

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bonham VA Hospital

Other names/site number: Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center

Name of related multiple property listing:

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1201 East 9th Street

City or town: Bonham State: TX County: Fannin

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

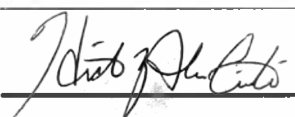
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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 level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

		VA Federal Preservation Officer	8/29/2022
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date	
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs			
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			

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In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Mark Wolfe
Signature of commenting official:

8/17/22
Date

Title : SHPO, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- X 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:)

Paul R. Lusignan
Signature of the Keeper

10/13/2022
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☒

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTHCARE / hospital

HEALTH CARE / clinic

HEALTH CARE / medical office

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL/Modern

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, concrete, metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, presently named the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, is located in Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. The discontinuous historic district consists of two main healthcare buildings (the hospital and the domiciliary) and 26 ancillary buildings, structures, and objects. The hospital complex has 13 contributing buildings, 2 contributing structures, one contributing object, nine non-contributing buildings, two non-contributing structures, and one non-contributing object. The campus reflects the changes in architecture and hospital design embraced by VA following World War II during the Third Generation hospital construction campaign. The Bonham Third Generation Veteran's Hospital campus was designed by architects Finger & Rustay under the supervision of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), making it an example of a New Hospitals Designed under USACE as part of the *United States Third Generation of Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958* historic context.

The main hospital buildings are constructed of concrete and concrete block, with brick cladding and some minor stone and concrete detailing. The ancillary buildings follow the same design pattern, with brick cladding. The main six-floor hospital and five-floor domiciliary buildings are relatively low rise for Third Generation facilities. The Rayburn facility is unique for being the sole Third Generation hospital primarily dedicated for domiciliary care.

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Narrative Description

The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital is located in southeast Bonham, Texas. The 79.3-acre hospital complex has single family residential development to the south and west of the property, while the area to the east is relatively undeveloped. A Texas State Veterans Home was constructed to the north of the property; the state home opened in 2001.

The district contains 28 total resources. The discontinuous district consists of an 79.1-acre parcel with the majority (26 out of 28) resources; two additional contributing resources are located on a separate 0.2-acre parcel sited 0.10 miles to the north of the other parcel. These two parcels were once part of a single parcel, but were separated when VA transferred approximately 22 acres of unused property to the City of Bonham in 1956; VA routinely shed underutilized property from its hospital facilities over the years as healthcare needs changed.

The primary entrance to the facility is via East 9th Street. This entrance leads to the main entrance at the main hospital building (Resource #1); the roadway gently curves between East 9th Street and the hospital building and loops around the flagpole before leading to surface parking lots. Currently, a handful of trees are sited along the roadway; these trees appear to be a later addition to the campus and not part of the original hospital design.

The hospital has complex has a secondary entrance further east on East 9th Street; this entrance is original to the campus and associated roadway leads towards the former residential facilities and the current support spaces, suggesting this entrance was initially constructed for use by hospital staff and service deliveries instead of patients and visitors. An entrance on the western boundary of the campus from Lynn Street was added ca. 1995, likely in conjunction with the construction of the community living center (Resource #29) in the northwestern portion of the campus.

On the north elevation, two entrance roads from Seven Oaks Road to the Texas State Veterans connect with the VA internal road system; these roadways were added ca. 2001 with the construction of the state home.

The entrances are plain with minimal signage; the hospital does not have elaborate gates or walls surrounding the facility. The roadways are functional with no emphasis on scenic views or approaches; the roads from the entrances from East Ninth Street provide access to the hospital buildings while the secondary entrances lead towards the support facilities and the rear of the healthcare-related buildings.

The Bonham facility does not exhibit any notable landscape features, nor does the site plan indicate any designated recreation facilities, such as fishing ponds, sometimes found at long-term care Veterans hospitals. As with many Veterans facilities, the flagpole (Resource #A) is given a position of prominence; at Bonham, the flagpole is near the main entrance to the hospital. However, the flagpole does not link to any organizing principles to the overall campus layout. The buildings of the Bonham campus are representative of typical Third Generation facilities, with the main hospital building at the center of the campus and the support buildings removed to the outer portions of the property.

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Unlike a typical Third Generation facility, the Bonham hospital complex essentially has two main hospital buildings: the hospital (Resource #1, contributing) and the domiciliary (Resource #2, contributing).¹ A domiciliary provides long-term housing to Veterans, primarily for economically-disadvantaged Veterans; this program has been part of Veterans hospitals since the first National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers opened in the 1860s. VA determined the type of hospital by the number and designated beds available; thus a hospital described as a domiciliary has the greatest number of beds dedicated to that function. In 1952, when both the domiciliary and hospital were fully open, Bonham had 50 general medical & surgical beds and 288 domiciliary beds.²

Healthcare-related services were concentrated in a single, multistory building (Resource #1 with six stories and approximately 78,000 gross square feet), as found in other VA hospitals of this era. However, the Bonham facility, as the only Third Generation hospital constructed as a domiciliary, has another multistory building of equivalent size (Resource #2 with five stories and approximately 80,000 gross square feet). These paired buildings serve as the organizing principle for the Bonham campus, an unusual configuration for Third Generation facilities. At the time of the design, the preponderance of the beds was designated for domiciliary care (300 beds), compared to general medical and surgical care (50 beds). Given that Veterans residing in the domiciliary were expected to be at the facility for an extended stay, the VA also provided recreation facilities at a third building (Resource #3), located to the east of the domiciliary building. The hospital, domiciliary, and recreation buildings are linked by a series of breezeways that have since been enclosed.

The other buildings on the campus were designated as quarters for staff, boiler house, a greenhouse, and other support. As typically found on Third Generation-era hospitals, residential buildings are clustered together in one section of campus and somewhat removed from the original hospital buildings. As also typically found on VA hospitals of this period, the former attendants quarters (Resource #12) is isolated from the other residential buildings and clustered with the support facilities. The support buildings, such as the warehouse and boiler plant, are grouped together in the northeastern portion of the campus and to the rear of the main healthcare-related buildings.

The dates of construction, current use, square footage, and details regarding the former use of the following buildings are from VA's internal inventories, including the Capital Asset Inventory, and from information provided by the hospital's engineering department. The building numbers below reflect the number assigned by VA. Smaller components of the hospital site, such as benches, storage trailers, or gazebos, are not included in the following inventory.

Resource No.	Resource Type	Current Use	Year Constructed	Status
1	Building	Main Hospital Building	1949	Contributing
2	Building	Dietetics / Administration	1949	Contributing
3	Building	Canteen / Library / Recreation	1949	Contributing

¹ Another Third Generation Veterans hospital with essentially two main hospital buildings is the facility in West Haven, CT; the West Haven VA hospital was constructed with two equally-sized hospital buildings, one for GM&S patients and one for tuberculosis patients. The NRHP nomination for the West Haven VA hospital was in progress at the time of this nomination.

² *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1952* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1953): 268.

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Resource No.	Resource Type	Current Use	Year Constructed	Status
4	Building	Administration	1949	Contributing
5	Building	Residential Rehabilitation	1949	Contributing
6	Building	Vacant	1949	Contributing
8	Building	Engineering Shops	1949	Contributing
9	Building	Engineering Administration	1949	Contributing
10	Building	Warehouse	1949	Contributing
11	Building	Boiler / Chiller Plant	1949	Contributing
12	Building	Administration	1949	Contributing
14	Building	Pump House	1949	Contributing
19	Building	Recreation / Storage	1949	Contributing
22	Structure	Greenhouse	1949	Contributing
24	Building	Domiciliary	1994	Non-contributing
29	Building	Community Living Center	1995	Non-contributing
31	Building	Park Toilet	1992	Non-contributing
32	Building	Warehouse	1993	Non-contributing
34	Building	Storage	ca. 2018	Non-contributing

The following resources do not have VA numbers assigned to them; for the purposes of this nomination, the following resource designations have been applied:

Resource No.	Resource Type	Current Use	Year Constructed	Status
A	Object	Flagpole	1949	Contributing
B	Structure	Water Tower	1949	Contributing
C	Object	Helicopter	1970; moved to VA in 2010	Non-contributing
D	Building	Generator Building	ca.1980	Non-contributing
E	Structure	Tennis Court / Basketball Court	ca. 1980	Non-contributing
F	Building	Vehicle Storage	ca.1995	Non-contributing
G	Structure	Gas Pump	ca.1995	Non-contributing
H	Building	Vehicle Storage	ca.1995	Non-contributing
I	Building	Vehicle Storage	ca.1995	Non-contributing

Resource #1

Historic / Present Use: Hospital and Administration

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

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Resource #1 serves as the main hospital building for the Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital complex (photos 1-4).³ Oriented towards the south, the southernmost portion of the building is only one story tall, resulting in a first floor that is irregularly shaped. The remaining portion of the building is five stories tall plus a one-story penthouse dedicated for mechanical equipment. The upper portions of the building resemble an inverted "J," with the main corridor aligning roughly along a north-south axis, flanked by two abbreviated wings projecting to the east. To meet modern safety codes, an exterior stair tower has been added to the west elevation (constructed ca. 2000); the tower is four stories tall and clad in concrete panels.

