brown brick of the east and west walls matches that of the courthouse. On the north and south elevations, the blocks of the perforated masonry screen walls form a decorative pattern. A wide overhang marks the height of the flat roof. The walls extend to form a parapet that screens the rooftop mechanical equipment from view. This structure is considered to be non-contributing to the nominated property.

The 1973–1974 Kleberg County War Memorial is located on the southwest corner of the Courthouse Square facing the corner of Veterans Memorial Street and South 11th Street. The hexagonal plan structure is faced with two shades of brown brick set in a random pattern and topped by a pyramidal wood shingle roof. A low curved brick wall outside the entrance identifies the memorial and two concrete benches provide seating on either side of the entrance. Inside the building, memorials to Kleberg County's fallen soldiers are displayed. This commemorative structure does not contribute to the nominated property.

Interior

The interior of the Kleberg County Courthouse exhibits a traditional, cruciform courthouse plan. On the first floor, wide corridors cross under an octagonal rotunda, dividing the building into four quadrants. The offices of county officials and the county court are located on the first floor, with the county courtroom occupying the southeast quadrant. In the rotunda, the original picture molding and classically ornamental plaster cornice remain intact; the picture molding extends from the rotunda throughout the first floor corridors. A large 1966 floor mosaic depicting the Kleberg County Coat of Arms is located in the center of the rotunda.

The public corridors throughout the building retain their original marble wainscoting and individually set mosaic tile floors with green and black ornamental borders. These distinctive interior features are seamlessly extended in the 1964–1966 addition. The majority of the courthouse's original lath and plaster interior partition walls remain intact. Walls added later to subdivide larger spaces are covered with pre-finished wood paneling. Acoustical tile ceilings and fluorescent lighting has been installed below the original plaster ceilings. The original paneled wood doors feature patterned glass

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panels and transoms, and many of these doors and transoms remain in place. When new doors were added an effort was made to install doors with panels and trim similar to the original historic material. Original steel vault doors with etched acanthus leaf decoration, manufactured by the Mosler Vault Company, remain in place. A number of furniture pieces dating from the early 20th century remain in the courthouse, including a rolltop desk, a stick leg table and several chairs from the original supplier, the Jordt-Allen Furniture Company; several pieces of steel furniture from that era also remain in use.

From the rotunda, two wide marble staircases lead to the second floor vestibule outside the district courtroom, which occupies the majority of the eastern half of the second floor. In the courtroom, the historic baseboard, chair rail and bar remain in place as does the stamped-metal auditorium chairs with simple wood backs used as spectator seating. Historically, a concrete cantilevered balcony at the rear of the room extended over spectator seating in the two-story courtroom, but in 2004 the height of the courtroom was reduced to a single story by the construction of a third floor that encapsulates the original balcony. The offices of the county clerk and district attorney occupy the northwest and southwest quadrants of the second floor, respectively, with a jury room between them.

On the third floor, the double-height district courtroom and its balcony occupied slightly less than half of the space, with the county jail and jailer's living quarters occupying the remaining square footage. In 1997, a new jail was constructed as part of the Kleberg County Law Enforcement Center and the jailhouse functions moved offsite. In 2004, all fixtures and partition walls were removed from the jail area, and the area is currently unoccupied.

Summary

The Kleberg County Courthouse has continuously maintained its historic function as the seat of county government and the site of its most important public meetings, trials, and events. As such, the building retains, to a high degree, its historical integrity in terms of association. Master architect Atlee B. Ayres's original design remains highly recognizable and essentially intact. The vast majority of the building's original materials, including its distinctive decorative elements, remain in place, demonstrating the building's fine workmanship. The integrity of the courthouse's major public interior spaces has remained relatively high, despite changes required by the evolving needs of ongoing and active government use. Alterations have been made to the district courtroom that significantly alter the historic feel of the space, yet the historic balcony remains intact, albeit obscured, and the space may be returned to its historic appearance with relative ease.

The historic setting of the courthouse has been altered to a degree, but the historic feel of the courthouse remains high due to the sympathetic nature of the 1964–1966 addition. Its location at the rear of the building preserves the historic view of the courthouse from downtown Kingsville, and great care was taken to extend the historical character of the original courthouse to the addition. The parking areas and disabled access ramps added in the 1960s detract from the historic courthouse setting but reflect the building's ongoing public use, as does the noncontributing, but complementary, maintenance and mechanical building. The construction of the 1973–1974 war memorial on the courthouse grounds demonstrates the symbolic importance of the courthouse and its square to the citizens of Kleberg County. The location of the noncontributing buildings at the corners of the square minimizes their impact on the historic feel of the square, which remains high.

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: Politics/Government, Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1914-1960

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1914

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Atlee B. Ayres, Architect
Central Contracting Company, Builder

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-22)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-23 through 9-25)

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:

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For more than ninety years, the Kleberg County Courthouse has served as the center of county government. The building remains the most prominent symbol of the progressive and optimistic spirit of the county's founding citizens, embodying their collective faith in the future of Kleberg County. Designed by renowned Texas architect Atlee B. Ayres, the courthouse is an idiosyncratic variation of the typical Neoclassical Revival courthouse built in south Texas during the early 20th century. A hybrid of classical and Prairie School influences, the building documents a brief but important period in Ayres's career, characterized by the influence of Chicago's progressive architecture. For its longstanding service as the center of Kleberg County government, the courthouse is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government at the local level of significance. It also is nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance, as the work of master architect Atlee B. Ayres and as a well-executed example of an early 20th century Texas courthouse.

Formation of Kleberg County

The town of Kingsville was founded in 1904 on a site about 45 miles south of Corpus Christi and three miles east of the large and prosperous King Ranch established by Captain Richard King in the 1850s. Kingsville grew steadily during the early 20th century, largely due to its status as the headquarters of the St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico Railway. Completed in 1904, the railroad was built, in part, on land donated by Richard King's widow, Henrietta King. In addition to the 75,000 acres Mrs. King donated to the railway, 640 acres were set aside for the establishment of a town site, which she named Kingsville after her late husband.

The railroad brought new businesses and people to the town of Kingsville and the surrounding communities of Riviera and Ricardo. Unhappy with the lengthy travel time required to conduct business with the Nueces County government in Corpus Christi, railroad officials and area residents soon began lobbying for the creation of a new county.¹ Convenience was likely not the sole motivation behind the call for formation of a new county; capital expenditures planned by Nueces County were perceived as primarily benefiting the northern portion of the county. This worried large landowners in the southern region sensitive to rising property taxes and many began to agitate for political autonomy.²

On February 27, 1913, the Texas legislature approved the formation of Kleberg County from the southern portion of Nueces County. Members of the commission appointed by Texas Governor O.B. Colquitt to oversee the formation of the county included Robert J. Kleberg, manager of the King Ranch and president of the Kleberg Town and Improvement Company; Charles H. Flato, Jr., prominent businessman and co-owner of the Kingsville Lumber Company and the Flato Opera House; B.O. Sims, Jr., a well-known land agent; Ben F. Wilson, vice-president of the First State Bank; and Marcus Phillips.³

¹ Cecilia Aros Hunter, *Historic Kingsville, Texas: Guide to the Original Townsites, Volume 2* (Kingsville, Texas: Kingsville Historical Development Board, 1994-1997), 24.

² David Montejano, *Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas, 1836-1986* (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1987), 142.

³ Hunter, 26; also "___ and Men that are Helping Write Kingsville Large on the Map of Texas," *Kingsville Record*, December 12, 1913.

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Named for Judge Robert Justus Kleberg of DeWitt County (b. 1803)—father of King Ranch manager Robert J. Kleberg (b. 1853)—the county comprised some 853 square miles of mostly open rangeland. Conrad (Charles) F.H. Von Blucher, Nueces County Surveyor, completed a survey of the new county before the end of May 1913. The county boundaries and its four election precincts were set and the first county elections held on June 27. Kleberg County was officially organized on August 23, 1913, when the results of the election were tallied. Ben F. Wilson was elected county judge and Kingsville designated the county seat. The election was not without controversy, as ballots cast in Riviera were thrown out due to election irregularities, and Wilson was declared the winner over opponent W.H. McCracken on the basis of the revised count. Pat Cody, Clint Heywood, and Richard Mifflin Kleberg (son of Robert J. Kleberg), were elected commissioners, and Harry J. Northrop was appointed commissioner for Riviera.⁴

Early Plans for the Kleberg County Courthouse

As no county courthouse yet existed, the Commissioners Court first met on the second floor of the Flato Opera House on September 8, 1913. In October the Commissioners Court quickly addressed the need for a permanent county courthouse and jail, and an election was called for November 18, 1913, to approve a \$125,000 bond issue for their construction. Also on the ballot was approval of a \$35,000 bond issue for the construction of a county hospital. Voters approved both expenditures, with the courthouse measure passing by a healthy margin: 297 votes in favor and 106 opposed. Not surprisingly, support for the courthouse was greatest in Kingsville and the precincts dominated by the King Ranch—Santa Gertrudis and Laureles. Voters in Ricardo and Riviera were less enthusiastic in their support, perhaps recognizing the economic boon the courthouse would be for the town of Kingsville.⁵

On December 30, 1913 the Commissioners Court called for bids on construction of the courthouse and the hospital. The court was able to move quickly because preliminary sketches for the courthouse were already in hand. In mid-October, well-known San Antonio architect Atlee B. Ayres had contacted Judge Wilson and the county commissioners, having learned of the upcoming bond election. Ayres offered an interesting proposal to the county—his firm would produce preliminary sketches for the courthouse and hospital with the understanding that if the bond issue carried, his firm would be awarded the commission. If the bond issue failed, the county would owe him nothing. Ayres's recent work on courthouses in nearby Jim Wells and Cameron counties put him in a position to make such an offer. Judge Wilson and commissioners Haywood and Kleberg accepted the architect's proposal, and the firm began work on preliminary designs for the courthouse.⁶

A perspective drawing of the initial Ayres design produced at this time was used to represent the new county during its earliest years, appearing on the county's letterhead as well as the front page of the December 12, 1913 issue of the *Kingsville Record*. This first design for the Kleberg County Courthouse was in keeping with the brick and terra cotta Neoclassical Revival style courthouses being built in southern Texas during the early 20th century, but also exhibited the influence of progressive architect Louis Sullivan on its form and ornamentation. In some respects, Ayres's first design for the three-story courthouse resembled a foreshortened version of a Sullivan skyscraper with its trademark tripartite vertical division into base, shaft and capital. Weighty brick piers anchored the four corners of the cubic, three-story building; a

⁴ Hunter, 25-26.

⁵ Kleberg County Commissioners Court Minutes (KCCCM) 1:46; "Kleberg County Gets Ready for 50th Birthday Party," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, February 24, 1953, 10; Bond issue election documents, South Texas Archives, James C. Jernigan Library, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

⁶ KCCCM 1:64; Atlee B. Ayres to the Hon. Judge and Commissioners, October 18, 1913.

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simple stringcourse marked its base while an alternating pattern of piers and windows defined the main body. A cornice crowned the courthouse, projecting strongly above a series of deeply recessed semi-circular clerestory windows reminiscent of Sullivan's 1895 Guaranty Building in Buffalo, New York. The classical portico, common to many courthouses of the day, was re-envisioned as a parapeted porch with simple granite columns set *in antis* between sturdy brick piers with geometric terra cotta ornament. Two pairs of Sullivanesque cartouches substituted for windows above the porch on the second and third floors. The Kleberg County Courthouse as built in 1914 would be significantly different from this first design, but vestiges of this early vision would persist in the completed building.⁷

Selecting the Courthouse Contractors

Only three bids for construction of the courthouse had been submitted to the county by the established deadline of March 2, 1914. All were considered to be "out of reason, in that they were too high," and the decision was made to extend the deadline for another month. At the April 6 meeting of the Commissioners Court, bids on the courthouse construction were again examined and this time found acceptable. The court awarded the contract to the Central Contracting Company of Houston, Texas; the general contractor's successful bid for the courthouse, signed by Henry C. Beck, totaled \$104,500. Flint McGregor would manage the project in Kingsville with J.W. King acting as superintendent. The Central Contracting Company was organized by Beck, McGregor, and E.G. Maclay in 1912, and the Kleberg County Courthouse would be one of their earliest projects. A few years after the completion of the courthouse, Beck would buy out his partners and change the name of the company to the Henry C. Beck Construction. During the following decades, Beck and his son, Henry C. Beck, Jr., would grow the company into one of the largest construction firms in the southwest. Today Beck, as the company is now known, is a large national corporation based in Dallas offering architectural, development, and construction services.⁸

The contract for the jail construction was awarded to the Pauly Jail Building Company of St. Louis, Missouri, which furnished all the ironwork and fixtures for the nine jail cells located on the third floor of the courthouse at a cost of \$5,137.⁹ Established in 1856 as P. J. Pauly & Brother, steamboat blacksmiths P.J. and John Pauly turned to making portable iron jail cells after the Civil War when the rapid settlement of the land west of the Mississippi created a need for secure detention facilities that could be erected quickly or moved from place to place.¹⁰ In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Pauly Jail Building Company became one of the leading manufacturers of jails in the United States, completing over 90 jail projects in Texas, including the Kendall County Jail (1887), the Llano County and Milam County jails (1895) and the Austin County Jail (1896).¹¹

The local Kingsville Lumber Company received the contract for heating and plumbing of the courthouse. A partnership between Robert J. Kleberg and Charles H. Flato, Jr., the Kingsville Lumber Company was established in 1904 when "there was nothing in Kingsville but two or three tents and a lot of mesquite brush and cactus." The company sold

⁷ "Perspective View of the Proposed Kleberg County Court-House. Atlee B. Ayres, Architect. San Antonio, Texas, c.1913." House Family Collection, South Texas Archives, James C. Jernigan Library, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

⁸ KCCCM 1:73; "Court House Now Complete: Magnificent \$125,000 Ready to be Turned Over to County," *Kingsville Record*, January 15, 1915; "Noted Dallas Building Man Passes at 61" *Dallas Morning News*, December 7, 1948.

⁹ KCCCM 1:73.

¹⁰ "Pauly Jail Building Company Celebrates 150 Year Anniversary," *The Ironworker*, June/July 2006.

¹¹ Willard Bethurem Robinson, *The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails and Municipal Buildings* (Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association, 1983), 94-96, and 185-187.

