

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Bogata Historic District

Other name/site number: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: Main Street, roughly between Mount Pleasant Road and 2nd Street

City or town: Bogata

State: Texas

County: Red River

Not for publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ localApplicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Signature of certifying official / Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature 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

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

x	Private
x	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	6	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
11	6	total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution, specialty store; department store; restaurant

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

RELIGION: religious facility

GOVERNMENT: city hall, public works

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Romanesque

OTHER: 1-part commercial block; 2-part commercial block

No Style

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6 through 10)

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance: 1910-1936

Significant Dates: 1910

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

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

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 7 through 15)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 16-17)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
(*Part 1 approved April 2017, concurring that the property at 105 N. Main contributes to an eligible district.*)
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 3.8 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. 33.472296° -95.213675°
2. 33.472287° -95.213272°
3. 33.471713° -95.212944°
4. 33.471024° -95.212958°
5. 33.470347° -95.213308°
6. 33.470275° -95.214237°
7. 33.471184° -95.214234°

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated district includes the following parcels: Block D Lots 7-11; Block 4 Lots 4-6; Abstract A0420, Tract 165 Wm Humphries 0.59 acres; north half of A0420 Humphries, Wm., Tract PT 124, 138B TC-10; Original-DET Block 46 Lot 1 & N/2 O F 2 0.241 Acres; Lots 3-11 Block C. The boundary also includes the legal parcel for the United Methodist Church at E. 2nd Street and Main, and the legal parcels for the buildings at 110-112, 106, 104, and 103 S. Main. The precise boundary is shown on the map on page 18 of this nomination.

Boundary Justification: The boundary is drawn around the highest concentration of historic non-residential properties with a good degree of integrity in central Bogata, Texas.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Gregory Smith (National Register Coordinator), and Shelly Evans (property owner)
Organization: Texas Historical Commission
Street & number: PO Box 12276
City or Town: Austin State: Texas Zip Code: 78711
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Telephone: 512-463-6013
Date: August 2019

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 18-22)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 23-28)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 29-41)

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photograph Log

Bogata Historic District

Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photographed by Gregory Smith, January 2018

All photographs reflect the current appearance of the nominated properties

Photo 1

West side of Main Street, Properties 1-8, facing northwest

Photo 2

Properties 1-3, west side of Main Street, facing west

Photo 3

First National Bank (Property 4), facing northwest

Photo 4

Property 17, 103 S. Main Street, facing east

Photo 5

Property 5, 109-113 N. Main Street, facing east

Photo 6

Property 6, 117 N. Main Street, facing east

Photo 7

Property 7, 125-129 N. Main Street, facing east

Photo 8

Property 8, 133 N. Main Street, facing east

Photo 9

East side of Main Street (Properties 15, 16, and 17), facing southeast.

Photo 10

City Hall (Property 13) and Water Tower (Property 14), facing east

Photo 11

Property 12, facing east

Photo 12

United Methodist Church, 148-152 N. Main Street (Property 9), facing east

Photo 13

United Methodist Church and Senior Center (Property 10, at right), facing northeast

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.

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Description

The Bogata Historic District consists of 16 buildings and 1 structure along Main Street in the heart of the east Texas city, approximately 23 miles southeast of Paris. The commercial and civic heart of the city is a two-block section of Main Street, most buildings dating to the second decade of the 20th Century. Most of the historic commercial buildings were built c.1910 when the railroad into town was completed, although development continued sporadically until the 1950s. Most buildings are red brick 1-part commercial blocks, but noteworthy landmarks include a 2-story bank building and the United Methodist Church. Most of the buildings are good examples of the early 20th century Commercial Style, applied to one-part and two-part commercial blocks. The buildings are constructed of brick with commercial storefronts composed of wood, glass and brick, and most retain a high degree of integrity. The district constitutes the entirety of the historic central business core of the small city.

Bogata, Texas, is at the junction of U.S. Highway 271, State Highway 37, and Farm Road 909 in southwestern Red River County. The city serves a farming and ranching area and houses employees of firms in Paris, Clarksville, and Mount Pleasant. The Bogata Historic District occupies a little over one city block of Main Street, just north of the former right-of way of the short-line Paris and Mount Pleasant railroad that connected Bogata to larger cities to the northwest and southeast. Most commercial development in the district was organized perpendicular to the railroad on a north-south axis. The street elevation in the district rises 14 feet from the south to north (3% average slope), with the greatest rise in the 100 block of Main Street.

The commercial and civic heart of the city features historic buildings dating to the second decade of the 20th century. The district contains a high percentage of contributing brick buildings, all except two of which are 1-part commercial blocks. Other contributing properties include a 2-story bank, the 1918 First United Methodist Church, and the municipal water tower. The district includes eleven contributing buildings, five noncontributing buildings, and one contributing structure (water tower). The contributing buildings represent common commercial forms, date to the second decade of the 20th century, and are associated with development spurred by the arrival of the railroad in 1910. All of the buildings are brick and stand along a two-block section of Main Street. Based on terminology devised by architectural historian Richard Longstreth in *The Buildings of Main Street* (1987), the commercial buildings represent *2-part Commercial Block* and *1-part Commercial Block* façade compositions. As commercial buildings often do not exhibit the characteristics of high styles, Longstreth's typology is based on facade organization. Architectural detailing may be either prominent or totally lacking. Modernism appears to have had no impact on commercial architecture in the district, as no buildings have been altered by the removal of cornices and other details, and no slipcovers are present.