The building is constructed of reinforced concrete. Flat roofs cover the various sections of the building, including the stair hall addition. The building features limited architectural ornamentation; the stone trim and concrete canopies provide the only relief from the brick cladding. The red brick, laid in running bond, combined with narrow stone bands framing the windows serve as the connective design elements for the original buildings of the campus. The windows, which have been replaced, are regularly spaced, resulting in an uncluttered emphasis on the horizontal nature of the building.

The building has elements of Mid-Century Modern style in its restrained lines, bands of windows, minimal ornamentation, and functional appearance. The main entrance to Resource #1 remains on the west elevation. The entrance is recessed; the upper three stories project beyond the entrance, an unusual design feature for Third Generation hospitals. However, the general appearance of the building resembles other Third Generation facilities, such as Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka, Kansas and Brockton VA Medical Center in Brockton, Massachusetts in scale and materials.

A corridor links the east elevation of Resource #1 to the west elevation of Resource #2 at the ground floor. The one-story corridor has been enclosed; the former open breezeway has been enclosed with red brick. Square windows with brick sills line the south face.

Resource #2

Historic Use: Domiciliary

Present Use: Administration

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The neighboring domiciliary building follows. Located to the east of Resource #1, the building is connected to the adjacent building via a one-story corridor. The building is five stories tall (four stories plus a mechanical penthouse) with a flat roof. Constructed of reinforced concrete, the building continues the architectural design of the main hospital, with brick cladding and a horizontal emphasis created with stone and concrete trim along the windows on the south elevation (photos 5-8); as with the other original buildings of the campus, Resource #2 has elements of the Midcentury Modern architectural style.

The building has an irregular footprint, consisting of a central block with multiple projecting wings on the north and south elevation. The south elevation has been altered, as the original architectural drawings indicate screen porches ran the length of the central portion of the building, with an interior offset corridor on the north side of the wards. Now these spaces have been enclosed. While the original brick cladding remains to frame these portions of the building, the infilled areas are clad in cement panels.

³ Due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the site visit, certain interior spaces could not be reviewed or documented.

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On the north elevation, the banding has been eliminated, creating a stark and severe façade with limited fenestration. The entrance on the north elevation consists of a simple one-story entrance with a concrete roof. The original doors have been replaced with automatic doors of metal and glass. A concrete ramp has been extended from the entrance to the east and parallel with the façade of the building.

The east and west elevations contain the same red brick and projecting concrete overhangs as the south elevation.

Typical of buildings of this period, the windows have been replaced. The current windows are fixed, metal frame windows. The replacement project did not alter the fenestration pattern; Resource #2 retains its bands of windows on the south, west, and east elevations, while the north elevation has regularly spaced, paired windows.

Resource #2 is connected on the west elevation to Resource #1 and on the east elevation to Resource #3. These corridors were constructed as open breezeways as part of the original construction campaign; they have been enclosed. The north elevation of the one-story corridor has large, fixed windows and a red brick exterior.

Resource #3

Historic / Present Use: Recreation Building

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

As with other VA facilities for long-term patients such as neuropsychiatric hospitals, the Bonham hospital had a dedicated recreation building at the east end of the facility, mirroring the main hospital building on the west. The recreation building followed the architectural precepts of the other buildings on the campus, clad in brick, stone sills, concrete canopies at the windows, and elements of the Midcentury Modern architectural style (photos 9-10). As with Resources #1 and #2, the windows have been replaced.

Resource #3 is two stories in height with a flat roof and irregular foundation. Constructed of reinforced concrete, the building does not have a distinct primary exterior entrance, likely due to most patient access occurring via the connecting corridors leading from the original domiciliary. On the north elevation, the plain entrance has the same concrete bands, but the bricks have a slight recessed pattern as the only decoration; the door has been replaced with a glass and metal door.

On the east elevation, the same red brick and concrete banding continues, but the southern end of the building lacks windows. Paired doors with metal leaves and framed with the same concrete bands mark the main entrance to this section of the building.

The building is connected to adjacent Resources #2 and #24 via connecting corridors. Both corridors extend from the west elevation of Resource #3. The corridor between Resource #2 and #3 was part of the original hospital construction campaign as breezeways; it has since been enclosed. The one-story connection to Resource #24 was constructed ca. 1994 when Resource #24 was completed.

Resource #4

Historic Use: Nurses Quarters

Present Use: Administration / Mental Hygiene

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Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The former nurses' quarters now house various clinic and administrative services for the Bonham facility (photo 11). This building, along with the neighboring managers quarters (Resource #5) and staff apartments (#6) form a small residential collection of buildings at the southeast portion of the campus. The two-story building is clad in brick and has a one-story section at the northeast corner. The building does not exhibit any ornate architectural styles; the building lacks the stone detailing found on the larger hospital buildings. While the windows have been replaced as has the door on the east elevation, the fenestration pattern remains extant. The building is oriented towards the east, thus away from the main hospital facilities. The building has a flat roof and concrete slab foundation.

Resource #5

Historic Use: Managers Quarters

Present Use: Rehabilitation and Treatment

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The two-story former managers quarters functions presently as rehabilitation and treatment area for patients at the Bonham facility (photo 12). As with many of the other buildings on the campus, the building is clad in brick laid in running bond with no extraneous architectural ornamentation. An exterior brick chimney marks the east end of the north elevation. The building is oriented towards the north and Resource #6. The main entrance retains a wooden door; it may be original to the building. The associated doorway features a wooden surround with two diamonds a ornamentation. A small one-story garage is located on the west elevation. The windows have been replaced. The former quarters building is grouped with other residential buildings at the southeast portion of the site. The building has flat roof and a concrete slab foundation.

Resource #6

Historic Use: Staff Apartments

Present Use: Vacant

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The former staff apartment building is currently vacant (photo 13). The two-story brick clad building does not exhibit any elaborate architectural details and resembles the other buildings on the hospital grounds with the red brick exterior laid on running bond. The building is oriented towards the south; the entrance on the south elevation does include a portico with open brickwork at the entrance. The building features an "E" floor plan. Along with the nurses' quarters (Resource #4) and managers quarters (#5), the former staff apartments created a small residential section for the staff of the hospital during the early days of the facility. As with the other buildings on campus, the windows have been replaced but the original fenestration patterns has remained. The building has an irregular footprint, flat roof, and slab foundation. The main entrance door has been replaced with a glass and steel door.

Resource #8

Historic Use: Utility Shops

Present Use: Maintenance Shops

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

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The utilitarian shop building is located within the northeastern portion of the campus near the other support facilities for the hospital. The secondary nature of these buildings resulted in function over ornament for the architecture of the building (photo 17). The one-story brick building has large replacement windows on the south and west elevation. As with the main hospital buildings, Resource #8's primary architectural ornament consists of shallow overhangs and stone sills framing the windows. A modern addition with a brick façade and metal walls has been added to the east (identified by VA as Building #20A, photo 20). The building has an irregular footprint, flat roof, and concrete slab foundation. The doors have been replaced with single-leaf metal doors.

Resource #9

Historic Use: Station Garage and Grounds Equipment Storage

Present Use: Engineering / Administration

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The utilitarian former one-story garage has been converted for use as offices (photo 14). As a result, the large openings originally intended for vehicular access have been filled in with brick similar to the brick cladding on the rest of the building. These modifications have also resulted in the addition of a pedestrian entrance with a metal leaf door on the east elevation. A handful of windows have been incorporated into the alterations as well. The former garage, combined with the neighboring boiler plant (Resource #11), warehouse (#10), and shops (#8), creates a unit of support buildings for the hospital. The building has an irregular footprint, flat roof, and concrete slab foundation. The main entrance is located on the south elevation; the entrance features a shallow entryway covered with a gable roof.

Resource #10

Historic / Present Use: Laundry and Warehouse

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The utilitarian building that houses the laundry facility as well as warehouse space retains its original function. The one-story brick clad building has an irregular footprint. The floor of the building is raised to facilitate access to delivery trucks. The building features the concrete overhang and stone sills that visually link the support facilities to the architecture of the main hospital buildings (photo 16). The windows have been replaced and some of the larger openings may have been altered. The building is part of the complex of support buildings at the northeast portion of the site. The exterior doors have been replaced with single-leaf metal doors. A ramp has been added to the west elevation.