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everything necessary for the construction of new homes and businesses—lumber and building materials of all kinds, plumbing supplies, hardware, kitchenware, farm implements, buggies, wagons and more. Although dollar amounts were recorded in the County Commissioners Court minutes for the other contract awards, the amount of the contract awarded to this local company was conspicuously left blank.¹²

Maximizing the positive local impact of the courthouse construction was important to the county commissioners. In May 1914, the court ordered a change in the construction specifications in order to allow “home concerns” to bid on the supplying of paint for the courthouse.¹³ On October 12, 1914, the contract to supply furniture for the courthouse was awarded to the Jordt-Allen Furniture Company of Kingsville and Corpus Christi, Texas, for an unspecified amount.¹⁴

Frank C. and Clyde Allen established what would become the Jordt-Allen Furniture Company in 1908, with the encouragement of Charles H. Flato, Jr. Their business burned in 1911, but reopened shortly afterward in the Flato Building with the help of Flato and Robert J. Kleberg. In 1912, the brothers formed the Jordt-Allen Furniture Company with John Jordt of Corpus Christi. Jordt’s well-established furniture business first opened in 1887. After the merger, Jordt continued to manage the store in Corpus Christi with Frank Allen. The Allen brothers acquired full interest in the business after Jordt’s death in 1923. For a short time the business continued as the Jordt-Allen Furniture Company, but by 1930 the business was operating as the Allen Furniture Company; therefore, it is assumed that furniture labeled “Jordt-Allen” was manufactured before 1930.¹⁵ Several pieces of wood furniture with the Jordt-Allen label, including a roll top desk and a number of armchairs, remain in use at the courthouse today.

The Courthouse Site

On April 6, 1914, after awarding the contracts for the courthouse construction, the commissioners turned their attention to securing the courthouse site. An agreement made in February between the Kleberg Town and Improvement Company and County Judge Ben F. Wilson required official authorization from the commissioners before construction could begin. On February 15, 1914, Caesar Kleberg and Robert J. Kleberg of the Kleberg Town and Improvement Company had agreed to sell Lots 17 to 32 in Block 15 and Lots 1 to 16 in Block 18 of the Sixth Addition of the town of Kingsville, Texas, to “B.F. Wilson, County Judge, and his successors in office,” for \$7,000. On April 6 the commissioners approved the purchase of the plot of land, 350 feet by 240 feet, five blocks east of the railroad depot, and on May 22 the deed was filed with the county. The agreement also included the sale of thirty-two lots approximately one-half mile south of the courthouse to the county for construction of the county hospital. The county paid the Kleberg Town and Improvement Company \$4,000 for the hospital land.¹⁶ Covenants included in the deed prohibited the county from drilling for water, oil or gas on the property, reserved a right of way for city utilities and promised equal access to city water, oil and gas services. A fourth covenant dictated that the county could not establish or knowingly permit the establishment of “any

¹² KCCCM, vol. 1:83; also “___ and Men that are Helping Write Kingsville Large on the Map of Texas,” *Kingsville Record*, December 12, 1913.

¹³ KCCCM 1:89.

¹⁴ KCCCM 1:109.

¹⁵ Kleberg County Historical Commission (KCHC), *Kleberg County Texas: A Collection of Historical Sketches and Family Histories* (Austin, Texas: Hart Graphics, 1979), 423.

¹⁶ Warranty Deed, Kleberg Town Improvement Company to Ben F. Wilson, County Judge, Kleberg County. Files of the Kleberg County Clerk’s Office; KCCCM 1:82-83.

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business for the sale at retail of spirituous or malt liquors” on the property. In the event the covenant was breached, ownership of the land would revert back to King Ranch matriarch Henrietta M. King.

Prior to 1914, the courthouse site was historically ranchland. Cattle may have grazed the property as early as the mid-1700s when early Spanish settlers first established ranches along the Rio Grande. Before Spanish contact, the indigenous Karankawa and Coahuiltecan tribes occupied the area, hunting small game and gathering plants for sustenance. The region was designated part of the Spanish province of Nuevo Santander in 1746 and explored by Joaquín de Orobio y Basterra on behalf of José de Escandón, governor of Nuevo Santander, in 1747, but no permanent Spanish settlements were established in the Kingsville area. Mexican officials first surveyed the area in 1832, and in 1834, the state of Tamaulipas conveyed the 15,500-acre Rincón de Santa Gertrudis grant, which included the courthouse site, to Juan Mendiola of Carmargo. Neither Juan Mendiola nor his heirs ever occupied the land, presumably due to the start of the Texas Revolution in 1835. In 1853, Captain Richard King traveled to Carmargo to purchase the large grant from the Mendiola’s heirs for the incredible sum of \$300, less than 2 cents per acre. The Rincón de Santa Gertrudis grant formed the basis of the vast holdings that would become the famous King Ranch. When Captain King died in 1885, title to the land passed to his widow Henrietta M. King. Mrs. King asked Robert J. Kleberg, legal adviser to the late Captain King, to stay on and manage the ranch. In 1886, Kleberg married the Kings’ daughter, Alice Gertrudis King. Under Henrietta King’s supervision and Kleberg’s management, artesian wells were drilled on the ranch, new breeds of cattle introduced and the family’s land holdings greatly expanded.¹⁷

As the ranch prospered during the late 1800s, Henrietta King and Robert J. Kleberg grew interested in town building. Around 1903, Mrs. King donated 75,000 acres to the developers of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway and established the townsite of Kingsville adjacent to the proposed rail line. In 1904 she and Kleberg established the Kleberg Town and Improvement Company to sell lots and develop the town of Kingsville. The warranty deed signed on February 15, 1914, conveyed the King family’s interest in the courthouse site to County Judge Ben F. Wilson and his successors, paving the way for construction of the Kleberg County Courthouse to begin in April 1914.¹⁸

In keeping with the principles of the progressive City Beautiful movement, popular at the time, the courthouse site maximized the monumental status of the courthouse. Following an orthogonal pattern typical of many early 1900s railroad towns, the tracks of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railroad ran perpendicular to the town’s main commercial street, Kleberg Avenue. The wide avenue formed the central axis of the town, anchored at its western end by the impressive 1909 Mission Revival style Henrietta M. King High School. Commercial buildings, churches and homes were located along Kleberg Avenue with the town’s principal mercantile buildings clustered near the railroad tracks. The courthouse site formed the eastern terminus of the central axis that began at the high school. When the courthouse was completed, the two monumental buildings—one representing the promise of public education and the other the democratic rule of law—faced each other at either end of a wide picturesque avenue lined by concrete sidewalks and ornamental streetlights.¹⁹

¹⁷ Don Graham, *Kings of Texas: The 150-Year Saga of an American Ranching Empire* (Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003), 60.

¹⁸ Warranty Deed, Kleberg Town Improvement Company to Ben F. Wilson, County Judge, Kleberg County, signed February 15, 1914 and filed May 23, 1914. Files of the Kleberg County Clerk’s Office; Graham, *op. cit.*

¹⁹ Robert E. Veselka, *The Courthouse Square in Texas* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000), 104-105; Sanborn Insurance Company Map, Kingsville, Texas, 1915, sheets 3-5.

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Courthouse Construction

Construction of the courthouse began in April of 1914 and was scheduled for completion by January 15, 1915. Work proceeded relatively smoothly for the first several months with some delays due to weather. In August, a labor dispute arose: local workers, upset with the Central Contracting Company's practice of importing labor from outside the county "to the exclusion of Home Labor," petitioned the County Commissioners Court, reminding the court that, according to the terms of the contract between the county and Central Contracting, local men were to be employed as much as possible. Sixty-six men signed the petition, including Clint Heywood, who had been instrumental in the founding of the county.²⁰ The dispute was resolved, construction continued, and on September 17, 1914, county officials and prominent citizens of Kingsville gathered to celebrate the laying of the courthouse cornerstone. One tragedy occurred before the courthouse was completed when carpenter Mike Wright died after falling from the top of the building.²¹ By the January 15, 1915, deadline, the Central Contracting Company finished its work and the courthouse was mostly complete; some mechanical and electrical work remained and the building was not fully furnished.

On Friday, January 29, 1915, citizens of Kleberg County gathered in Kingsville, Texas, to celebrate the grand opening of their newly completed county courthouse. During the day, celebration committee members, eager to show off the new courthouse's modern features and fine appointments, led visitors on tours of the building. That night, a celebratory ball was held in the district courtroom, complete with a grand march. An open invitation published in the *Kingsville Record* prior to the event encouraged all citizens of Kleberg County to attend, emphasizing the "absolutely informal" nature of the ball and expressing the committee's hopes that everyone would join the celebration.²²

Attendees of the grand opening festivities were undoubtedly impressed by the simple but elegant building that the *Kingsville Record* described as "a credit to the county, to the architect and to the builders."²³ The revelers entered a courthouse brightly lit with electric lights and traveled down corridors with gleaming tile floors and marble wainscoting before climbing the wide ceremonial staircases to reach the district courtroom on the second floor. There they enjoyed refreshments and dancing in the high-ceilinged courtroom or watched the festivities from the balcony that juttied out over the dancers. The evening, described as "especially colorful," was no doubt a moment of great pride for the citizens of Kleberg County, as they gathered to celebrate the achievements of their nascent county as embodied by the new courthouse.²⁴

The Courthouse Since 1915

Ayres planned for the courthouse square to occupy two full city blocks with the courthouse occupying one square block between two rectangular half-block parks located to the north and south of the courthouse. It appears that, at first, Ayres's plan was largely realized. Shortly after county officials moved into the courthouse in January 1915, the Kingsville Concrete Works began work on the driveways that separated the courthouse block from the two parks as indicated by

²⁰ Petition addressed to Hon. Ben F. Wilson, County Judge, Kleberg County, Texas, dated August 7, 1914, Kleberg County Clerk's Office files.

²¹ "Court House Now Complete." *Kingsville Record*, January 15, 1915.

²² "You Are Cordially Invited," *Kingsville Record*, January 22, 1915, 1; "Officials Hold Open House," *Kingsville Record*, January 29, 1915, 1.

²³ "Court House Now Complete." *Kingsville Record*, January 15, 1915.

²⁴ KCHC, *op. cit.*, 718.

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Ayres's plan.²⁵ Further landscaping efforts concentrated on the single block occupied by the courthouse. Workers installed concrete sidewalks and curbs at the perimeter of the block and wide sidewalks with landscaped medians from each entrance to the surrounding streets and drives.

Yet by 1930, the half-block parks to the north and south of the courthouse were divided into buildable lots and the Christian Science Society erected a church at the southwestern corner of the courthouse square. A 1937 aerial photograph of the courthouse square documents this building as well as the planting of a number of palm trees at the perimeter of the courthouse block. On July 11, 1949, the County Commissioners Court approved the sale of lots 23-28 in the southern green space to the Christian Science Society and lots 17-22 to Southwestern Lodge Number 572 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The lots were sold with the stipulation that the property would revert back to the county if any buildings erected on the properties were used for purposes other than worship services or lodge meetings, respectively. At that same meeting, the commissioners approved sale of lots 13-16 in the northern green space to the Church of Latter Day Saints of Jesus Christ with similar stipulations.²⁶ By 1951, the Odd Fellows had built a hall and by 1961 the Church of Latter Day Saints of Jesus Christ had constructed a building on their property.

While the courthouse square changed considerably, the courthouse itself remained relatively unchanged for 35 years. In 1950, the first recorded remodeling of the courthouse occurred. Corpus Christi architects Smyth and Smyth oversaw the renovation that included the repainting of all interior walls and the installation of a new roof. Remodeling plans in the district courtroom included correcting an acoustical problem that had "long caused delay in court procedure because of the difficulty of hearing spoken words in some portions of the courtroom" and the refinishing and "brightening" of the courtroom's stained woodwork.²⁷ Local contractors Arthur Brothers were awarded the \$48,672 renovation contract despite architect Joe Smyth's protest that the bid was "out of line." The Commissioners Court received only two bids for the project but the decision was made to award the contract regardless, fearing a rise in prices due to the escalating conflict between North and South Korea.²⁸

After 1915 the population of Kleberg County grew rapidly, nearly tripling before 1940.²⁹ The Texas College of Arts and Industries, established in 1925 as the South Texas Teachers College, expanded steadily, attracting students and faculty to the area; 2,000 students were enrolled and the school employed 150 faculty members in 1949.³⁰ The college would change its name to the Texas A&I University in 1967 and eventually join the Texas A&M University system, becoming Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 1993. The construction of both the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, an advanced air-training base, in 1942 and the Celanese Corporation, a chemical plant, in 1944, created large numbers of jobs in the area, spurring population growth. By the 1950s, the county population had risen to over 22,000. The Naval Auxiliary Air Station, closed in 1946, was reactivated in 1951, reinvigorating population growth in the county.³¹ As a result of this growth, a series of

²⁵ KCCCM 1:130.

²⁶ KCCCM July 11, 1949, vol. 3.

²⁷ "Remodeling Bids Called on Kleberg County Courthouse," *San Antonio Express*, July 18, 1950.

²⁸ "Courthouse, Hospital Contracts Awarded by Commissioners," *Kingsville Record*, August 2, 1950.

²⁹ United States Census Bureau, "Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900 to 1990: Texas, March 27, 1995." Accessed on June 14, 2009 at: <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/480001k.html>>.

³⁰ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Texas A&M University-Kingsville," accessed August 19, 2009 at: <<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/TT/kct10.html>>.

³¹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Kleberg County," accessed August 19, 2009 at: <<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/KK/hck10.html>>.

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renovations to increase office space in the courthouse and large-scale maintenance projects took place. Arthur Brothers completed a \$14,106 renovation of the basement, installing flooring and office partitions. In April 1953, there was "an urgent need for additional office space," and Jimmie Thurmond was awarded a \$3,250 contract to construct more offices in the basement.³² In 1956, Arthur Brothers was awarded a \$26,634 contract for repairs to the exterior of the courthouse.³³ Work included the sandblasting, repair and painting of the building's cast stone elements; the cleaning of the brick and repairing of mortar joints; the painting of doors, windows and window screens and the replacement of the lower section of the fire escape. In March 1958, a \$5,960 contract was awarded to Hoyt Mertens to install sump pumps and waterproof the basement.³⁴

In 1960, the building was air conditioned by the Way Engineering Company of Houston under the supervision of Austin architects Jessen, Jessen, Millhouse & Greeven at a cost of \$91,430.³⁵ Four years later, the Commissioners Court declared its intention to "expand the present courthouse and jail to alleviate the congested conditions existing in most offices." At its June 8, 1964 meeting, the Commissioners Court chose Corpus Christi architect Lynn A. Evans to oversee the renovation of the jail and construction of an addition to the 50-year-old courthouse.³⁶ The design phase of the project lasted nearly 10 months. Final bids were opened on March 15, 1965 and a \$448,690 contract awarded to Jimmie Thurmond for construction of the addition. Southern Steel Company of San Antonio was awarded a \$93,206 contract for jail repairs and equipment.³⁷ The addition was purposefully designed to closely follow the existing courthouse and the foundation built to support a second story expansion should the need arise.³⁸

In 1964, Lynn A. Evans was best known as the architect of the 1956 Aransas County Courthouse, in Rockport, Texas. His design for the Rockport courthouse reflected a decidedly modernist aesthetic as did his other work, primarily educational buildings. Kleberg County officials felt it was important to maintain the historic appearance of the 50-year-old courthouse and Evans subsumed his personal modernist aesthetic in favor of preserving the character of Ayres's design. Built at a time when a number of inappropriate additions were made to older Texas county courthouses, Evans's sympathetic addition to the historic Kleberg County Courthouse set an early precedent for preservation efforts in the coming decades.