One-part commercial blocks in the district are free-standing or part of a row. False parapet fronts or brick coping often enhance the upper walls, but detailing is limited to enframed panels above each bay and continuous corbeled stringcourses at the top or each parapet. Most of the storefronts have been slightly altered with the introduction of new materials but generally retain central single-door or double-door entrances flanked by display window bays. Each storefront is topped by a transom course, but most transom windows have been covered with metal or plywood. Some buildings feature historic flat awnings suspended by cables or tie rods (such as Property 12), while have non-historic shed awnings attached below the transom course (Properties 1 and 2), or higher-pitched awnings attached above (and obscuring) the transoms (Properties 5 and 6). The sole two-part commercial block in the district (Property 4) is a historic bank building that anchors the south end of district's longest building row on the west side of Main Street. This type is distinguished by its division of the facade into two distinct sections. The ground floor is similar to the one-part commercial block while the upper portion is commonly punctuated with smaller window openings at regular intervals. The bank's corner bay features a chamfered corner entrance behind a single iron column.

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

The final contributing properties in the district are the 1936 municipal water tower (Property 14) and the 1918 First United Methodist Church (Property 9). The water tower is a standard steel type with angled legs, a vertical tank with a hemispherical bottom, a balcony, and a conical roof. The 2-story red brick Romanesque Revival church is the only example of a high-style building in the district and features a 3-part gabled central bay flanked by short towers, and an extensive collection of stain-glass windows throughout the building. A six-step concrete main entrance staircase leads to a shallow portico behind three arched openings. The upper portion of the central bays features a large arched window flanked by shorter arched windows.

Inventory

All properties are 1-part commercial blocks except as noted.






	Map ID	Address	Historic Use ¹	Current Use	Date	C/NC
	1	110-112 S. Main	Unknown commercial	New Beginnings Church	1910	C
	2	106 S. Main	Unknown commercial	New Beginnings Church	1910	C
	3	104 S. Main	Bogata National Bank	Bogata Library	1910	C

¹ Historic use of buildings in the district is often difficult to determine due to the lack of city directories and Sanborn fire insurance maps. Only two issues of the *Bogata News* (July 31, 1914 and February 12, 1915) are available on microfilm. The dates provided in this column are those of photographs or publications that reveal historic function and/or ownership at given times.





Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

	Map ID	Address	Historic Use ¹	Current Use	Date	C/NC
	4	105 N. Main	First National Bank (Type: 2-part Commercial Block)	"Honey Hush" retail store	1912	C
	5	109-113 N. Main	Unknown commercial	Vacant	1910	C
	6	117 N. Main	Hardware; possibly funeral home; Tom Keeth ambulance service (1932 city booklet); Furniture (1957 photo)	Vacant	1910	C
	7	125-129 N. Main	DeVaney Drug Buckman Drug Store (1942-) Rexall Drugs (1961)	Vacant	1910	C
	8	133 N. Main	Unknown commercial; possibly half of a former movie theater. May be reevaluated after removal of slipcover.	Vacant	1910	NC

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

	Map ID	Address	Historic Use ¹	Current Use	Date	C/NC
	9	206 N. Main	First Methodist Church South (Romanesque Revival Style)	First United Methodist Church	1918	C
	10		Church meeting hall	Senior Center	c.2005	NC
	11		NA	Open shed	NA	NC
	12	148-152 N. Main	Unknown commercial	Vacant	c.1919	C
	13	128 N. Main	City Hall	City Hall	1988	NC

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

	Map ID	Address	Historic Use ¹	Current Use	Date	C/NC
	14	NA	Water Tower	Water Tower	1936	C
	15		Unknown commercial	Antique store	NA	NC
	16		Masonic Lodge	Masonic Lodge	1983	NC
	17	103 S. Main	Dozier's Dry Goods. Other businesses (including a dentist's office in 1915) occupied a mezzanine level.	"Junk & Disorderly" flower shop & gifts	1910	C

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Bogata Historic District in Bogata, Red River County, Texas has been the center of the community's business and social life since 1910. In the late 19th century, a small commercial center developed near a creek approximately a quarter mile northeast of downtown but beginning in 1910 the commercial center moved closer to the site of a proposed railroad. The historic buildings on Main Street all date to the second decade of the 20th century. The district is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development at the local level of significance, for its association with the development of the small rural community that grew into a commercial center for this agricultural region along the Paris and Mount Pleasant Railroad. The period of significance for the district spans from 1910, when the first series of buildings in the district were built on the west side of the street, to 1936, when that last contributing structure (the municipal water tower) was built.

