

PH 0664839

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 15 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 5 1978

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

Wilson County Courthouse and Jail

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Public Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Floresville

VICINITY OF

23

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Texas

048

Wilson

493

## 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

Wilson County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Floresville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wilson County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Floresville

STATE

Texas

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY 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

Located on the public square of Floresville, the Wilson County Courthouse was designed by the prominent Texas architect, Alfred Giles and was completed in 1884. The two-story stuccoed brick structure with its dominating tower exhibits many Italianate architectural elements - an unusual style for 19th Century Texas courthouses.

One of the building's most distinguishing features is its balance. Although the structure has been remodeled, the building originally displayed a "T" shape floor plan. The front or SW elevation demonstrates a symmetrical facade with a statue standing atop the central gabled bay. Along with the outer elevations the front facade is pierced on the ground floor with segmental arched windows and round arch openings in the second floor. Quoins provide visual support at every corner, while string courses unite these quoins and the hood molds on each floor. One-story porticos supported by two columns and surmounted with a balustrade mark the entrances on three facades (the rear portico was altered when a rear addition was constructed). A sheetmetal cornice with supporting brackets and consoles terminates the pressed tin roof. Crowning the structure, a large pyramidal tower pierces the sky and provides the most recognizable aspect of the courthouse.

The interior contains offices and jury rooms in the first floor and courtroom and offices in the upper floor. Although the interior retains much of its original detailing, the exterior has received some alterations. A small room was added on the SE facade, a two-story wing was attached at the north corner and a large one-story addition extends from the east corner. These additions took place in the 1930's and 1950's.

Situated on the northeast corner of the courthouse square, the Wilson County Jail was constructed in 1887. Designed by the noteworthy architect James Riely Gordon the cubical jail has massive stuccoed brick walls highlighted by corner pilasters with molded capitals. Segmental arched windows with hood molds flank either side of the projecting central bay. Segmental arched hood molds cap the second floor windows of the central bay of the SW and NE facades. Dentil molding supports the cornice and a standing-seam hipped roof caps the jail.



# 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 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 1884/1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alfred Giles/J. R. Gordon

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Serving as the focal point of the small community of Floresville, the Wilson County Courthouse provides a rare example of Italianate architecture among Texas courthouses. The building, designed by Alfred Giles, was completed in 1884. Three years later, James Riely Gordon designed a new jail which was constructed at the NE corner of the courthouse square. Both Giles and Gordon represent two of the finest architects in the 19th Century Texas, and numerous buildings designed by them are listed on the National Register. Giles was the architect of the Old Gillespie County Courthouse (listed in the Fredericksburg Historic District, National Register 10-14-70) while Gordon designed the Ellis County Courthouse (included in the Ellis County Courthouse Historic District, National Register 4-23-75).

Formed in 1860, Wilson County relocated its county seat numerous times in its first 13 years. By 1873, a county-wide election finally established Floresville as the countyseat and a wood frame building was constructed that year as a temporary courthouse. When fire destroyed the structure in 1884, Alfred Giles was hired to design the present two-story courthouse.

In 1887, the need for a new permanent jail became apparent, and James Riely Gordon was selected as the architect. B. L. Ried constructed the jail, and the Panley Jail Building and Manufacturing Co. of St. Louis supplied the ironwork for the cells.

Remodeled in the late 1930's and again in the 1950's, the Wilson County Courthouse continues to function as the seat of the government for the county. However, the old jail has been converted into additional office space for the county.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

County Progress, Vol. 52, No. 11, November, 1975, page 16.

Webb, Walter Prescott, The Handbook of Texas Vol II, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 3 acres.

QUADRANGLE NAME Floresville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 4 5 8 2 0 2 10 3 2 2 2 8 7 5

B                              

C                              

D                              

E                              

F                              

G                              

H                              

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The square is surrounded by C Street on the north, D Street on the south, 4th Street on the east and 3rd Street on the west.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joe Williams/Project Director & David Moore/Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Texas Historical Commission

DATE

3/13/78

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE

(512) 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  

STATE X

LOCAL  

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

3-14-78

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Walter Cole  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/17/78

DATE

4-26-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Property

Wilson County Courthouse and Jail

State

Texas

Working Number

3.15.78.2689

Wilson

78003001

## TECHNICAL

Photos

5

Maps

1

## CONTROL

OK <sup>pl</sup> 3.16.78

## HISTORIAN

libby

3-22-78

accept

justification almost solely based on architecture -  
though I would respect historical associations -  
interesting & important.