Although constructed before the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation were established in 1977, a number of design decisions made by Evans anticipated those guidelines and ensured that the architectural and historic integrity of the courthouse was preserved. Evans located the addition at the rear of the building, preserving the historic view of the courthouse from downtown Kingsville. He essentially slid the first story and basement of the courthouse outward to the east, creating a one-story addition that significantly expanded the square footage of the building while retaining the cubic massing of the original courthouse. Careful attention was paid to extending the character of the original building to the addition. The second story decorative stringcourse of the original courthouse was extended to form the cornice of the addition. The first floor stringcourses were likewise extended, visually connecting the addition to the original courthouse. The size, form, and pattern of the cast stone ornament were carefully matched, as was the color of the first story face brick. The fenestration pattern of the original structure was extended to the addition and windows chosen that matched the

³² KCCCM 3:444.

³³ KCCCM 4:1.

³⁴ KCCCM 4:129.

³⁵ KCCCM 4:202.

³⁶ KCCCM 4:457.

³⁷ KCCCM 4:515.

³⁸ "Courthouse Expansion Plans Are Announced," *Kingsville Record-Bishop News*, February, 7, 1965.

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earlier structure in size and configuration. The appearance of the distinctive porch was carefully preserved and the approaching view from the east retained much of its historic appearance.³⁹ Evans's modernist tastes were expressed only in the utility building constructed on the southeast corner of the courthouse square at the same time as this addition.

The mid-1960s was a critical period in the history of the preservation movement. In 1964, the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, predecessor of the Texas Historical Commission, established the Recordation, Appreciation, Marking, Preservation and Surveys, or "RAMPS," Program in response to new historic preservation laws passed by the Texas legislature. In counties across Texas, including Kleberg County, county historical survey commissions began documenting and marking historic sites.⁴⁰ The growing awareness of the need to protect America's architectural and archaeological heritage would eventually lead to the passage of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, the groundbreaking law that established the legal process for evaluating the potential impact of federal projects on historic structures (Section 106 review) as well as the National Register of Historic Places and state historic preservation offices. Also in 1966, the King Ranch was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The awareness of preservation issues raised by the RAMPS program may have prompted Kleberg County Judge Bolar A. Brown and other county officials to insist that the design and materials of the expansion correspond to the 1914 courthouse as closely as possible.⁴¹ When the early cost estimates exceeded expectations due to the greater expense of maintaining the historic materials and design of the original courthouse, county officials expressed their desire to maintain the historic look of the courthouse by rejecting cost cutting options that would "cause too great a sacrifice in the quality and the appearance of the proposed wing" and decided to move forward with the project despite the higher costs.⁴² The county's commitment to maintaining the historic appearance of the existing courthouse resulted in a significant and rare example of a sympathetic mid-century addition to a historic Texas county courthouse.

In March of 1966, Italian craftsmen installed a mosaic depicting the Kleberg County Coat of Arms in the courthouse rotunda. The coat of arms was officially adopted in 1954 as part of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the county. The various economic sectors that contributed to the growth of the county are symbolized in the mosaic—ranching, education, naval aviation, agriculture and the petrochemical and railroad industries. In the center of the shield, a crown tops the brand of the King Ranch. Artisan Joe Fausto, formerly of Naples, Italy, assembled the mosaic from more than 20,000 hand-cut Venetian mosaic tiles. Manlio D. Cavallini of San Antonio supervised the \$650 project.⁴³

In the early 1970s, the approaching United States Bicentennial spurred government beautification projects throughout the country and a surge of interest in American history. In 1972, significant landscaping work was completed on the courthouse grounds under the direction of landscape architect Douglas Wade that probably included the installation of the

³⁹ Physical evidence suggests that the historic eastern porch was dismantled and at least portions of it reinstalled.

⁴⁰ "Historical Recordation Program Put in Action," *Kingsville Record*, July 22, 1964.

⁴¹ As a well-established and experienced architect, with several government clients, Evans may well have been aware of the preservation movement as well. It is also conceivable that Ayres was consulted at some point about the addition. Atlee B. Ayres was still alive and practicing at age 91 when designs for the addition were produced.

⁴² "Courthouse Expansion Plans Are Announced," *Kingsville Record-Bishop News*, February, 7, 1965; "Courthouse Plans Develop Bids Snag," *Kingsville Record-Bishop News*, March 3, 1965; "Thurmond Awarded Courthouse Contract," *Kingsville Record-Bishop News*, March 17, 1965.

⁴³ "County Coat of Arms Installed at Courthouse," *Kingsville Record-Bishop News*, March 2, 1966. Cavallini Studios History website, accessed July 12, 2009 at: <<http://www.cavallinistudios.com/history.htm>>.

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concrete planter boxes adjoining the entrance walks.⁴⁴ The concrete outlines of what appear to be former planting areas in the shape of Texas and the scales of justice are found in the northern and western lawns, respectively. These may have been installed at the same time as the planter boxes. Also in 1972, the Kleberg County Historical Survey Committee was granted permission to place a historical marker commemorating the 1568 journey of three shipwrecked Englishmen through the Kleberg County area.⁴⁵ The Kleberg County War Memorial was constructed on the southwest corner of the square in 1973-74.⁴⁶

In 1984 a new public elevator was installed in the courthouse, with new public washrooms added adjacent to the elevator on the second floor, requiring the reduction in size of the grand jury room. The Holly Construction Company, under the supervision of architect Robert Kipp, completed the work for \$117,305.⁴⁷ No major changes appear to have been made to courthouse during the early 1990s. In 1997, a new jail was constructed as part of the Kleberg County Law Enforcement Center and the jailhouse functions moved offsite. In 2004, renovation work began on the third floor with the gutting of the former jail area. To increase the available square footage on the third floor, the double-height district courtroom was reduced in size and the original balcony encapsulated by a new upper floor.

As the home of county government for nearly 100 years, the Kleberg County Courthouse has stood as an icon of stability and continuity in a changing world, proudly serving the governmental and judicial needs of the community, but it also served the needs of citizens in other ways throughout the years. In 1919, Kingsville citizens took shelter in the courthouse during a devastating hurricane that destroyed several homes and businesses and flooded portions of the courthouse basement.⁴⁸ When the Henrietta M. King High School burned in 1925, the district courtroom became a temporary study hall and the county courtroom served as the senior student's homeroom. Kingsville resident Henriola Gregg remembered the displaced students often smelled cabbage cooking for the prisoners on the third floor.⁴⁹ During the 1950s, the county agricultural agent and the home demonstration agent moved into newly built basement office spaces.⁵⁰ In the late 1960s, the Kingsville Community Mental Health Center provided counseling services in basement offices.⁵¹ These varied courthouse functions shared a common purpose: to protect and enhance the quality of life of Kleberg County's citizens.

The Kleberg County Courthouse served as the site of the county's most high profile meetings, trials and events, and certainly there were moments of local drama. The trial associated with the most sensational crime in the history of Kleberg County—the cold-blooded murder of three fishermen at Laguna Madre in 1965 by Paul Krueger, the 17-year-old son of a wealthy Californian engineer—was tried in Dallas for fear that impartial jurors would be impossible to find in the close-knit community.⁵² Although the trial was moved, the early aspects of Krueger's prosecution took place at the Kleberg County Courthouse. He was indicted by the Kleberg County Grand Jury and on May 10, 1965, Krueger entered his plea of “not guilty” in the district courtroom.⁵³ Two dramatic jailbreaks also occurred at the courthouse. In 1953 Ernest

⁴⁴ KCCCM 5:306.

⁴⁵ KCCCM 5:306, 311, 341.

⁴⁶ KCCCM 5:379.

⁴⁷ KCCCM 6:369.

⁴⁸ KCHC, 944.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 792.

⁵⁰ “Kleberg County Agent Getting New Office,” *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, May 17, 1953, 12D.

⁵¹ KCHC, 519, 498.

⁵² “Krueger Admits Killing Three Men, Is Sentenced to Life Imprisonment,” *San Antonio Express*, May 12, 1966, 3-A.

⁵³ Krueger Enters Not Guilty Pleas, *Corpus Christi Times*, May 10, 1965, 1.

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Perez pried open the lock of his cell with a plywood checkerboard but was later discovered hiding in the cupola above the elevator shaft.⁵⁴ In 1961 Bernard Easley and James E. McDonald sawed through the bars of their cell door, and then sawed the locks of the cellblock door. Grabbing mattress covers, they slid onto the roof of a courthouse porch and escaped into the night, presumably never recaptured.⁵⁵

As the most prominent symbol of community in Kleberg County and in Kingsville, the courthouse and its square plays host to important public gatherings and events. On October 15, 1969, students from Texas A&I University (now the University of Texas A&M – Kingsville) organized an evening peace rally on the grounds of the courthouse in support of the national Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam protest organized by supporters of Sen. Eugene McCarthy and Sen. Robert Kennedy.⁵⁶ Parades, such as the annual Parade of Lights, a well-known tourist attraction, traditionally begin at the courthouse and travel down Kleberg Avenue through Kingsville's historic business district. On July 4, 2004, the town of Kingsville celebrated its 100th birthday with a grand Centennial Parade that began at the symbolic heart of the city, the courthouse, and ended at the newly restored 1904 Kingsville Train Depot.⁵⁷ In 2013, Texas will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the formation of Kleberg County, and as a prominent and visible symbol of the spirit of the county's founding citizens, the courthouse will play a highly visible role in those celebrations.

Atlee B. Ayres and the Courthouse Design

The Kleberg County Courthouse, a well-executed and unusual variation of the typical Classical Revival courthouse built in South Texas during the early 1900s, features distinctive design elements that distinguish the building as the work of master architect Atlee B. Ayres. The courthouse documents a brief and important period in his career, marked by the strong influence of Louis Sullivan and the Prairie School, which coincided with the arrival of George Willis, a Chicago architect and former employee of Frank Lloyd Wright, at Ayres's firm. Compared with courthouses constructed in adjacent Nueces and Brooks counties in 1914 by Harvey L. Page and Alfred Giles, respectively, the Kleberg County Courthouse stands apart from its Classical kin in its bold simplicity and idiosyncratic ornamentation.

At the time he began work on the Kleberg County Courthouse, Atlee B. Ayres (1873-1969) was a widely known and well-respected Texas architect. Ayres studied architecture at the Metropolitan School of Art in New York during the early 1890s and returned to San Antonio in 1894, where he worked for several local architects. After working for a short time in Mexico, Ayres formed a partnership in San Antonio with Charles A. Coughlin in 1900. After Coughlin's death in 1905, Ayres practiced independently. He was named the state architect of Texas in 1915 and designed several prominent public buildings including the State Land Office Building (1918). In 1924, Ayres and his son Robert formed the architectural firm of Atlee B. & Robert M. Ayres. Atlee B. Ayres, alone and with various partners, was responsible for designing more than a dozen homes and buildings now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the A.H. Halff House (1908), the Smith-Young Tower (1928), the "Taj Mahal" Administration Building at Randolph Air Force Base (1931), and the Cameron County Courthouse (1912).⁵⁸

⁵⁴ "Kingsville Jail Escapee Recaptured," *Corpus Christi Times*, December 28, 1953.

⁵⁵ "Two Men Use Saw to Flee Kleberg Jail," *Corpus Christi Times*, August 9, 1961, 1.

⁵⁶ Ben Goodwin, "City Observance at Varied Levels," *Corpus Christi Times*, October 15, 1969, 1-A, 14-A.

⁵⁷ John Powell Metz, "Kingsville's Fourth plus 100," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, July 2, 2004.

⁵⁸ Biographical information from the Ayres and Ayres Collection, Alexander Architectural Archive, University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas at Austin.

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By 1913, Ayres had completed three courthouses in the Gulf Coast region. In 1910, Ayres and Henry T. Phelps designed the spectacular Mission Revival Hidalgo County Courthouse.⁵⁹ Two years later, Ayres was at work on courthouses in Jim Wells County and Cameron County. Five years after completing the Kleberg County Courthouse, Ayres designed the courthouse in Refugio County. Taken as a group, these five courthouses exhibit stylistic influences that ranged from Spanish Colonial Revival to Classical Revival to Louis Sullivan's progressive architecture of the 1890s and Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie School. The four Ayres-designed courthouses built between 1912 and 1917 in Jim Wells, Cameron, Kleberg and Refugio counties, were typical of the Classical Revival style courthouses built in Texas during the first two decades of the 20th century, but also represented a distinctive period in Ayres's career identified by the influence of Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

This period in Ayres's work coincided with the tenure of Chicago architect George Willis (1879-1960) at the Ayres firm. Between 1899 and the fall of 1902, Willis studied architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago, an affiliate of the Armour Institute of Technology (now the Illinois Institute of Technology), taking courses at both schools. At lectures and exhibits sponsored by the Art Institute, Willis was exposed to the exciting new work of local progressive architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright. Near the end of his schooling, Willis joined Wright's Oak Park studio as a young assistant, eventually rising to the position of head draftsman. Around 1904, presumably for health reasons, Willis left the Wright studio and the cold winters of Chicago for a warmer climate, eventually moving to Dallas, Texas, where he partnered first with Stewart Moore in 1906 and then with J. Edward Overbeck from 1907 to 1909. By 1911, Willis had moved to San Antonio and joined the Ayres firm, staying until 1916.⁶⁰

During Willis's tenure, the Ayres firm produced designs for at least two San Antonio residences in the Prairie School style, the John J. Kuntz (Frank Winerich) House (1913) and L.T. Wright House (1914-1917), as well as other homes that incorporated various features of Wright's style.⁶¹ The courthouses produced by the firm during this time, though in keeping with the Classical Revival style typical of the period and the region, demonstrated the influence of new architectural ideas familiar to Willis. While the Prairie School influenced the firm's residential work, Louis Sullivan exerted a stronger influence on the firm's monumental courthouse designs in Jim Wells and Cameron Counties, especially in the simple rhythm of brick piers and windows that stretched across their facades and the organic quality of the ornamentation.⁶² In Kleberg County, the ornamentation took on a geometric quality that more closely referenced Wright's work.

