

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 23 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 13 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

** HISTORIC Bosque County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Meridian

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY

Bosque

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bosque County

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Meridian

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office, Bosque County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Meridian

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Recorded Texas Historic Landmark & Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1965 & 1970

FEDERAL XSTATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bosque County Courthouse is located in the center of the public square of a town laid out in 1854 and a county created also in 1854. Located near the geographical center of the county (named after the Spanish term meaning woods), the town (named after a nearby stream) was platted by George B. Erath.

The present courthouse was the fourth in the county. The first, a one-room cabin with walls of vertical pickets and hand-riven oak weatherboards, erected in 1854 on a lot north of the public square, served until 1860; the second courthouse, a three-room frame building, burned in 1871; the third, a two-story stone structure, forty six feet square and erected in 1875, served until some county residents determined that a new modern edifice was needed.

Constructed in 1886-1887, the fourth courthouse was controversial since many residents believed that a proposed \$60,000 edifice would bankrupt the county. Reportedly, the intensity of disagreement between the "courthouse party" and the "anti-courthouse party" reached riot intensity at the time the 1875 edifice was to be razed. However, peace prevailed but today this dispute over construction is reflected on the cornerstone, where the names of the county judge and only two of the four county commissioners appear.

Although the courthouse was centered on the square, requiring the usual entrance on each of the four sides, the plan, 83 feet by 85 feet 6 inches overall, differed slightly from some of the courthouses built in surrounding counties. On the south, west, and north sides, the doors are centered but on the east, where the dominant tower was located, the entrance was shifted off-center to allow a ground-floor courtroom to be centered under the symmetrically positioned tower. Also on the ground floor were located the offices of tax collector, county judge, county attorney, and county treasurer.

On the second floor were the district courtroom, offices for district judge, district clerk, and others. The courtroom extended the length of the building on an east-west axis and was entered at the sides from stair

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landings on the north and south--an efficient arrangement for circulation. The judge's bench was located over the ground-floor courtroom in the projecting mass forming the base of the tower.

The courthouse was built of beautiful white limestone obtained from a quarry near Meridian. Specifications called for the footings of the exterior walls to be five feet in width and made of stone. These along with the foundation wall up to the level of the watertable were to be set with Portland cement mortar; above the watertable lime mortar was used throughout. The wall from grade line to the watertable was battered three inches and was constructed of pitch-faced ashlar. Above this level fine cut stone was used for the exterior walls. Hard limestone was employed for the steps and door sills.

The interior was finished in straightforward fashion, with walls plastered and painted white. "White pine" was specified for doors, door frames, and window sashes; "Texas pine" was specified for the window frames. The courtroom ceiling was stamped galvanized iron; the floors were finished with concrete; and the stairs were fabricated from cast iron manufactured by J.E. Bolles, Detroit, Michigan. Glass was to be "Saint Louis best plate."

Above the walls rose the roofs which were composed in picturesque massings. Over the corner pavilions were hipped roofs connected by mansard roofs, all covered with metallic shingles in diamond patterns. Flat sections of roof were covered with tin with standing seams and the tower was clad with stamped galvanized iron components. A cast-iron cresting decorated the ridges of the roofs.

In 1935, supported by funds from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, alterations were made to the courthouse and an addition was made to the west side. The tower was removed along with the hipped roofs over the corner pavilions and the mansard roofs were replaced with walls. Roy E. Lane was the architect and O. K. Johnson the contractor for these alterations.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1886-1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. J. Kane, architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building possesses considerable architectural merit due to its association with a prominent West Texas architect, its stylistic character, and the technology incorporated into it. Moreover, throughout its history the building has remained the most prominent structure in the county. Early in 1886 the Commissioners' Court of Bosque County announced that on February 23 they would examine plans for a new courthouse. The following day, J. J. Kane of Fort Worth, Texas, was appointed architect and awarded a commission of 5% of the construction cost--Kane designed numerous structures in West Texas including a Catholic Church, Fort Worth, a monumental stone edifice, and he served as the president of the Texas Association of Architects in 1888.

As was often the case during the last two decades of the nineteenth century, stylistic features intended to produce picturesqueness, yet dignity of expression were incorporated into the courthouse. Roman arches rising above slender engaged columns, and heavy rusticated pilasters reflect the Renaissance Revival style. On the ground story the arches have pronounced keystones while on the top story the arches have gracefully molded archivolts. Also consistent with the classical style, a well defined base formed the beginning of the wall composition and a bold galvanized-iron cornice formed the termination. Handsome rosettes carved from stone accent the pilasters and ornamental stone details terminate the wall below the cornice. The tower, however, had Gothic details, including small turrets on the corners. Other elements not associated with style but rather with the expression of purpose included the statue of justice, stamped from copper, and star motifs.