Resource #11

Historic / Present Use: Boiler House

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The brick clad utilitarian boiler house retains its historic function (photos 15). The building features tall openings that stretch almost the entire height of the building, giving it a unique appearance for the Bonham campus, but a typical appearance for other boiler houses at Third Generation facilities. The upper portions of these openings appear to be altered they have been infilled with concrete panels, leaving hopper windows in the lower portions of the window openings. Generally, the boiler house retains its historic appearance,

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including a brick clad exterior, lack of architectural ornament, and stone windows sills. Oriented towards the east and its neighboring support buildings, the boiler house is one of the buildings providing support services clustered at the northeastern portion of the campus. The building has a rectangular footprint, flat roof and concrete slab foundation. The section to the west is only one-story in height, giving the building a stepped appearance.

Resource #12

Historic Use: Attendants Quarters

Present Use: Administrative

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The former attendants quarters now houses administrative functions for the hospital (photo 18). The quarters are located away from the other original residential quarters and closer to the hospital buildings, a typical configuration for Third Generation facilities. The two-story brick clad building has a one-story porch at the northeast corner. Like the other secondary buildings on campus, the former quarters does not feature any extensive architectural ornamentation, mimicking the architectural style of the larger hospital buildings. The only unique architectural feature is a bay window on the east elevation. The building has a flat roof, irregular foundation, and brick cladding laid in running bond. The building's windows have been replaced; on the second floor of the east elevation, one window has been removed and the opening infilled with red brick while others have louvered panels. These replacements have not changed the fenestration pattern of the building. The doors have also been replaced, largely with single-leaf metal doors, but on the west elevation, paired, louvered doors have been used.

Resource #14

Historic / Present Use: Pump House

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The utilitarian pump house is located northwest of the main hospital in a parcel of land retained by VA despite donating the surrounding land to the City of Bonham for use as a state Veterans home. The building is located adjacent to the water tower and houses equipment (with Resource B in photo 26). The one-story brick building does not have any notable architectural details or stylistic elements. The building has a square footprint, concrete slab foundation, and flat roof. The door consist of a paired metal leaves.

Resource #19

Historic Use: Personnel Garage

Present Use: Recreation and Storage

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

Located near the staff housing at the southeastern portion of campus, the utilitarian garage appears to have experienced minimal changes since construction (photo 19). The one-story brick clad building features four garage doors on the west elevation. As with many of the other secondary buildings on campus, the building is strictly functional with no architectural ornament. Constructed of same red brick laid in common bond, the building has a rectangular footprint, flat roof, and concrete slab foundation.

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Historic / Present Use: Greenhouse

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The utilitarian greenhouse, nestled between the former attendants' quarters and the boiler house, appears to retain its original appearance (photo 18). The low concrete walls support metal framework and glass panels typical of greenhouse construction. The building has a concrete slab foundation, front gable roof, and is oriented towards the east. The main entrance consists of a metal door flanked by louvered openings for ventilation. The building is one-and-a-half stories in height.

Resource #24

Present Use: Domiciliary

Year Built: 1994

Status: Non-contributing

The modern two-story domiciliary building is located directly south of the historic domiciliary building (photo 21). The new domiciliary references the architectural style of the older buildings on the campus through the brick cladding and concrete bands that delineate the floors of the building. However, this building features red metal hip roofs that are unlike anything on the Bonham campus. The new domiciliary consists of two parts offset from one another and linked via an entrance corridor. To the east of these buildings is an irregularly shaped portion of the building that serves as the primary point of access. As a result, the building has an irregularly shaped footprint with three components around a central irregularly shaped courtyard. The building does not have any features of a notable architectural style. The main entrance, on the southeast elevation, has automatic doors of glass and steel shielded by a porte cochere.

Resource #29

Present Use: Community Living Center

Year Built: 1995

Status: Non-contributing

The community living center consists of two X-shaped buildings linked by a central block that also provides the primary entrance (photo 22). The CLC is located to the north of the main hospital building (Resource #1). As with the new domiciliary, the brick cladding and concrete bands provide an architectural link to the rest of the campus. Also like the new domiciliary building, the roof is a departure from the rest of the historic campus. In this case, the roof of the CLC is a green standing seam hip roof. The building has an irregular footprint and concrete slab foundation. As with Resource #24, the main entrance consists of automatic doors of glass and steel and porte cochere. The building does not have any features of a notable architectural style.

On the south elevation, a corridor link Resource #29 to the northeast corner of Resource #1. This one-story corridor, constructed in 1995 as part of the domiciliary, is brick clad and has a flat roof.

Resource #31

Present Use: Park Toilet

Year Built: 1992

Status: Non-contributing

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The one-story utilitarian toilet building is located in the eastern portion of the campus (photo 23). The building has a slab foundation, rectangular footprint, and side gable roof clad in asphalt shingle. The exterior is clad in stone blocks. The building is oriented towards the southwest. The main elevation has three metal doors.

Resource #32

Present Use: Storage

Year Built: 1993

Status: Non-contributing

This prefabricated utilitarian building is located in the northeastern portion of campus within the collection of support facilities (photo 24). The one-story building has a gable roof, metal exterior, plain façade, and concrete slab foundation. A large garage door marks the south elevation.

Resource #34

Present Use: Storage

Year Built:

Status: Non-contributing

Sited in the northeastern portion of the campus with the other support facilities, this prefabricated utilitarian building has an irregular footprint, metal clad roof, and concrete slab foundation (photo 25). The one-story building is plain in appearance with no architectural ornament or excessive detail. Two large garage doors and two metal pedestrian doors serve as access to the interior.

Resource A: Flagpole

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

The flagpole is located to the west of the main entrance of Resource #1. The metal cylindrical pole appears to be in the original location.

Resource B: Water Tower

Year Built: 1949

Status: Contributing

Located northwest of the hospital buildings and adjacent to Resource #14, the VA water tower is of a double ellipsoidal design, featuring a steel tank supported by four tubular column legs and support struts (photo 26). An access ladder is located on the east side of the structure.

Resource C: Helicopter

Year Built: 1970, added to VA campus in 2010

Status: Non-contributing

The helicopter is located near the western entrance on East 9th Street. The Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopter was built in 1970 by Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth, Texas. Used in Vietnam before serving for medical evacuations, the helicopter was donated to the facility by the U.S. Army.

Resource D: Generator Building

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Year Built: ca. 1980

Status: Non-contributing

This small, one-story utilitarian building is sited on the western edge of campus and adjacent to Lynn Road. The building is clad in metal panels and rests on the slab foundation. A single metal-leaf door provides access on the south elevation. It does not possess any notable details or architectural style.

Resource E: Tennis Court / Basketball Court

Year Built: ca. 1980

Status: Non-contributing

The combination tennis court / basketball court is located just south of the cluster of support facilities. The court is surrounded by a chain link fence (photo 27).

Resource F: Vehicle Storage

Year Built: ca. 1995

Status: Non-contributing

One of multiple vehicle storage facilities at the northeastern portion of the campus, Resource F is a utilitarian, prefabricated metal building for housing VA's vehicles. The building is one-story in height, constructed of metal framing, and clad in corrugated metal panels. The roof has a double pitch. The building is open on the south and east elevations to accommodate vehicles.

Resource G: Gas Pump

Year Built: ca. 1995

Status: Non-contributing

This utilitarian structure provides shelter for the gas pumps sited in the northeastern part of the campus. The steel frame supports a metal-clad overhang over three pumps set on a concrete pad. The structure is approximately one-story in height (photo 28).

Resource H: Vehicle Storage

Year Built: ca. 1995

Status: Non-contributing

This prefabricated, utilitarian metal storage shed houses VA's vehicles in the northeastern portion of the campus. The building has shed roof, metal clad exterior, and concrete slab foundation. The structure is open on the west elevation to accommodate vehicle access. It is built of metal framing (photo 29).

Resource I: Vehicle Storage

Year Built: ca. 1995

Status: Non-contributing

This third vehicle storage shed is also constructed of metal panels with metal framing built on concrete slab. The one-story utilitarian building is open on the north elevation to accommodate vehicle access.

Assessment of Integrity

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The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital complex is remarkably intact. The main hospital and former domiciliary buildings (Resources #1 and #2) retain their primacy on the site; vehicular traffic and patient access remains focused on these two components of the campus. New construction, notably the large domiciliary (Resource #24) and CLC (#29) are sited to the southeast and north, keeping Resource #1 as the main features of the campus. As well as the new construction, additional changes to the campus include the addition of a Vietnam-war era helicopter and additional surface parking lots.

Registration Requirements

According to the *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958* National Register historic context (2018), the registration requirements for a New Hospitals Designed under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the *United States Third Generation of Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958* historic context include⁴:

- Located on their original site
- Representation of modern healthcare via a skyscraper hospital for general medical & surgical facilities
- Retention of original materials and workmanship, but alterations are to be expected to maintain modern healthcare standards as many of these facilities continue to operate as VA hospitals
- Original lobby of the main hospital building and the chapel
- Cohesive campus plan that retains sightlines to the entrance and open space
- Extant main hospital building and representative number of support facilities
- Elements of the midcentury modern style and hospital's architectural character

Assessment of Integrity

The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital retains its original site and original function as a hospital for Veterans operated by the successor of the Veterans Administration, thus retaining integrity of location and association.

