

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

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Hansford County Courthouse
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 15 N.W. Court Street
City or town: Spearman State: Texas County: Hansford
Not for publication: [] Vicinity: []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
([x] 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 ([x] meets [] does not meet) the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
[] national [] statewide [x] local

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

Signature of certifying official / Title: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 2/5/19
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

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

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	2	structures
2	0	objects
4	2	total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse, Jail; RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/Marker

Current Functions: GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse, Jail; RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/Marker; OTHER: Windmill, Radio Tower

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Modern Movement: Moderne

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick, Stone, Metal, Glass

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6-12)

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Politics/Government, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1931-1970

Significant Dates: 1931, 1958, 1970

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

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

Architect/Builder: Townes, Lightfoot & Funk (original courthouse); John P. Work (addition)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 13-21)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 22-23)

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: Hansford County Clerk's Office; Panhandle Plains Historical Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.55 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 36.198168°N Longitude: -101.192115°W

Verbal Boundary Description: 017 BLK 17 OT SPRMN, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes all the property historically associated with the nominated resource.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Alyssa Gerszewski, National Register Historian
Organization: Texas Historical Commission
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Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 24-29)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 30-42)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 5, 43-63)

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photograph Log

Hansford County Courthouse

Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photographed by Alyssa Gerszewski and Bonnie Wilson

Date photographed: October 25, 2018

Photo 1: View of primary (northwest) elevation of 1931 courthouse from main street. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 2: view of primary (northwest) elevation. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 3: View of central entrance bay on primary (northwest) elevation. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 4: View of northwest and southwest elevations of 1931 courthouse. Camera facing east.

Photo 5: View of northwest and southwest elevations of 1931 courthouse. Non-contributing windmill visible. Camera facing east.

Photo 6: View of southwest elevation of 1931 courthouse. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 7: View of rear elevation of 1931 courthouse and 1958 addition. Camera facing north.

Photo 8: View of northeast elevations of the 1958 addition and the 1931 courthouse. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 9: View of hyphen connection original courthouse and addition. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 10: Decorative lamp post near main entrance.

Photo 11: Stepped quoin detail on primary (northwest) elevation.

Photo 12: View of basement vestibule with original doors visible. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 13: View of first floor corridor. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 14: View of district courtroom on second floor. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 15: Original double door entrance to district courtroom. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 16: Original light fixtures in district courtroom

Photo 17: Interior of archival room in 1958 addition. Camera facing east.

Photo 18: Typical first floor corridor in addition. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 19: First floor corridor in addition showing entrance to jail. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 20: 1936 Texas Centennial Highway Marker located in front of courthouse. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 21: View of 1970 War Memorial Monument. Camera facing east.

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

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Narrative Summary

The Hansford County Courthouse is located at 15 N.W. Court Street in the center of the courthouse square in the Texas Panhandle town of Spearman. Designed by Townes, Lightfoot & Funk, the 1931 Hansford County Courthouse is a Moderne steel frame two story plus basement building with a rectangular plan and flat roof. The symmetrical building features a tripartite design consisting of two wings flanking the central entrance. The exterior is clad in tan brick and is largely devoid of detailing except for a protruding central bay, main entrance framed in cut stone, stone coping, shallow relief sculptures, and decorative lamp posts. All windows and doors are replacements. The compatible Modern addition designed by John P. Work in 1958 is internally connected at the rear elevation of the courthouse through a narrow hyphen. The utilitarian steel frame addition is clad in tan brick and has an irregular plan. The courthouse property is treated as contributing and contains several small scale resources not large enough to be included in the resource count. Other counted resources include the 1936 Texas Centennial Highway Marker (contributing object), 1970 War Memorial Monument (contributing object), windmill (non-contributing structure), and a radio tower (non-contributing structure). Despite modifications over time and the intrusion of non-contributing resources on the property, the Hansford County Courthouse is remarkably intact and retains a high level of historic integrity.

Location & Setting

Hansford County is located in the northernmost part of the Texas Panhandle bordering Oklahoma. Spearman is positioned in the southeastern portion of the county, roughly 90 miles north of Amarillo, in an area characterized by flat, open prairie. The Hansford County Courthouse is located on the courthouse square uniquely positioned at the culmination of main street in downtown Spearman, Texas. Spearman was planned in 1917 in anticipation of the arrival of the railroad, and was officially incorporated in 1921 roughly 10 years ahead of courthouse construction. According to Robert Veselka, Spearman has a railroad-influenced courthouse square and grid plan that follow what he calls a T-town related plan. This hybrid plan embodies qualities of the T-town plan and the more traditional central courthouse square revealing an emphasis on both the railroad and the courthouse. Commercial main street runs perpendicular to the railroad linking the depot and the courthouse square. Four streets intersect at the courthouse. This original town plan remains visible today.¹ (Maps 1-7)

The courthouse square is bounded by Northwest Court Street on the northwest, Southwest Court Street on the southwest, Southeast Court Street on the southeast, and Northeast Court Street on the northeast. It is surrounded by contemporary commercial and religious development on all sides. The majority of the nearby historic commercial resources are concentrated along main street to the northwest of the property. The only exceptions are a small brick commercial building and a small circa 1950s one-story bank/city hall building located across the street to the southwest. The 1950s building now houses the Spearman Police Department.

Site Overview

The 1931 Hansford County Courthouse and 1958 addition are positioned roughly in the center of the courthouse property (contributing site) which encompasses an entire city block. The northwest half of the square features a lawn, vegetation, and contains the 1931 courthouse (contributing building), 1936 Texas Centennial Highway Marker (contributing object), 1970 War Memorial Monument (contributing object), and a windmill (non-contributing structure). A flagpole, a clock pole, Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker, and a Hansford County

¹ Robert E. Veselka, *The Courthouse Square in Texas*, (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 2000), 102-115. For more on this see pages 15-16 of Section 8.

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Monument are also present, but are small in scale and are not large enough to be included in the resource count.² Several parking spaces line the northeast, northwest, and southwest sides of the property boundary. The southeast half of the square is characterized by the 1958 addition located to the southeast of the 1931 courthouse, a large parking lot, and a radio tower (non-contributing structure). Three metal sheds and a well also occupy the southernmost portion of the southeast half of the square. These resources are small in scale and are not included in the resource count. A concrete sidewalk surrounds the entire square on all sides. Each of these resources are described in detail below (Maps 2-7).

1931 Courthouse Exterior

Designed by Townes, Lightfoot & Funk, the 1931 Hansford County Courthouse is a Moderne steel frame two story plus basement building with a rectangular plan. Two wings flank the central bay giving the building both a vertical and horizontal emphasis. The exterior is clad in tan brick and the design is largely devoid of ornamentation with the exception of a protruding central bay, main entrance framed in cut stone, stone coping, shallow relief sculptures, and decorative lamp posts. All the windows are single pane replacements and feature vertical mullions. Several mechanical units are visible on the flat roof.

Primary (Northwest) Elevation (Figure 6, 8-9, Photos 1-3, 10-11)

The primary elevation is partially obstructed by vegetation. This elevation is three bays wide and features two wings flanking the central entrance. The fenestration pattern is regular, and the evenly spaced windows provide symmetry. A decorative stone belt course separates the basement, which is partially visible, from the upper two stories. The central bay protrudes slightly and is characterized by an ABA rhythm. A cut stone staircase leads to the main entrance which features replacement aluminum framed glass doors. This entrance was originally recessed within a vestibule but is now flush with the exterior. Access to the basement is provided by two staircases leading to a lower level entry and vestibule. A storage room is also positioned beneath the main staircase. (Figure 3) Cut stone with shallow relief sculptures is applied to the primary elevation and frames the first floor entrance and central second story windows. The stone is gradually recessed at the second story giving a stepped effect. This cast stone design is repeated at the upper corners of the central bay giving the appearance of quoins. The shallow relief sculptures include an open book and vertical lines between the first and second stories and carved lettering that reads "HANSFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE" above the second story windows. Directly below the lettering is one regular sized window framed by two smaller windows. Two windows flank the decorative stone on the first and second stories. The cornerstone, which is referenced from the original drawings as being located on the primary elevation was never added. Two original decorative lamp posts adorn the main staircase.

Each wing on the primary elevation features three regular evenly spaced windows on each floor. The windows are replacements with transoms and stone sills. Light wells are visible at the three partially basement windows. Quoins are visible at the upper corners of either wing.

Southwest and Northeast Elevations (Photos 4, 6)

The southwest and northeast elevations of the 1931 courthouse are identical and feature five regular window openings at each story. The decorative cast stone belt course separating the basement from the upper stories and the stone coping continues along the southwest and northeast elevations.

² The 1965 Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker is located to the right of the main entrance of the 1931 courthouse. This 18" x 28" object is dedicated to Hansford County Sheriff Robert E. Martin who was killed on duty in 1911 (Figure 15).

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Rear (Southeast) Elevation (Figures 7, 11-12, Photo 7)

The rear elevation is partially obscured by the attached 1958 addition. Like the primary elevation, the rear is three bays wide with a raised central portion. The fenestration pattern is regular on the outer wings and the central bay. An original fire brick chimney is centered along the rear elevation of the northeast wing and is capped in stone. To the left of the chimney was the original first floor exterior entrance and second story window now obscured by the narrow two story hyphen connecting the original courthouse to the addition. The cast stone belt course, coping, and stone detailing forming quoins in the upper corners continues along this elevation as well. Several gutters are visible from this elevation.

1931 Courthouse Interior

The courthouse largely retains its original floor plan on all levels (Figure 3). The basement plan features a single centralized arterial corridor with different sized rooms adjacent to the corridor. A lower level entrance leads to the vestibule which opens up into the main corridor (Photo 12). A storage closet is located directly across from the lower level entrance. The basement rooms were originally used for the county clerk vault, boiler room, Justice of the Peace, sheriff's vault, men's restroom, as well as unassigned spaces. A dogleg staircase provided access from the main corridor to the first floor and the spiral staircase in the county clerk's vault provided access to the upper stories, which has since been removed. The basement is now largely occupied by the boiler room and used for storage space.

The first floor plan remains in place and features an entrance vestibule which opens to the central arterial corridor (Figure 4). The county courtroom was originally centrally located with three entrances off the main corridor (Photo 13). This courtroom now serves as the district clerk's office. Paired dogleg staircases are positioned at either side of the district clerk's office providing access to the second floor. According to the original drawings, the first floor offices originally included the county clerk, the tax assessor, tax collector, the sheriff, the county treasurer, the county judge, attorney, ladies' restroom, storage, and unassigned space. Currently these spaces are occupied by the county judge, the county court administrator, county treasurer, county clerk, and serve other similar county administrative purposes.

The district courtroom occupies the central raised portion of the second floor distinguishing it from the basement and first floors (Figure 5). The paired dogleg staircases open into small hallways at either side providing access to the courtroom. The district clerk, district attorney, and district judge originally occupied the offices on the southwest portion of the second floor and these spaces currently have the same functions. The northwest side of the second floor was and is currently occupied by the witness room, jury dormitory, and restrooms (Photos 14-16). A woman's restroom is located at the southwest staircase landing between the first and second floors. The window is positioned to accommodate this (Figures 7, 11-12, Photo 7).

Intact interior character defining features consist of many original doors including single paneled doors with glass, some with transoms, and double wooden paneled doors with transoms. Many original finishes from the 1930s include as terrazzo flooring in the first floor corridor and sand plaster wall finishes, as well as wooden baseboards and other hardware. Of particular note are what appear to be the original bench, jury box, public seating, chairs, and light fixtures all remarkably intact within the district courtroom. All original staircases are intact except for the spiral staircase. The original vaults and vault doors appear to be intact. Colored glazed tile wainscoting in the first and second floor corridors was a historic modification added in the 1950s (Photos 12-16).

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1958 Addition Exterior

The addition, which internally connects to the rear elevation of the courthouse through a narrow two story hyphen, was constructed in 1958 and designed by John P. Work. The Modern utilitarian steel frame building is clad in tan brick compatible to that of the courthouse. The addition has an irregular plan and is three bays wide consisting of two one story wings framing a central two story portion (Map 3, Figures 12-13). While architectural drawings are only available for the one story rectangular jail, the other portions appear on the 1963 Fire Insurance Maps (Maps 6-7). Additionally, the consistent application of interior finishes throughout provides sufficient evidence to suggest that all portions of the addition were constructed in 1958. Much like the courthouse, the addition is largely devoid of detail with the exception of some cast stone detailing including coping, window sills, infilled fenestrations on the rear elevation, and decorative stone paneling located on the hyphen and southwest elevation. The addition features original aluminum windows and a flat roof with several mechanical systems. Metal gutters are visible on each elevation.

Primary (Northeast) Elevation (Photos 8-9)

Unlike the 1931 courthouse, the primary elevation of the addition is oriented toward Northeast Court Street. The northeast elevation is three bays wide and has two aluminum framed glass door entrances, one at the two story hyphen and one at the rear providing access from Northeast Court Street. It is largely devoid of ornamentation except for the stone sills, stone coping, and stone paneling on the hyphen. The one story jail wing extends northeast toward the street and features four evenly spaced windows. The fenestration pattern on the two story recessed portion of the addition is irregular.

Northwest Elevation

The northwest elevation of the addition faces and is connected to the courthouse by the two story hyphen. The northeastern portion of this elevation features three windows on the first floor, and two paired aluminum second story windows. The northwest elevation of the southwest one story portion of the addition is largely obscured and does not contain any windows.