Red River County

Bogata (pronounced "buh-go'-duh") is in southwestern Red River County. The county is bordered on the north by the Red River, which generally marks the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma. Native peoples lived in the area as early as 1500 B.C., and the first Europeans to visit the area were likely French explorers in 1718-19. American hunters and traders came to the area by 1815, with permanent settlements established near the river by 1818. In the mid-1820s, settlers began to move southward towards the prairies, and the future county seat of Clarksville was established in 1833. By the mid-1830s, Native Americans had left the area. The Republic of Texas established Red River County in 1837, which included all or parts of present-day Lamar, Hopkins, Delta, Franklin, Titus, Morris, Cass, Marion, and Bowie counties. By 1846, Red River County was reduced to its current size. The county remained predominately rural and culturally southern, and in 1860 enslaved African-Americans accounted for 36% of the population (3,039 of 8,535 total). The Texas & Pacific Railroad arrived in 1876, connecting Clarksville to Texarkana to the east, and Paris to the west, with several towns established along the line. Similarly, the 1913 completion of the Paris and Mount Pleasant Railroad through the southwest corner of the county spurred the growth of several cities, including Bogata. Cotton continued to dominate the economy through the early 20th century, but after 1920, cotton production decreased, generally in favor of livestock raising. The county population declined precipitously through the mid-20th century, from a high of nearly 36,000 in 1920 to just over 14,000 in 1970.²

Bogata, Texas

In 1836, William and Mary McGill Humphries settled in the area that would become the city of Bogata near the springs on Little Mustang Creek. Humphries had come to the area as a teenager in 1818 with the Nathaniel Robbins party, and returned with his young family after Texas independence. The Humphries named the area around their homestead "Maple Springs." By 1844, the community had grown large enough to support its own school, and a post office was established in 1851. Commercial development began after the Civil War with the opening of a general store along the community's main street (now East Third Street, a few blocks northeast of the current commercial district). In 1886 the U.S. Post Office refused to accept the name "Maple Springs" because another post already claimed the name, leading postmaster James Horner to suggest "Bogotá," after the capitol of Colombia. The name was entered as "Bogata," possibly due to a misread handwritten script.³

² *Handbook of Texas Online*, Cecil Harper, Jr., "RED RIVER COUNTY," accessed October 04, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcr05>; Iva Lassiter Hooker, *History of Bogata*, 1982.

³ *Handbook of Texas Online*, John M. Howison, "BOGATA, TX," accessed October 04, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hjb11>.

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In 1894, population was approximately 400, with several retail establishments, two churches, a cotton mill, a corn mill, and a school with about 150 students.⁴ In 1899, citizens from Bogata and Deport (approximately seven miles northwest) organized a committee to encourage the construction of a railroad through the communities.⁵ In August 1903, citizens organized a railway picnic, inviting people from neighboring Lamar and Titus counties, to promote the establishment of an electric railway between Paris and Mount Pleasant, routed through Bogata.

The Paris and Mount Pleasant Railroad Company (known colloquially as the "Pa & Ma") was chartered in 1909 by citizens of Paris and built to run approximately fifty miles southeast to Mount Pleasant, Titus County, where it connected with the St. Louis Southwestern ("Cotton Belt") Railway. In October 1910, the first phase of the railway was completed, with a 23-mile link from Paris terminating in Bogata. That same year, the town was platted and the commercial center moved to its current location immediately north of the tracks, and thirteen buildings were constructed on Main Street.⁶ The arrival of the railroad in Bogata transformed the community from a sparsely populated rural settlement into a vibrant town with a concentrated commercial center filled with a variety of locally-owned businesses. In addition to the brick buildings constructed on the south side of Main Street, numerous frame buildings were built on adjacent blocks.⁷ The short line railroad offered limited freight and passenger service, with just one daily train each way. While the railroad offered Bogata opportunity for development, growth potential was nevertheless limited compared to other cities that benefitted from being on one or more main lines. By 1910, the unincorporated town had a population of at least 400. In its prime, Bogata had its own drug stores, grocery stores, ice cream parlors, cafés, meat markets, barber shops, blacksmiths, and undertakers. In 1911 Sam Stanley of Clarksville began publishing the weekly *Bogata News*, which subsequently went through many owners, including J.P. Nance who also opened the first theater in Bogata in the 1920s.⁸

Construction of the 27-mile railroad extension from Bogata to Mount Pleasant began in May 1912 and was opened in June 1913.⁹ The population had doubled to 1,000 since 1910, and completion of the railroad line spurred more growth in the business district.¹⁰ By 1912, all the businesses in the original commercial district had relocated to the new Main Street.¹¹ In 1912 Mrs. Sam Patterson built the 2-story brick Hotel Maple on Main Street.¹² Also in 1912, Marshall and Keys, contractors from Blossom, Texas, purchased the lot on which the First State Bank would be built. Also in 1912, the community petitioned the county to create an independent school district, with plans to build to \$15,000 school, and a southbound road was cut through the timber eight miles south to the Sulphur River. After the Mount Pleasant extension of the railroad opened, citizens circulated a petition for the incorporation of Bogata. The petition failed, and Bogata remained unincorporated until 1930.¹³

In January 1917 a fire took out a row of wooden commercial buildings on the east side of Main Street. The *Paris Morning News* described the buildings as the "last wooden business houses left in town," but expressed doubts that

⁴ "Bogata, in Red River County." *Dallas Morning News*, January 14, 1894.

⁵ "Railroad Convention," *Dallas Morning News*, August 18, 1899.

⁶ "Improvements at Bogata," *Dallas Morning News*, November 5, 1910.

⁷ Red River County Historical Society, *Red River Recollections*. p.20.

⁸ Red River County Historical Society, *Red River Recollections*. p.20.

⁹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, Chris Cravens, "PARIS AND MOUNT PLEASANT RAILROAD," accessed October 07, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/eqp06>. The company was sold to the Texas Power and Light Company in 1952, and the railroad was abandoned in 1956.