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT

libby

3/22/78

REPRESENTS A TEXAS COURTHOUSE & JAIL  
EXECUTED IN THE ITALIANATE STYLE.

THESE 2 BUILDINGS STILL SERVE THE COUNTY AND SERVE AS A  
FOCUS FOR THE COMMUNITY.

## ARCHEOLOGIST

## OTHER

## HAER

Inventory

Review

## REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Lebowich

3/23/78

additions (1930s, 1950s) do not compromise  
architectural significance. most Texas  
courthouses/jails are Richardsonian (at this  
period), therefore, this is of extra interest.

## BRANCH CHIEF

## KEEPER

manned  
5/5/78

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered MAY 5 1978

Federal Register Entry

6.6.78

Re-submit

INT:2106-74







PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wilson County Courthouse and Jail  
Public Square  
Floresville, Wilson County, Texas

Mike Yancey/Joe Oppermann 7-1-76  
Texas Historical Commission

Southeast Elevation of Courthouse

125

MAR 15 1978

MAY 5 1978







PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wilson County Courthouse and Jail  
Public Square  
Floresville, Wilson County, Texas

Mike Yancey/Joe Oppermann 7-1-76  
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest Elevation of Courthouse

295

MAR 15 1978

MAY 5 1978







PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wilson County Courthouse and Jail  
Public Square  
Floresville, Wilson County, Texas

Mike Yancey/Joe Oppermann 7-1-76  
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest Elevation of Jail

325

MAR 15 1978

MAY 5 1978







PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wilson County Courthouse and Jail  
Public Square  
Floresville, Wilson County, Texas

Joe Oppermann/Mike Yancey 7-1-76  
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast Elevation of Courthouse

425

MAR 15 1978

MAY 5 1978







PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ~~RESEARCH~~

Wilson County Courthouse and Jail  
Public Square  
Floresville, Wilson County, Texas