Southwest Elevation (Photos 6-7)

The southwest elevation of the addition is three bays wide composed of the hyphen, southwestern one story wing, and partial elevation of the two story portion. The first two bays lack window openings and the only detail is the band of concrete rising roughly two feet from the foundation. The third bay features a second story entrance with replacement door accessible via metal staircase. As indicated by a 1980s photograph, this bay features stone paneling similar to the hyphen, but is now partially obscured by vegetation (Figure 12). An original four pane window is visible at the right of the second story entrance and a tripartite window is located on the first story. A wood fence partly obscured the first story portion of this elevation. The third bay also features stone coping.

Rear (Southeast) Elevation (Photos 7-8)

The rear elevation faces Southeast Court Street. The rear elevation of the southwest one story wing is windowless with very little detail except the metal staircase. The central two story portion features one tripartite aluminum window and two fenestrations infilled with cast stone panels on the first story. The second story contains a tripartite aluminum window and two paired aluminum windows all evenly spaced. The southeast elevation of one story jail wing features three windows identical to those on the northwest elevation. Cast stone sills and coping continue along this elevation.

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

1958 Addition Interior

The floor plan of the addition is largely intact and is best understood when each area is described individually. The one story southwestern wing accessed through the hyphen and is characterized by one large open archival room used for storing county records with the exception of a small partition for a women's restroom. It is windowless with concrete block walls and large vault door (Photo 17). The other entrance to the addition is via a corridor behind the northwest staircase located on the first floor of the original courthouse. A long corridor on the first floor of the two story portion wraps around the perimeter and surrounds the sheriff's office in the center. The corridor also provides access to the dispatcher office located at the northwest side of the two story portion and the one story jail wing located to the northeast (Photos 18-19).

Historic architectural drawings are only available for the one story jail wing of the addition. The entrance to the jail is at the southwest corner through a large steel security door. This opens up into one large room with the steel jail structure and a guard and visitor corridor wrapping around the perimeter. The jail plan originally consisted of a kitchen, felon day room, felon sleeping compartment, padded cell, isolation cell, safety vestibule, women's cell, and juvenile cell. The plans indicate that Southern Steel Company provided the steel. The jail plan appears to have been reconfigured since 1958. Large steel structural beams remain in the open recreation area once occupied by former cells. The cells are currently centrally located along the southwest wall.

The second story of the central two story portion is accessible via the northeast east staircase or a spiral staircase that leads to the former sheriff's apartment. A long corridor through the hyphen connects the original courthouse and addition. The rectangular plan of the two story portion is evenly divided by a meeting room at the north end while the sheriff's apartment occupies the southern end. While no longer in use, the sheriff's apartment features a large restroom, kitchen, living room, and two bedrooms.

The interior of the addition retains a high level of historic integrity. The floor plan is largely unchanged as are several of the walls and floor finishes. Most walls are exposed concrete block, and some have a plaster finish. Original peach colored glazed tile wainscoting lines all of the hallways on the first floor and original blue glazed tile wainscoting lines the sheriff's bathroom. Terrazzo flooring is intact on the first floor as are most of the wooden doors. It appears the flooring in second floor rooms was replaced over time (Photos 17-19).

Other Contributing and Non-contributing Resources within Nominated Boundary

Texas Centennial Highway Marker (Contributing Object)

The Texas Highway Marker is a small rusticated pink granite block that is approximately 41-47" tall and slopes down 6", is 30-36" wide, and 24"-30" deep. It features an original 18" x 24" bronze inscription tablet and a circular Texas Highway Department insignia that appears to be an accurate reproduction. Originally placed at an unknown location in Hansford County by the Texas Highway Department to celebrate the 1936 Texas Centennial, the marker was moved to the courthouse property at an unknown date. The Registration Requirements for the MPS *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial* specifically recognizes courthouses as a common place for the relocation of highway markers and states that if the setting of the new location is similar and the marker itself retains integrity, it should be considered contributing.³ (Figure 14, Photo 20).

³According to the Registration Requirements for Texas Highway Markers in the MPS, *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, "While properties in this category that retain all aspects of integrity may be individually listed in the National Register, it is more appropriate that they be evaluated in the context of their setting and nominated whenever possible as contributing objects in districts, as contributing objects within nominations for individual buildings (such as courthouses), or as objects that contributes to the significance of designed landscapes (such as roadside parks). Markers that have been moved to a new location are eligible only if they retain physical integrity and are installed in an

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War Memorial Monument (Contributing Object)

The war memorial monument is positioned at the western corner of the courthouse grounds and faces west. Dedicated in May of 1970, this three slab gray granite object features a raised central portion with wings, smooth finish, and concrete foundation.⁴ A darker granite band lines the top of the monument and the ornamentation includes a carving of an eagle at center and the inscription. The rear features a smooth finish and devoid of detail. This object is nearly 50 years old, retains historic integrity and contributes to the significance of the nominated courthouse. Since the planning of the monument began 50 years ago in 1969, claiming Criteria Consideration G is not necessary for the inclusion of this contributing resource (Figure 16, Photos 5, 21).

Windmill (Non-contributing Structure)

The large wood and metal windmill is located at the western portion of the courthouse property between the 1931 building and the War Memorial Monument. It appears to be inspired by a windmill created by Perkins Windmill Company of Mishawaka, Indiana. While the construction date is unknown, it was likely added to the property less than 50 years ago and is non-contributing due to age (Photo 5).

Radio Tower (Non-Contributing Structure)

The steel radio tower is located at the southeastern portion of the property. While it is unknown when the radio tower was added, it is likely less than 50 years old, and does not contribute to the significance of the courthouse.

Alterations

Minor alterations occurred to the building and property over time, and many of them took place when the 1958 addition was added. All of the original steel casement windows in the 1931 courthouse were replaced with contemporary windows. The aluminum glass doors at the main entrance are also replacements. The main entrance was originally recessed and is now flush with the exterior of the building. The decorative light posts were slightly modified with the removal the small shades at the top, but appear much as they did in the 1930s. Contemporary railings were added to the exterior staircases, and an ADA accessible lift was added to the northeastern staircase inside the courthouse. Other interior alterations include glazed tile wainscoting in the first and second story floor corridors of the original courthouse likely added in the 1950s. The ceiling of the district courtroom was lowered, and acoustic tiles were added. Contemporary flooring was added to the staircase landing at the southwest side of the original courthouse. The door to the men's restroom in the courthouse basement was replaced with a 1950s door, also a historic modification. The tile flooring in the district courtroom was replaced but matches some of the flooring on the second story of the addition, so it could be a 1950s change. Two windows were infilled with stone panels on the rear elevation of the addition at an unknown date. A contemporary door provides access to the second story sheriff's apartment. The interior of the jail was also reconfigured at an unknown date.

Several resources were added to the property over time, some of which are now historic age and contribute to the overall significance of the courthouse. These include the 1936 Texas Centennial Highway Marker and the 1970 War Memorial Monument. A non-contributing windmill and a non-contributing radio tower were also added to the property. The flag pole, clock pole, Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker, Hansford County Monument,

outdoor setting that is similar in character and function to the original location. Markers should also include their original (or accurate reproduction) bronze Texas Highway Department insignia and inscription tablet, and be free of any large attached supplemental markers that detract from their integrity of design." Bonnie Tipton Wilson and Gregory Smith, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, Texas, 60-61.

⁴ "Celebration to Begin Today in Spearman," *Amarillo Daily News*, May 28, 1970.

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three metal sheds, and a well were added to the property but are not substantial enough in size to be counted apart from the courthouse landscape.

Inventory of Contributing and Non-contributing Resources within Nominated Boundary

Resource	Type	Date	Status
Courthouse Property	Site	1931	Contributing
Courthouse and Addition	Building	1931, 1958	Contributing
Radio Tower	Structure	Less than 50 years old	Non-contributing
Texas Highway Marker	Object	1936, Relocation date unknown	Contributing
War Memorial Monument	Object	1970	Contributing
Windmill	Structure	Less than 50 years old	Non-contributing

Integrity

When compared to other unrestored courthouses across Texas, the 1931 Hansford County Courthouse retains remarkable historic and architectural integrity. The courthouse property is situated in the same location as when it was first constructed. While still within the historic courthouse square located at the culmination of Spearman’s commercial main street, the setting has been somewhat compromised by the intrusion of non-historic buildings. The courthouse property has also been compromised by the intrusion of non-contributing resources added outside the period of significance, but the spatial organization of the property is largely unchanged. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are evident in the exterior brickwork and stone ornamentation, decorative lamps, fenestration pattern, intact floor plan, and terrazzo flooring in the first floor corridor all reflecting original aspects of modest 1930s Moderne style courthouse. Other intact features such as original doors with multi-light transoms, plaster wall finishes, and several elements within the district courtroom, appear much as they did during the period of significance reinforcing integrity of design. The glazed tile wainscoting added to the courthouse corridors in the 1950s is a historic alteration reflecting an effort to update the building with the unavailing of the addition.

The Modern 1958 addition retains a high level of historic and architectural integrity and appears almost exactly as it did when it was first constructed. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is visible in the original brick exterior, fenestration pattern, stone ornamentation, several original windows, floor plan, terrazzo flooring in the main corridors, and glazed tile wainscoting in the corridors and sheriff’s apartment restroom. Other original wall finishes include exposed concrete block and plaster. Even though the jail was reconfigured, it remains in the same location and appears much as it did historically. Most original doors and other hardware is extant throughout, conveying the original character from the late 1950s. Since the design and character of the property is intact and it still serves the same function as the center of Hansford County government, it also retains integrity of feeling and association.

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Statement of Significance

The Hansford County Courthouse is located at 15 N.W. Court Street in Spearman, Texas. Laid out by the railroad in 1917 with a unique T-town related plan, Spearman won a hotly contested race for the position of county seat in 1929 prompting the construction of a new courthouse. Positioned at the culmination of main street, the courthouse square soon became the heart of civic life. Completed in 1931 in the midst of the Great Depression, the new Hansford County Courthouse served as the center of county government. After World War II, a demand for expanded government facilities led to the construction of a 1958 addition designed by John P. Work at the rear of the property. The Hansford County Courthouse is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government at the local level of significance for its association with the administration of county government for over 39 years. It is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance as a modest example of a 1930s Moderne Style courthouse that symbolized growth and progress for both Spearman and Hansford County. Designed by Townes, Lightfoot & Funk, the courthouse represents the most restrained design within the architect's body of work. The period of significance spans from construction in 1931 through 1970, when the War Memorial Monument was added and the property continued to serve as the seat of county government. Claiming Criteria Consideration G for exceptional significance is not necessary since the planning of the monument began 50 years ago in 1969 and 1970 is so close to the 50 year cutoff.

Creation of Hansford County⁵

The creation of Hansford County largely mirrored the development of many other Texas Panhandle counties. Hansford County is located roughly 90 miles north of Amarillo and is bordered on the north by Oklahoma, Ochiltree County to the east, Hutchinson County to the south, and Sherman County to the west. This region of the High Plains was occupied by indigenous peoples before Euro-American settlement. The Apaches came first before occupation by the Comanches spanning from the 1700s until the 1870s. The Red River War of 1874 was a turning point and between 1875 and 1876 the Comanches were pushed into Indian Territory. In August of 1876 the Texas legislature created Hansford County from the Young and Bexar Districts, with officials in nearby Wheeler County. The Euro-Americans began settling in the county soon thereafter, and by 1880 the town of Farwell appeared. The next settlement was Hansford, located on the Tascosa-Dodge City Trail, which likely gave it a strategic advantage for becoming the county seat when the county was politically organized on March 11, 1889. The county was named for judge John M. Hansford, an early Texas politician.

Several different industries supported the economic growth and development in the early history of Hansford County. The High Plains are a semiarid, subtropical environment which was favorable for ranching, but the inconsistent rainfall and high summer temperatures, made crop farming more difficult, at least initially. Cattlemen relocated to the area in the 1870s and begin grazing their herds on the open range. The use of lands in the public domain ended when the State of Texas began selling public lands in the 1880s. According to Paul Carlson and Bruce Glasrud, "In the 1880s many large companies began to fence their range holdings with a new and highly effective technology, barbed wire. They also introduced purebred stock. With these improvements, the open range tradition came to a close, and by the beginning of the twentieth century ranching had become a meticulous and virtually scientific enterprise."⁶ The

⁵H. Allen Anderson, "Hansford County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed August 29, 2018, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hch04>; Dotty Jones, *A Search for Opportunity: A History of Hansford County*, (Gruver, Texas: Jones Publishing Company, 1965), 7-15, 44-46; Hansford County Historical Commission, *Hansford County Volume II, 1876-1983*, (Lubbock: Craftsman Printers, Inc. 1983?), 11-12.

⁶ Paul H. Carlson and Bruce A. Glasrud, *West Texas: A History of the Giant Side of the State*, (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014), 44-50, 200, 203.