¹⁰ "New Hotel Now Open," *Dallas Morning News*, April 6, 1912.

¹¹ Ivy Lassiter Hooker, *History of Bogata, Red River County, Texas*. Manuscript on file at the Bogata Library and Museum, 1982.

¹² Red River County Historical Society, *Red River Recollections*. p.20. The Methodist Church ultimately purchased the hotel and demolished it.

¹³ "Petition for Incorporation," *Dallas Morning News*, September 29, 1913; "City Official Chosen In Election at Bogata." *Dallas Morning News*, September 23, 1930.

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they would be replaced soon, as there were still some empty storefronts on the west side of the street.¹⁴ The following month, J.E. Wilson, who owned several lots in town, proposed to build brick buildings on the burned-out lots, but it is unclear whether this plan was ever carried out. In 1919, A.D. Smith built a building described by the *Paris Morning News* as “nice up-to-date brick structure that would look pretty well in Paris.”¹⁵ This is most likely the commercial building at 142-158 North Main (Property 12). In May 1925, a fire destroyed three frame buildings on the west side of Main Street, including the Liberty Theater, the Howson Millinery store, and the Masonic Building.¹⁶ In June 1931, another three brick buildings were destroyed by fire, including a movie theater owned by M.D. Peyton, a “ladies shop,” and a building that housed a barber shop and café.¹⁷

While Bogata had a newspaper throughout the period of significance for the district, copies from the 1930s are not available. Similarly, archival records of the small city are limited and there are no extant city directories nor fire insurance maps. A 1932 promotional publication, however, offers a glimpse into the city’s zeitgeist. The 26-page pamphlet (on file at the Bogata Library & Museum), proclaims Bogata to be “the Biggest Little Town in Northeast Texas,” furthered identified on page 1 as “a city of 1,200 white people...”¹⁸ The booklet includes advertisements, handy household tips, and recipes, but is mostly an advertisement for the city, imploring the reader to

MOVE TO BOGATA. Buy a home and move to Bogata. If you can’t buy a home buy a lot and build a home. If you can’t do that rent a home, but by all means choose Bogata if you are looking for a location. It’s the best place in Texas to raise chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, hogs, cattle, truck crops or cotton and feed, and we have a market for all of these things right here at home. These things will keep money in your pocket every day of the year.¹⁹

The publication enumerated the variety of businesses in the city, and expounded on their high quality, including: five grocery stores; one market (“fresh killed meats 365 days every year”); three dry goods and clothing stores; two drug stores (with “ice cream and fountain drinks and parlors that are inviting to any lady”); four restaurants of various types; one produce firm (“a market for any kind of produce that you might have to sell”); seven filling stations and garages; one furniture and undertaking establishment (“with a complete stock and prices in line with cotton prices”); three blacksmith shops; three cotton gins; a telephone exchange (“giving excellent service 24 hours a day, both local and long distance”); and four doctors and a dentist (“don’t worry about your ills if you live Bogata”).

Among other superlatives, the pamphlet boasted that “Bogata is the only town in northeast Texas with a population under 10,000 that can boast of having five new buildings completed in the month of January 1932, three of which are brick structures.”²⁰ It also highlighted the “Monthly Trades Days” program, which offered a \$25 cash prize available to shoppers who collected raffle tickets by spending at least 50 cents for merchandise in local stores.²¹

¹⁴ “Local News Notes.” *Paris Morning News*, January 12, 1917.

¹⁵ *Paris Morning News*, April 4, 1917.

¹⁶ “Bogata Theater Blaze Does Damage of \$12,000.” *Dallas Morning News*, May 15, 1921.

¹⁷ “Three Bogata Buildings Destroyed by Flames.” *Dallas Morning News*, June 27, 1931. The *Paris Morning News* later reported that four buildings housing five businesses were destroyed and noted that the owners were “out of town persons.”

¹⁸ *The City of Bogata, the Biggest Little Town In Northeast Texas*, 1932, p. 1. On file at the Bogata Library and Museum. Despite having an all-white population within the city limits in the 1930s, a Negro CCC camp was located south of the city from 1935 through the early 40s. There is very little record of this camp outside of occasional newspaper articles, but most of the work related to soil erosion projects in the north part of the county. In 2010 African-Americans made up approximately 1.3% of the total population.

¹⁹ *The City of Bogata, the Biggest Little Town In Northeast Texas*, 1932, p. 9.

²⁰ *Ibid*, 11.

²¹ *Ibid*, 13.

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In 1933, the *Dallas Morning News* reported that Bogata was continuing to build and establish new business but noted that the city lacked a waterworks, observing that “wells and cisterns are fine in their way, but their way is not a big way.”²² In 1936, approximately thirty WPA workers began construction of the Bogata sewer and water system. The project continued through the year, and required the drilling of three wells, laying of water mains, and construction of the sewer system and a water tower. The project employed about 150 men.²³ Also in 1936, improvements to State Highway 49/US 271 were completed, greatly easing the travel times to Paris and Mount Pleasant by car.