The structure also incorporated noteworthy technology in a relatively isolated location. Aspiring to develop fireproof construction, J. J. Kane utilized iron

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and concrete floor systems. The ground floor consisted of a rough four-inch Portland cement concrete slab placed over a fill of broken stone, sand, and waste material; then a coat of Portland cement concrete was placed and "blocked off in nine-inch squares." The second and third floors were supported by iron I beams which supported corrugated iron arches over which was placed concrete, blocked into squares.

Property Bosque County Courthouse

State Texas Working Number 11.23.76.4624

Bosque

77001427

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

Supplement

CONTROL

OK- *11.29.76*

Badly altered, but probably still locally significant.

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
L. W. [unclear]
6 D 76

extensive alterations in 1935

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
H. [unclear]
3/21/77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
Acty 3-21-77

BRANCH CHIEF

Thompson
3-25-77

KEEPER

W. [unclear]
3/25/77

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered APR 13 1977

Federal Register Entry 5-3-77

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bosque County Courthouse
Meridian, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, July 1970
Texas Historical Commission

East elevation

Photo #1 of 3

NOV 23 1976

DOE APR 13 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bosque County Courthouse
Meridian, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, July 1970
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast oblique

Photo #2 of 3

NOV 23 1976

05E APR 13 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bosque County Courthouse
Meridian, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, July 1970
Texas Historical Commission