The campus size has changed since initial construction, due to a donation of surplus land to the City of Bonham in the 1950s, but the campus retains the majority of its original site and its original buildings. Despite the new construction and reduction in campus size due to the transfer of land, the Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital complex retains its original configuration. The core hospital facilities remain as original designed, with the healthcare-related buildings centrally located and serving as the organizing principle for the campus. The support facilities remain clustered together in the northeast portion of the facility. While they have been converted into new uses, the former residential buildings are sited together in the southeastern part of the campus. Additions have been minor, leaving many of their buildings with their original footprints. The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital retains integrity of design.

As typically found in VA hospital of this period, windows and doors have been replaced to accommodate changes in use or modern requirements. However, the original buildings retain their red brick exteriors, stone bandings, and fenestration patterns. The buildings retain their visual link created by the use of the same material across the campus, featuring red brick exteriors for both the featured main hospital building and the minor support buildings only to be seen by VA staff. The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital retains integrity of materials and workmanship.

⁴ Lindsay Hannah and Susan Barrett Smith, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2018, Section F, p. 105-107.

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Patients continue to circulate through the facility in the same manner as when the hospital opened; the road configuration leads patients to the main hospital building (Resource #1) and the entrance on Resource #1 remains in the same location. The facility is used in the same way as it was when the hospital opened; the hospital complex retains integrity of feeling.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance

1949-1972

Significant Dates

1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Finger & Rustay
US Army Corps of Engineers
Veterans Administration

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, now called the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an example of a New Hospitals Designed under USACE as part of the *United States Third Generation of Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958* historic context. The Bonham facility meets the requirements for Criterion A as an example of the significant change undertaken by VA in the post-World War II period to meet the healthcare needs of the Veteran population; the Bonham VA Hospital is the only designated domiciliary hospital constructed as part of VA's Third Generation construction campaign. It serves the only example of a domiciliary in the state designed by architects Finger & Rustay under the supervision of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and represents the VA's attainment in providing modern healthcare to veterans in Texas. The facility has experienced some changes to meet modern healthcare standards, but retains its historic character. With its associated hospital, the Bonham facilities reflect the VA's move away from sprawling campuses and into concentrated healthcare services, which housed treatment and patient rooms stacked within a single building, even in a facility that housed a fraction of the beds found in most other Third Generation hospitals.

The period of significance is from 1949, when construction started on the facility, to 1972, fifty years ago, as the complex has continued to provide medical care to Veterans and serve as an important anchor for Bonham.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the state level for health/medicine as part of the *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958* nationwide context as an example of a New Hospitals Designed under USACE.

Selecting Bonham

As World War II drew to a close and demobilization of troops escalated, thus swelling the Veteran population, VA recognized it would need to construct new hospitals. This nationwide construction campaign sought to break from the old method of constructing VA hospitals in isolated locations and turn towards modern construction in urban centers to foster ties with medical schools to encourage research and training opportunities for VA staff. To facilitate access for Veterans, address employment issues deriving from trying to staff hospitals in remote locations, and encourage training ties with medical schools, VA prioritized construction in major urban centers; New York, NY; Pittsburgh, PA; Boston, MA; and Chicago, IL all received new hospitals under this program and were constructed adjacent to hospitals and medical schools to forge links with these other institutions.

Given the relatively small size of Bonham (population of approximately 7,000 in 1950) and lack of a medical school, Bonham was an unlikely candidate for the site of one of VA's new hospitals. Without the considerable influence of Bonham's favorite son, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, VA would have been unlikely to select Bonham as a site for one of its new hospitals as it did not meet several of the programmatic goals of the Third Generation construction campaign. Rayburn intervened directly with VA and relied on

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his ties to President Harry S. Truman to ensure the construction of the hospital in Bonham, despite the protestations of VA Administrator Omar Bradley. Rayburn became a close personal friend and adviser to President Harry Truman during his time in the White House. Truman expressed that he often sought Rayburn's counsel, and that Rayburn served as a stabilizing and moderating voice in Truman's decision-making process.⁵ Beyond counsel and friendship, Rayburn provided Truman with a formidable ally in Congress. Rayburn supported many of the administration's political measures.

Rayburn's ties with Veterans, VA, and VA's predecessor agencies started when Rayburn authored the War Risk Insurance Act of 1917, which extended the availability of life insurance coverage to the members of the U.S. Merchant Marine.⁶ The Act and its amendments, an expansion of the War Risk Insurance Act of 1914, established rehabilitation and vocational training programs for Veterans disabled during World War I. Programs geared towards Veterans were under the jurisdiction of three agencies, the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, Public Health Service, and the Federal Board of Vocational Education. These agencies later consolidated into the Veterans' Bureau, a forerunner of the Veterans Administration and the current U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.⁷

This program began piecemeal, with few individual hospital projects announced by then VA Administrator Frank Hines. On May 30, 1945, Hines announced a new construction program was being submitted to the Federal Board of Hospitalization (FBH), the government body responsible for the oversight of federal hospital construction projects. This program contained the recommendation that a 350-bed domiciliary be built specifically in Bonham, Texas. President Truman approved the plan, but did not include any obligations for specific locations.⁸ Rayburn assured local civic leaders that the prospects for Bonham were "bright," and that he was personally working with Hines regarding the issue.⁹

When Bradley took office as Administrator in June 1945, he inherited an approved building program for 72 hospitals, including Bonham.¹⁰ Shortly thereafter, he received the following memo from President Truman:

Before General Hines left the Veterans Bureau [sic] arrangements had been made to locate a Hospital in Bonham, Texas in the District of Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House. This is vital to the Speaker and I will appreciate it if you will have your Hospital Board look into the matter and carry out the arrangements made by General Hines if it is at all possible to do it.¹¹

A scant two days later, Bradley responded:

...I understand the location of this home has already been released to the press and it is apparent that any change would be inadvisable. We shall, therefore, contemplate no change in this location. I might point out, however, that we have

⁵ Champagne, *Sam Rayburn*, 40.

⁶ Champagne, *Sam Rayburn*, 11.

⁷ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *VA History in Brief*. Washington, DC: [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs], 2006. Available online at http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/archives/docs/history_in_brief.pdf (accessed 10 July 2021).

⁸ Bonham, Texas Hospital Site, Box 34, A1, Entry 64, Record Group 15, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

⁹ "Hospital is Recommended for Bonham," *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 30 May 1945.

¹⁰ *Medical Care of Veterans*, Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1967, 192.

¹¹ President Harry Truman to General Omar Bradley, 18 September 1945, Bonham, Texas Hospital Site, Box 34, A1, Entry 64, Record Group 15, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

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been trying to place installations in as large community centers as possible to provide maximum services to Veterans. Where commitments have not already been made, we hope to avoid locating in comparatively small towns where larger places are available.¹²

Despite Bradley's misgivings, the FBH approved the selection of Bonham as the site for a 50-bed general medical and surgical hospital along with a 300 bed domiciliary. Truman signed off on the FBH resolution on December 3, 1945.¹³

VA identified 76 locations for the new hospitals based on the changes implemented by Bradley and revised priorities for the new construction program; Bonham remained as a site for a new facility and the only one identified as a domiciliary. Bonham was one of five new hospitals that VA was going to construct in Texas (Big Spring, Bonham, Dallas, El Paso, and Houston). The El Paso facility was never constructed, due to a lack of funding and the Dallas hospital was a new massive hospital building constructed at an existing complex. The new facilities would join the existing six Veterans hospitals in Texas; four were General Medical & Surgical facilities (hospitals in Amarillo, Dallas, McKinney, and Temple), one Neuropsychiatric facility (Waco), and one Tuberculosis facility (Legion/Kerrville).¹⁴

By the end of May 1946, the FBH had approved the preferred site, a 101-acre portion of the Lipscomb estate; the property, available for \$27,000, was roughly bounded by East Fourteenth Street on the north, Linn [sic] Street on the west, East Ninth street on the south, and the remaining portions of the Lipscomb estate on the east.¹⁵ However, the Lipscomb estate lay at the edge of town, necessitating the extension of roads and utilities for the hospital. Rayburn assisted by contacting John Redditt, chairman of the Texas Highway Commission, to let Redditt know how much he would "appreciate anything" that could be done to assure construction of a highway loop near the planned VA domiciliary.¹⁶ The Texas Highway Commission seemed to have reached an appropriate resolution, as by early June, the Texas State Highway Commission had approved the construction of the highway loop connecting Highway 82 to Highway 78 along with access to the main entrance to the hospital.¹⁷ To cover the additional costs for construction, such as extension of water and sewer lines to the hospital site, the City of Bonham issued two bonds with a total value of \$100,000, an appropriation approved overwhelmingly by the citizens of Bonham.¹⁸

Designing the New Hospital

These new VA hospitals were designed and constructed under the purview of the Army Corps of Engineers based on programmatic needs developed by VA. Private architects were retained to develop unique designs for the new facilities.