The Texas Centennial year of 1936 coincided with Bogata’s centennial of settlement, and the year proved exciting on a number of fronts. In February of that year, oil was discovered at Talco, approximately ten miles southeast of Bogata, generating an influx of outsiders seeking work and fortune. Although oil was ultimately not found near Bogata, the recently-formed Bogata Chamber of Commerce hosted an oil-themed banquet, inviting Lt. Governor Walter Woodul, and E.O. Thompson, chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. The banquet was held to honor the founders of the Talco Oil Field, but it also served as a means to promote Bogata and elicit information regarding how to plan for development of a city “on the front-door of a new oil field.” Attendee F.L. Branson noted that Bogata, with a population of 1,500 people was “destined to be a much larger and more modern city.”²⁴ In May, the Bogata Chamber of Commerce, along with similar groups in over 20 cities within a 50-mile radius of Paris, took out a half-page ad in the *Paris News* Centennial edition, touting its proximity to the Talco oil field, and inviting centennial visitors, oil men, business men, and “everyone,” to receive a royal welcome in Bogata. An accompanying article outlined the history of the city and emphasized the varieties of soil that made a diverse agricultural economy possible.

The frenzy of activity at Talco – and hopes of Bogata to cash in on its neighbor’s fortune -- was short-lived, as the oil was of low gravity and thus less valuable than higher grades, although it was well-suited for asphalt.²⁵ Bogata saw a small boom, with 20 new houses built through the summer.²⁶ While no record specifies that new commercial buildings were built on Main Street during this period, the former Maples Hotel was updated and modernized, with a new dining room and updated furnishings.²⁷ Bogata planned to hold a special centennial celebration, but the September program was postponed to avoid conflict with the Deport Stock Show, and doesn’t appear to have been rescheduled.

Main Street Activity after 1910

The nominated district is in many ways comparable to small commercial districts built along railroads throughout Texas in the early 20th century. The historic buildings themselves are generally simple brick 1-part commercial blocks, with the only outliers being the 1912 First National Bank (Property 4), with its columned corner entrance and corbelled parapet, and the 1918 First Methodist Church (Property 9), a simplified red brick Romanesque building that anchors the north end of the district. Photographs from the 1950s indicate that the west side of Main Street continued to develop through the early 20th century, but demolition has reduced the number of buildings on the west side to roughly the number that existed before World War I.

²² “Municipal Financing.” *Dallas Morning News*, November 13, 1933.

²³ “Bogata Ready for Water-Sewer Work.” *Paris News*, April 15, 1936; “Waterworks is Approved.” *Paris News*, July 29, 1936; “Lay water Tank Base at Bogata,” *Paris News*, October 1, 1936.

²⁴ “Bogata Ready for Oil Fete.” *Marshall News*, April 3, 1936. “Lieutenant Governor To Be At Bogata Banquet, Friday Night.” *Paris News*, April 3, 1936; “Bogata Entertains Three Hundred At Chamber of Commerce Meeting Friday,” *Paris News*, April 5, 1936.

²⁵ *Handbook of Texas Online*, Cecil Harper, Jr., “TALCO, TX,” accessed October 07, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hlt02>.

²⁶ “Centennial Year Brings Bogata Building Activity.” *Paris News*, August 2, 1936.

²⁷ “Bogata Get New Hotel.” *Paris News*, August 6, 1936.

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Main Street activity throughout the period of significance was likewise comparable to that of countless small cities in Texas. As highlighted in the 1932 promotional pamphlet, the buildings of Bogata's Main Street housed a changing variety of retail establishments, although due to lack of city directories and the nonspecific local histories, it is difficult to determine which buildings housed which businesses. The First National Bank was established in 1907 with a building in the original commercial district. The bank moved to its Main Street location in 1913 and was the only bank in Bogata through most of the city's history. By 1935 it reported total assets of \$13,000,000.²⁸

Red River Recollections highlights some of the long-term businesses in town, including grocery stores, such as the one operated by Joe Ford in a building that was originally a pool hall, café, and barber shop, but housed a grocery store under different owners from 1933 to the mid-1980s. According to the book there were as many as twelve grocery stores in Bogata at one time, offering a variety of mass-produced goods, but also selling eggs, watermelon, and produce from local growers.²⁹ The Bogata Theater was located just beyond the district boundary on the west side of Main Street. It was built in April 1935 and operated under Neal Blankenship of Mineola.³⁰

In 1956, improved highways and larger-capacity trucks led to the closing of the only railroad that served Bogata. The loss of the railroad began a decline in new businesses established in Bogata, and the highest-recorded in population (1980) was 1,508. The current population is just over 1,000. In 2015 Shelly Evans purchased the First National Bank building, and opened a boutique store, drawing visitors for miles; many were curious about how an old bank building could be turned into a boutique. The dream to restore Main Street of Bogata to its previous economic uses is Evans' main goal.

²⁸ "First National Bank, Bogata, Texas." Part 1 federal tax credit application. The bank relocated to a new building outside the district boundary in 1966.

²⁹ Red River County Historical Society, *Red River Recollections*. p.20.

³⁰ "New Picture Show Ready at Bogata." *Paris News*, April 4, 1935.

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

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Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

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Dallas Morning News, September 23, 1930.

"Railroad Convention," *Dallas Morning News*, August 18, 1899.

"Shortline Railway Seeks to Revoke Abandonment Rule." *Dallas Morning News*, December 6, 1942.

"Three Bogata Buildings Destroyed by Flames." *Dallas Morning News*, June 27, 1931.

"Waterworks is Approved." *Paris News*, July 29, 1936.