Ayres's first design for the Kleberg County Courthouse was in keeping with the brick and terra cotta Classical Revival style courthouses being built in southern Texas during the early 1900s but exhibited the influence of progressive architect Louis Sullivan on its form and ornamentation. In some ways this first design for the three-story courthouse resembled a foreshortened version of a Sullivan skyscraper with its trademark tripartite vertical division into base, shaft and capital. Weighty brick piers anchored the four corners of the cubical building. A simple stringcourse marked the base of the three-story building while an alternating pattern of piers and windows defined the main body, or shaft, of the building. A

⁵⁹ "Courthouse Plans Have Been Chosen," *Brownsville Weekly Herald*, December 11, 1911. In the article discussing the awarding of the Cameron County courthouse commission to Ayres, his work with Phelps in Hidalgo County is mentioned.

⁶⁰ Laytha Sue Haggard Kothmann, "George Willis, Prairie School Architect in Texas" (Unpublished Master's thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1988).

⁶¹ Donald E. Everett, *San Antonio's Monte Vista*, (San Antonio, Texas: Maverick Publishing Company, 1999), 87; Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas 1895-1945* (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1993), 64.

⁶² Henry, 62-63.

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Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

cornice crowned the courthouse, projecting strongly above a series of deeply recessed semi-circular clerestory windows reminiscent of Sullivan's 1895 Guaranty Building. The Classical portico common to many courthouses of the day was re-envisioned as a parapeted porch with simple granite columns set in antis between sturdy brick piers with geometric terra cotta ornament. Two pairs of Sullivanesque cartouches substituted for windows above the porch on the second and third floors. The courthouse constructed in 1914 would be significantly different from this first design, but vestiges of this early vision would persist.⁶³

The Prairie School influence appears most clearly in the second design for the Kleberg County Courthouse, produced early in 1914. In these drawings, the simplified facades featured terra cotta ornamentation that combined the geometric vocabulary of Wright with a touch of Sullivan's organic flourish. Most of this ornament was scaled back in the third and final design, presumably due to budgetary concerns, including Prairie School style ornamental insets in the wide piers above the porches and at the corners of the building. Cast stone was substituted for terra cotta and the unique abstract ornament retained only at the entrance porches, the cornice, and second story stringcourse. The Sullivanesque cartouches that graced the parapets of the distinctive porches were also retained, becoming the main ornamental feature of the building.⁶⁴

Ayres's skill as an architect is evident in the third and final design. With the ornament scaled back, the courthouse still retains a simple beauty expressed through the thoughtful rhythm of the well-proportioned piers and the clean horizontal lines created by the contrast between the tan brick and the creamy hue of the cast stone stringcourses. Decorative emphasis is concentrated on the four projecting entrance porches—the most impressive feature of the courthouse and a trademark of Ayres's work. Ayres used the porch convention on all of the courthouses he designed between 1912 and 1919 and those in Kleberg County are by far the best executed. The ornament combines abstracted Classical elements with bold geometric shapes and Sullivanesque organic intricacy. In the ornament's unique design, Ayres expressed the forward-thinking attitude of the new county's citizens and a desire to distinguish themselves by their modernity.

Shortly after the county's formation, residents expressed great optimism for the future and actively promoted their belief in the vast potential of Kleberg County. This was especially evident in the December 12, 1913, issue of the *Kingsville Record* devoted to promoting the county's advantages and attracting investors and new residents. A drawing of the proposed design for the new courthouse graced the front page of the paper that day and the plans for the courthouse were thoroughly described in an accompanying article. Its author promised that when completed, the courthouse would be "modern in every detail" and "one of the finest courthouses in the southwest."⁶⁵ Along with the "magnificent" courthouse that would soon be built using modern materials and new structural technologies, city beautification projects were touted, as was the planned nature of Kingsville's downtown with its wide streets and ornamental electric streetlights.⁶⁶ Though prone to the hyperbole common at the time, the opinions expressed that day demonstrated the strong desire in Kleberg County to be seen by the world as modern and progressive.

⁶³ "Perspective View of the Proposed Kleberg County Court-House. Atlee B. Ayres, Architect. San Antonio, Texas. c.1913." House Family Collection, South Texas Archives, James C. Jernigan Library, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

⁶⁴ Architectural drawings for the Kleberg County Courthouse, undated and dated April 25, 1914, Ayres & Ayres Collection, Alexander Architectural Archive, University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas at Austin.

⁶⁵ "Kleberg County and Its Wonderful Possibilities," *Kingsville Record*, December 12, 1913; "Description of Kleberg County's Magnificent Courthouse." *Kingsville Record*, December 12, 1913.

⁶⁶ "Kleberg County and Its Wonderful Possibilities," *Kingsville Record*, December 12, 1913.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 22

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

While the exterior of the courthouse expressed the ideas promoted by early twentieth-century progressive architects seeking a uniquely American style, the building's cubicle form and cruciform plan represented a more traditional approach that reflected Ayres's Beaux-Arts education. As such, the Kleberg County Courthouse straddled the old and the new, reflecting both the traditional Classical ideas that influenced public architecture throughout the United States after the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and the progressive ideas emanating from that same city just a few years later. By combining the stability of the familiar with the freshness of the modern and progressive, Atlee B. Ayres created a fine and fitting symbol for government in Texas's youngest county.

In 1915, newspaper accounts documented the enormous public pride inspired by its beauty and craftsmanship. The courthouse, then and now, embodies the citizen's collective faith in the future of Kleberg County. As the seat of Kleberg County government for over 90 years, the courthouse is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Government at the local level of significance. It is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance, as the work of master architect Atlee B. Ayres and as a well-executed example of an early 20th century Texas courthouse.

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Section 9 Page 23

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

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National Park Service

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Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

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Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** approximately 1.98 acres

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	647076	3021657

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The Kleberg County Courthouse square includes one full block in Kingsville, Texas, bounded on the north by Pvt. Pedro T. Soto Street, on the east by 12th Street, on the west by 11th Street and on the south by Veterans Memorial Street.

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Rachel Leibowitz, Historian, Texas Historical Commission)

NAME/TITLE: Killis P. Almond, FAIA, Project Architect, with Amy Unger, Project Historian

ORGANIZATION: Killis Almond Architects, PC

DATE: September 9, 2009

STREET & NUMBER: 342 Wilkens Avenue

TELEPHONE: (210) 532-3212

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78210-3826

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

MAPS: (see continuation sheet Map-26 through Map-27)

PLANS: (see continuation sheet Plan-28 through Plan-31)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS: (see continuation sheets Figure-32 through Figure-39)

PHOTOGRAPHS: (see continuation sheet Photo-40 through Photo-48)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Kleberg County, Texas (Honorable Pete De La Garza, Kleberg County Judge)

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 752

TELEPHONE: (361) 595-8585

CITY OR TOWN: Kingsville

STATE: Texas

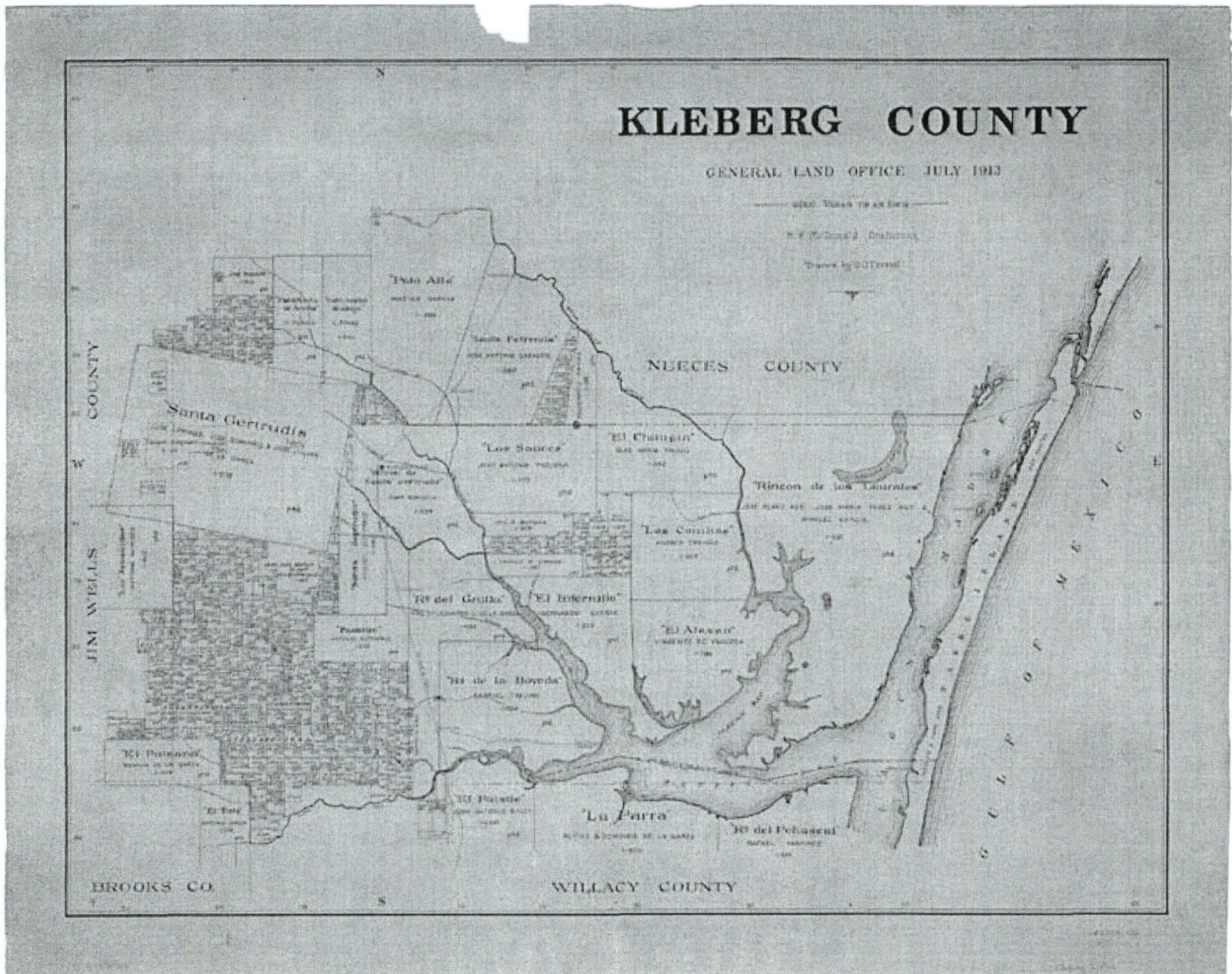
ZIP CODE: 78364

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Section MAP Page 26

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



July 1913 map of Kleberg County, Texas. (Texas General Land Office)

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Section MAP Page 27

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



Aerial view, north is toward top.

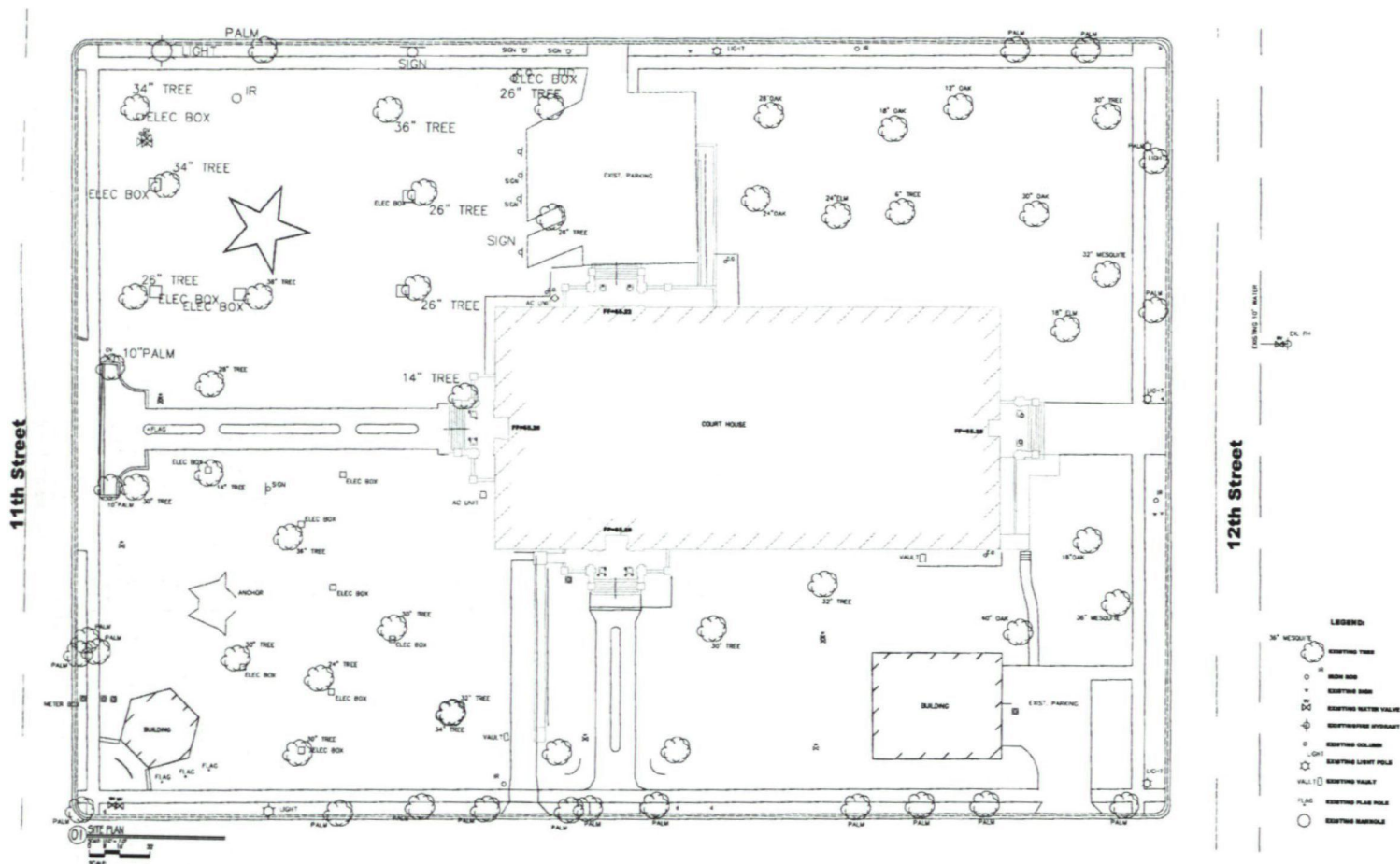
Kleberg County Courthouse immediately south of E. Kleberg Avenue, between N. 11th and N. 12th streets.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PLAN Page 28

