

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 677876

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 26 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAY 25 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Cass County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Linden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF

CODE
48

COUNTY

Cass

CODE

67

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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Cass County

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 468

CITY, TOWN

Linden

VICINITY OF

STATE
Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cass County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 468

CITY, TOWN

Linden

STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE
Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Apparently the original frame courthouse in Linden was not regarded as suitably fireproof and the structure was sold to a church, moved and a brick structure was begun in 1859 at the same site. Built of locally made brick by J. Thomas Veal and L. W. Lisenbee, the 50' x 60' structure was not completed until after the Civil War. Offices were located on the first floor and the courtroom and jury rooms on the second floor.

County Judge Charles Ames was paid \$50 for drawing a plan and writing the specifications. He specified: 12' high ceilings; tongue & groove flooring; four fireplaces with brick chimneys; three sets of double doors with lights over the doors; sixteen windows of six over six lights for the first floor; eighteen windows of six over six lights for the second floor; a hipped roof (girders to be 8" x 16"); roof painted a lead color (indicating it must have been metal); a 10' square cupola 23' high with a zinc covered dome, crowned with a spire and a 2' diameter wooden ball, both covered with gold leaf; painted "Spanish brown" inside and outside.

The first addition was built ca. 1900 when a 15' wing was added to the east side of the building by B. H. Singletary of Atlanta, Texas. In 1917 a second addition added two more wings, one on the west side and another on the east side. The architect was Stewart Moore, from Texarkana, Texas, and the contractors were A. M. and R. G. Brashears also from Texarkana. A fire in 1933 destroyed part of the second floor. Damage was repaired immediately, the tin covered cupola was removed and the third floor was added. At a later date the brick received stucco and was painted white with deep tan trim.

The existing 3 story, Neo Classical Revival style courthouse is the result of the ca. 1900 remodeling. The seven-bay longitudinal elevation is basically a central pavillion with almost symmetrical wings featuring a prominent, three-bay, two story pedimented entry portico. Columns are Roman Doric. The pediment has a semi-circular, fan window with lights.

A red tile, hip roof with a deck (no railing) prominently caps the structure.

Windows in the first and second floors are 9 over 1 or 6 over 1 light, double hung windows. There is no exterior window trim and only a slight sill. Third floor windows are 6 light casements, typically used in pairs, but occasionally used singly. The exterior doors on the east and west elevations are metal all-glass, double doors with a glass transom above. The doors on the south and north sides are wood with a glass panel. Trim on the south door is simple architrave-type; while the north door is elaborated with a triangular pediment.

Chimneys and fireplaces are no longer present, although early photographs show chimneys previously existed.

The frieze, painted in a contrasting earth-tone, is the main decorative element. Metopes are plain and vary in width because the triglyphs are spaced to synchronize with spacing of fenestration and to add emphasis to the corners of the building.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

Repeated remodelings have left little material from the 1859 structure exposed. New doors have been installed, ceilings have been lowered from 12' to 8' with acoustical tile and recessed fluorescent lighting fixtures, walls have been paneled, and carpet has been laid on the concrete floor.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1859, 1900, 1917 & 1933 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Neo-Classical Revival Cass County Courthouse, prominently located on the public square in Linden, is the oldest continuously used courthouse in Texas. Serving as a visual reference point that defines the townscape, this building is a reminder of past civic pride when the courthouse was a symbol of peace and of the protection of society. The original brick structure, built in 1859-60 is encased on two sides by additions occurring at the turn of the century, in 1917 and following a fire in 1933.

The present courthouse is actually the second courthouse built in Linden on this site, and Linden is the second county seat of Cass County. In 1846 the original county offices were located in Jefferson, Texas. County commissioners moved the county seat to Linden in 1852. By 1853 a two-story, frame courthouse was built on the same site as the present courthouse. Thomas J. Foster, Sr., the contractor, did the logging and built the first pit saw and lumber mill in Linden for the purpose of building the courthouse. His was also the first business in town.

The 1859-60 Cass County Courthouse precisely followed the mid-19th century formula for courthouses given in Texas Public Buildings of the Nineteenth Century, by W. B. Robinson.