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Geographical Data

Google Earth Map indicating nominated district.
Accessed April 7, 2020



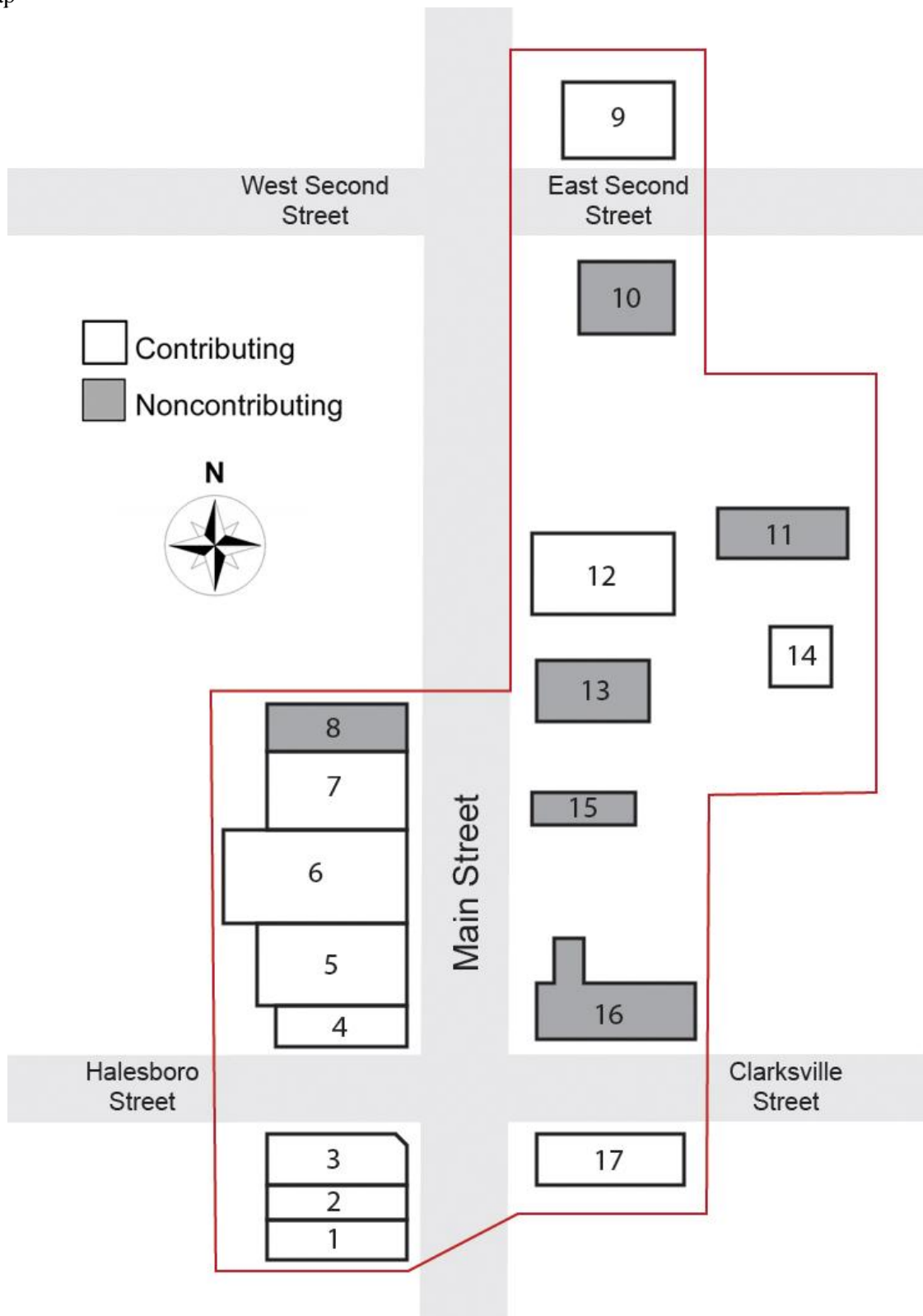
Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Google Earth Map indicating nominated district and location of original Main Street prior to the railroad.
Accessed April 7, 2020