The specifications for the Bonham VA facility were not located during the course of research. During this period of hospital construction, VA and USACE supplied general guidelines to the architectural firms based on the type of hospital being constructed, such as a general medical & surgical or neuropsychiatric, and the size of the hospital based on the total number of beds. The guidelines did not include recommendations as

¹² General Omar Bradley to President Harry Truman, 20 September 1945, Bonham, Texas Hospital Site, Box 34, A1, Entry 64, Record Group 15, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

¹³ Federal Board of Hospitalization Resolution, 29 May 1946, Bonham, Texas Hospital Site, Box 34, A1, Entry 64, Record Group 15, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

¹⁴ *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1946* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1946): 97, 1976.

¹⁵ "VA Announces Acquisition Bonham Site," *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 17 June 1946.

¹⁶ Speaker Sam Rayburn to John Redditt, 12 March 1948. Archives at Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, Bonham, Texas.

¹⁷ "State Hi-way Commission Okays Aid on Loop to Domiciliary," *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 1 June 1948.

¹⁸ "Bonham Gives Overwhelming Approval \$100,000 Bond," *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 6 August 1948.

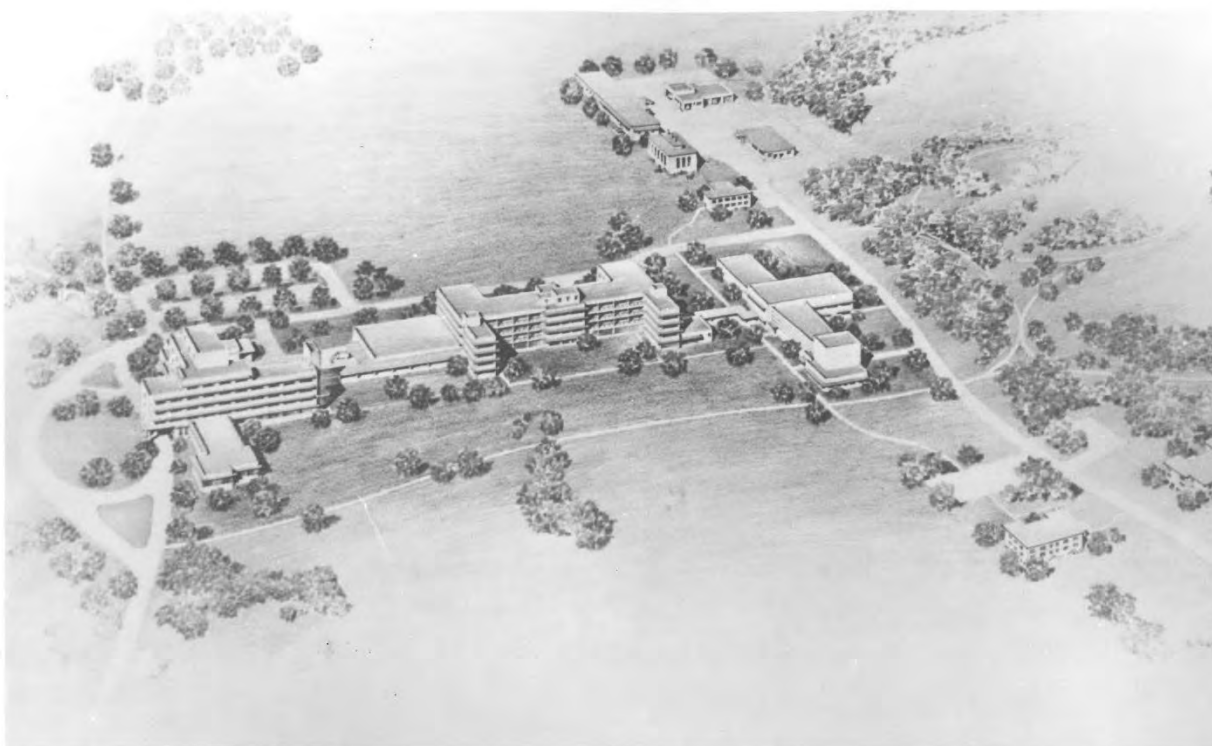
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to the hospital building's appearance, recommended construction materials, or floor configurations. These guidelines focused on what is required for "good hospital practice," expressly stating it was "not the intent of the program to standardize on any particular type of architectural design or prototype building." The goal was to ensure the components of the hospital, such as the surgical units, dental clinics, and laundry, were consistent across VA hospital of this period and met VA's specific requirements for this period.¹⁹ For Bonham, these recommendations would have also included specific information as to the unique requirements of the domiciliary (Resource #2). The design decisions were the purview of the architect selected to complete the design.



*Figure 1: Rendering of proposed design for the Bonham VA hospital, ca. 1949.
Collections of Federal Preservation Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.*

For the design of the new hospital in Bonham, the architecture firm of Finger & Rustay was retained. Joseph Finger was responsible for a number of Houston's iconic buildings, including the Houston City Hall, Auditorium Hotel, Beth Israel Temple, and the Citizen's State Bank. A network of wealthy clients retained Finger to design their homes and businesses, including an elaborate Italian Renaissance mansion for oilman James West and a string of grocery stores for Joseph Weingarten. While most of his projects were in Houston, Finger also designed the Montgomery County Courthouse in Conroe, Texas; the Model Laundry in Galveston, Texas; and the Charlton Hotel in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He utilized a number of architectural styles during the course of his career, but he is particularly identified with bringing Moderne and other streamlined architectural styles to Houston. He appears to have designed only one other hospital,

¹⁹ U.S. Veterans Administration, *Requirements for 300-bed General Hospital (revised)*, 12 June 1946. Washington, D.C.

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the Jefferson Davis Hospital (opened 1937, demolished 1999) in Houston with architect Alfred Finn, making hospitals and healthcare-related facilities a small part of his portfolio.

As Finger's health declined due to a stroke, he brought on George Rustay in 1944 as a partner to help with the workload.²⁰ Finger & Rustay designed the Harris County Courthouse and the Carnation Company creamery (demolished) in Houston.²¹ As Finger's health deteriorated, Rustay took on more of the design work for the firm, including commissions for Battelstein's department store in Houston (completed 1950), Beth Yeshurun Synagogue in Houston (completed 1949), and the renovation of the Harris County Courthouse in Houston (completed 1956).²² Rustay may have been the primary architect behind the Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital complex, particularly as Finger's preferred streamlined style was beginning to be perceived as out of step with changing architectural tastes in the 1940s and 1950s and the Bonham hospital does not have the Moderne style associated with so many of Finger's notable works.



Figure 2: East elevation of Resource #4, 1951.

Collections of Federal Preservation Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C

Wray Wible, a contractor out of Sherman, Texas, was retained by USACE for routine grading and other site prep work.²³ The parcel was likely undeveloped at the time of VA's acquisition, as the work on the site focused on removal of underbrush and trees, along with grading and drainage work; demolition of buildings or structures is not reported. By late March 1949, construction could start on the site by the J. J.

²⁰ Josh Levine, "Joseph Finger: The Man Behind Houston's Iconic Architecture," *Houston History*, Vol. 10, No. 3: p. 2-6. Available online at <https://houstonhistorymagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/jospeh-finger.pdf> (accessed 10 July 2021); Josh Levine, interview with Stephen Fox, 28 November 2012, *Houston History*, Oral History of Houston Project, University of Houston. Available online at <https://digital.lib.uh.edu/contentdm/file/get/houhistory/1649/1651.pdf> (accessed 10 July 2021).

²¹ Stephen Fox, "Finger, Joseph," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ffi37>), accessed 4 August 2011.

²² Amanda Barry, "Battelstein's," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, MacRostie Historic Advisors, 2019.

²³ "Contractor Begins Clearing Domiciliary Site for Grading," *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 22 June 1948.

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Fritch Company, out of Dallas.²⁴ Construction proceeded apace, with VA's *Annual Report* reporting the facility was at 60% completion by the end of June 1950.²⁵



Figure 3: View of Resource #6, 1951.