"...formal compositions...two-story blocks, approximately thirty-two feet high, on either square or rectangular plans. Usually the roof was hipped, and the whole composition was crowned and unified by a square or octagonal cupola. Located in the center of the public square, the courthouse had entries...on all four facades - giving equal prominence to commercial property on all sides."

The courthouse was the site of the early legal work of former Congressman Wright Patman and former Texas Supreme Court Justice Ralph Hicks Harvey.

While many changes to the structure have taken place over time, these changes represent the history and development of the building and they have acquired a significance of their own. Another addition is being planned in a manner sympathetic to the Neo-Classical Revival style architecture that the building took on in 1900. Neither this new addition nor previous additions should make this building any less worthy of preservation. The building remains in good condition and its current intense use serves the best interests of the building itself and the community of Linden, where typically the public square was a focus for community life and commercial activity.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Alexander, D. B., Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century, Austin, Texas, 1966, U. of Texas Press
 Robinson, W. B., Texas Public Buildings of the Nineteenth Century, Austin, Texas, U. of Texas Press.
 Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Cambridge, Mass., 1969, M.I.T. Press.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Linden, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 372510 3653160

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site occupies an entire city block, bounded on the north by Houston St, on the east by Kaufman Street, on the south by Rush St., and on the west by Main St. (Rush Street does not appear on the USGS map).

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
Ruth Parshall, Restoration Consultant

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission

DATE 2-14-79

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 12276 Capitol Station

TELEPHONE 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 LOCAL X

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 13, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: [Signature]
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5-25-79

DATE 5/25/79

Property Cass County Courthouse

State Tex. (Cass) Working Number 3.26.79. 656

79002924

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
3.28.79

Though continually altered and expanded since 1859 this courthouse is the longest continually used courthouse in the State. Addition~~s~~s do not distract from integrity as such public buildings continue to grow with development of county. Primary significance would be its political/govt. role in community.

HISTORIAN

Accept
B. Frenkel
5/25/79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

An important public building in Texas because of its historical significance. Later exterior additions to the original brick Neo-Classical Revival structure respect the building's character and integrity making it at least locally architecturally significant.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Gale Brooks
5/25/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 7-3-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 25 1979



Cass County Courthouse
Public Square
Linden, Cass County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical
Commission, 1977
Northwest oblique
Photo #1

MAR 26 1979

MAY 25 1979



Cass County Courthouse
Public Square
Linden, Cass County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical
Commission, 1977
South facade
Photo #2