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cattlemen ended up acquiring much of the public land and started large ranches. Later than other parts of Texas, cattle ranching took hold in the 1890s. Hansford County had roughly 23 ranches by 1890 and 133 people.⁷

By 1900 crop farming became an important aspect of the economy in Hansford County and encouraged settlement despite unpredictable weather and harsh climate. Enticed by land speculation, many of these early farmers were immigrants or relocated from the Midwest. Drawn in by the opportunity to own land, settlers soon realized “farming in West Texas could be difficult life. It proved quite different from most farmers’ previous experience. The lack of trees meant homes for first arrivals had to be built from sod or were simply “dugouts” literally excavated into the hillsides.”⁸ Droughts, prairie fires, locusts, and blizzards brought additional challenges. However, farmers were not deterred and began growing wheat and sorghum with increasing success in the early years of the twentieth century. Productive crop farming helped boost the population of Hansford County and by 1900 the population reached 167 people.⁹

Hansford served as the first county seat, the earliest true community, and offered basic services and amenities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Planned around a traditional courthouse square, the courthouse was the central focus of the town (Figure 1). Little is known about the first two-story brick courthouse constructed in September 1890 other than it cost roughly \$13,000 and was destroyed by two different tornadoes right as it neared completion.¹⁰ These setbacks meant the first courthouse was rebuilt as a one-story building (Figure 2). It’s speculated that the brick used to construct the courthouse was carried by oxen from Dodge City Kansas at an amount of \$5,700, though no scholarly evidence has substantiated this claim. The brick was sold and reused in the construction of the Gruver Methodist Church in 1929.¹¹ The courthouse was multi-functional used for commercial and religious purposes in addition to government. A tornado destroyed the 1889 courthouse as well but its unclear if it was rebuilt or another building was used. Hansford served as the center of civic and social life. By 1910, 935 people were living in the county.¹²

Aided by increased mechanization including windmills, the growth of farming and ranching in the 1910s contributed to population growth, but the county was still relatively secluded. While other parts of the Texas Panhandle were already connected by rail to the larger cities in Texas and the nation, Hansford County remained somewhat isolated in the hinterland of Amarillo and Guyman, Oklahoma. The railroad was eager to create new towns along proposed routes and Hansford County farmers and ranchers, who were hauling their commodities to market in Guyman or Texhoma, saw the clear advantages to shipping by rail from a closer location. High commodity prices during World War I and limited road infrastructure likely encouraged support for railroad connectivity in Hansford County. Exactly where the railroad would cut through Hansford County and the location of the county seat, however, was highly contested.¹³

The Making of a New County Seat

When it was announced that the North Texas and Santa Fe Railway would construct a line from Shattuck, Oklahoma into southeastern Hansford County, the new town of Spearman was planned at the end of the line posing a direct challenge to the original county seat of Hansford in 1917. Spearman was one of roughly forty Texas county seats planned by the railroad. Of these forty, three prototypical railroad patterns emerged, all classified by their relationship

⁷ Paul H. Carlson and Bruce A. Glasrud, *West Texas: A History of the Giant Side of the State*, (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014), 20-21, 196-210; 1910 Census of Population. U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Volume 1, Number of Inhabitants, Texas* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913).

⁸ Paul H. Carlson and Bruce A. Glasrud, *West Texas*, 202.

⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Volume 1, Number of Inhabitants, Texas* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913).

¹⁰ “Texas Progress,” *Fort Worth Daily Gazette*, September 22, 1890.

¹¹ “Courthouse to Become Church,” *Amarillo Sunday News and Globe*, April 12, 1931.

¹² U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Volume 1, Number of Inhabitants, Texas* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913); David J. Murrah, “He Stone My Courthouse” PowerPoint Presentation at West Texas Historical Association Conference, 2011

¹³ Paul H. Carlson and Bruce A. Glasrud, *West Texas*, 49, 156, 202, 203-206.

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to the town grid and the courthouse: symmetrical, orthogonal, and T-town. Spearman was platted with a rather unique T-town related plan, a rare deviation from the prototypical railroad plans. Following the T-town model, main street was planned to run perpendicular to the railroad, connecting the depot and the courthouse square. Spearman's plan also reflected the design of the traditional central courthouse square common in Texas.¹⁴ Robert Veselka describes this hybrid plan:

The most striking T-town related plan is that of Spearman in Hansford County. Planned by the railroad in 1917, Spearman's courthouse square was linked to the depot by Main Street and to the town's grid by diagonal streets projecting from each corner of the square. This unique arrangement placed the town's two primary institutions, the train depot and county courthouse, at opposite ends of Main Street. The commercial district was oriented along this street, while the town's remaining blocks formed another grid aligned with the cardinal directions. The community's compact business district has remained viable, and the courthouse square is still the town's central focus. Few railroad planners recognized the public role of the courthouse as explicitly as Spearman's, a fact that remains evident today.¹⁵ (Maps 2-7)

It's important to note that when Spearman was planned in anticipation of the railroad, it featured a very prominent square clearly intended for the courthouse at the terminus of main street. This was a bold move for a town not yet chosen as the county seat. Spearman was named after Thomas Spearman, Vice President of the Santa Fe Railroad.¹⁶

Initial development in Spearman was stymied by World War I, but the railroad line eventually reached the town in 1919. Almost immediately after the arrival of the railroad, several buildings in Hansford including stores, the bank, the school, the church, and the Palo Duro Hotel were entirely relocated to Spearman which was already experiencing a construction boom on main street. The town was incorporated in 1921 and soon thereafter residents built a grain elevator along the railroad. Spearman held a clear locational advantage and quickly became the most populous town in the county. Spearman's rapid growth and the extension of the Rock Island and Gulf Railway to Gruver caused a heated debate about which town should be the county seat.¹⁷

Through the 1920s Hansford County residents wrestled with the decision of whether to keep the county seat in Hansford or move it Spearman or Gruver. An initial election to move the county seat was held in 1921, and Spearman received the majority of the votes, but a state law prohibited the change. The Texas law specified that the county seat could not be moved more than five miles from the middle of the county without a two-thirds approval from the voters. Spearman came up short. Five years went by before another election could take place. In 1927, Spearman beat both Gruver and Hansford, but again lacked the two-thirds approval resulting in another failed attempt. Spearman residents turned to the Texas Legislature for help. A new law was passed specifying a wait time of only two years for a new election if the proposed county seat relocation was oriented to the railroad. A second new law exempted Hansford County from the five mile rule. Spearman won the second election of 1927. A lawsuit filed regarding the interpretation of the new laws reached the Texas Supreme Court. The court ruled the 1927 election didn't count, prolonging the decision for another two years. Finally on April 20, 1929 Spearman, now the largest town, won the election to become the county seat.¹⁸

¹⁴ Robert E. Veselka, *The Courthouse Square in Texas*, (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 2000) 102-115.

¹⁵ Robert E. Veselka, *The Courthouse Square in Texas*, 115.

¹⁶ "Spearman is Going Ahead: Progress Has Been Rapid in Recent Years," *Pampa Daily News*, December 20, 1931.

¹⁷ H. Allen Anderson, "Hansford County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed August 29, 2018,

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hch04>; Hansford County Historical Commission, *Hansford County Volume II, 1876-1983*, (Lubbock: Craftsman Printers, Inc. 1983?), 36; David J. Murrach, "He Stone My Courthouse" PowerPoint Presentation at West Texas Historical Association Conference, 2011.

¹⁸ *Ibid*; "Courthouse Fight is Not Settled," *The Marshall News Messenger*, January 13, 1928; "County Seat Law Changed: Two-Thirds Vote for Court House Move, is Favored," *The Brownsville Herald*, February 15, 1929; "Hansford County to Vote on Moving Courthouse from Inland Town to Railroad," *The Austin American*, March 26, 1929; "County Seat Bill Signed by Moody," *Dallas Morning News*, February 24, 1929;

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With a new county seat selected, there was work to be done in Spearman to accommodate the county government. The first issue was finding a physical location. The second issue was the relocation of county records. The *Waco Tribune-Herald* reported in May of 1929 “When the first truck load of records entered Spearman from Hansford, the fire whistle sounded. It was a momentous moment in Spearman’s history. The county had secured the city building as headquarters for the present. Later a bond issue will be held and a courthouse built.”¹⁹ With a population of 1,580 in 1930, Spearman was ready to take on its new role as county seat.²⁰

1931 Hansford County Courthouse

Once the county seat was moved to Spearman, the town and the county continued to experience steady growth, at least for the first few years of the Great Depression. Much of this growth stemmed from the expansion of Hansford County’s economy. Since the 1920s, gasoline tractors, trucks, and other modern machinery and appliances made farming, ranching, and life in general easier. Cotton production presented a new alternative source of revenue. By 1930, Hansford County had 430 farms and ranches and 3,548 residents. With the construction of Highway 117 and the extension of the Santa Fe line to Morse, Spearman also saw physical improvements such as street paving and water works, and new residential and commercial construction. This maturation of Spearman and subsequent demand for government services necessitated the construction of the new courthouse. Plans were soon underway for that very purpose.²¹

In late 1930, the architects William C. Townes, Will H. Lightfoot, and Rabey Funk of the firm Townes, Lightfoot and Funk were awarded the contract for the new Hansford County Courthouse. The agreement specified that the architects were to carry out the “necessary conferences, the preparation of preliminary studies, working drawing specifications, large scale and full size drawings; the drafting of forms of proposal contracts; the issuance of certificates of payment; the keep of all accounts; the general administration of the business; and the supervision of the work.”²² In an effort to draw inspiration for their new courthouse, Hansford County Commissioners decided to visit the other Panhandle courthouses for Briscoe, Parmer, and Dallam counties. The selection of these counties was not a surprise as William C. Townes served as associate architect on the 1916 Parmer County Courthouse in Farwell, the 1922 Briscoe County Courthouse in Silverton, and the 1923 Dallam County Courthouse in Dalhart. Townes, Lightfoot & Funk’s architectural drawings for the courthouse were finished on February 2, 1931.²³ (Figures 3-7)

The design, plans, and construction of the courthouse was completed by the close of 1931. Bonds were approved on January 1st and by February 13th, Kreipke Construction Company out of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was selected with the lowest bid, beating out nine other contractors. Reporting on construction costs ranged from \$41,449, \$79,000, and \$150,000, the latter of which seems most probable.²⁴ Construction on the courthouse square in Spearman formally

“County Seat Fight Finally Concluded: Spearman in Peaceable Possession of Hansford Records,” *Waco Tribune-Herald*, May 12, 1929.

¹⁹ “County Seat Fight Finally Concluded: Spearman in Peaceable Possession of Hansford Records,” *Waco Tribune-Herald*, May 12, 1929.

²⁰ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume 1, Number of Inhabitants, Texas* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1942).

²¹ H. Allen Anderson, “Hansford County”; Paul H. Carlson and Bruce A. Glasrud, *West Texas*, 52-53, 189; U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume 1, Number of Inhabitants, Texas* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1942); “Big Building Campaign on at Spearman: Water Works, Courthouse, Paving, and Residences Among Items,” *The Amarillo Daily News*, April 2, 1931

²² Meeting Minutes of the Hansford County Commission, November 25, 1930, 286-287.

²³ Meeting Minutes of the Hansford County Commission, December 1930.

²⁴ Meeting Minutes of Hansford County Commission, January 1, 1931 & February 13, 1931; “Hansford Contract for Courthouse is Let to Oklahoman,” *The Amarillo Daily News*, February 14, 1931; “To Dedicate Courthouse,” *Avalanche-Journal* (Lubbock, Texas), January 10, 1932; “New Hansford Courthouse is Dedicated: Judge Hoover, Canadian, is Principal Speaker; 3,000 Attend,” *The Amarillo Daily News*, February 23, 1932.

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began in April of 1931 and was completed in August (Figures 8-9). The modest Moderne steel frame brick veneer building was equipped with 28 rooms and was touted as fireproof. The two spacious courtrooms—district and county—served as the focal point of the design. Other offices housed the county clerk, tax assessor, tax collector, sheriff, county treasurer, county judge, district clerk, and district attorney. Upon completion, Hansford County officials were very proud to report the cost efficiency achieved with the project. No information was found on the original Hansford County Jail in Spearman.²⁵

County officials allowed ample time to plan the courthouse dedication after the courthouse was completed (Figure 9). Several prominent residents participated in planning the dedication including J.W. Ratekin and Frank Fleck who served as heads of the program committee, County Attorney J.H. Broadhurst in charge of arranging speakers and the reception committee, Professor H.S. Strain as head of the music committee, while Sheriff H.L. Wilbanks handled the visitors' committee.²⁶ The *Amarillo Sunday News and Globe* gave a full preview of the dedication by reporting "Every visitor of Hansford County will be represented, when visitors will be shown through the new building. There will be addresses by many judges of the Panhandle, and other prominent men. A street dance in front of the new courthouse will be staged if the weather permits."²⁷ Sixty musicians from all over the county were also anticipated at the dedication ceremony.²⁸

The dedication ceremony was held on February 22, 1932. It started in the afternoon and continued late into the night with roughly 3,000 county residents in attendance. Dedication speakers included Judge H.E. Hoover of Canadian, Colonel E. R. Tack, Judge E. J. Pickens of Canadian, Representative A.C. Johnson of Dalhart, Senator Clint Small of Amarillo, Judge Erasmus J. Pickens of Canadian, District Attorney W. L. McConnell, and Judge Newton P. Willis of Canadian.²⁹ The speakers were originally supposed to address the crowd in the district courtroom, but the number of attendees necessitated the use of the front lawn instead. Lunch was organized by Mrs. J.H. Richards, Mrs. W.M. Glover, Mrs. O.C. Collins, Mrs. D.W. Hoiland of the First Baptist Church. It's unknown whether the much-anticipated street dance took place, since given the celebration lasted into the night, it seems likely.³⁰

Center of Government in the 1930s and 1940s

Several economic changes occurred in the decades following the construction of the 1931 Hansford County Courthouse, but Spearman maintained its role as the center of county government. The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in tremendous financial hardship for farmers and ranchers. Low prices which began in the 1920s worsened by the 1930s. Severe drought and overcultivation caused horrible dust storms in the Panhandle beginning in 1932. According to Paul Carlson and Bruce Glasrud, the storms "obscured the sky for days at a time. Between January and April of 1935, visibility fell to zero seven times in Amarillo. In March of that year, Lubbock experienced a dust storm that lasted three days and dumped as many as seven inches of fine dust in some rain gauges."³¹ (Figure 10) These hardships were also reflected in the loss of farms and ranches and the population decline from 3,548 county residents in 1930 to 2,783 in 1940.³² New Deal programs including the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Civilian

²⁵ "Begin Construction Hansford Courthouse," *Dallas Morning News*, April 20, 1931; "Building is Going Ahead Rapidly in Spearman Program," *The Amarillo Daily News*, June 13, 1931; "Much Building at Spearman Finished in 1931: Courthouse, Paving, New Hotel, Among Accomplishments," *The Amarillo Daily News*, January 2, 1932.

