Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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Ш Ш UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Hill	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ .
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Historic American Buildings Survey
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Library of Congress
Washington DC 08



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A Texas version of the Second-Empire style, the Hillsboro courthouse is the tallest building in the county and can be MAR 18 1971 seen for miles when approaching the county seat from any direct TIONAL tion. It is placed in the center of a typical Texas courthouse GISTER square with landscaped lawn and trees.

The courthouse is three stories tall with a basement and attics. A tall central tower extends the total height of the building to seven stories. The exterior walls are of ivory colored rusticated limestone with banded dressed limestone pilasters edging all projecting corners, banded dressed limestone columns and bases, and dressed limestone trim around the windows, doors, and cornice.

The plan is symmetrical and basically square, four identical five-bay facades; each with end pavilions and central three-story raised portico. The roof treatment varies. The main body of the roof is hipped. The end pavilions are terminated with pyramidal mansard roofs truncated by decks with molded caps, the front part of each roof is brought down at the outside corner to correspond to the projection of the pavilion on the facade, giving the corner of the mansard roof a re-entrant angle. A small gable projects up beyond the cornice at the center of each pavilion and a dormer window is placed immediately above this in the mansard roof. Additional dormers face in toward the body of the building making a total of four at each corner. The central porticos have gable roofs and the prominent central tower is shingled and has a convex mansard roof with two windows per side and a projecting cornice above at the first level, straight sided second level with central louvered arched opening flanked by two smaller openings, all with hood-molds, and convex roof again at the top level with flat deck and four clock faces with heavily molded curved drip-There are two large chimneys.

The porticos have very tall one-story engaged banded and dressed stone bases with rusticated stone defining the two pilasters of each base. These support three-story free-standing banded columns with modified Corinthian capitals. The pediment has attenuated brackets beneath a wide cornice and a large deep arch springing above the columns. The wide entablature above the columns is repeated on the remainder of the building with Victorian brackets and belt-courses.

The openings are varied. Those of the first floor are arched with large keystones and filled (or blind) panels above the lintels of the one-over-one light double-hung sash type windows. The second and third story windows are divided with carved limestone panels. The third story windows, like those

Form T0-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet) #2

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of the first story, have arched openings with the arches filled above the lintels. The windows in the porticos repeat this scheme, but are very slender and tall with an arch pattern and huge keystone uniting the group above the third story. Three louvered openings mark an attic story in each pavilion.

There is a cast-iron balcony above the door. Four pilasters frame the doors, each with fanciful capitals and large brackets. Low-relief patterns are carved in these brackets and in the entablature they support. A high-relief belt course extends around the building at the top of the first story, made up of a pattern of flowers and leaves.

The interior of the building has been altered. The exterior was renovated in 1970.



REGISTER

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☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	ile and Known) 189	90	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropris	nte)	
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Hill County was created from part of Navarro County in 1853 and named for George Washington Hill. The citizens were authorized to vote for a site for the county seat which would be named "Hillsborough", and chose a centrally located site. The first courthouse of elm logs was built in 1854 and served The second, more substantial, courthouse was a until 1856. two-story brick building which burned down in 1872. a third courthouse, again a two-story brick building, was built for \$15,000 and served until the present structure was erected.

In 1889, when the present courthouse was planned, the location of the county seat was contested, but the final vote on November 6th gave Hillsboro 2611 votes to Woodbury's 1287. After the election the contract for the present courthouse was let on December 19, 1889, to Lovell, Miller, and Hood of Brownsville for \$83,000. The old courthouse was sold at auction on December 21 of that year for the sum of \$120, and during the construction of the new building county offices were mainly in the Ewell Hotel.

Records indicate that the contractors sustained a loss of \$4,714.22 over the contract price. (Approximately 50% of the total cost of construction related to the quarrying, transportation, carving, and placing the limestone rocks which form the exterior face of the building.) County officials along with the citizens of Hill County donated more than enough to repay the contractor's loss.