MAR 26 1979

MAY 25 1979

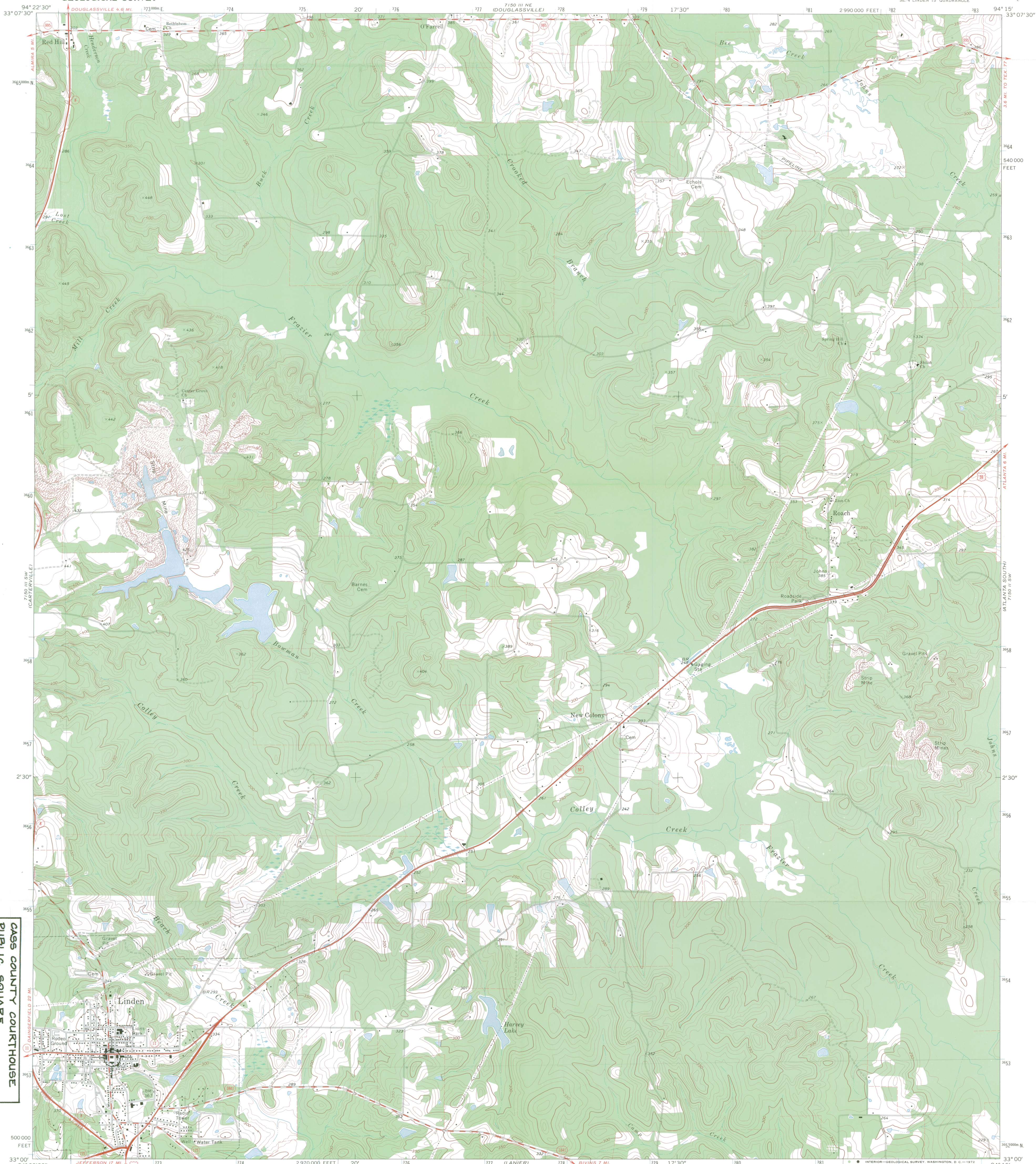


Cass County Courthouse
Public Square
Linden, Cass County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical
Commission, 1977
West elevation
Photo #3

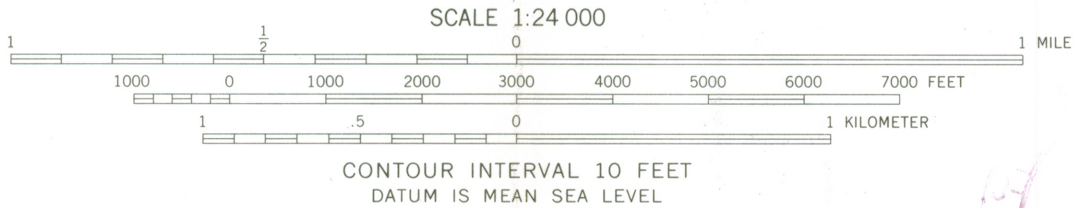
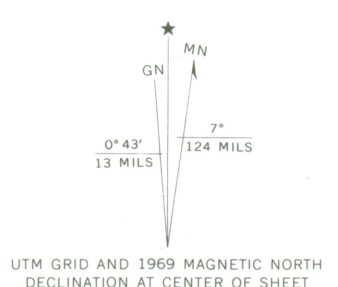
MAR 26 1979

MAY 25 1979



CASS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PUBLIC SQUARE
LINDEN, CASS COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REF.: 15/372510/3653160

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route	State Route

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1979
NATIONAL REGISTER

3394-121

LINDEN, TEX.
SE 1/4 LINDEN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3300-W9415/7.5
1969
AMS 7150 III SE-SERIES V882

3394-121
31

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEXAS

STATE

Date Entered MAY 25 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Smyth, Andrew, House	Jasper vicinity Jasper County
Cass County Courthouse	Linden Cass County
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church	Lindsay Cooke County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Charles Wilson
Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr.
Honorable Charles W. Stenholm

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

NR Byers/bjr 5/29/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.