²⁶ "Hansford Courthouse Dedication Planned," *Dallas Morning News*, December 13, 1931.

²⁷ "New Courthouse in Hansford to Open," *Amarillo Sunday News and Globe*, December 6, 1931.

²⁸ "Spearman to Have Sixty Piece Band," *Amarillo Sunday News and Globe*, February 6, 1932.

²⁹ "New Courthouse Will be Dedicated Monday Afternoon," *Amarillo Sunday News and Globe*, February 21, 1932.

³⁰ "New Hansford Courthouse is Dedicated: Judge Hoover, Canadian, is Principal Speaker; 3,000 Attend," *The Amarillo Daily News*, February 23, 1932.

³¹ Paul H. Carlson and Bruce A. Glasrud, *West Texas*, 207.

³² U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume 1, Number of Inhabitants, Texas* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1942).

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Conservation Corps, Farm Credit Administration, and Commodity Credit Corporation, rural electrification, and the 1937 discovery of oil in Hansford County helped to temper the economic distress. These initiatives also facilitated several changes that made farming and ranching more lucrative industries after World War II.³³

Despite all the challenges and changes in the 1930s, the 1940s were defined by a more stable economic conditions, and the decade produced one of the most infamous court cases in Hansford County occurring during the period of significance. The case known as *The State of Texas vs Orrin J. Brown in the District Court of Hansford County* was heard in 1941. The case involved the murder of Mrs. Leota Murphy whose body was discovered at a bridge near Cold Water Creek. Murphy was unidentified for 25 days while county law enforcement investigated the case locally eventually tracing the victim back to Marion, Indiana. Apparently Murphy was traveling with her fiancé Robert E. Lawrence on their supposed “honeymoon trip” from Chicago to California when they visited a tourist court in Canadian in nearby Hemphill County and other places in the Panhandle. As the investigation unraveled, it became clear that Orrin J. Brown operating under the false name Robert E. Lawrence traveled with Murphy to Hansford County and robbed and murdered her 20 miles west of Spearman. Orrin J. Brown was extradited and tried in the Hansford County District Court in May of 1941. He was convicted of murder on June 14, 1941 and when his appeal was denied by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, he was executed at the prison in Huntsville, Texas.³⁴

1958 Hansford County Courthouse Addition

Economic growth and a rise in population after World War II served as the impetus for expanded government facilities and services in the late 1950s. Several of the New Deal initiatives introduced in the late 1930s improved both farming and ranching during the postwar years. Irrigation, particularly electronic irrigation, provided a reliable water source to the semiarid environment of Hansford County and helped combat the droughts of the 1950s. The implementation of crop rotation, availability of credit and federal subsidies, increased mechanization, fertilizer, and high demand due to a growing American population all encouraged the expansion of cattle ranching and crop farming into much more lucrative industries. Wheat production in particular soared in Hansford County, but sorghum, cotton, and other crops were also an important aspect of the economic base. In addition, oil, which was discovered in 1937 in Hansford County and much earlier in other parts of the Panhandle, diversified the local economy.³⁵ The population of Hansford County jumped from 2,783 in 1940 to 4,202 in 1950 and 6,208 in 1960.³⁶

In response to population increases and higher demand for county services, county officials appropriated funds for the construction of a 1958 addition to the Hansford County Courthouse. Limited information was located on the selection of the architect and design, but it was discovered that the addition was designed by John P. Work with Page & Richardson as contractors (Figures 12-13). The addition featured a brick exterior compatible with the existing courthouse complete with a sheriff’s apartment, sheriff and dispatcher office, and open archival room to hold county

³³ Paul H. Carlson and Bruce A. Glasrud, *West Texas*, 52-57, 189, 204-205, 207-210; H. Allen Anderson, “Hansford County”.

³⁴ No marriage records were found and it discovered that Brown had served other prison sentences. The only other known instance of a death penalty sentence in Hansford County during the period of significance was a murder case involving John Lincoln Grissman in 1965. For more information see: Hansford County Historical Commission, *Hansford County Volume II, 1876-1983*, (Lubbock: Craftsman Printers, Inc. 1983?), 31-35; “Brown Dies for Spearman Slaying,” *The Pampa News*, 16, 1942; “Orrin Brown May Get Formal Death Sentence in April,” *The Amarillo Daily News*, February 18, 1942; “Grissman Given Death: Verdict Returned in Gruver Slaying,” *The Amarillo Daily News*, September 28, 1965.

³⁵ Paul H. Carlson and Bruce A. Glasrud, *West Texas*, 52-54, 207-208; “Spearman Community Raises Finest Wheat World Can Produce: City’s Bank Deposits Soar to \$2,500,000,” *The Amarillo Globe*, June 16, 1943; “Hansford County Plays Host to Panhandle at Celebration Today: Where the Buffalo and Indians Once Roamed Now Stands Empire of Ranching and Agriculture,” *Amarillo Daily News*, April 24, 1941; “Progress Keeps Hansford County a Prosperous Area,” *Pampa Daily News*, April 10, 1955.

³⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *A Report of the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the United States, Census of Population: 1950, Volume 1, Number of Inhabitants, Texas*, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1952); U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1970 Census of Population, Volume 1 Characteristics of the Population, Part A Number of Inhabitants, Section 2 Missouri-Wyoming, Puerto Rico and Outlying Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1972).

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records. The addition also housed a modern jail courtesy of Southern Steel Company out of San Antonio, responsible for several jails across Texas since the 19th century. With the construction of the addition, the county also used the opportunity to modernize the 1931 courthouse by adding various changes including new entrances and glazed tile wainscoting in the corridors. No formal dedication occurred for the addition, but an open house was held on January 17th, 1959.³⁷

Architectural Significance

The Hansford County Courthouse is architecturally significant under Criterion C as a modest Moderne courthouse and serves as an intact example of the work of architects Townes, Lightfoot & Funk. When compared to more elaborate courthouses found in the Texas Panhandle, this appears to be the most restrained Moderne courthouse design produced by Townes, Lightfoot & Funk. Built in 1931 as many towns and cities across Texas were modernizing their public facilities, the Hansford County Courthouse conveys a stable, centralized county government. A prominent focal point of the community positioned at the opposite end of main street from the railroad, the courthouse square is centrally located in Spearman's T-town related plan. The building is relatively small with subtle massing and subdued Classical influence. The austere Modern form blended with traditional materials including minimal cast stone ornamentation and use of symmetry demonstrates the gradual departure from more Classical influences popular in the early 20th century toward a full acceptance of Modern architecture more common in the late 1930s and into the postwar years.

Other comparable courthouses in the Texas Panhandle designed by Townes exhibit more obvious and distinctive Classical influences, or can be classified as Art Deco or Moderne. The Hutchinson County Courthouse constructed in 1927 in Stinnett is a large building constructed of tan brick and abundant cast stone detailing, reflecting a strong Beaux Art influence. The 1940 Castro County Courthouse in Dimmitt and the 1939 Childress County Courthouse in Childress display the temple form, dramatic massing, and restrained and abstracted Classical elements associated with Moderne or Modern Classical architecture. The 1928 Ochilree County Courthouse, not a Townes design, is perhaps the most like the Hansford County Courthouse. Clad in tan brick, it features a more generous application of cast stone detailing including a prominent entrance, spandrels, coping, and quoins.

The Art Deco Potter County Courthouse, designed by Townes, Lightfoot & Funk, presents the most stark contrast to the Hansford County Courthouse. This much larger building emulates a stepped back skyscraper, a form introduced in Amarillo in the 1920s. The central tower has an arcaded entrance and is flanked by two wings forming an H-plan. The symmetrical cast stone exterior features abundant ornamentation such as bas relief panels depicting early county history. By comparison, spandrels, panels, dramatic massing, Classical columns, arches, and other decorative elements are largely absent from the Hansford County Courthouse. However, the courthouse is noteworthy as one of the most prominent architectural designs in Spearman. In the midst of the Great Depression, it was a symbol of growth and progress, and deemed appropriate to serve the needs of the county.³⁸

William Coleman Townes

William Coleman Townes was born on June 28, 1882 in Haskell, Texas and by 1905 was working as a carpenter in Amarillo. He earned his architecture degree by correspondence and worked briefly for the Santa Fe Railroad. He formed Smith & Townes with J. Roy Smith, which they operated between 1920 and 1924. Townes, Lightfoot and Funk was formed by 1927. It's unclear when Lightfoot departed from the firm, but Townes and Funk collaborated until Rabey Funk passed away. Following Funk's death, Townes practiced on his own. Townes was the architect or served

³⁷ "Spearman," *The Amarillo Daily News*, January 10, 1959.

³⁸ Lueise Tyson, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for Potter County Courthouse and Library, Amarillo, Potter County, Texas*, 1996, 5-6; Jay Henry, *Architecture in Texas: 1895-1945* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993), 194-206.

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as associate architect for the following county courthouses: Briscoe County (Classical Revival, 1922), Dallam County (Classical Revival, 1922, NRHP 1992), Hutchinson County (Beaux Arts, 1927, NRHP 2012); Potter County (Moderne/Art Deco, 1932, NRHP 1996), Childress County (Moderne, 1939, NRHP 2016); Castro County (Moderne, 1940), and Ward County (1940). Hansford stands out as the smallest and most restrained of the Moderne courthouses. Townes also designed residences, schools, and other institutional building across the Texas Panhandle. He passed away on May 21, 1961.³⁹

Will Henry Lightfoot

Will Henry Lightfoot was born on August 23, 1892 in Paris, Texas to Judge Henry W. Lightfoot and Etta Wooten. He graduated from the University of Texas School of Architecture in 1915 and was employed with the firm Curtis, Broad & Lightfoot of Paris, Texas. By 1930, Lightfoot and Rabey Funk were already in business together and designed St. Mary's Catholic Church in Umbarger, Texas (NRHP 1983).⁴⁰ In the 1940s, Lightfoot ran his own firm, and by the 1950s he was based in Paris, Texas. By 1959, he was running the firm Will H. Lightfoot and Associates with B.P. Denney and his son William M. Lightfoot. Lightfoot passed away on August 23, 1979 in Paris.⁴¹

Rabey Funk

Rabey Funk was born on November 18th, 1903 in Savannah, Georgia. He graduated from Tumucacari High School in New Mexico and was accepted into Notre Dame University where he studied architecture. Little is known about his work with the exception of his collaborations with Will H. Lightfoot and William C. Townes. He died on December 23, 1939.⁴²

³⁹ Gregory Smith, "Parmer County Courthouse, Farwell, Parmer County, Texas," Draft National Register of Historic Places Form, 2018, 15, Lucie Tyson, "Potter County Courthouse and Library, Amarillo, Potter County, Texas," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1996, 10; "William. C. Townes," *Amarillo Daily News*, May 23, 1961; "U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 for William Coleman Townes," *Ancestry.com*, accessed December 11, 2018, https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1002/004161062_02298?pid=12637923&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D1002%26h%3D12637923%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DRbo105%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=Rbo105&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true; "Find A Grave Index," *Ancestry.com*, accessed November 11, 2018, https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=60525&h=8726909&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=Rbo106&_phstart=successSource.

⁴⁰ *Architectural Yearbook of the University of Texas, Volume 3, 1915-1916*, May 1, 1916, page 15, https://books.google.com/books?id=DbRFAQAAMAAJ&pg=PT70&lpg=PT70&dq=will+h+lightfoot+architect+texas&source=bl&ots=07ypAqNfnV&sig=EwEbyM9xEYIK94_93pg9kUpqyD0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwif0r_bs5jfAhUGTawKHR5oDN0Q6AEwC3oECAIQAO#v=onepage&q=will%20h%20lightfoot%20architect%20texas&f=false; National Register of Historic Places Multiple Resource Area, Churches with Decorative Interior Painting Thematic Resources, 1983, 14.

⁴¹ Project list from AIA unavailable during completion of nomination. *Paris, Texas, City Directory, 1944*, page 317, *Ancestry.com*, accessed December 11, 2018, https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2469/4848426?pid=386399960&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D2469%26h%3D386399960%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DRbo116%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=Rbo116&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true; "The New Fry & Gibbs Chapel," *The Paris News*, June 1, 1951; "Death Certificates, 1903-1982 for Will H. Lightfoot," *Ancestry.com*, accessed December 11, 2018, https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2272/33154_b063060-02261?pid=1328882&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D2272%26h%3D1328882%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DRbo108%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource%26_equr%3D2550866976735232%26ur%3D32768%26lang%3Den-US&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=Rbo108&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true; *Paris, Texas, City Directory, 1959*, page 234, *Ancestry.com*, accessed December 11, 2018, https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2469/5002567?pid=402695633&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D2469%26h%3D402695633%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DRbo109%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=Rbo109&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true

⁴² Project lists from AIA unavailable during preparation of nomination. "Rites Tuesday for Rabey Funk," *Amarillo Sunday News-Globe*, December 24, 1939.