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



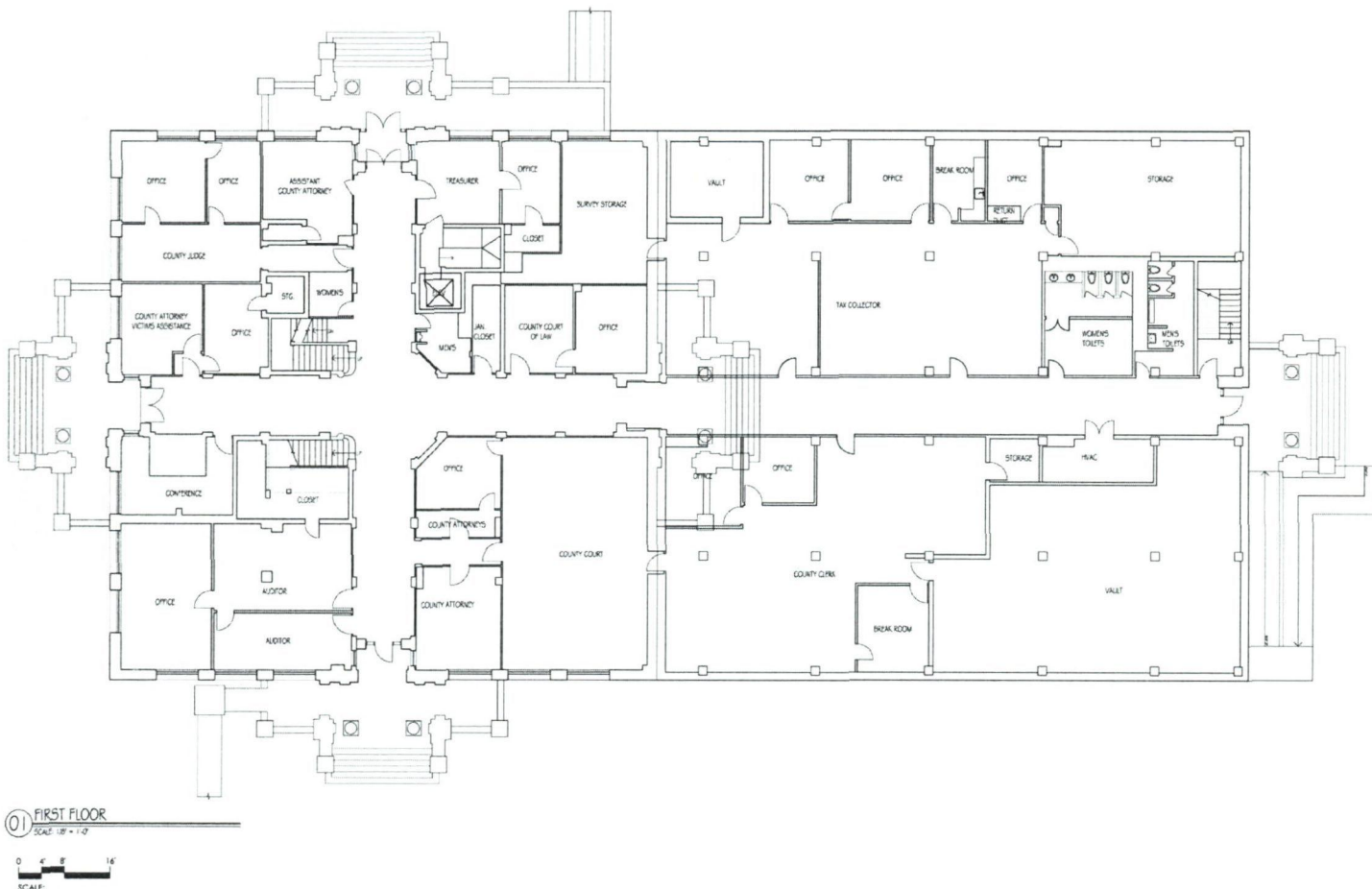
Site plan, scale indicated, north is toward top.
Kleberg County Courthouse Master Plan, 2009

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Section PLAN Page 29

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



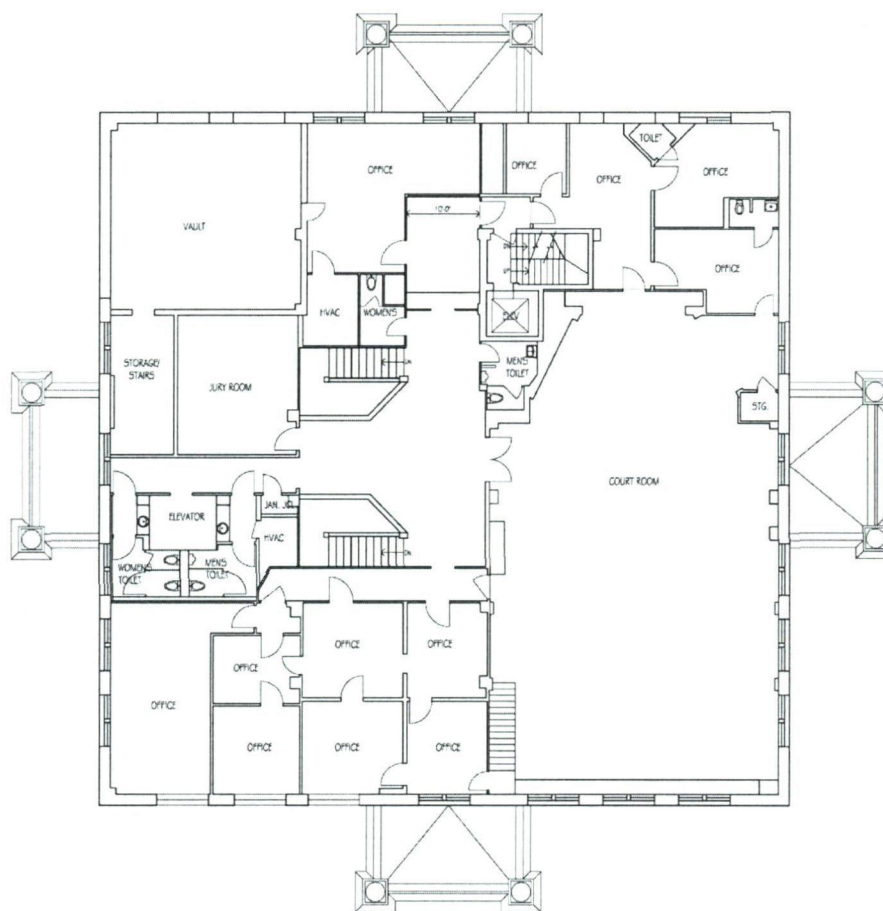
First Floor Plan, scale indicated, north is toward top.
Kleberg County Courthouse Master Plan, 2009.

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Section PLAN Page 30

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



01 SECOND FLOOR
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

0 4' 8' 16'
SCALE

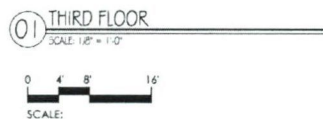
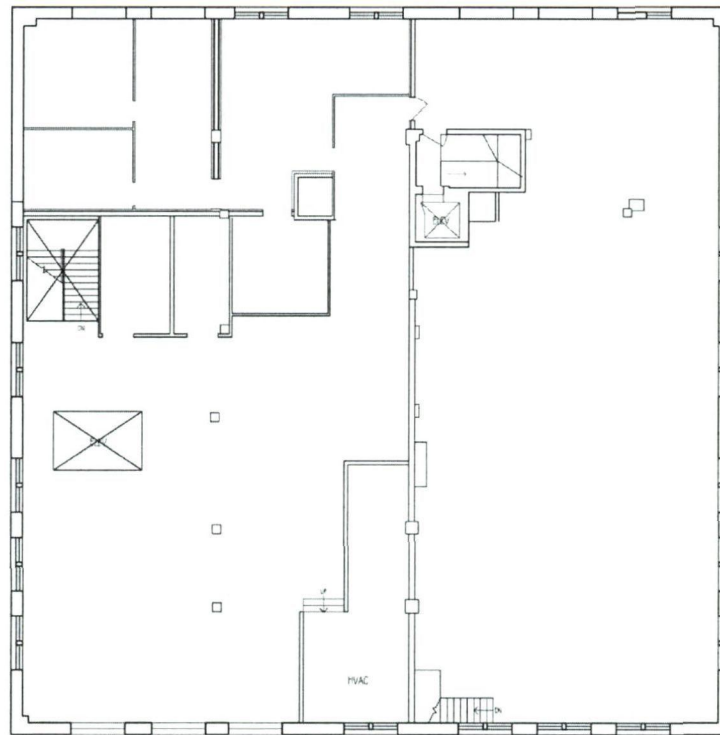
Second Floor Plan, scale indicated, north is toward top.
Kleberg County Courthouse Master Plan, 2009

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Section PLAN Page 31

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



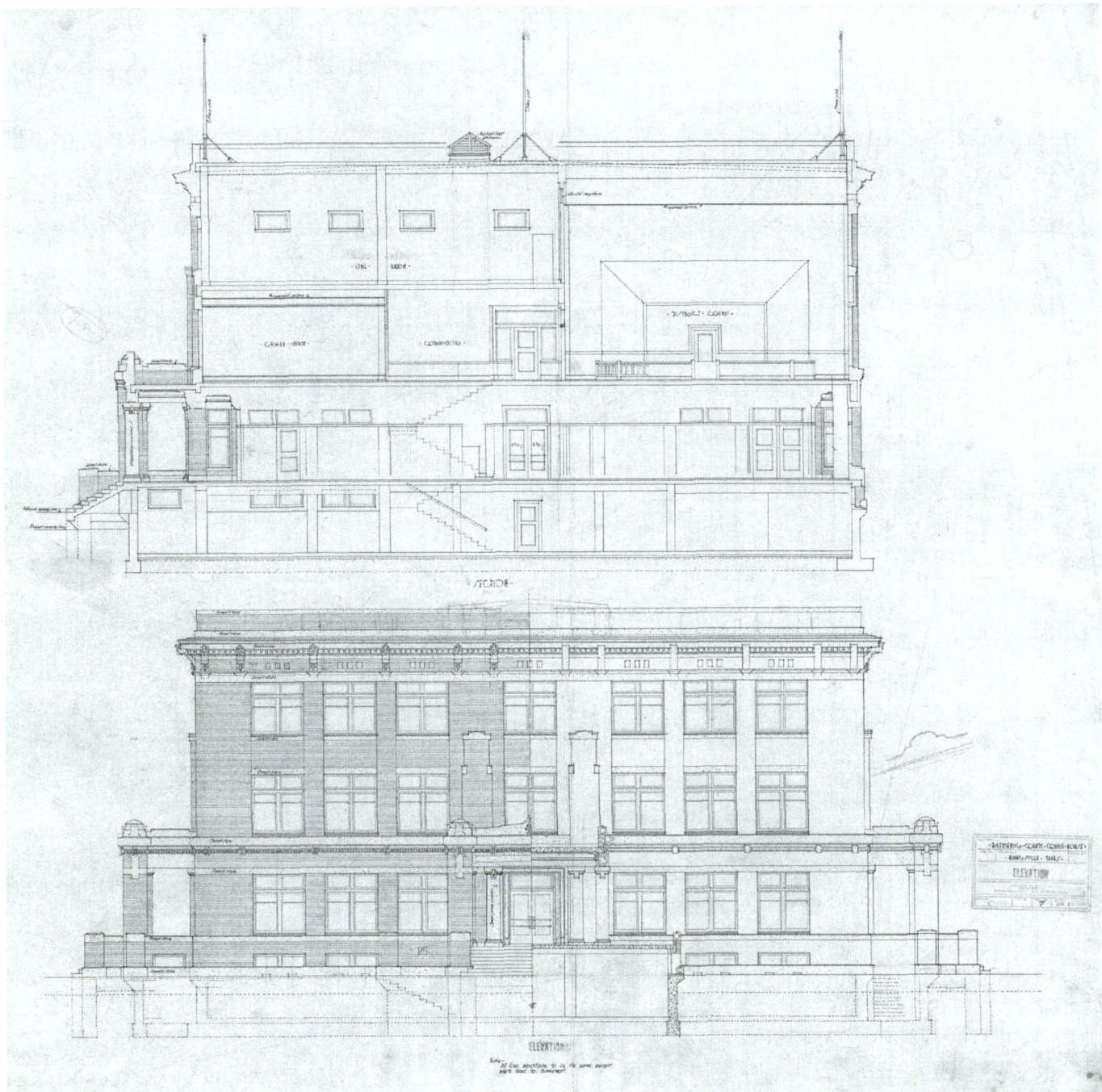
Third Floor Plan, scale indicated, north is toward top.
Kleberg County Courthouse Master Plan, 2009.