Collections of Federal Preservation Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital

On November 9, 1951, the Bonham facility was dedicated, with the local population suitably enthusiastic. The local newspaper, the *Bonham Daily Favorite*, eagerly recounted the details about the dedication, the hospital, and its development. The Honorable Sam Rayburn gave a speech, as did VA Administrator Carl Gray, Jr.²⁶ The dedication ceremony was followed by a tour where residents of Texas and Oklahoma had their first opportunity to see the hospital facilities.²⁷ On the tour, visitors could see “spacious” private rooms in the hospital section, “beautifully and modernly furnished,” along with the latest in sterilization equipment, and air-conditioned fifth floor, and the other medical facilities “for rendering Nursing Service, second to none.”²⁸

The original architectural drawings for the hospital (Resource #1) lobby called for terrazzo floors, a curvilinear desk, and wood paneling. As with other Third Generation facilities, the hospital's main floor housed admissions, both for the hospital and domiciliary, along with some administrative staff; patient and treatment rooms are located on the upper floors. Labs and treatment rooms were housed the second floor, including spaces dedicated for oral surgery, electrotherapy, physical therapy, and the general laboratory. The patient rooms on the third and fourth floors were a mix of multiple bed wards and single patient rooms.

²⁴ “Work Begins on Hospital Here Today,” *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 24 March 1949.

²⁵ Table 100 – New Hospitals, Major Additions, and Conversions to Existing Hospitals, *Annual Report of the Administration of Veterans' Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1950*. Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1951.

²⁶ Gray replaced Bradley as Administrator in 1947.

²⁷ “All Citizens are Invited to Attend,” *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 9 November 1951.

²⁸ “Veteran Will Be Given Best of Nursing Care While Confined at Bonham Center,” *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 9 November 1951.

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with the nurses' central station central located at the intersection of the main corridors. Unlike other Third Generation facilities, the Bonham hospital does not seem to include a designated floor or roof recreation facility for neuropsychiatric patients, likely due to the small size of the hospital and limited number of hospital beds. The interior finishes for the facility are the same as those found in other Third Generation hospitals, such as flooring of asphalt tiles, ceramic tiles, or terrazzo, walls of cement plaster, and ceilings of acoustic tile.

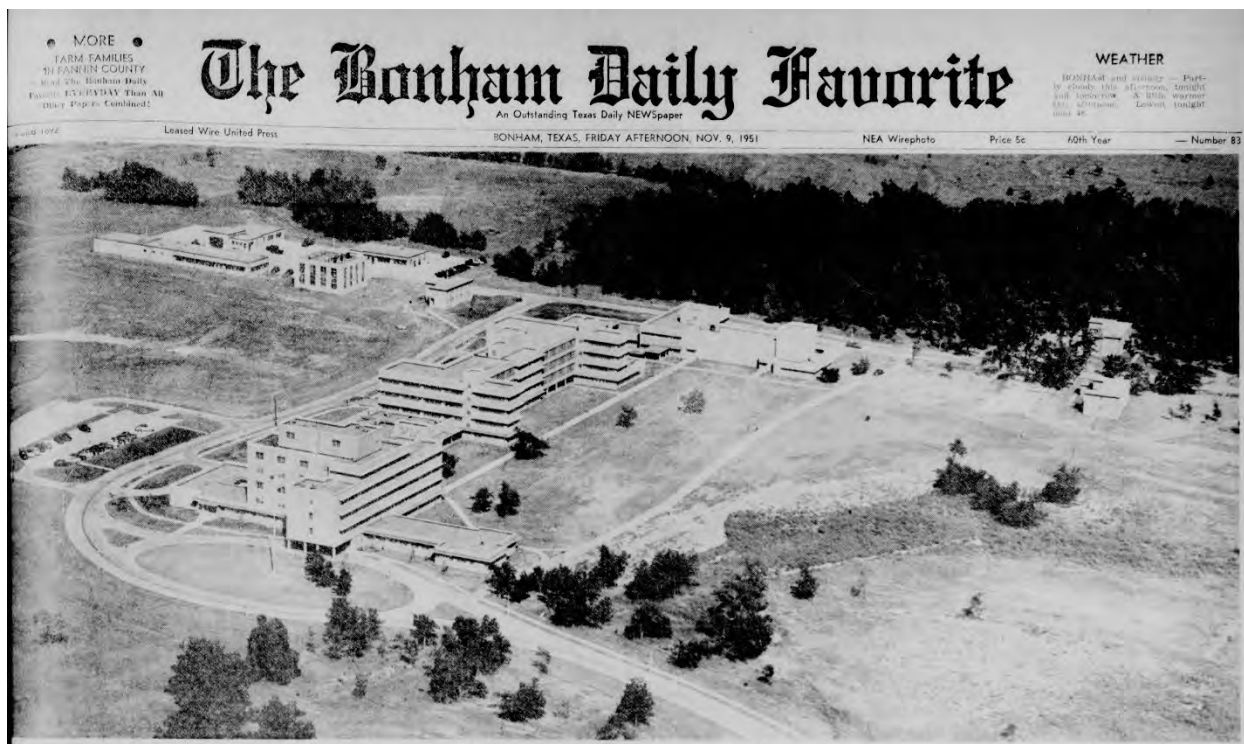


Figure 4: Front page of The Bonham Daily Favorite on 9 November 1951, just prior to the formal dedication of the hospital. Resources #1 and #2 at center of the image.

Given that the intended purpose for the building was to provide long-term domiciliary care, the original architectural plans show spaces dedicated for services not routinely found in Third Generation general medical and surgical facilities. The first floor of the domiciliary building (Resource #2) has the standard kitchen, including a designated refrigerated space solely for eggs and butter, along with the main dining room for patients. However, the first floor also had specific rooms for the storage of baggage, a tailor, a patients' laundry, hobby shop, and a barber shop. The upper floors of the domiciliary building were used almost entirely for large wards featuring anywhere from six to twelve patient beds. These wards were subdivided with metal dividers measuring slightly over 5 feet in height, but multiple patients still were housed in a single space. Centrally located on each floor was the elevator bank, with the bath and toilet facilities provided at the north end of the outer wings. Only the first floor had a designated nurses' station, which may be a later alteration. The interior finishes of the domiciliary were similar to the finishes of the hospital, including asphalt tiles and plaster.

Life for the domiciliary occupants was strictly regulated, as described in the "Domiciliary Rules and General Information for Domiciliary Members" adopted by the Bonham facility in November 1951, The

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rules reflected the influence of the military, with the living quarters referred to as “barracks,” and a daily reveille at 6:30 am. Gambling was prohibited in the “barracks”, as were drunkenness, swearing, and female visitors. Weekly inspections were held, with clothing and personal items laid out in a proscribed pattern. Nor could occupants give away their government issued cigarettes. By following these rules, along with “cooperation, unselfishness, good behavior, and the proper attitude toward your fellow Veterans and gratitude toward your Government, it will remain a real HOME [sic].”²⁹

The recreation facility features an extensive auditorium, with several dressing rooms behind the stage and a vomitory for patient egress. A two-lane bowling alley, billiard room, arts and crafts room, canteen, library, snack bar, and general recreation room were found also in the recreation building.³⁰

While the domiciliary opened to receive occupants in 1951, the hospital portion was not activated until April 1952 due to staffing problems. General Bradley’s concerns regarding Bonham’s isolation had substantial merit, as VA regional staff struggled to cobble together a medical staff by borrowing doctors from other VA hospitals in the area, such as McKinney and Amarillo. The Bonham facility faced problems finding a qualified full-time surgeon, required for opening the hospital, as using a system of part-time residents was not “good medicine.”³¹ One doctor left for another facility, but he was not considered much of a loss as his firing was imminent due to “poor work performance.”³² By mid-March, the Bonham facility was still short 2 doctors, 5 nurses, 5 hospital attendants, along with various support staff that was important, but not required for opening, such as additional janitors and a physical therapy aide. Through some maneuvering, including waiving some requirements for doctors, the hospital at Bonham finally opened.³³

Demand for beds at the hospital and domiciliary remained strong, leading to speculation as early as 1952 that expansion would be required. The majority of the occupants at Bonham were Veterans of World War I, with servicemen from World War II and the Spanish-American War making up most of the rest; the facility averaged 251 Veterans each day.³⁴ By 1955, the Hoover Commission, an advisory body organized to find ways to increase efficiency in the government, recommended closing Bonham along with the VA hospitals in Amarillo and Marlin. Closing these facilities would save \$2.5 million, according to the Commission.³⁵ Rayburn assured Bonham he was going to fight the closing, noting VA was unlikely to abandon a facility less than five years old that cost \$5 million.³⁶ Chairman of the House Veterans Committee, Olin E. Teague (D-TX), publicly rejected the recommendations.³⁷ In 1955, the Hoover Commission ended, but the Bonham facility remained open.

²⁹ Domiciliary Rules and General Information for Domiciliary Members, Memorandum No. 6168-8, 15 November 1951, Archives at Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, Bonham, Texas.

³⁰ Due to COVID-19 and the associated temporary closure of archives, notably the National Archives and Records Administration, certain research topics and themes associated with the Third Generation, such as racial segregation and women Veterans, could not be fully addressed for Bonham. These themes would be worthy of further exploration in a future, amended nomination.