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John Preston Work

John Preston Work was born in Baird, Texas on December 10, 1923 and was raised in Abilene. He earned his degree in architecture from the University of Texas in 1950. He worked as a draftsman for Furgeson & Stevens in Albuquerque, New Mexico before taking a position with Flatow & Moore also of Albuquerque, New Mexico. By 1955, Work was based in Amarillo running his firm John P. Work Architect & Associates. His works in the Texas Panhandle include Perryton Elementary School, the 1957 addition to the Dumas Memorial Hospital, the 1959 Mobeetie High School, and the 1961 Hansford County Hospital. Work designed the Deaf Smith County Courthouse Addition and Jail in Hereford in 1960. Closely resembling the Hansford County Courthouse Addition and Jail, the one-story utilitarian building is devoid of ornament and features a regular but minimal fenestration pattern. By 1970 Work was based out of Dallas where he passed away on June 1, 2015.⁴³

Summary

The Hansford County Courthouse is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government at the local level of significance for its continuous role in the administration of county government. It is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the level of significance as an intact example of a modest 1930s Moderne Style courthouse that symbolized growth and civic pride for both Spearman and Hansford County. Designed by Townes, Lightfoot & Funk, the courthouse represents the most restrained design within the architect's body of work. The period of significance spans from construction in 1931 through 1970.

⁴³ U.S. World War II Draft Cards, Young Men, 1940-1947, *Ancestry.com*, accessed December 11, 2018, [Page 21](https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-; The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, 1962 American Architects Directory, 780; The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, 1970 American Architects Directory, 1914.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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The Marshall News Messenger
Pampa Daily News
The Paris News
Waco Tribune-Herald

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Maps

Map 1: Hansford County, Texas



Map 2: Google Earth, Accessed January 28, 2019



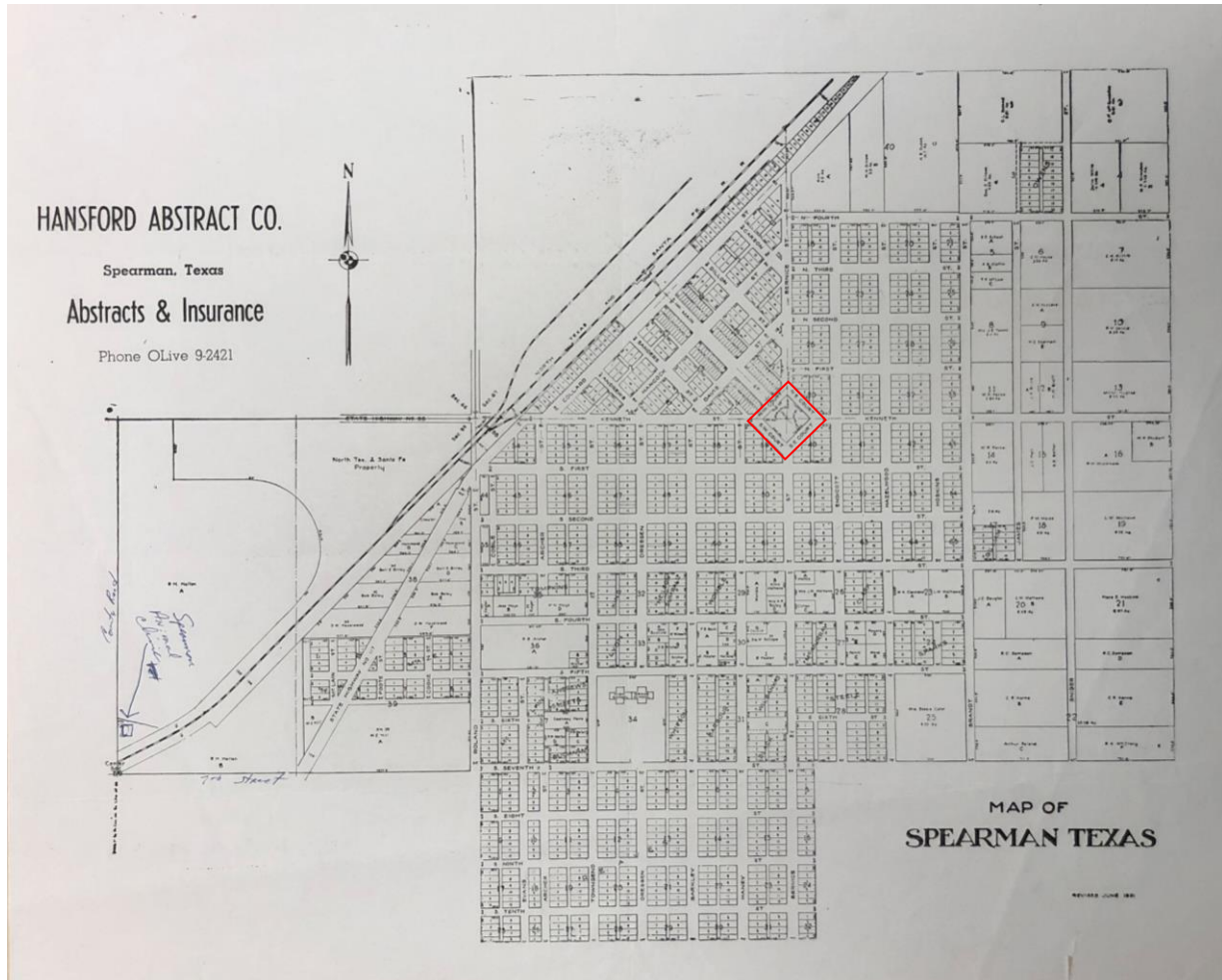
Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Map 3: Google Map Accessed August 29, 2018



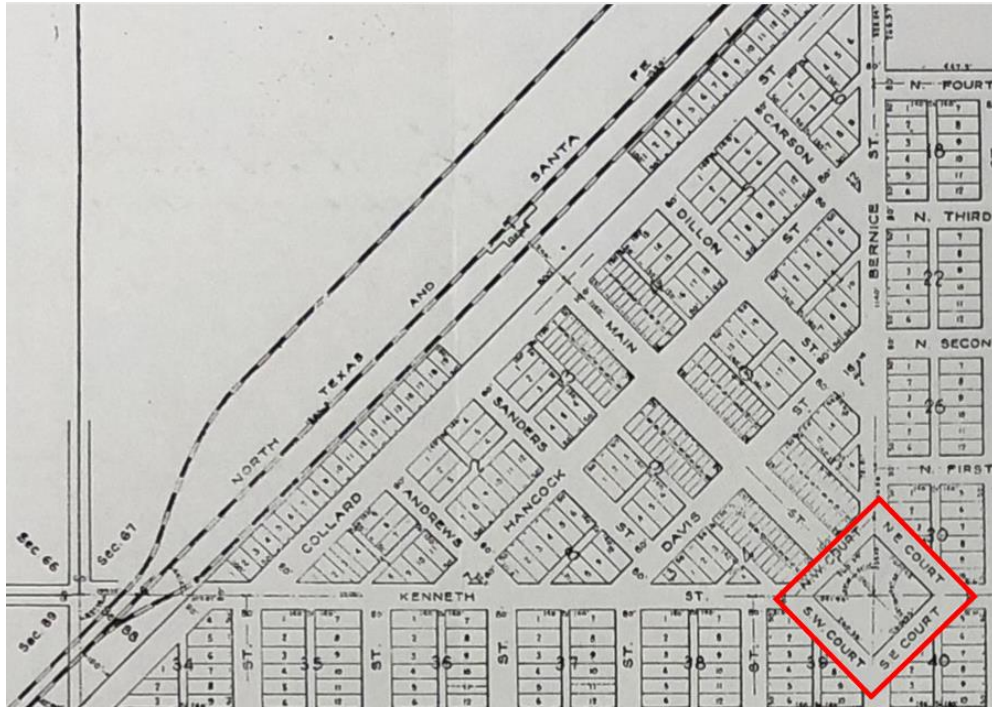
Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Map 4: Courthouse square before completion of original Hansford County Courthouse shown on Fire Insurance Map of Spearman (Revised June 1931). Courtesy Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
https://tsl.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/digitalFile_4a7bf449-65e4-402c-9e3c-c14323d03505/



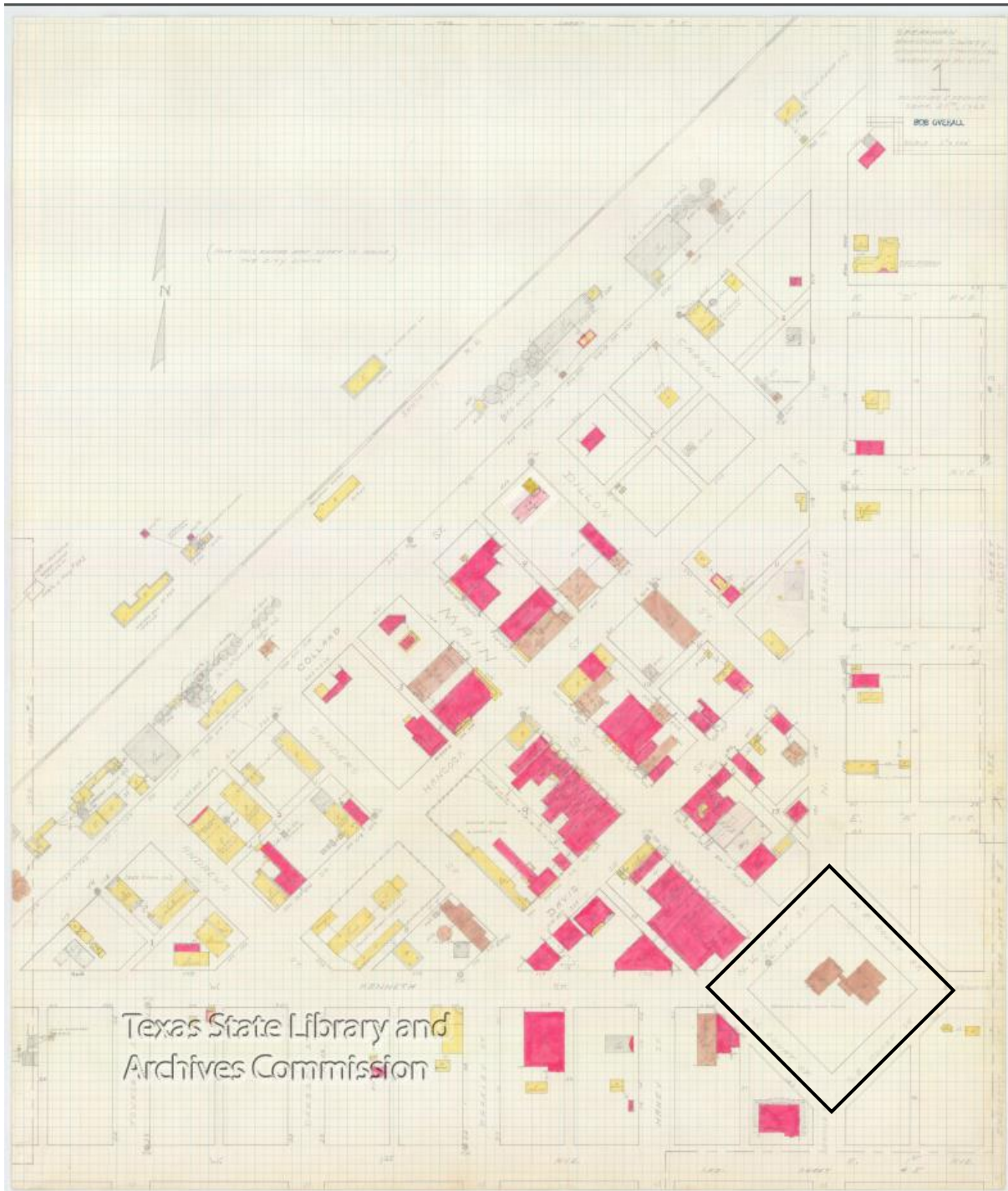
Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Map 5: Closeup of courthouse square before completion of original Hansford County Courthouse shown on Fire Insurance Map of Spearman (Revised June 1931). Courtesy Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
https://tsl.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/digitalFile_4a7bf449-65e4-402c-9e3c-c14323d03505/