Detail of window ornament
Photo #3 *of 3*

NOV 23 1976

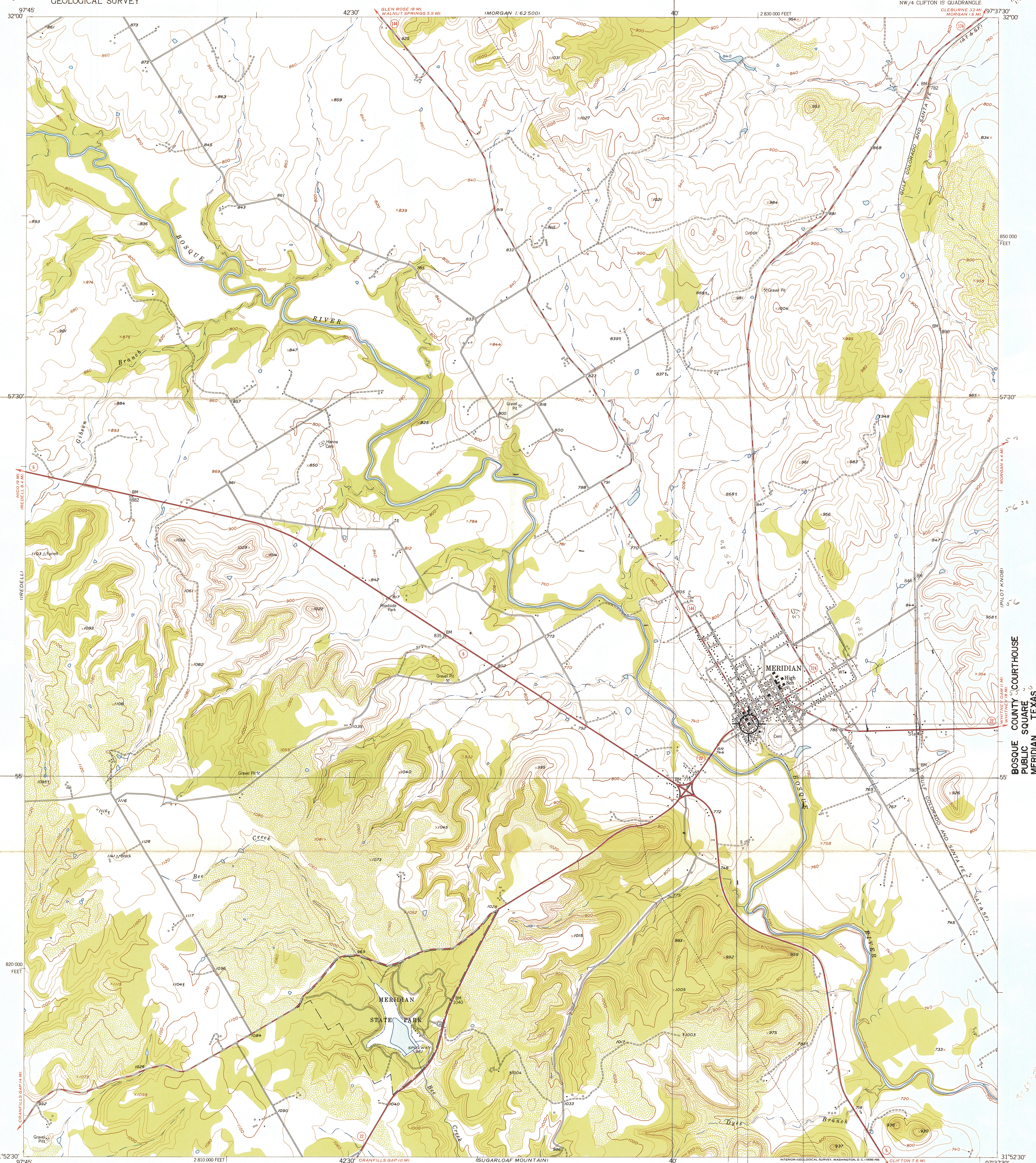
DOE APR 13 1977

GRANBURY
1:25,000

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MERIDIAN QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-BOSQUE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW 1/4 CLIFTON 15 QUADRANGLE

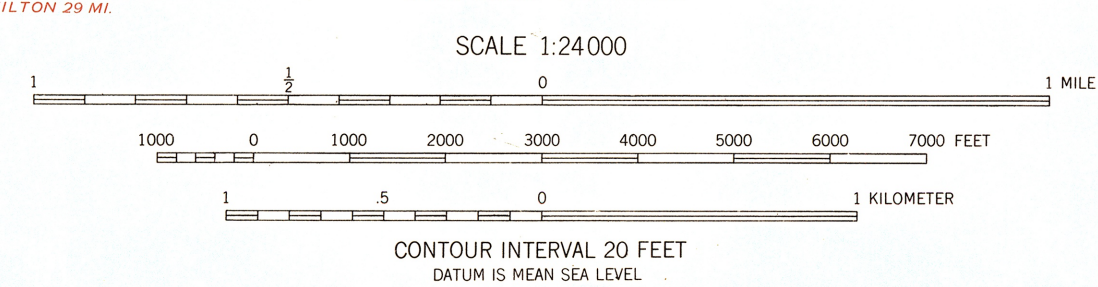
MORGAN
1:62,500



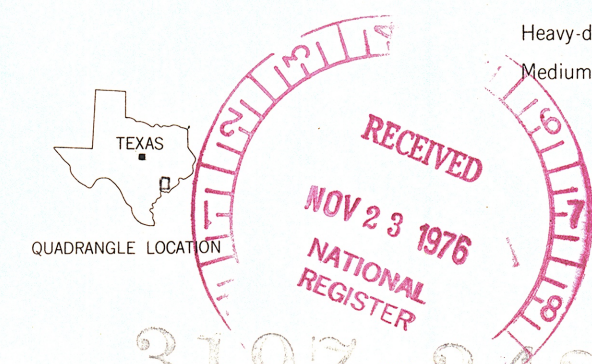
BOSQUE COUNTY "COURTHOUSE
PUBLIC SQUARE
MERIDIAN TEXAS
31° 55' 22" Latitude
97° 39' 45" Longitude

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by ER 55 plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1955



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ○



MERIDIAN, TEX.
NW 1/4 CLIFTON 15 QUADRANGLE
N3152.5-W9737.5/7.5
1955

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 2, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3197-343

APR 13 1977

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEXAS

STATE

APR 13 1977

Date Entered

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Howle Site	Quitman vicinity Wood County
Yandell Site	Emory vicinity Rains County
Gilbert Site	Emory vicinity Rains County
Bosque County Courthouse	Meridian Bosque County
Hart, Meredith, House	Rio Vista vicinity Johnson County
Turner, Joe E. House	Itasca vicinity Hill County
Sadler Site	Alba vicinity Wood County
Koons Site	Emory vicinity Rains County

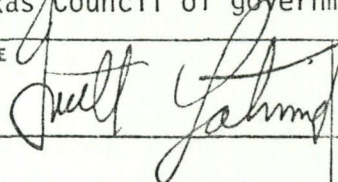
Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Sam B. Hall, Jr.
Hon. Ray Roberts
Hon. W. R. Poage
Hon. Olin E. Teague

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Regional Director, Southwest
Region