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National Park Service

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Section FIGURE Page 32

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



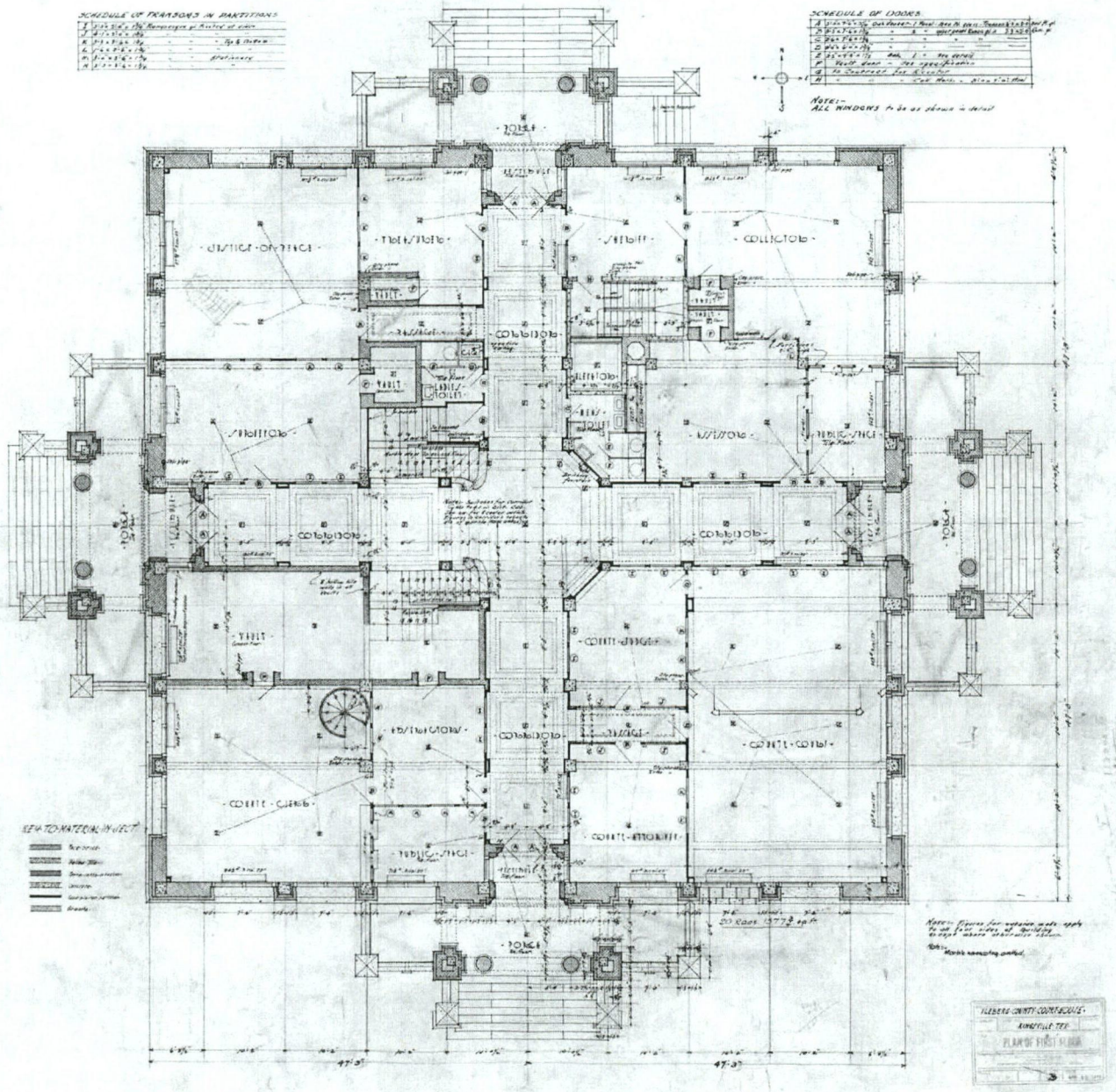
1914 Elevation and Section drawing, scale indicated.
*Atlee B. Ayres, 1914, Alexander Architectural Archive,
University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas at Austin*

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Section FIGURE Page 33

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



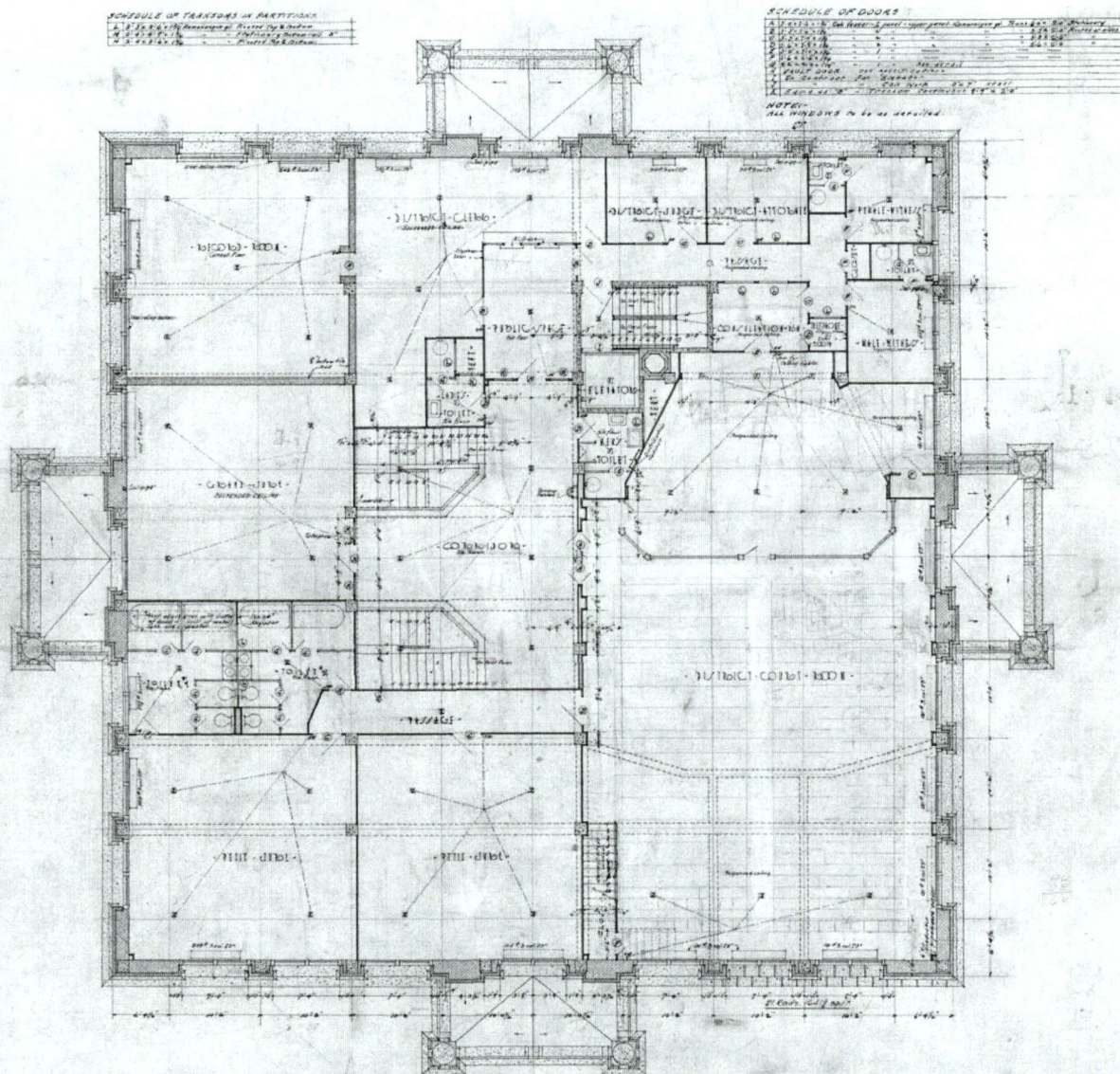
1914 First Floor Plan drawing, scale indicated.
Atlee B. Ayres, 1914, Alexander Architectural Archive,
University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas at Austin

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National Park Service

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Section FIGURE Page 34

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



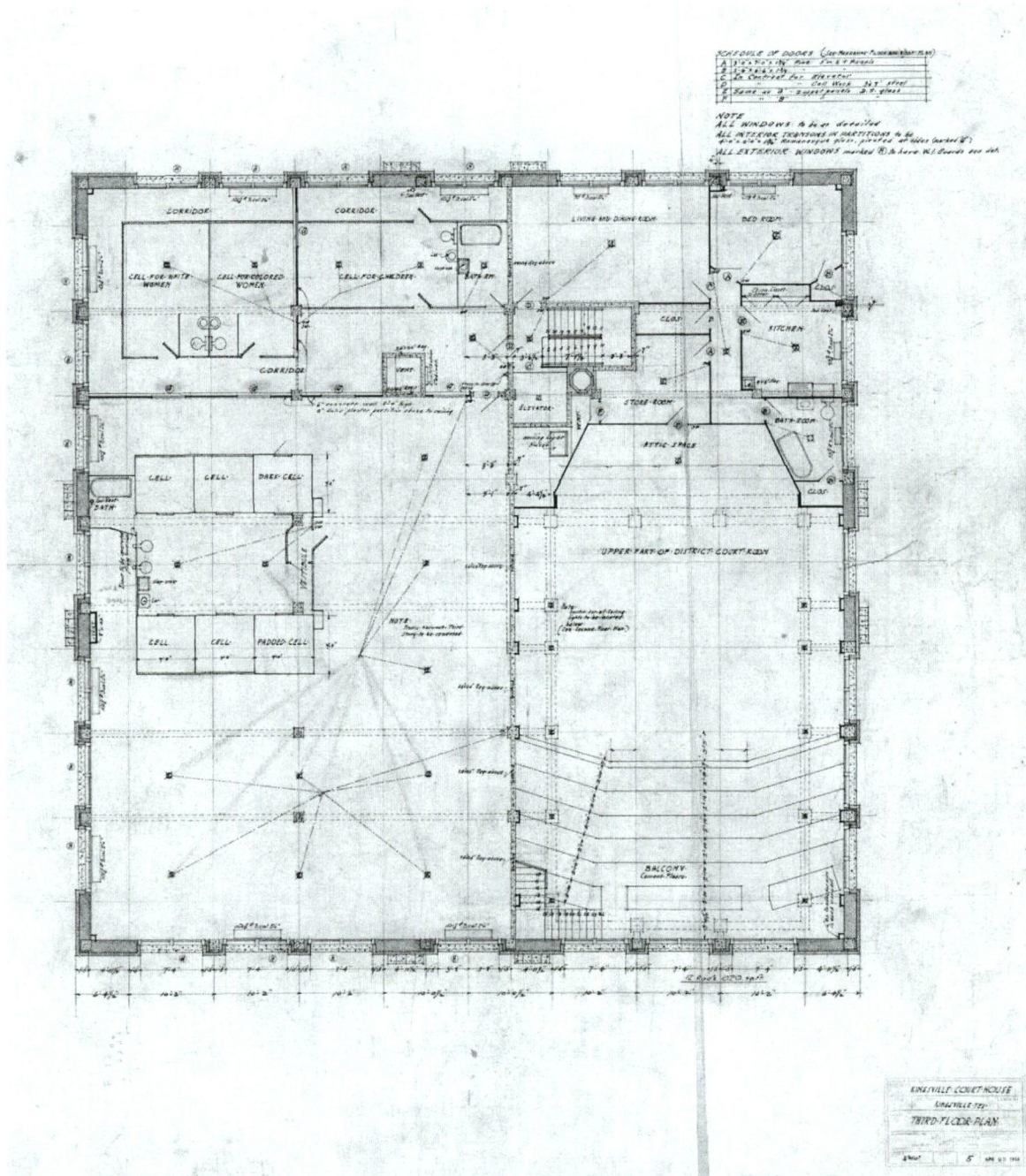
1914 Second Floor Plan drawing, scale indicated
Atlee B. Ayres, 1914, Alexander Architectural Archive,
University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas at Austin

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Section FIGURE Page 35

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



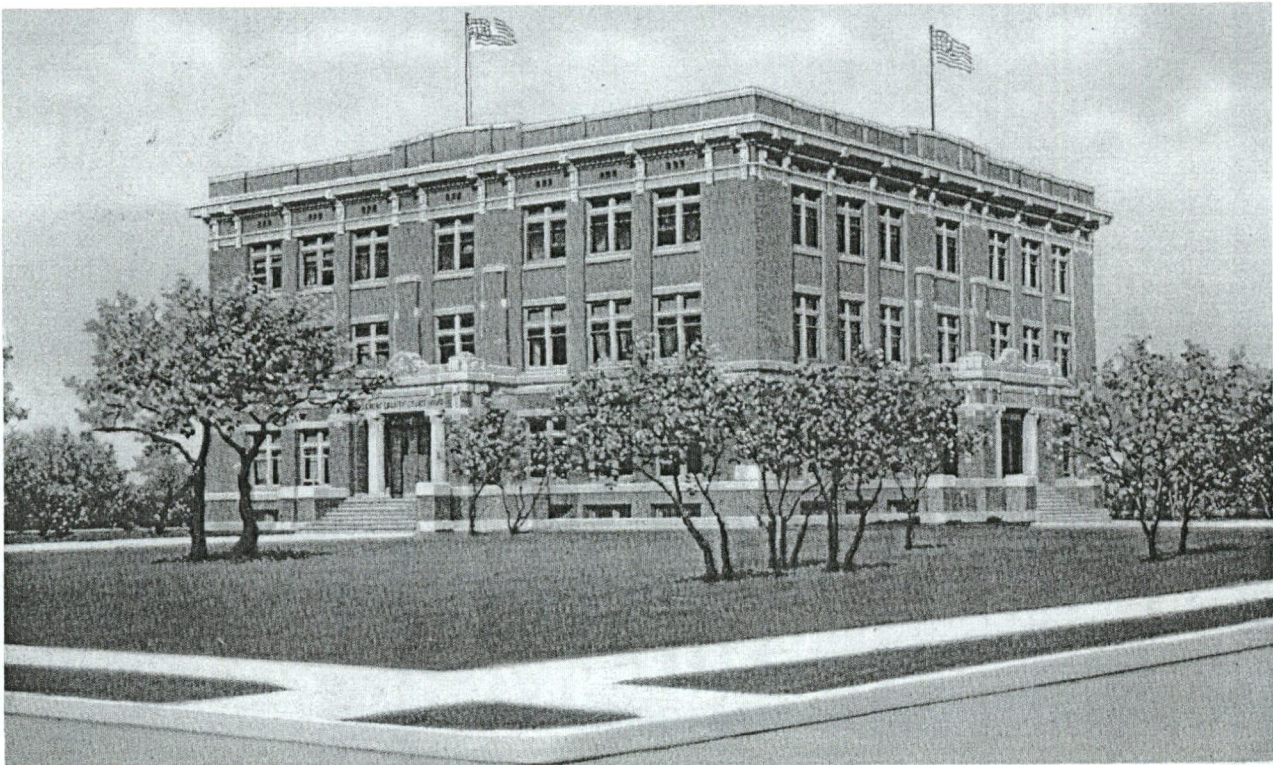
1914 Third Floor Plan drawing, scale indicated
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University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas at Austin