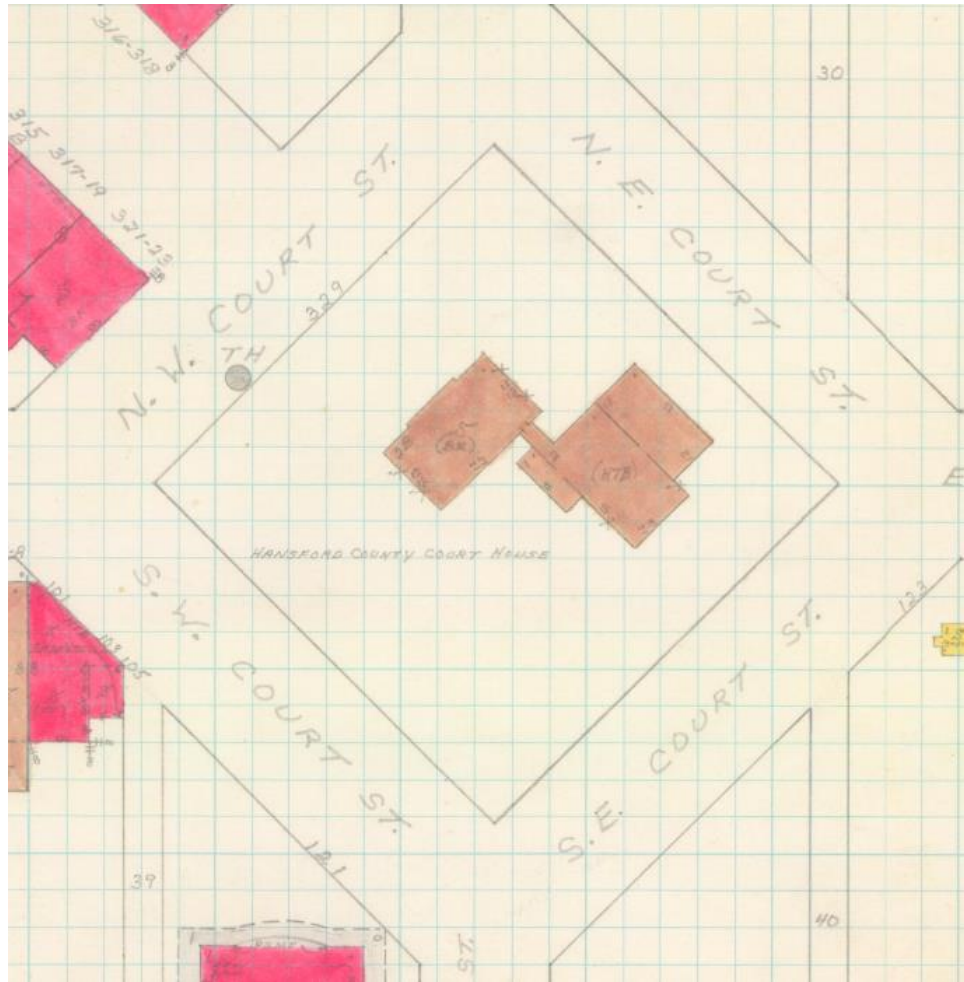
Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Map 6: Hansford County Courthouse and Addition shown on 1963 Fire Insurance Map, Texas Department of Insurance. Courtesy Texas State Library and Archives Commission, https://tsl.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/digitalFile_e1dbbfc2-15d1-4b3b-a5ce-f92bed59562b/



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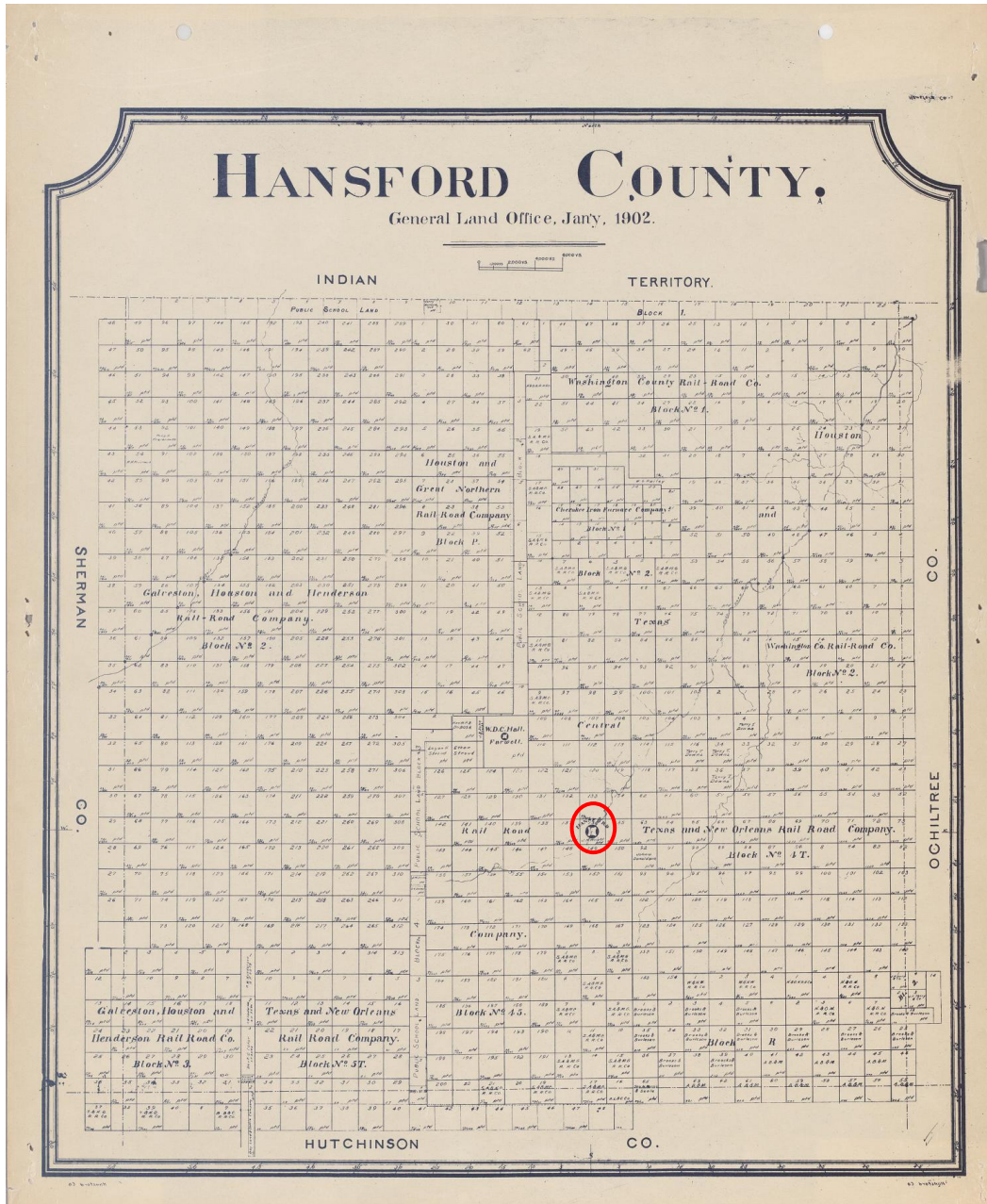
Map 7: Closeup of Hansford County Courthouse and Addition shown on 1963 Fire Insurance Map, Texas Department of Insurance. Courtesy Texas State Library and Archives Commission, https://tsl.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/digitalFile_e1dbbfc2-15d1-4b3b-a5ce-f92bed59562b/



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figures

Figure 1: Texas. General Land Office. Hansford County, 1902. Hansford circled in red. Austin, Texas. (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph493385/m1/1/?q=hansford%20county%20: accessed August 30, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Hardin-Simmons University Library.



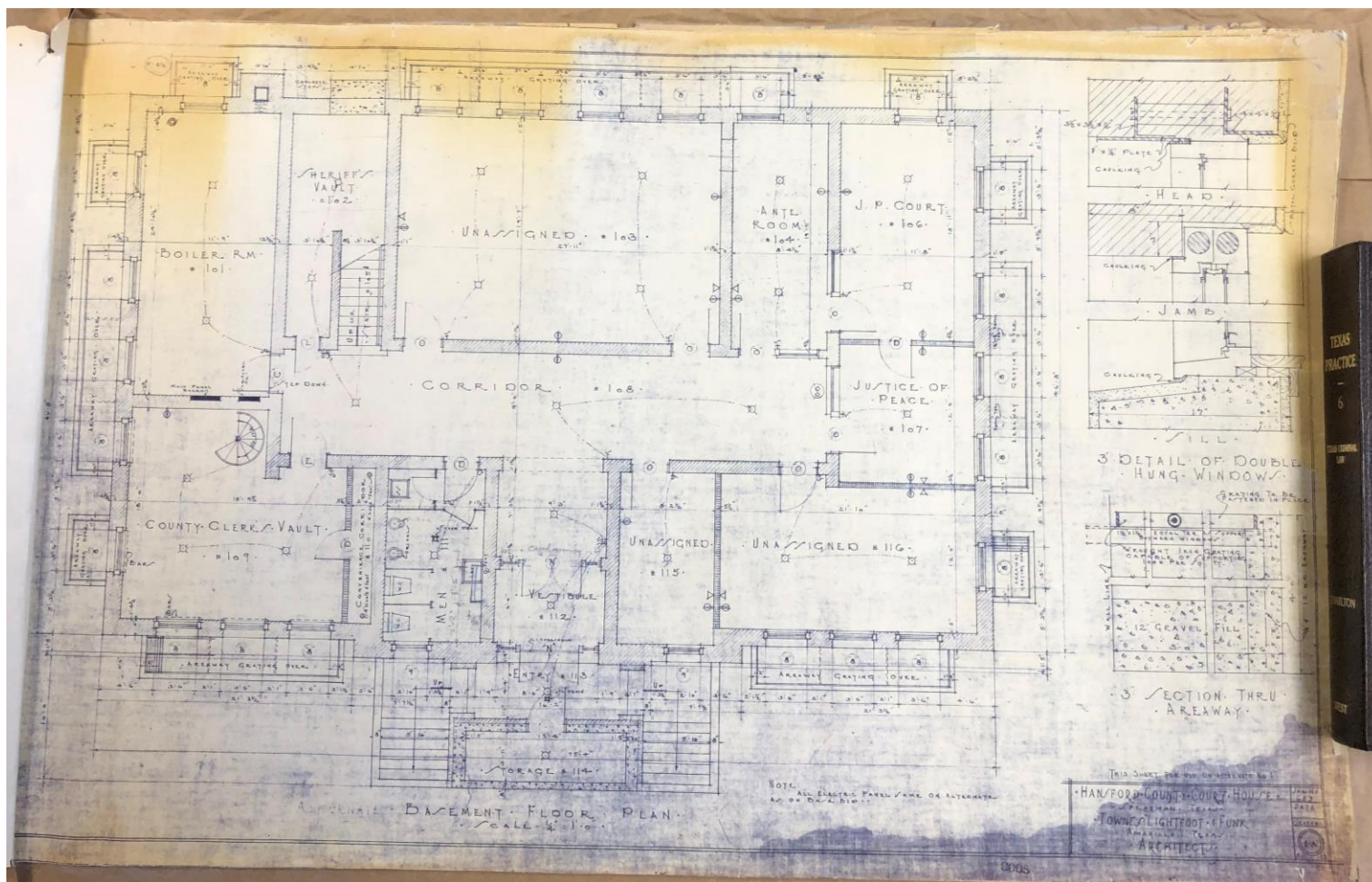
Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 2: 1890 Hansford County Courthouse in Hansford. Courtesy *High Plains Observer*, <http://highplainsobserver.com/gruver-grad-documents-the-history-of-the-hansford-county-courthouse-p23445-100.htm>



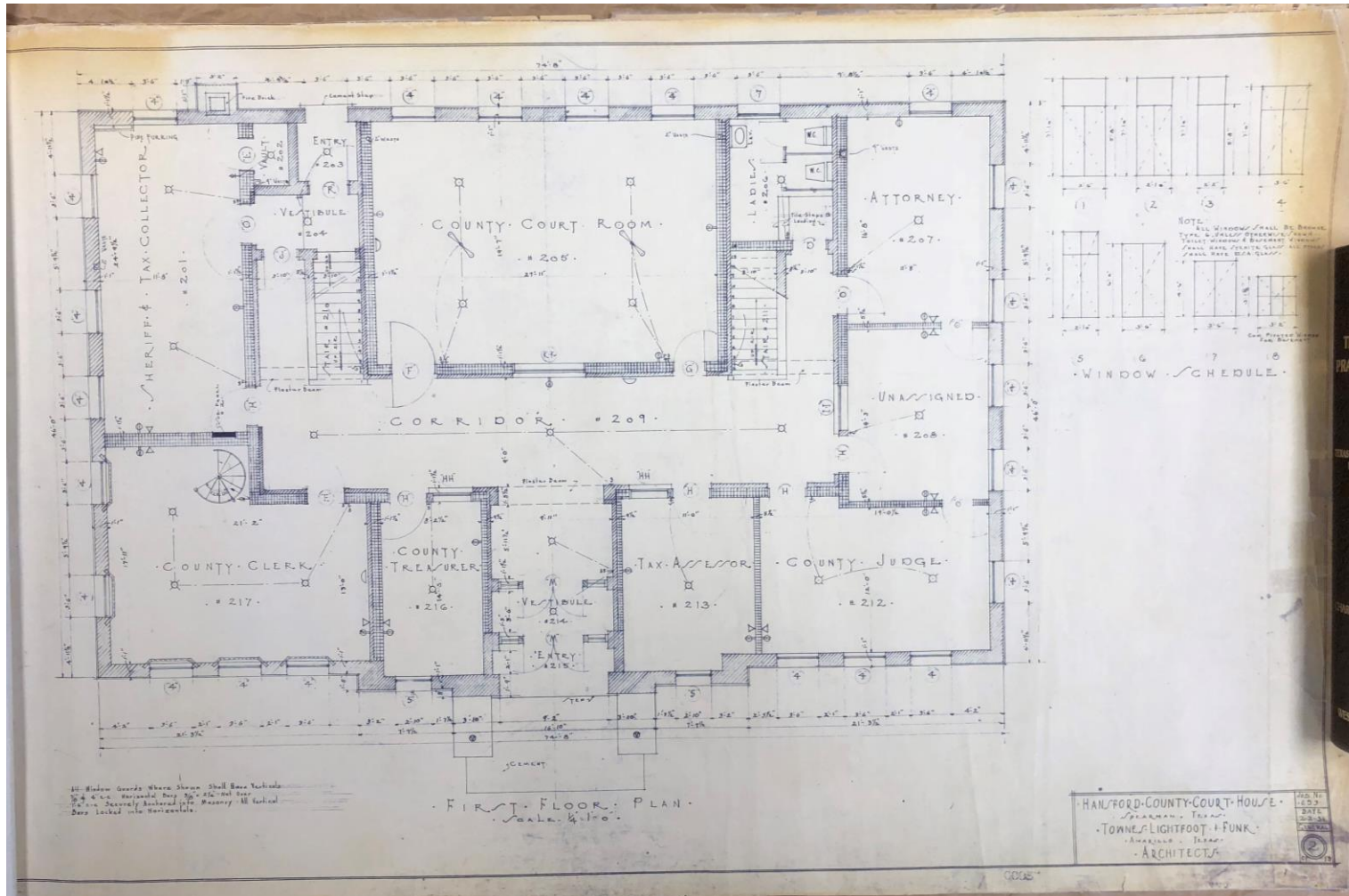
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Figure 3: Basement floor plan shown in original 1931 architectural drawings. Notice spiral staircase in county clerk vault.