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

District Map

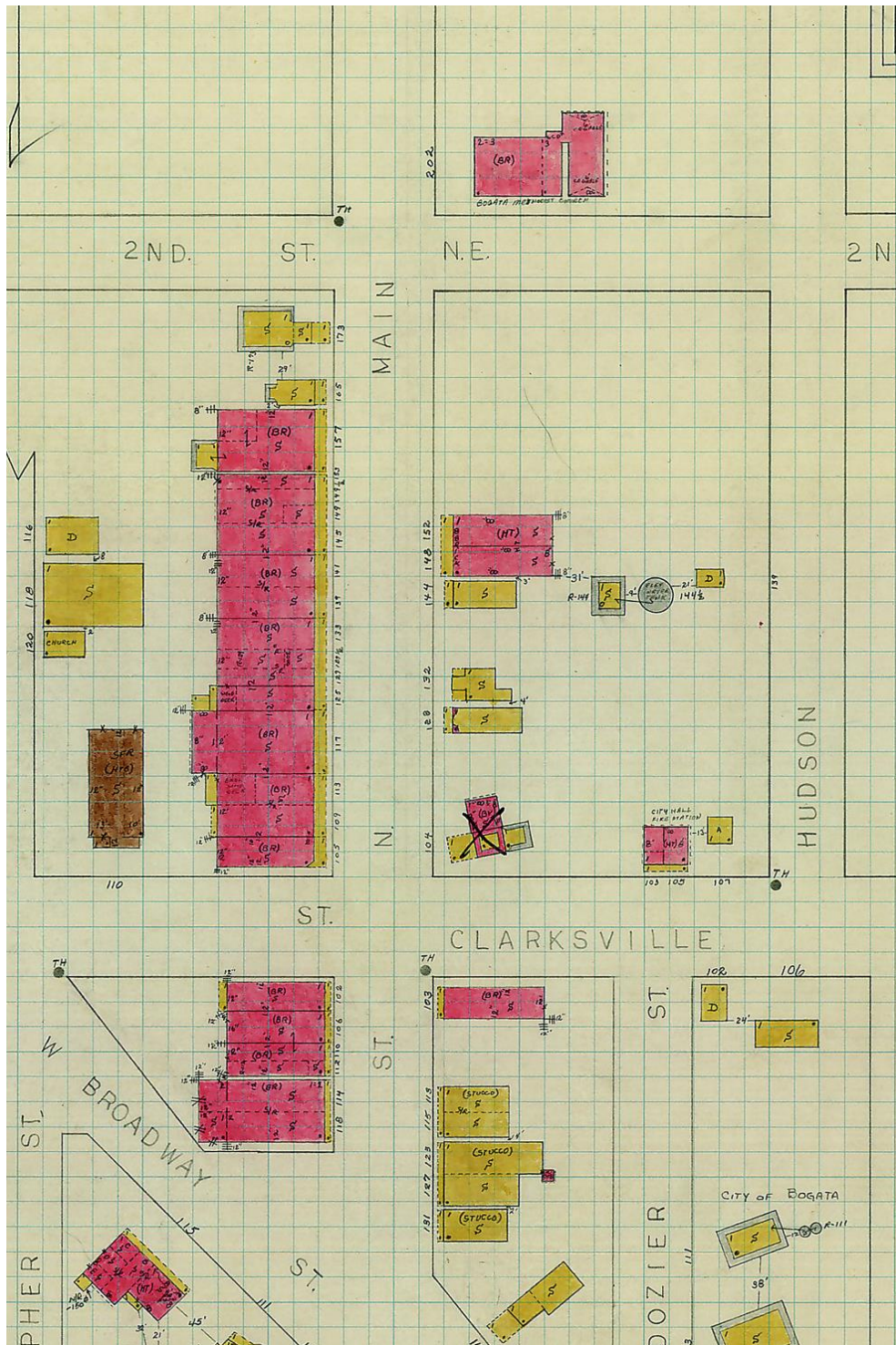


Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

1969 Texas Department of Insurance map (detail). Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are not available.

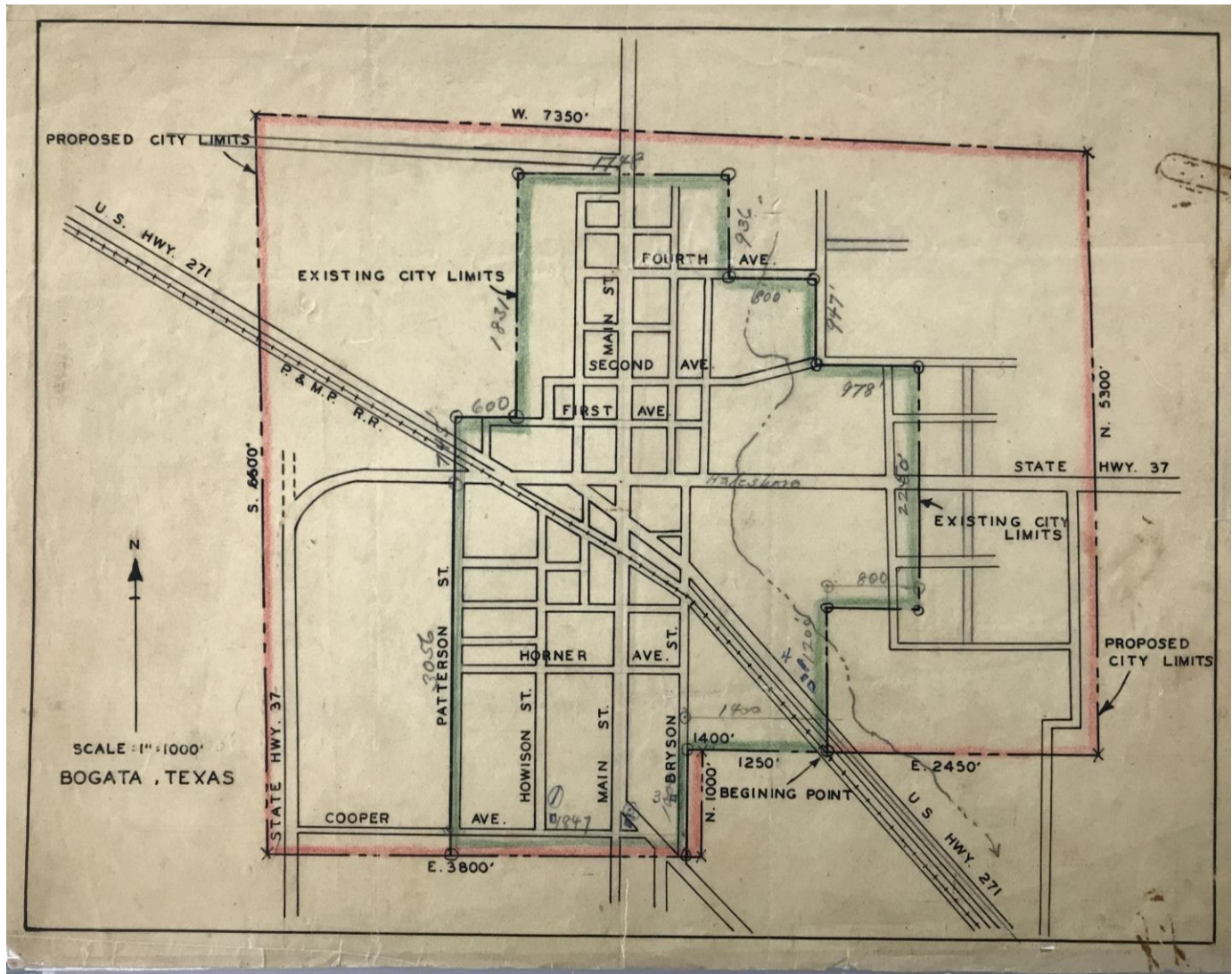
Texas State Library and Archives Commission