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Section FIGURE Page 36

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



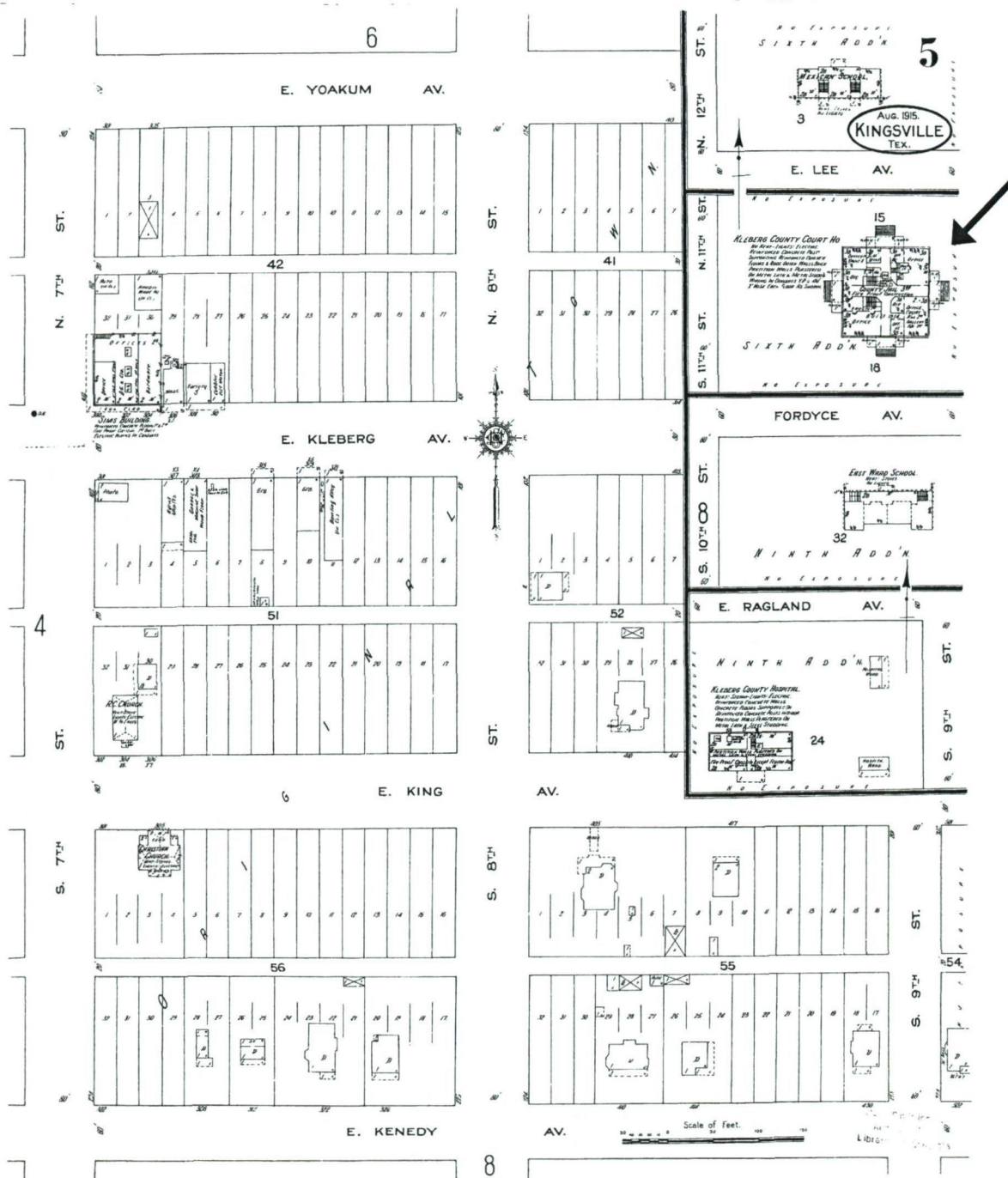
Postcard depicting Kleberg County Courthouse circa 1915.



1937 aerial photograph of the Kleberg County Courthouse Square.
McGregor Photo Collection, Corpus Christi Public Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

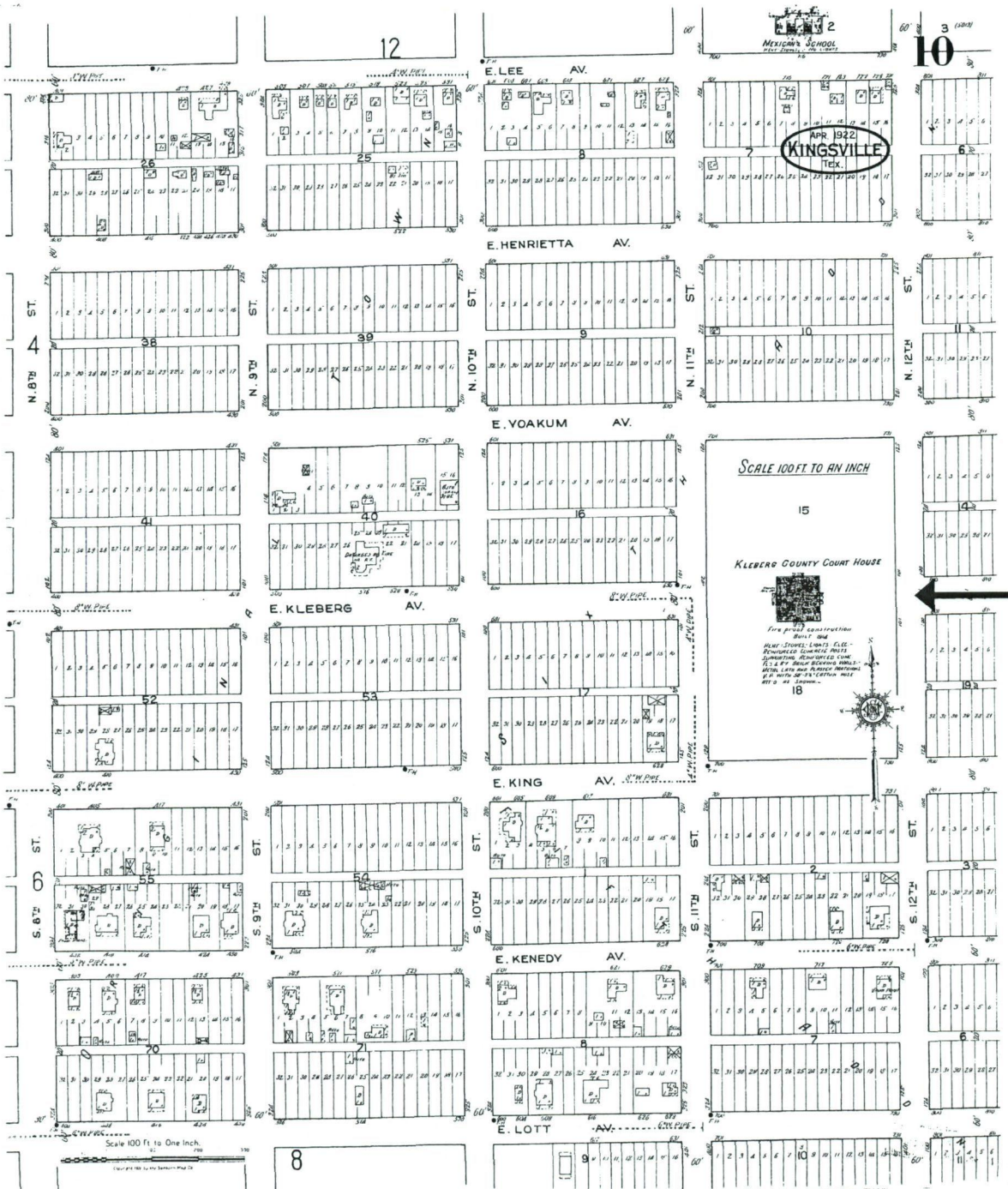
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 37Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

1915 Sanborn Map (courthouse indicated by arrow)

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National Park Service

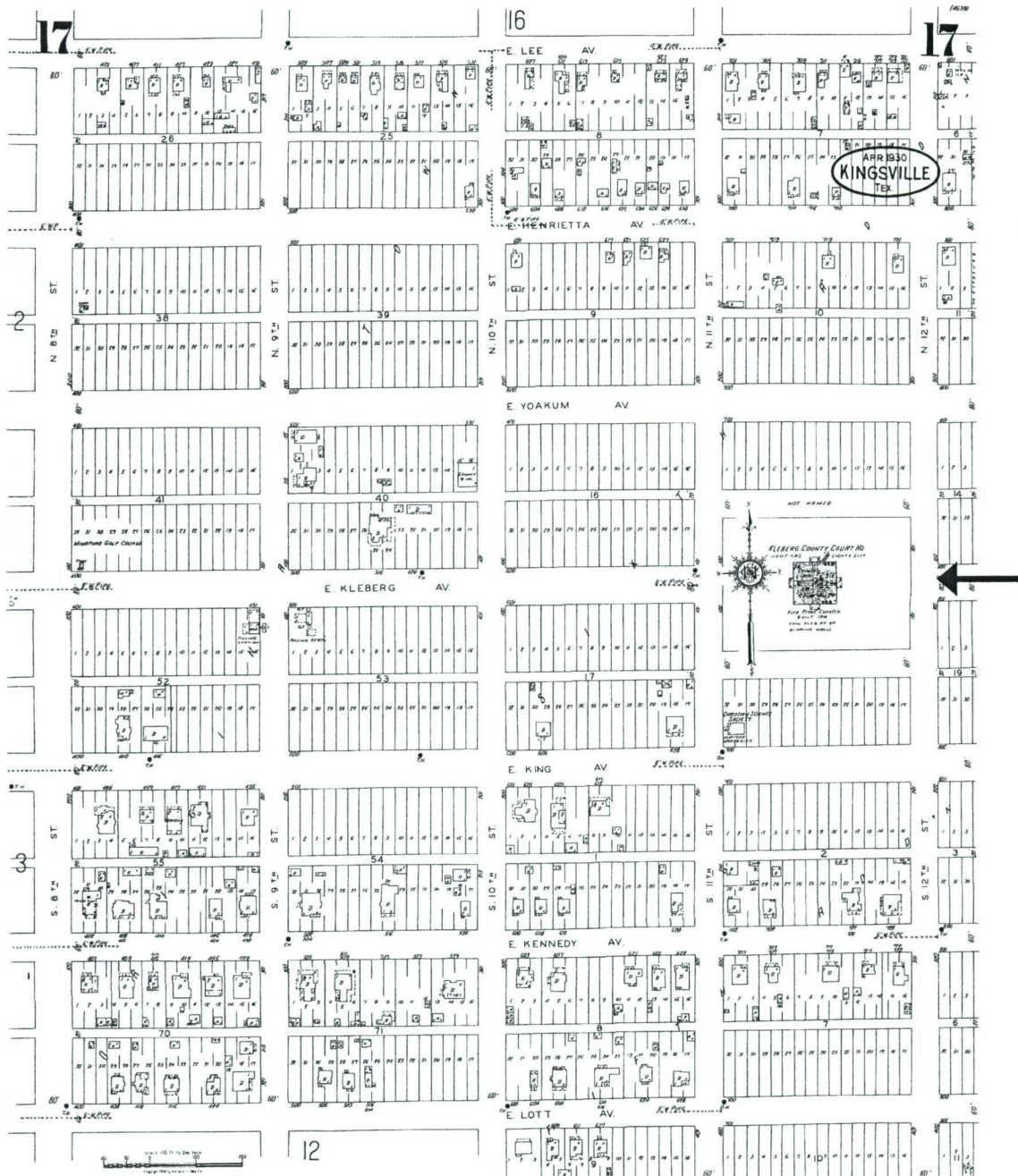
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 38Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

1922 Sanborn Map (courthouse indicated by arrow)

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National Park Service

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Section FIGURE Page 39Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

1930 Sanborn Map (courthouse indicated by arrow)

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Section PHOTO Page 40

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



Photo 1. West elevation, camera facing east

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National Park Service

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Section PHOTO Page 41

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



Photo 2. Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast

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Section PHOTO Page 42

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



Photo 3. Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest

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National Park Service

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Section PHOTO Page 43

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



Photo 4. East elevation, camera facing west

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National Park Service

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Section PHOTO Page 44

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



Photo 5. Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest, with addition in foreground.



Photo 6. North elevation, camera facing south

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Section PHOTO Page 45

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



The Kleberg County War Memorial, noncontributing.



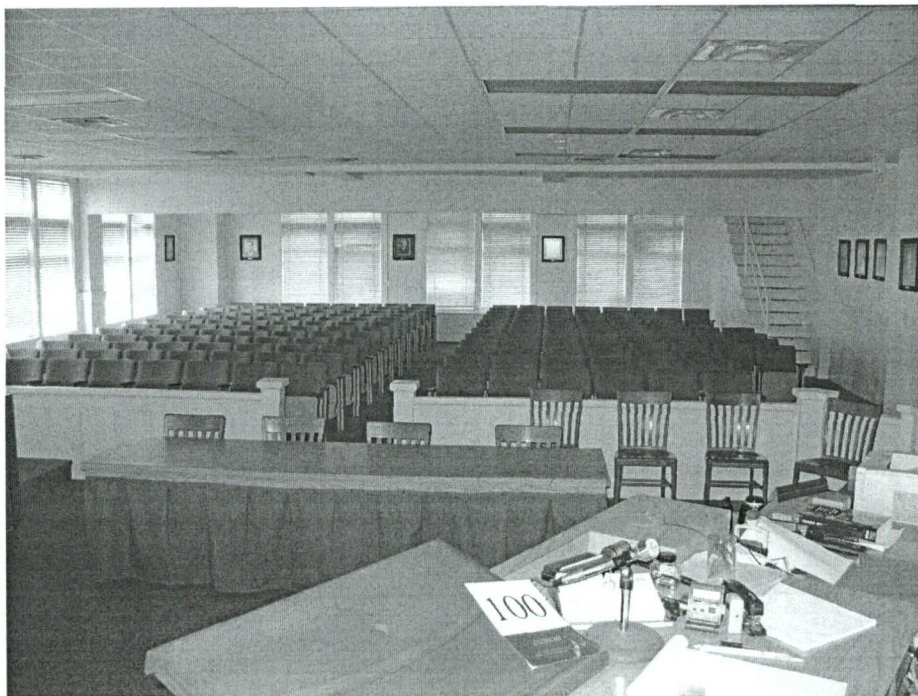
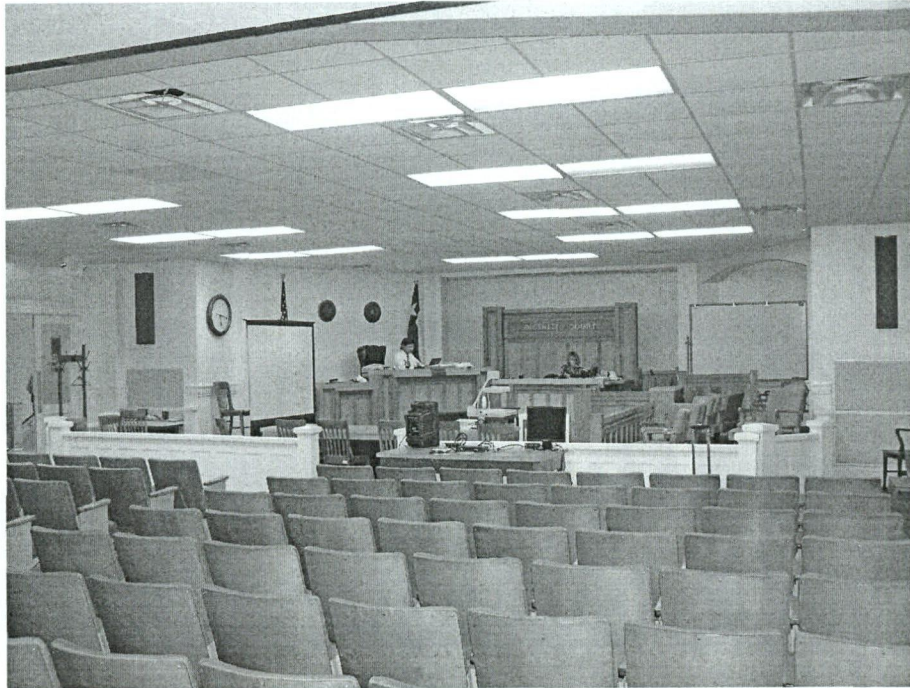
Maintenance and mechanical building, noncontributing.