880 Mott 4/19/77

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE			2. APPLI- CANT'S APPLI- CATION		a. NUMBER		3. STATE APPLICA- TION IDENTI- FIER		a. NUMBER		
1. TYPE OF ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> PREAPPLICATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION (Mark appropriate box) <input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Opt) <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION			Leave Blank		b. DATE		Year month day		b. DATE		
					19 78 1 19		Year month day		ASSIGNED 1978 01/25		
4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT			5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.								
a. Applicant Name : State Historic Preservation Office b. Organization Unit : Texas Historical Commission c. Street/P.O. Box : P. O. Box 12276 d. City : Austin e. County : Travis f. State : Texas g. ZIP Code: 78711 h. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : Truett Latimer (512) 475-3094			6. PRO-GRAM (From Federal Catalog)						a. NUMBER 1151091014 b. TITLE Historical Preservation		
7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT			8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT								
Bosque County Courthouse, Development Project-Phase I; Meridian, <u>Bosque County, Texas</u> . The Bosque County Courthouse, designed by notable West Texas architect J. J. Kane, was constructed in 1886 of white limestone blocks. In 1935 the tower and hip roof removed and metal frame windows installed. The project objective is to preserve the present character of the Bldg. Was continued as county seat.			A-State H-Community Action Agency B-Interstate I-Higher Educational Institution C-Substate J-Indian Tribe D-Country K-Other (Specify): E-City F-School District G-Special Purpose District						Enter appropriate letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A		
			9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE								
10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.)			11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING		12. TYPE OF APPLICATION						
Texas			12,000,000		A-New C-Revision E-Augmentation B-Renewal D-Continuation Enter appropriate letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A						
13. PROPOSED FUNDING			14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:			15. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 12c or 12e)					
a. FEDERAL \$ 15,000 .00 b. APPLICANT 15,000 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 30,000 .00			a. APPLICANT statewide b. PROJECT 11 16. PROJECT START DATE Year month day 19 . . 17. PROJECT DURATION 12 Months 18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY Year month day 19 78 12 15			A-Increase Dollars F-Other (Specify): B-Decrease Dollars C-Increase Duration D-Decrease Duration E-Cancellation Enter appropriate letter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
20. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code)			21. REMARKS ADDED								
OAHF, HCRS, Washington, D. C. 20240			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No								
22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT			a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved. b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached:			No response attached (1) Governor's office of Budget & Planning <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2) Heart of Texas Council of governments <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE			a. TYPED NAME AND TITLE Truett Latimer, State Historic Preservation Officer			b. SIGNATURE 			c. DATE SIGNED Year month day 19 78 12 13		
24. AGENCY NAME			25. APPLICATION RECEIVED			26. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT					
Department of the Interior			1978 12 19			HCRS					
27. ADDRESS			28. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION			29. ADDRESS					
Washington, D.C. 20243			48-09439			Washington, D.C. 20243					
30. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION			31. ACTION TAKEN			32. FUNDING			33. ACTION DATE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. AWARDED <input type="checkbox"/> b. REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> c. RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT <input type="checkbox"/> d. DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> e. WITHDRAWN			a. FEDERAL \$ 15,000 .00 b. APPLICANT 15,000 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 30,000 .00			Year month day 19 79 1 8 34. STARTING DATE 19 79 01 01 35. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number) Stephen D. Newman 202-343-4941			36. Year month day ENDING DATE 19 80 09 30 37. REMARKS ADDED <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
38. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.)			same as #35								

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 6 D 76
 Reviewer INITIALS: *[Signature]*
 NR DOE APR 13 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Bosque County Courthouse

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER Public Square

CITY, TOWN Meridian

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Texas 48

VICINITY OF

COUNTY code

Bosque 035

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

Substantially intact-1
 unknown - 4
 not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

Substantially intact-2
 unknown - 5
 not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

Substantially intact-3
 unknown - 6
 Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED
 Unexcavated

UNALTERED
 ALTERED
 Reconstructed
 Excavated

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED
 Unknown

ACCESS

Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district?

YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES NO

Saved?

YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- COURTHOUSE

now- *[Signature]*

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

ART

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION

INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW/Gov't/politics

LITERATURE

MILITARY

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SCIENCE

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

technology

entertainment

health

recreation

settlement

socio/cultural

urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder: J.J. Kane
landscape/garden designer: altered Roy E. Lane
interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor: alteration
O.K. Johnson

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1886-1887

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1935

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

UNIV

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

2

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

3 story limestone structure nearly square in plan. Facades are characterized by arched openings, generous use of quoins, and elaborate cornice. Mansard roofs and clock tower were removed in 1935

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Bosque County Courthouse, still the most prominent structure in the county, has been the seat of local government for 90 years. Its construction involved a significant innovation in fireproof construction.