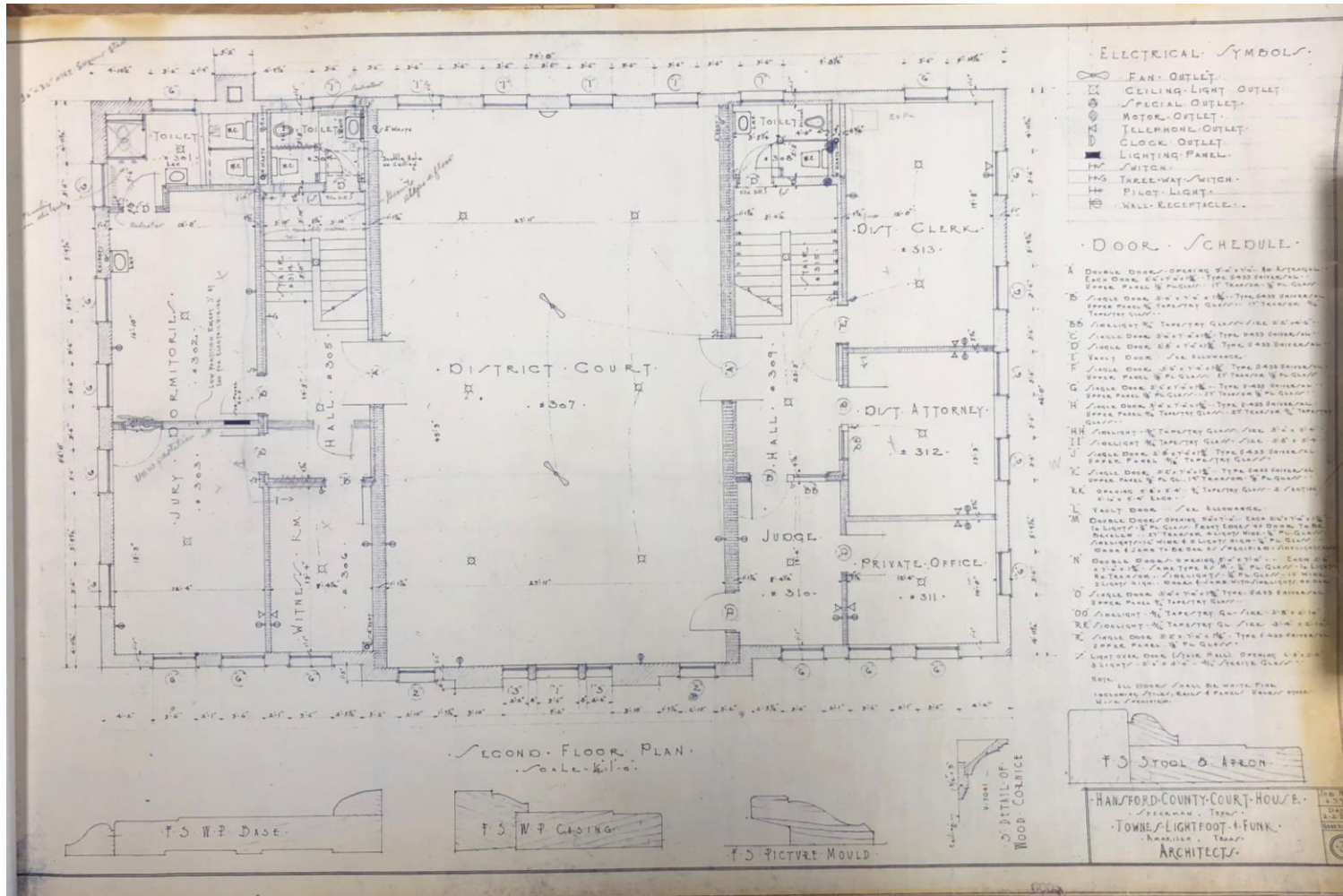
Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 4: First floor plan shown on original 1931 architectural drawings.



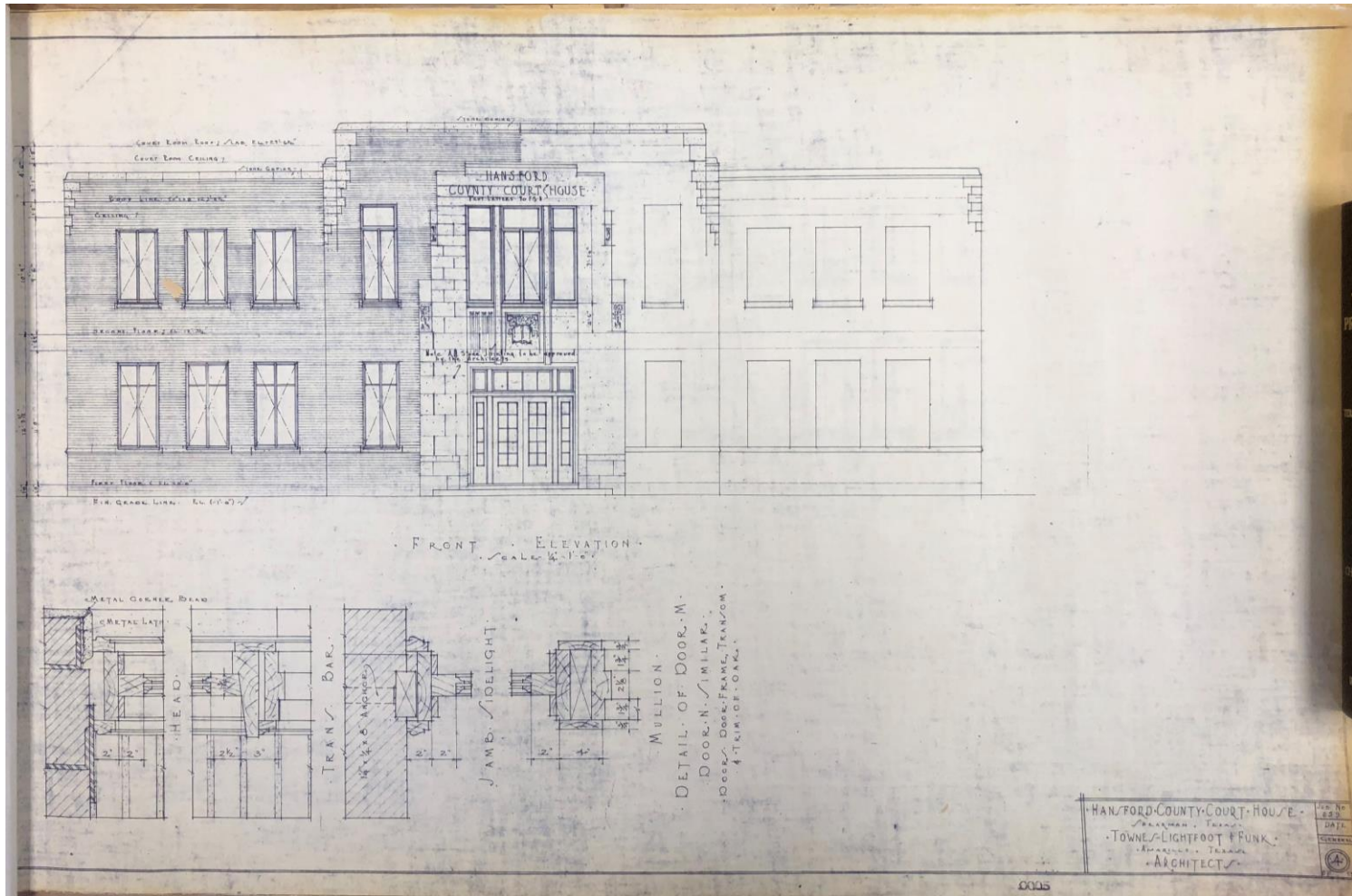
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Figure 5: Second floor plan shown on original 1931 architectural drawings.



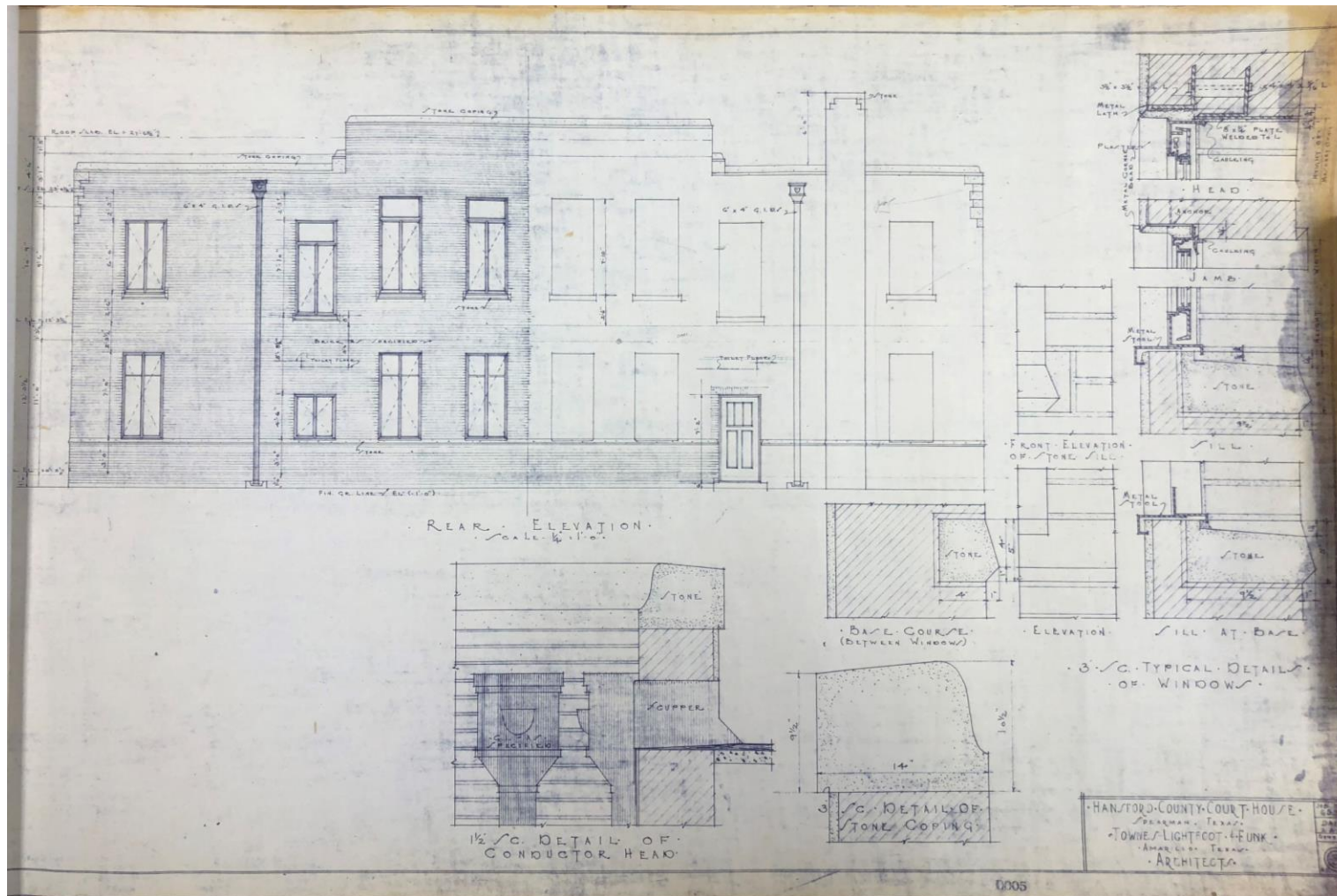
Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 6: Primary (northwest) elevation shown on original 1931 architectural drawings.