Mike Yancey/Joe Oppermann 7-1-76  
Texas Historical Commission

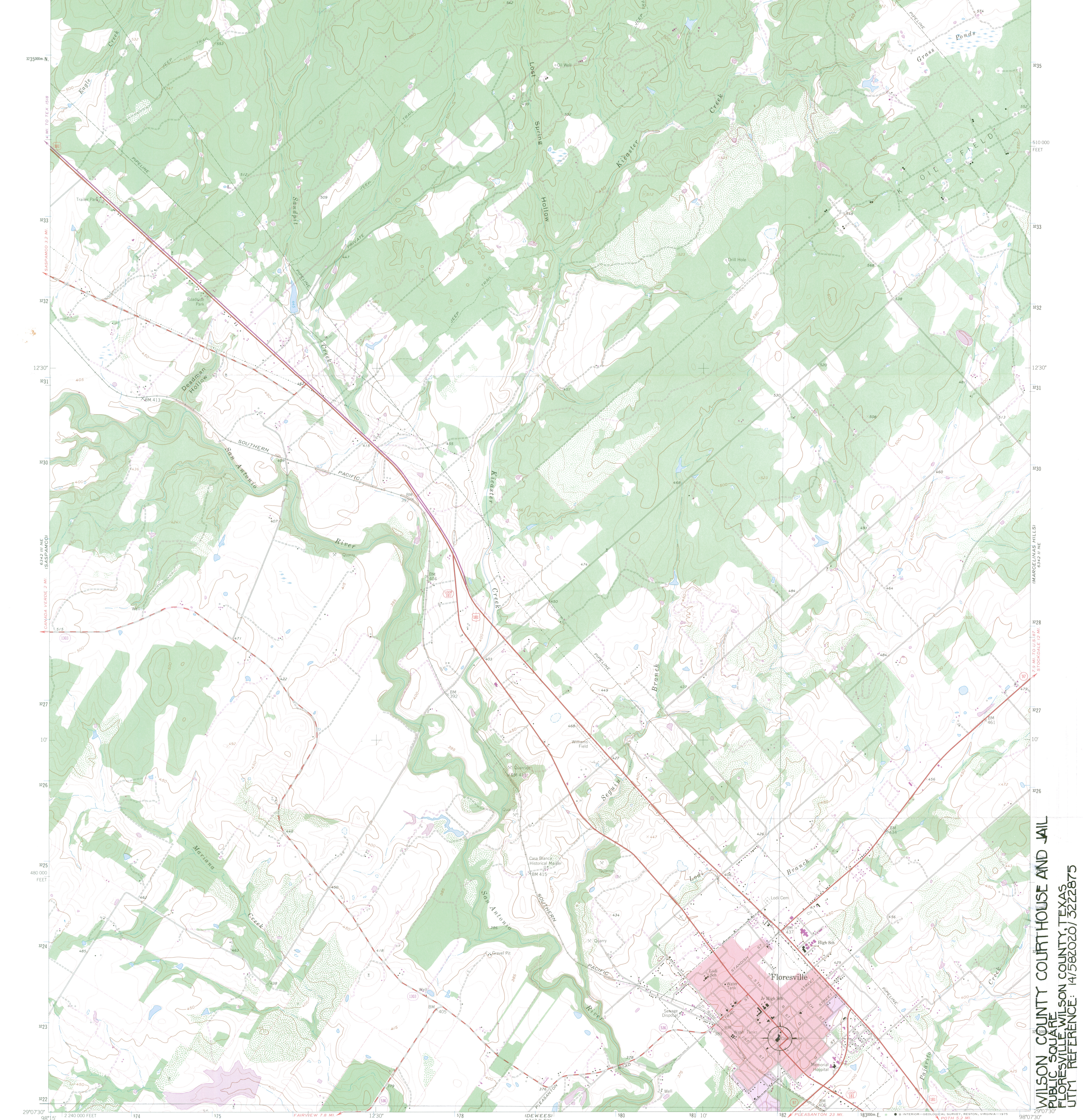
Northwest Elevation of Courthouse

~~545~~ 545

MAR 15 1978

MAY 5 1978









JUDGE GRESHAM L. AKIN  
WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
P. O. BOX 958  
FLORESVILLE, TEXAS 78114

March 15, 1978

EX-OFFICIO  
COUNTY SCHOOL SUPT.

Mr. William Mutaugh  
Keeper of National Register  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of Interior  
Eighteen and C NW  
Washington, 20240 D.C.

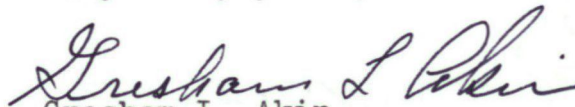
RE: The Wilson County Courthouse Nominations

Dear Mr. Mutaugh,

The Commissioners Court and I, Judge of Wilson County understand the implications of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 and therefore waive a waiting period of 30 days.

We request that the nomination be reviewed immediately.

Very truly yours,

  
Gresham L. Akin  
Wilson County Judge

GLA:rr



THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **MAR 21 1978**

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS

017:11

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 1978

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 1978

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MAR 21 1978

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 1978



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE    TEXAS

Date Entered    MAY 5 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wilson County Courthouse and Jail	Floresville Wilson County
Old Reagan County Courthouse	Stiles Reagan County
41 CX 110	Crockett County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower

Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen

Hon. Abraham Kazen, Jr.

Hon. Robert C. Krueger

NR       Mott       5/8/78

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



# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

<b>1 NAME as it appears on federal register:</b> Wilson County Courthouse and Jail				<b>2 OTHER NAMES:</b>		<b>3 date of entry:</b> MAY 5 1978		<b>4 county code:</b> 493			
<b>5 LOCATION street &amp; number</b> Public Sq.		<b>city / town</b> Floresville		<b>vicinity of</b>		<b>state</b> TX		<b>county</b> Wilson			
<b>6 NPS REGION:</b> SW						<b>7 OWNER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)					
<b>8 ADMINISTRATOR:</b>				<b>9 EXISTING SURVEYS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL <b>10 FUNDED?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <b>11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT</b> 23rd <b>12 SOURCE of NOMINATION</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL							
<b>13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO				<b>14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO				<b>15 ACREAGE</b>		if state who prepared form? Texas Historical Comm. <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
<b>16 CONDITION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> excavated				<b>17 features:</b> INTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9							
<b>18 ACCESS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				<b>19 ADAPTIVE USE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>20 SAVED?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES		<b>21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no			
<b>22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVT.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25 _____										<b>23 CLAIMS: explain</b> 'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only' <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>24 functions</b> WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				<b>25 dates</b> of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				<b>26 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION</b>			
<b>27 architectural style(s):</b>				<b>28 architect:</b>		<b>29 master builder:</b>		<b>30 engineer:</b>			
<b>31 landscape architect / garden designer:</b>			<b>32 interior decorator:</b>			<b>33 artist:</b>		<b>34 artisan:</b>		<b>35 builder/contractor:</b>	
<b>36 NAMES give role &amp; date</b> PERSONAL:  EVENTS:  INSTITUTIONAL:											
<b>37 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP</b>											