³¹ D. L. Bell to Acting Area Medical Director [Dr. Charles Beasley], 15 February 1952, Archives at Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, Bonham, Texas.

³² R. T. Westman to Dr. Jack Kennedy, 13 February 1952, Archives at Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, Bonham, Texas.

³³ Transcription of conversation between D. L. Bell and Dr. Charles Beasley, 19 March 1952, Archives at Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, Bonham, Texas.

³⁴ “Saturday Was First Anniversary Opening of Bonham VA Center,” *[The Bonham Daily Favorite]*, 2 November 1952.

³⁵ “Texans Rap Bid to Close 3 Hospitals,” *Dallas Morning News*, 1 March 1955. Available online at genealogybank.com (accessed 9 July 2021).

³⁶ “Rayburn Doubts VA Officials to Close Center,” *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 2 March 1955. Available online at newspapers.com (accessed 9 July 2021).

³⁷ “Olin Teague Blasts Hoover Commission Report on Hospitals,” *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 28 March 1955. Available online at newspapers.com (accessed 10 July 2021).

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Relationship between the VA hospital and Bonham

The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital has been an important part of the city of Bonham, starting in March 1949, when construction started on the site. The local newspaper, the *Bonham Daily Favorite*, noted that “many of the employees will be in Bonham for the entire construction period and will need apartments for their families, including children.”³⁸ By 1976, the payroll for the 323 employees had reached \$4.5 million a year. Plus, according to Banks I. Paul, the facility director, expansion plans were imminent due to a waiting list for domiciliary beds and increased outpatient care.³⁹ Expansion of the Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital complex in the 1990s though the construction of new domiciliary required an increased employment, subsequently bringing more people to Bonham. Fannin County was experiencing a housing shortage, not only due to the expansion of VA, but also new prisons and manufacturing plants in the area, leading to the construction of new apartment complexes in Bonham.⁴⁰



Figure 5: Cartoon from The Bonham Daily Favorite on 11 November 1951, just after the dedication of the hospital.

³⁸ “Work Begins,” 24 March 1949.

³⁹ “Bonham Enjoys Economic Impact of VA,” *The Bonham Daily Favorite*, 10 November 1976. Available online via newspapers.com (accessed 9 July 2021).

⁴⁰ Jack Osteen, “Fannin County’s population bursting at seams,” *The Paris News* (Paris, Texas), 14 May 1995. Available online at newspapers.com (9 July 2021).

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Further growth was triggered in 1997, when Bonham was selected as a site for a new Texas state Veterans home. The selected site was approximately 18 acres adjacent to the VA facility; the VA facility was part of the reason Bonham was selected and the property was on land previously transferred from VA to the City of Bonham in 1956.⁴¹ VA routinely disposed of excess property it no longer needed at its hospitals. The state Veterans home opened in 2001.

Becoming the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center

As well as being responsible for the construction of the Veterans hospital in Bonham, Samuel Taliaferro Rayburn (1882-1961) was a distinguished political figure for 55 years, 17 of which he spent as the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives—the position's longest single residency in American history. As Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn was one of the most influential political figures of his time. Rayburn's close relationships with important political figures, his legendary status and his political prowess made him a remarkably effective and powerful congressional force. He was also a popular and respected statesman. Rayburn never lost a political campaign and was never forced into a run-off election in a Democratic primary.⁴² By the close of his career he was a household name not only in Texas but around the nation.

Rayburn's legacy not only can be seen in U.S. foreign and domestic policy, but he was also responsible for federal projects that shaped the landscape and economy of his district. Over the course of his career, such projects included not only the Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, but also military air bases in Bonham, Greenville, Sherman and Terrel, as well as the construction of Lake Bonham, Lake Lavon and Lake Davy Crockett.⁴³ Denison Dam, a source of hydroelectric power, and the lake it created, Lake Texoma, served flood control and recreational purposes. Lake Texoma and the Denison Dam was the largest government project in Rayburn's district during his career, spanning 89,000 acres at a cost of \$78.3 million.⁴⁴

Calls to rename the facility after Rayburn started almost immediately after his death. A bill to rename the facility, as well as the VA hospital in Jackson for Representative John E. Rankin, was under debate in 1966. However, protests arose due to Rankin's history of racist and anti-Semitic remarks.⁴⁵ The bill stalled, stalled again in 1968, before finally passing in 1970. Via Public Law 91-421, the hospital was renamed the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, to honor the local son who brought the facility to Bonham.⁴⁶

Summary of Significance

The Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital is an example of a New Hospital designed under USACE Third Generation VA hospital. The facility is also the only Third Generation hospital designated as a domiciliary intended for the long-term care of Veterans. The facility is eligible under Criterion A for HEALTH / MEDICINE at the state level.

⁴¹ "Land board picks four sites for Veterans homes," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 19 August 1997. Available online at newspapers.com (9 July 2021); "Senate Completes Bonham Tract Gift," *Dallas Morning News*, 1 June 1956. Available online via genealogybank.com (accessed 9 July 2021).

⁴² *Ibid.*, 63.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 25.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ "Controversy Looms Over Bill to Name VA Hospitals in Honor of Late Solons," *Beaumont Journal*, 2 June 1966. Available via genealogybank.com (accessed 9 July 2021).

⁴⁶ "History of the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Medical Center, Bonham, Texas," Site Files, Office of Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Bonham VA Hospital

Name of Property

Fannin County, TX

County and State

The hospital was evaluated under Criterion B for its association with Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn and his role in bringing the facility to Bonham. There are properties in Fannin County that are already listed for their association with Rayburn, including the National Historic Landmark Samuel T. Rayburn House (NR #72001361) and the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum (NR #05000386). These two properties are more illustrative of his life and accomplishments and have a stronger connection to Rayburn than the hospital. In contrast, the hospital does not best represent Rayburn's historic contributions, and thus is not eligible under Criterion B.

Bonham, Texas did not meet many of the programmatic needs of VA's Third Generation program; the town was small and lacked a medical school. VA Administrator Omar Bradley wanted a free hand in determining locations for the new hospitals with little political interference. However, through the considerable political power of the Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, who represented Bonham to the House of Representatives, Bonham was selected as the site for one of the new hospitals.

While not fulfilling all the Third Generation program requirements, the Bonham hospital did reflect the architectural ones. The Texas-based firm of Finger & Rustay were retained by USACE, responsible for managing construction projects for VA during the nationwide construction program, to ensure modern medical designs were followed for the new hospitals. By hiring architects in private practice, VA sought to move away from antiquated medical ideas, such as placing operating rooms on upper levels to ensure sufficient natural light, towards providing hospitals in line with current medical theory. These medical theories included providing more "home like" spaces for neuropsychiatric patients, increased research into prosthetics, and advances in tuberculosis treatment. As a domiciliary, Bonham had minimal participation in the medical research conducted by VA during this period, but the new hospital followed current medical and architectural trends.

The Bonham hospital retains its original main hospital building and original domiciliary building, as well as the ancillary buildings, both staff housing and support facilities. While there have been some modifications, notably windows replacement, new doors to accommodate modern healthcare needs, and reduction in the campus size, the campus is largely intact. New construction has been limited to the rear of the two main buildings (Resources #1 and #2); in addition, the new construction is of a shorter height than the original buildings, leaving them unimpeded as the central focus of the campus.

The Bonham facility continues to provide care to Veterans, both medical and long-term care, thus continuing to function in much the same way as it did when it opened.

Bonham VA Hospital
Name of Property

Fannin County, TX
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Annual Reports of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, Reports from 1944 through 1958.

Champagne, Anthony. *Congressman Sam Rayburn*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1984.

Champagne, Anthony. *Sam Rayburn: A Bio-Bibliography*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1988.

Hannah, Lindsay and Susan Barrett Smith, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospital National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation*, September 2011.

Hardeman, D. B., and Donald C. Bacon. *Rayburn*. Austin: Texas Monthly Press, 1987.