The architect of the Hill County Courthouse was W. C. Dodson, listed as a Waco architect in the 1885 roster of Texas architects. Dodson also designed the Hood County Courthouse at Granbury in 1890, a courthouse that is almost identical to that of Parker County at Weatherford which was built in 1885 and was probably designed by Dodson. All three of the courthouses are of a Texas version of the French Second Empire style, all have identical central towers, and are otherwise very closely related. The Hillsboro and Weatherford county courthouses are eye-catchers and photographs of them have been freForm 10-300a (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Recorded Texas Historic Landmark -



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March 16, 1971

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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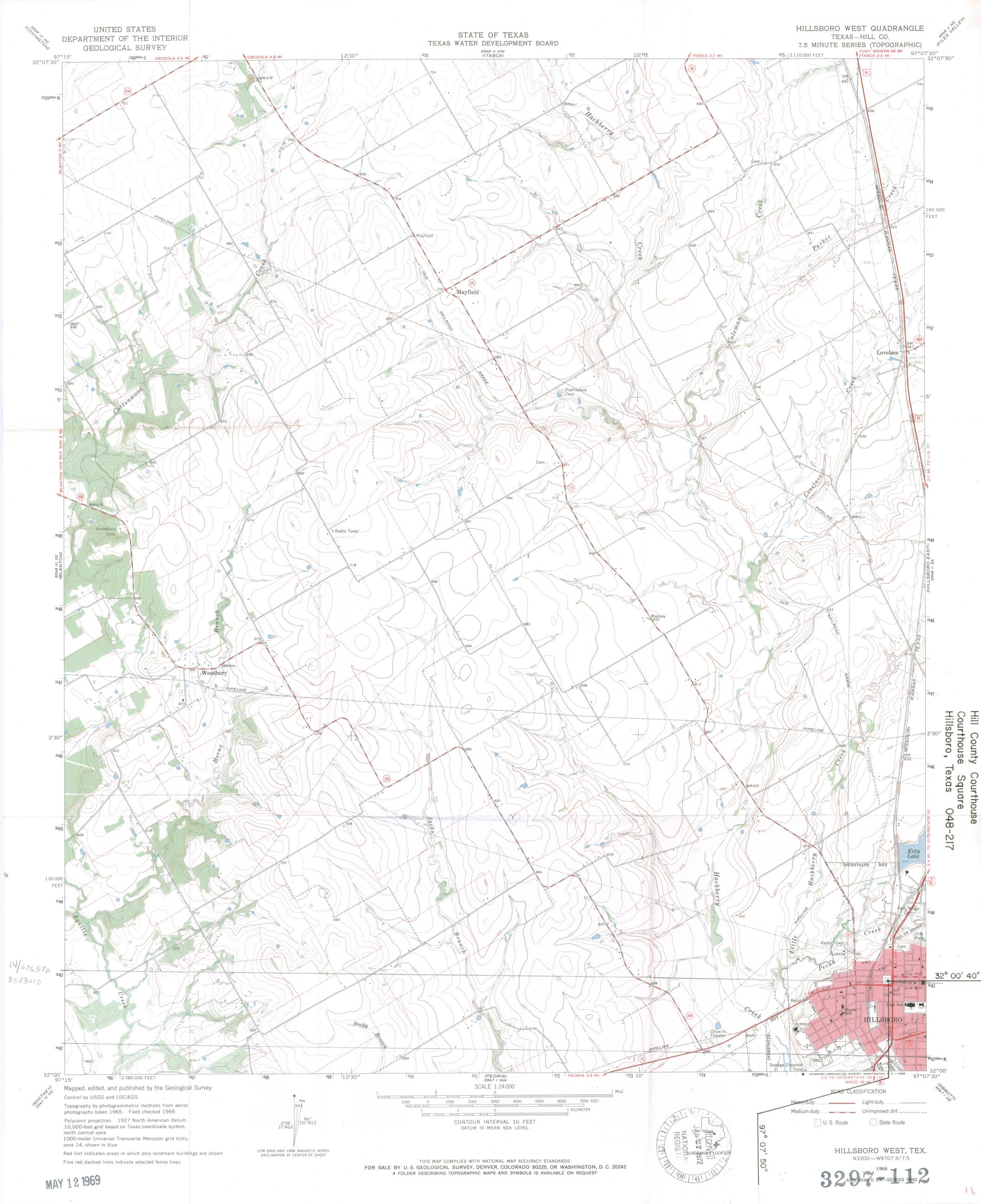
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NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY - TEXAS 048