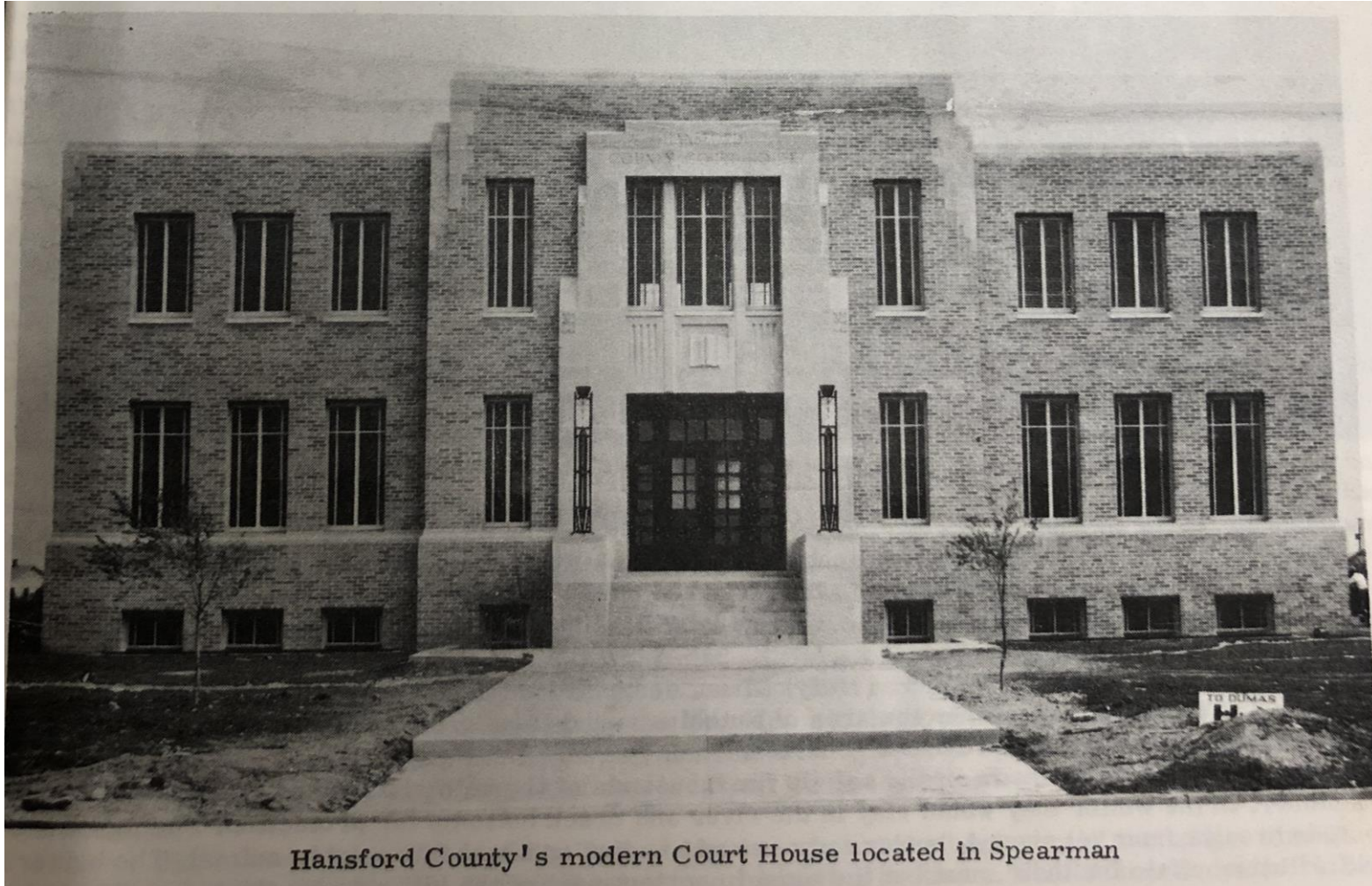
Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 7: Rear (southeast) elevation shown on original 1931 architectural drawings.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 8: Hansford County Courthouse soon after construction, circa early 1930s, courtesy Dotty Jones, *A Search for Opportunity: A History of Hansford County*, page 9.



Hansford County's modern Court House located in Spearman

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 9: Hansford County Courthouse in 1932 just before dedication ceremony, courtesy *Amarillo Sunday News and Globe*, February 21, 1932

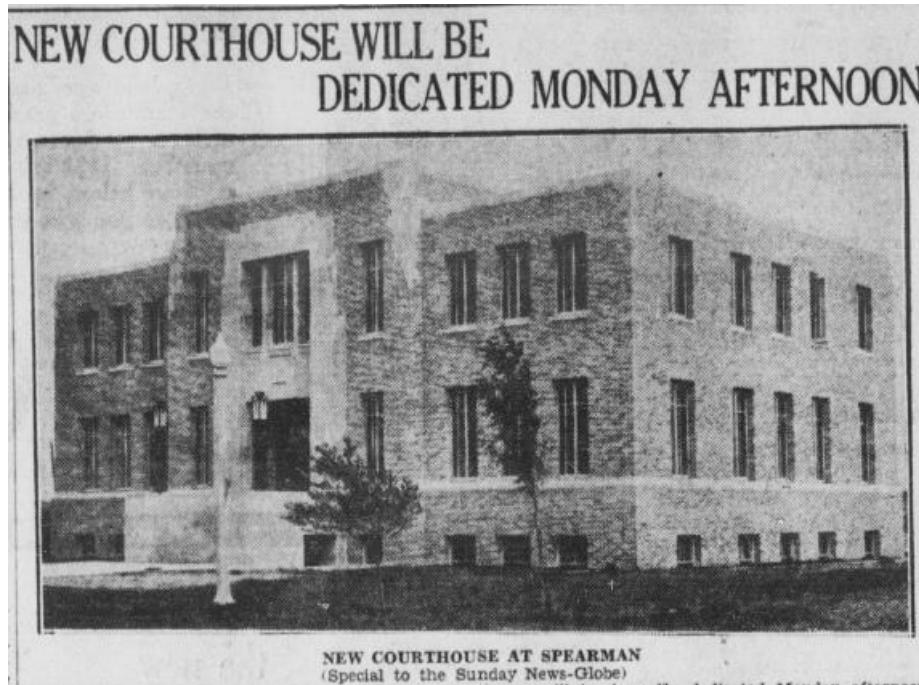


Figure 10: "Dust Storm Approaching Spearman, Texas, April 21, 1935." Courtesy Panhandle Plains Historical Museum Photograph Collection, 1, Dust Storms, 1980-210A.030-1.031



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Figure 11: 1945 photograph showing rear elevation of Hansford County Courthouse. On file at Texas Historical Commission.

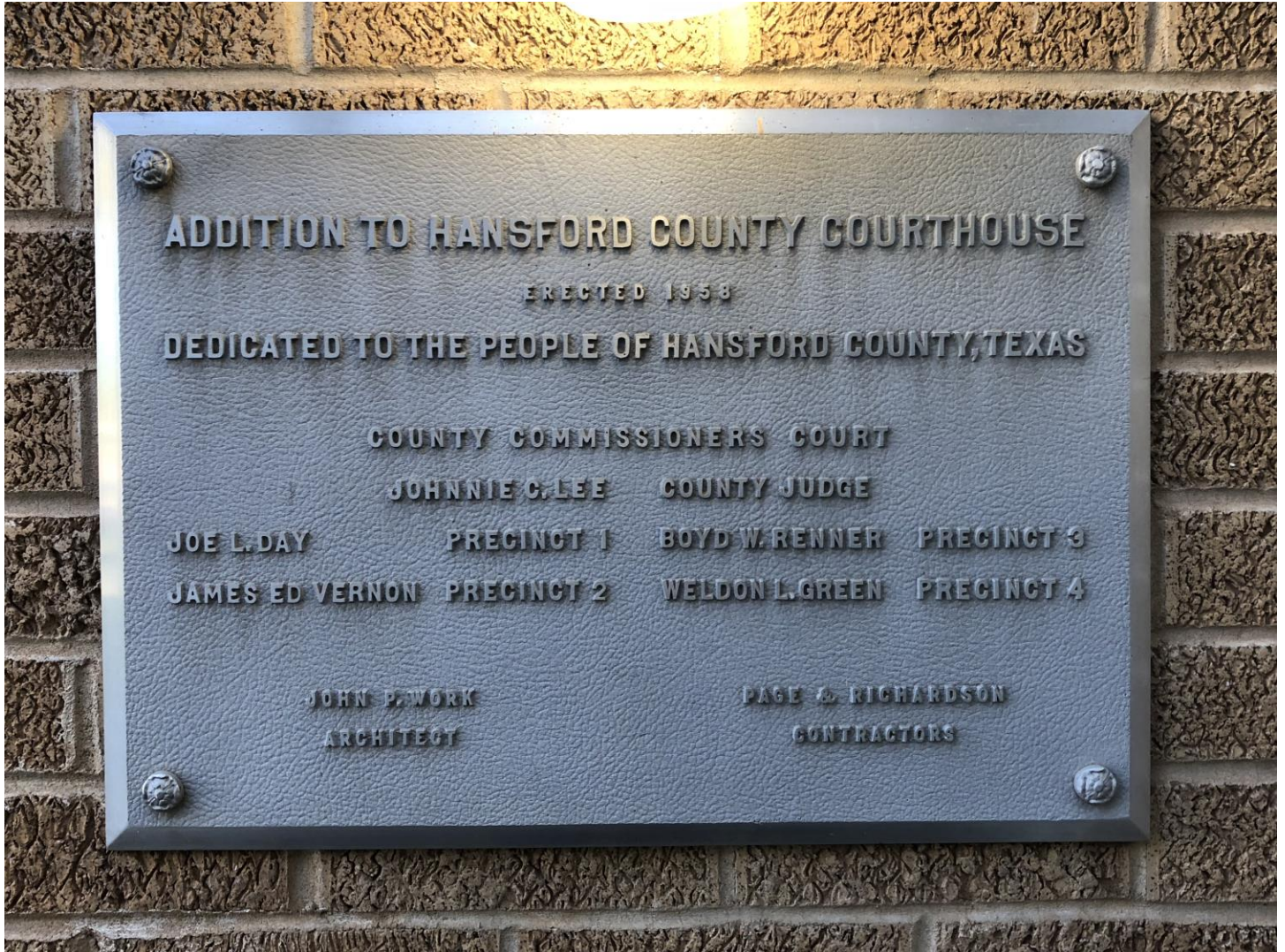


Figure 12: View of southwest elevation on addition circa 1982. Courtesy Hansford County Historical Commission, *Hansford County Volume II, 1876-1983*, page 38.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 13: Dedication plaque for 1958 addition.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 14: Inscription for 1936 Texas Centennial Highway Marker (contributing object)

HANSFORD COUNTY

FORMED FROM YOUNG AND BEXAR TERRITORIES
CREATED AUGUST 21, 1876 ORGANIZED MARCH 11, 1889
NAMED IN HONOR OF
JOHN M. HANSFORD
CAME TO TEXAS IN 1837
MEMBER OF THE TEXAS CONGRESS
JUDGE OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT, 1840-1842
DIED IN 1844
HANSFORD, THE COUNTY SEAT

Figure 15: Inscription for 1965 Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker

Killed while assisting United States marshal making arrest in boundary line dispute in the northwestern part of county. Like many frontier sheriffs, he was a cowboy and farmer chosen for office out of regard for his standing as a good citizen. Came to Hansford, 1906, bought a section of land. Eager to see area develop, he ran a livery stable. This provided for land prospectors from the north and east the only means of travel to seek out and buy property. He married Sophia Snowden; had 10 children. Was sheriff from 1908 until his untimely death. (1965)

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Figure 16: Inscription for War Memorial Monument (contributing object)

MEMORIAL TO HANSFORD
COUNTY SERVICEMEN WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES IN
SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY

IT IS MOST FITTING THAT THE CITIZENS
OF HANSFORD COUNTY, TEXAS, HONOR
THEIR LOVED ONNES WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES SO THAT FREEDOM MIGHT NOT
DIE AND IT IS ON BEHALF OF ALL
YOUR FELLOW AMERICANS THAT I
EXPRESS THE NATION'S PRIDE AND
ENDURING GRATITUDE FOR THE
SURPEME SACRIFICE THEY MADE.

RICHARD M. NIXON
MAY 30, 1970

WORLD WAR 1
SULLIVAN P. SPIVEY

WORLD WAR II
C.P. ARCHER
P.D. BROCKUS
CHARLES CASTLEMAN
MIKEAL DOUGHERTY
CAYLOR DAVIS
CLARENCE GILL
WALTER HART
FELIX PIERCE
J.A. RUSSELL
JESSE RALSTON
HARLOW ROPER
LEROY SHEETS
R.B. SMITH
GUNNER STAVLO
IRA TOMLINSON
T.J. UTLY
ADLEE WRIGHT

KOREA
MANY SERVED BUT BY THE GRACE OF
GOD ALL RETURNED HOME SAFELY

VIETNAM
LYNN BUZZARD
THOMAS GIBNER
SAMUEL B. CORNELIUS, MAJ. U.S.A.F. MIA
BILLY THOMAS
BOBBY WILLIAMS

Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photos

Photo 1: View of primary (northwest) elevation of 1931 courthouse from main street. Camera facing southeast.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 2: view of primary (northwest) elevation. Camera facing southeast.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 3: View of central entrance bay on primary (northwest) elevation. Camera facing southeast.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 4: View of northwest and southwest elevations of 1931 courthouse. Camera facing east.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 5: View of northwest and southwest elevations of 1931 courthouse. Non-contributing windmill visible. Camera facing east.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 6: View of southwest elevation of 1931 courthouse. Camera facing northeast.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 7: View of rear elevation of 1931 courthouse and 1958 addition. Camera facing north.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 8: View of northeast elevation of the 1958 addition and the 1931 courthouse. Camera facing southwest.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 9: View of hyphen connection original courthouse and addition. Camera facing southwest.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 10: Decorative lamp post near main entrance.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 11: Stepped quoin detail on primary (northwest) elevation.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 12: View of basement vestibule with original doors visible. Camera facing northwest.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 13: View of first floor corridor. Camera facing northeast.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 14: View of district courtroom on second floor. Camera facing northwest.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 15: Original double door entrance to district courtroom. Camera facing southwest.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 16: Original light fixtures in district courtroom.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 17: Interior of archival room in 1958 addition. Camera facing east.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 18: Typical first floor corridor in addition. Camera facing southeast.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 19: First floor corridor in addition showing entrance to jail. Camera facing northeast.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 20: 1936 Texas Centennial Highway Marker located in front of courthouse. Camera facing northeast.



Hansford County Courthouse, Spearman, Hansford County, Texas

Photo 21: View of 1970 War Memorial Monument. Camera facing east.