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Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Undated City Limits Map. No Date.
Bogata Library and Museum



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Original business district (now East Third Street) before 1912.
Bogata Library and Museum



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Facing north up Main Street, 1914.
Bogata Library and Museum



West side of North Main Street (no date)
Bogata Library and Museum



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

The Paris News, April 3, 1936.

Bogata Will Plan Building Program



Plans for building a bigger and better town will be discussed Friday night when Bogata, one of the most progressive and rapid-growing towns of Red River

county, is host to a number of prominent visitors. The occasion will be a chamber of commerce banquet. Lieutenant Gov. Walter Woodiel will be the principal

—Paris News Photo
speaker and Senator Tom DeBerry of Bogata will be in charge of the program. The principal street of Bogata is shown in the above photo.

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Paris News, May 31, 1936. Local oil discoveries proved to be less lucrative than anticipated.

After 100 Years..... “BLACK GOLD” Adds to the Prosperity of Bogata

“THE LIVEST TOWN IN THE NEW NORTH-
EAST TEXAS OIL BELT”

Only ten minutes from the new Talco discovery well, Bogata is ideally situated to receive the maximum benefit from this sensational development.

Always a rich agricultural center, Bogata is flanked on the North by the richest, finest black land known, which is highly productive of cotton, corn and other outstanding money crops; on the South is a productive sandy soil that is ideal for growing tomatoes and all fresh vegetables and fruits. Here is a diversified agricultural program that includes dairy and beef cattle, poultry raising and other livestock production to round out a successful farming program that gives Bogata an unusual year 'round income!

BOGATA HAS:

- 1,500 People
- 5 Churches
- 3 Cotton Gins
- A Fine Water Supply
- CCC Camp
- 1 railroad
- 2 Designated Highways
- 2 Schools
- 1 Newspaper
- 3 Civic and Social Clubs in addition to the Church Organizations.
- A Live Chamber of Commerce

**CENTENNIAL VISITORS! OIL MEN! ALL BUSINESS MEN! EVERYONE! WILL
RECEIVE A ROYAL WELCOME IN BOGATA!**

WELCOME TO BOGATA

*The Brightest
Spot In
Northeast
Texas*



IN THE PICTURES:

Above is shown the derick of Carr No. 1 discovery well of the new Northeast Texas oil field which is located only ten minutes from Bogata. The picture at the left shows the well as it was flowing by heads into the slush pit, as it was being swabbed into production.

Since this time only three months ago, four other producing wells have been brought in this field and many others are being drilled all over this territory.



WELCOME TO Northeast TEXAS

*The Brightest
Spot In The
Nation*



Rich in historical interest, Bogata was founded in 1836 by Bill Humphries, who built the first home near a beautiful grove of maple trees. During this hundred years of growth and development the city has taken its present name, been rebuilt on its present site and now presents a most clean, attractive civic appearance.

Visitors to Bogata are immediately impressed by the live, progressive spirit of its citizenship and the optimistic outlook of its business men. We invite you to Bogata, to visit, to make your home, to make investments, or just look around whatever your mission we're glad to see you!

This Advertisement Published In The Interest Of Our Rapidly Growing City and Trade Territory By The

Bogata Chamber of Commerce

Figure - Page 26

Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

West side of North Main Street, late 1950s
Bogata Library and Museum



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

1961 Parade, facing south down Main Street
Bogata Library and Museum



1961 Parade, facing northwest at 148-152 Main Street (Property 12).
Bogata Library and Museum



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Current Photos (January 2018)

Photo 1

West side of Main Street, facing northwest



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 2

Properties 1-3, west side of Main Street, facing west



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 3

First National Bank (Property 4), facing northwest



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 4
Property 17, facing east



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 5
Property 5, facing east



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 6
Property 6, facing east



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 7
Property 7, facing east



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 8
Property 8, facing east



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 9

East side of Main Street (Properties 15, 16, and 17), facing southeast.



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 10

City Hall (Property 13) and Water Tower (Property 14), facing east



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 11
Property 12, facing east



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 12

United Methodist Church (Property 9)



Bogata Historic District, Bogata, Red River County, Texas

Photo 13

United Methodist Church and Senior Center (Property 10, at right)



- end -