Hill County Courthouse, Hill County, 217

Geographical data, Item 10, Form 10-300 is given as:

Latitude 32° 00' 41" Longitude 97° 07' 47"

Please CHANGE this to correctly read:

Latitude 32° 00' 40" Longitude 97° 07' 47"

A new, correctly marked map is being enclosed. Please DESTROY the old map and replace it with this one. Thank you.



Hon. Lloyd Bentsen United States Senate

Washington, D. C.

H30-HR

Dear Senator Bentsen:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Limison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the Mational Mistoric Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the Mational Register of Mistoric Places. Senator John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Limison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Taxas State Mistorical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capital Station, Austin, Texas 78711, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the Mational Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Director

Enclosures

. Entered in the National Register JUN 2 1 1971

cc: Mr. T.uett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

Also notified: United States Senate
Hon. John G. Tower:

House of Representatives

Hon. John Young

Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle

Hon- Omar Burleson

Hon. George H. Mahon

Hon. John Dowdy

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

T. H. Mathis House Aransas County, Rockport, Texas

Levi Rockshelter Travis County,
Austin, Texas

Paint Rock Indian Pictograph Site Concho County,
Paint Rock, Texas

Lubbock Lake Site Lubbock County,
Lubbock, Texas

Old Nacogdoches University Building Nacogdoches County, Nacogdoches, Texas

Westerman Mound : Houston County, Kennard, Texas

Hill County Courthouse Hill County,
Hillsboro, Texas

Ezekiel Cullen House San Augustine County, San Augustine, Texas

"Liendo" Waller County,
Hempstead, Texas

Lampasas County Courthouse Lampasas County,
Lampasas, Texas

Parker County Courthouse Parker County,
Weatherford, Texas

H30-HR

Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Survey Committee Post Office Box 12276 Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Latimer:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators John G. Tower and Lloyd Bentsen and the appropriate Representatives are being informed. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for each of the property owners. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

Signed)

Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register

AN 21 1971

cc:

HR

6/10/71 PDHerrick:naf BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

T. H. Mathis House

Aransas County, Rockport, Texas

Levi Rockshelter

Travis County, Austin, Texas

Paint Rock Indian Pictograph Site

Concho County, Paint Rock, Texas

Lubbock Lake Site

Lubbock County, Lubbock, Texas

Old Nacogdoches University Building

Nacogdoches County, Nacogdoches, Texas

Westerman Mound

Houston County, Kennard, Texas

Hill County Courthouse

Hill County, Hillsboro, Texas

Ezekiel Cullen House

San Augustine County, San Augustine, Texas

"Liendo"

Waller County, Hempstead, Texas

Lampasas County Courthouse

Lampasas County, Lampasas, Texas

Parker County Courthouse

Parker County, Weatherford, Texas



Texas State Historical Survey Committee Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 Truett Latimer Executive Director

January 4, 1972

Dr. Robert J. Mullen Chief, Bureau of Registration National Register 801 19th Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Bob:

Under separate cover we are forwarding corrections for the National Register submissions which were rechecked here in our office and found to be in error. I trust that this means of correction will not confuse the issue.

There may possibly still be errors but to date these are the only ones we have discovered. If you will notify us of any errors of which you are aware we will be glad to treat the submissions similarly.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer State Liaison Officer

By:

M. Wayne Bell, AIA Project Director

TL/MWB/pbs