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
 - ☐ Other State agency
 - ☐ Federal agency
 - ☐ Local government
 - ☐ University
 - ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Bonham VA Hospital
Name of Property

Fannin County, TX
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 79.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. 33.585391°N -96.168102°W
2. 33.585852°N -96.164458°W
3. 33.586122°N -96.164503°W
4. 33.586161°N -96.160830°W
5. 33.581425°N -96.161077°W
6. 33.581551°N -96.168304°W
7. 33.586968°N -96.167926°W
8. 33.586955°N -96.167551°W
9. 33.586728°N -96.167571°W
10. 33.586723°N -96.167938°W

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Bonham VA Hospital
Name of Property

Fannin County, TX
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic district is comprised of two discontinuous legal parcels divided by intervening space that lacks significance now owned by the City of Bonham, and thus are geographically separate. The northern portion located to the northwest of the main hospital includes approximately 0.21 acres identified as Abstract Code 560 Abstract Owner English, B (Property ID 0). The parcel of land is retained by the Veterans Administration and contains the historic 1949 pump house and the 1949 water tower. The southern portion with the main hospital campus is approximately bounded by East Ninth Street to the south, Lynn Street to the West, the Texas State Veterans Home to the north, and undeveloped land to the east. The southern parcel includes all property totaling approximately 79.3 acres, specifically A0560 BAILEY ENGLISH (Property ID 99770), Bonham, Fannin County, Texas as recorded by the Fannin County Appraisal District (accessed September 30th, 2021) See Maps 1 and 2.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current boundaries represent a large portion of what was a cohesive Veterans Administration hospital campus. Consisting of two discontinuous legal parcels that are geographically separate, the Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital encompasses a collection of Mid-century Modern hospital and healthcare service buildings and other ancillary resources dating to the early post-war period. District boundaries coincide with concentrations of historic resources that were constructed as part of the original historic hospital campus, contribute to the significance of the historic district, and retain a high degree of historic integrity. The acreage directly to the north was historically part of the campus, but was donated to the City of Bonham in the 1950s. Since it not longer owned by the federal government and does not contain any historic resources associated with the 1949 construction of the campus, it is excluded.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lindsay Hannah / Partner and Scott Goodwin / Historic Research Assistant
organization: Row 10 Historic Preservation Solutions, LLC and R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
street & number: 8215 Sycamore Place
city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70118
e-mail lindsay@row10hps.com
telephone: 504.266.2098
date: April 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Bonham VA Hospital
Name of Property

Fannin County, TX
County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Bonham VA Medical Center
City or Vicinity: Bonham
County: Fannin State: TX

Photographer: Lindsay Hannah
Date Photographed: November 20, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 29: View of Resource #1 from main entrance on East Ninth Street. Camera pointed northeast.

Photo 2 of 29: Main (south) elevation of Resource #1. Camera pointed northeast.

Photo 3 of 29: Main entrance on (south) elevation of Resource #1. Camera pointed east.

Photo 4 of 29: Rear (north) elevation of Resource #1. Camera pointed southwest.

Photo 5 of 29: Main (north) elevation of Resource #2. Camera pointed southeast.

Photo 6 of 29: Detail of main entrance on north elevation of Resource #2. Camera pointed southeast.

Photo 7 of 29: North elevation of Resource #2 and south elevation of Resource #1. Camera pointed southwest.

Photo 8 of 29: South elevation of Resource #2. Camera pointed northeast.

Photo 9 of 29: North elevation of Resource #3. Camera pointed southeast.

Bonham VA Hospital

Name of Property

Fannin County, TX

County and State

- Photo 10 of 29: Southern portion of east elevation of Resource #3. Camera pointed southwest.
- Photo 11 of 29: East elevation of Resource #4. Camera pointed west.
- Photo 12 of 29: North elevation of Resource #5. Camera pointed southwest.
- Photo 13 of 29: South elevation of Resource #6. Camera pointed north.
- Photo 14 of 29: North elevation of Resource #9. Camera pointed southeast.
- Photo 15 of 29: Southeast corner of Resource #11. Camera pointed northwest.
- Photo 16 of 29: West elevation of Resource #10. Camera pointed northeast.
- Photo 17 of 29: South elevation of Resource #8. Camera pointed northeast.
- Photo 18 of 29: East elevations of Resources #11, 12, and 22. Camera pointed northwest.
- Photo 19 of 29: South elevation of Resource #19. Camera pointed north.
- Photo 20 of 29: Southeast corner of Building #20A (addition to Resource #8). Camera pointed northwest.
- Photo 21 of 29: Main entrance to Resource #24 on the southeast elevation. Camera pointed northwest.
- Photo 22 of 29: Main entrance to Resource #29 on the south elevation. Camera pointed north.
- Photo 23 of 29: Southwest elevation of Resource #31. Camera pointed northeast.
- Photo 24 of 29: South elevation of Resource #32. Camera pointed northeast.
- Photo 25 of 29: West elevation of Resource #34. Camera pointed east.
- Photo 26 of 29: View of water tower and Resource #14. Camera pointed north.
- Photo 27 of 29: View of Resource E. Camera pointed southeast.
- Photo 28 of 29: South elevation of Resource G. Camera pointed north.
- Photo 29 of 29: South elevation of Resource H. Camera pointed northwest.

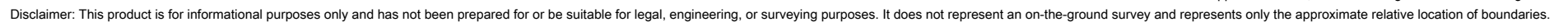
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

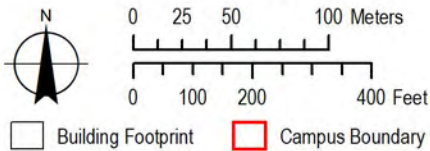
- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.





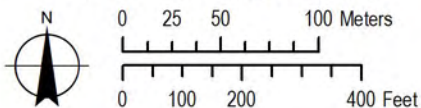
**Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center
Bonham, Fannin County, Texas
Building Location**



Building Key

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Patient Care and Administration | 24. Domiciliary |
| 2. Dietetics and Administration | 29. Community Living Center |
| 3. Canteen, Library, Recreation | 31. Park Toilet |
| 4. Administration and Management | 32. Storage |
| 5. Residential Rehabilitation | 34. Storage |
| 6. Crisis Center | A. Flag Pole |
| 8. Maintenance Shops | B. Water Tower |
| 9. Engineering / Administration | C. Helicopter |
| 10. Laundry and Warehouse | D. Generator Building |
| 11. Boiler / Chiller Plant | E. Tennis/Basketball Court |
| 12. Fiscal and Administration | F. Vehicle Storage |
| 14. Pump Station | G. Gas Pump |
| 19. Recreation and Storage | H. Vehicle Storage |
| 22. Greenhouse | I. Vehicle Storage |

**Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center
Bonham, Fannin County, Texas
NRHP Contributing Buildings**



- Contributing Building
- Non-Contributing Building
- Campus Boundary



Building Key

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Patient Care and Administration | 24. Domiciliary |
| 2. Dietetics and Administration | 29. Community Living Center |
| 3. Canteen, Library, Recreation | 31. Park Toilet |
| 4. Administration and Management | 32. Storage |
| 5. Residential Rehabilitation | 34. Storage |
| 6. Crisis Center | A. Flag Pole |
| 8. Maintenance Shops | B. Water Tower |
| 9. Engineering / Administration | C. Helicopter |
| 10. Laundry and Warehouse | D. Generator Building |
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| 12. Fiscal and Administration | F. Vehicle Storage |
| 14. Pump Station | G. Gas Pump |
| 19. Recreation and Storage | H. Vehicle Storage |
| 22. Greenhouse | I. Vehicle Storage |

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center Bonham, Fannin County, Texas Photo Locations



0 25 50 100 Meters
0 100 200 400 Feet

- 1 Photo Location
- Contributing Building
- Campus Boundary
- Non-Contributing Building



Building Key

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Patient Care and Administration | 24. Domiciliary |
| 2. Dietetics and Administration | 29. Community Living Center |
| 3. Canteen, Library, Recreation | 31. Park Toilet |
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| 12. Fiscal and Administration | F. Vehicle Storage |
| 14. Pump Station | G. Gas Pump |
| 19. Recreation and Storage | H. Vehicle Storage |
| 22. Greenhouse | I. Vehicle Storage |



Photo 1 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 2 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 3 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 4 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 5 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 6 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 7 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 8 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 9 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



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Photo 11 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 12 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 13 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 14 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 15 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 16 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 17 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 18 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 19 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 20 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 21 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 22 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 23 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 24 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 25 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 26 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 27 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 28 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.



Photo 29 of 29, Bonham Veterans Administration Hospital, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. November 2020.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination	
Property Name:	Bonham VA Hospital	
Multiple Name:	United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958 MPS	
State & County:	TEXAS, Fannin	

Date Received: 8/29/2022 Date of Pending List: 9/14/2022 Date of 16th Day: 9/29/2022 Date of 45th Day: 10/13/2022 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:	MP100008265
Nominator:	Federal Agency, SHPO
Reason For Review:	

 X Accept Return Reject 10/13/2022 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:	The Bonham VA Hospital is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the state level of significance in the area of Health/Medicine. The 79.3-acre campus, designed by architects Finger & Rustay in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, reflects the significant changes in architecture and hospital design embraced by the Veterans Administration following World War II during the Third Generation hospital construction campaign. Completed between 1949 and 1951, as a modern domiciliary hospital, the facility met the significant post-war medical care needs of the country's growing veteran's community. The property meets the Registration Requirement of the New Hospitals property type under the U.S. Third Generation Veterans Hospital, 1946-1958 MPS.
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer	<u>Paul Lusignan</u>	Discipline	<u>Historian</u>
Telephone	<u>(202)354-2229</u>	Date	<u>10/13/2022</u>

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.