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Section PHOTO Page 46

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



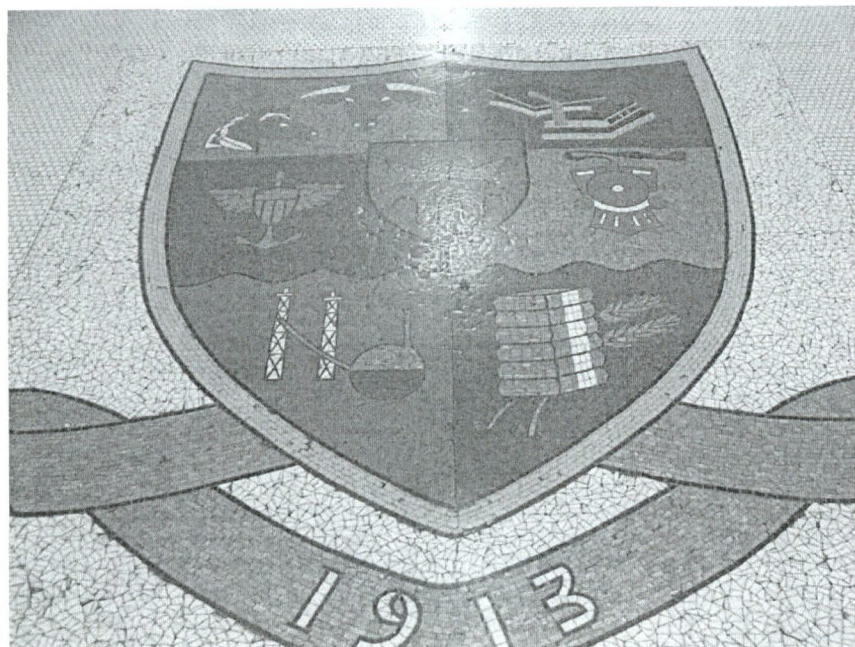
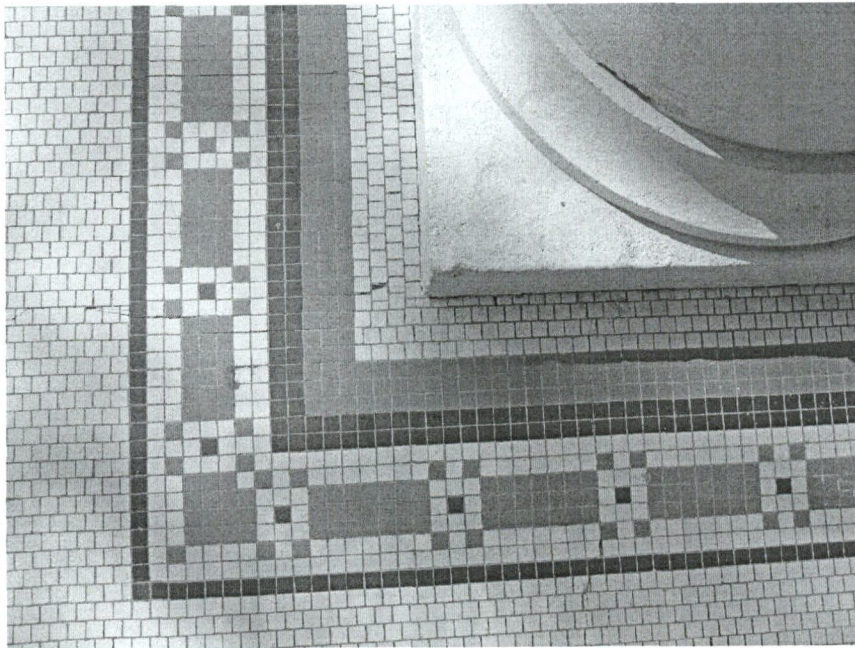
District courtroom.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 47

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas



(Above) Historic mosaic floors at entrance portico.

(Below) The Kleberg County Coat of Arms, installed in the courthouse rotunda by Italian craftsmen in 1966.

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Section PHOTO Page 48

Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

PHOTO LOG

1. Kleberg County Courthouse
2. Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas
3. Killis P. Almond, FAIA, photographer
4. May 2009
5. Digital photographs on archival disc

6. Photo 1 of 8
7. West elevation, camera facing east

6. Photo 2 of 8
7. Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast

6. Photo 3 of 8
7. Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest

6. Photo 4 of 8
7. East elevation, camera facing west

6. Photo 5 of 8
7. Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest

6. Photo 6 of 8
7. North elevation, camera facing south

6. Photo 7 of 8
7. Interior, first floor rotunda, camera facing west

6. Photo 8 of 8
7. Interior, second floor District Courtroom, camera facing south

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Kleberg County Courthouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Kleberg

DATE RECEIVED: 3/26/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/26/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/11/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/10/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000250

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5-10-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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.



KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KINGSVILLE, KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS
PHOTO 1 of 8



KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KINGSVILLE, KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS

PHOTO 2 of 8



KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KINGSVILLE, KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS
PHOTO 3 of 8



KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KINGSVILLE, KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS
PHOTO 4 of 8



KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE

KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS

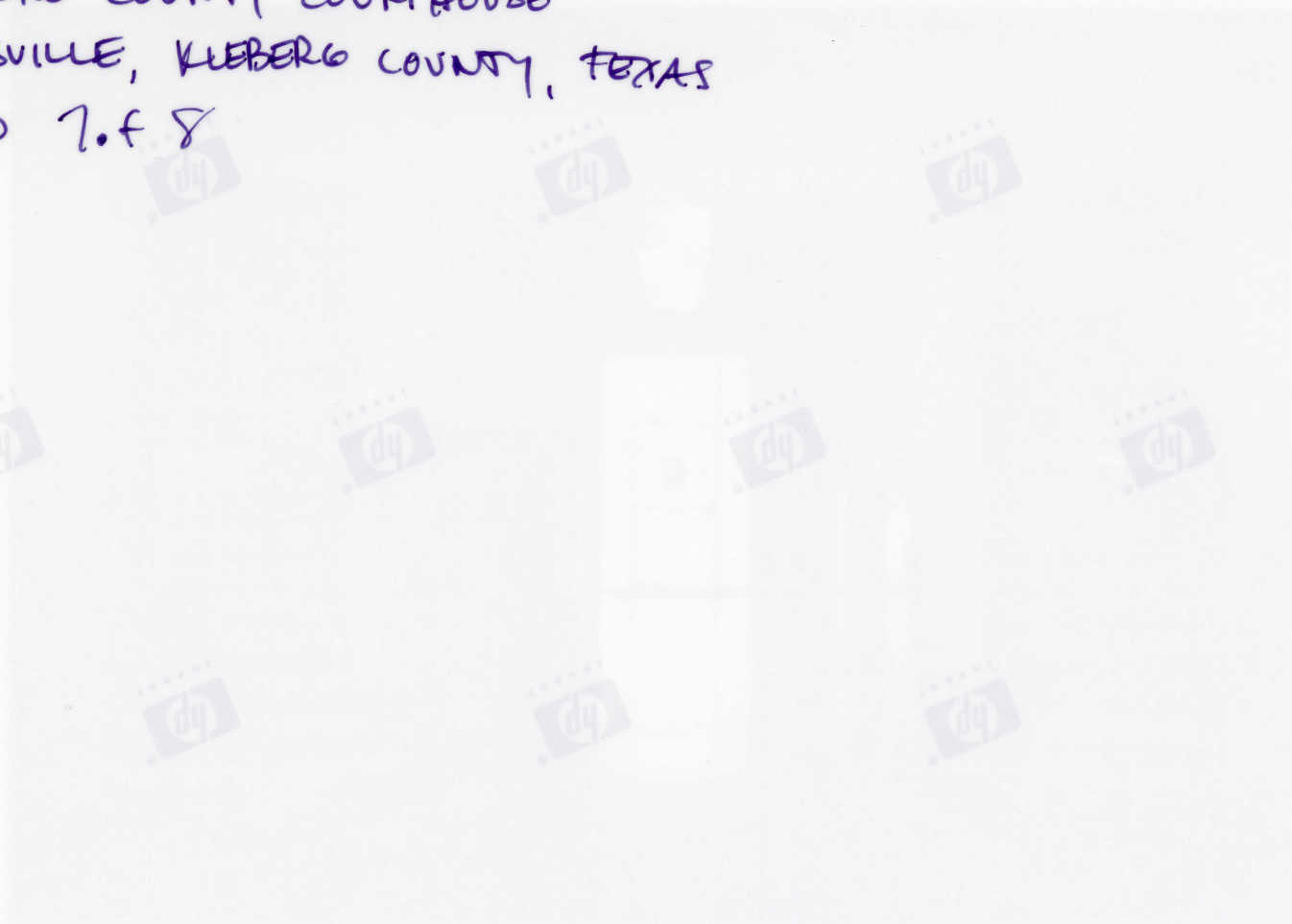
PHOTO 5 of 8



KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KINGSVILLE, KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS
PHOTO 6 of 8

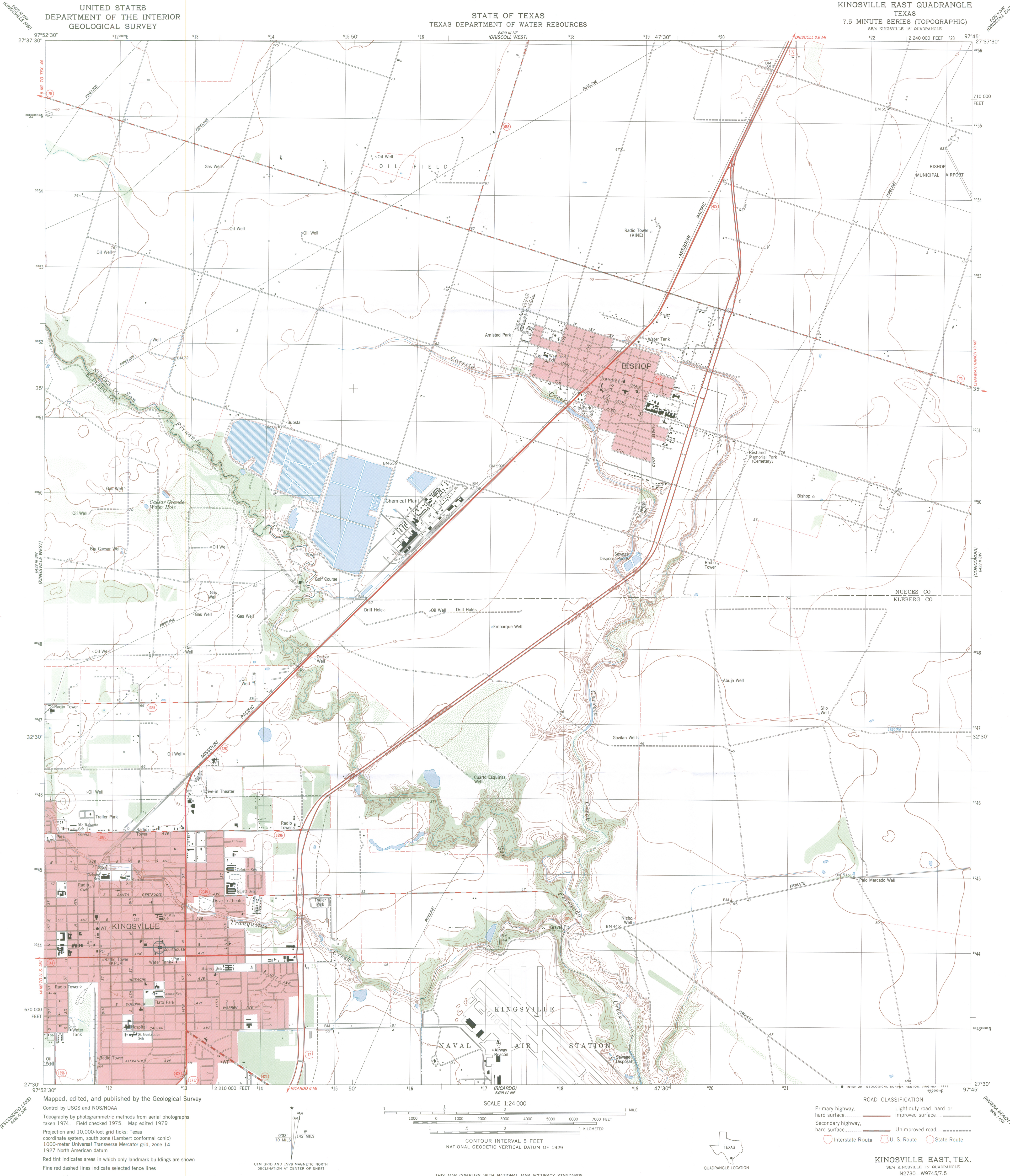


KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KINGSVILLE, KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS
Photo 7.f.8





KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KINGSVILLE, KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS
PHOTO 8 of 8



KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KINGSVILLE, KLEBERG COUNTY, TEXAS
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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

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MAR 26 2010

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Linda McClelland
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Rachel Leibowitz, Historian
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Kleberg County Courthouse
Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas

DATE: March 15, 2010

The following materials are submitted regarding [address]:

☒	Original National Register of Historic Places form
☐	Resubmitted nomination
☐	Multiple Property nomination form
☒	Photographs
☒	USGS maps
☐	Correspondence
☒	Other: Archival-quality CD with digital images

COMMENTS:

- ☐ SHPO requests substantive review
- ☐ The enclosed owner objections (do ☐) (do not ☐) constitute a majority of property owners
- ☐ Other:

