

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received NOV 20 1979

date entered DEC 19 1979

## 1. Name

historic Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station

and/or common Katy Depot

## 2. Location

street & number Covington Street, North of Courthouse Square  not for publication

city, town Hillsboro  vicinity of congressional district 6

state Texas code 048 county Hill code 217

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name City of Hillsboro

street & number 115 South Waco Street

city, town Hillsboro  vicinity of state Texas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hill County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Hillsboro state Texas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  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 1979

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sensitively relocated on a town lot sharing many of the qualities of the original site, the Katy Depot retains its architectural and historical integrity, significant to the city of Hillsboro. In 1902 the original Katy Depot, a simple, wood frame structure built in 1881, was converted to a freight station and the present structure was erected nearby. The rectangular structure was oriented parallel to the tracks and provided two segregated waiting rooms, restroom facilities, a centrally located ticket office and a baggage room.

The horizontal massing of the structure is reminiscent of the Prairie style, with a low-pitched hipped roof pierced with two brick chimneys and featuring a gabled hip on the north side and two projecting gables, east and west. Victorian influences are expressed in the decorative elements of the gables including two and three dimensional cut-out trim, facade shingles, and heavy brackets, all constructed of east Texas long-leaf pine, and cypress wood. The metal-shingled roof extends over the facades of the structure creating generous eaves supported by curved brackets which feature wooden insets with simple cut-out designs. The facades are composed of vertical and horizontal wood siding broken with exposed structural members and door and window openings. The "base" of the structure consists of vertical siding terminated with a continuous dado rail. Above the rail, the facades are finished with # 113 clapboard siding. Faced with unadorned wood trim, the tall, narrow, double-hung windows consist of two single-paned sashes, the upper pane bordered with stained glass. The doors vary in size and design depending on location and usage. The public doors feature inset wood panels and windows while the service door is constructed with exposed framing and bracing. When operating, the depot was brilliantly painted in the official Katy colors to emphasize the architectural and decorative features. The base was painted a dark green and the horizontal siding above it was painted a lighter green; trim and moldings were painted a bright red. Through the years the structure has been altered very little, and aside from a loss of color due to exposure to the elements, has retained its original appearance. Plans are underway for its complete and accurate restoration.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1902 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Visually reminiscent of the Age of Rail, which had a positive impact on the economy of Hillsboro, the Katy Depot stands today in close proximity to the Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroad lines as well as the Hill County Courthouse (National Register, 6/21/71), the focal point of the downtown commercial district. Hillsboro was established in 1853 to serve as the governmental seat and trade center for a basically agrarian county, cotton the primary crop. The completion of the MKT Railroad through Hillsboro in 1881 increased the commercial activity of the city and broadened its economic base. With locally raised funds, the citizens of Hillsboro purchased the right of way and property needed for a depot. Functional requirements dictated the size and massing of the structure which reflects architectural and decorative styles popular at the turn of the century.

The Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, commonly known as the Katy, was the first rail line to reach Hillsboro. Passenger service on the line, which connected Fort Worth and Temple, began on Sunday, April 26, 1881, with four daily trains and a sleeper through to Chicago. The Katy Railroad brought a surge of economic activity to this agricultural region, becoming a major means of exporting cotton and livestock. As the economic base broadened, so did the population, which facilitated both residential and commercial expansion. Building materials were brought in by train and used to construct then contemporary structures, many of which remain today.

With the completion of the railroad several Katy buildings were constructed including: a frame station consisting of a waiting room, office, and a freight room; a cotton platform; and a section house. In 1894 Katy built division shops and a roundhouse in Hillsboro. The original station was converted to a freight house in 1902 and the present depot was erected on the land purchased by the city of Hillsboro. The basically rectangular structure was originally oriented on a north/south axis, parallel to the tracks. With a strong horizontal emphasis, the structure reflects the shingle style with its gently-pitched roof and extended, bracket-supported eaves, vertical and horizontal wood siding, and decorative shingles. Repercussions of the Victorian era are evident in the trim of the gables.

Throughout its operating years, the depot served as an integral part of the Hillsboro community. Among those visiting Hillsboro via the Katy were railroad tycoon Jay Gould, and Presidents Woodrow Wilson, William H. Taft, Calvin Coolidge, and Harry Truman. The depot served as the departure and arrival point for World War I and II soldiers.

Currently the building is unoccupied. In an effort to prevent the depot from being moved to Fort Worth, local citizens raised funds to allow the city to purchase the structure. The building has been relocated (1979) on the nearby Old City Market Square property, again with a north/south axial orientation near both the railroad lines and the courthouse. Therefore, the move to a new site should in no way be considered a detriment to its significance.

The city currently has plans to restore the building to its original appearance and has submitted a grant request for this. When restored, the depot will once again serve as a significant element in the Hillsboro Community, providing the administrative offices for the Chamber of Commerce as well as tourist information and display space for the arts. Space will also be available to local civic groups for meetings and social gatherings.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ward, Joe Ed; Unpublished monograph, December, 1978.

Webb, Walter Prescott; The Handbook of Texas, Volume I, Austin, Texas State Historical Association, 1952, p. 816.

# 10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property less than one, 100' x 130' (see enclosed map)

Quadrangle name Hillsboro West, Texas Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
C				D				
E				F				
G				H				

**Verbal boundary description and justification/** Of the northeast quadrant of the block bounded by Franklin, Covington, and Paschal Streets, and the railroad tracks, the nominated property measures 100' along Covington, measuring from the alley, and 130' along the north curb of of that alley.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda C. Flory, Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission date August 13, 1979

street & number P.O. Box 12276 telephone 512-475-3095

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

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] date November 2, 1979

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register Sally G. Olden date 12/19/79  
*acting chief of registry*

Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 12/10/79  
 Chief of Registration

79002979

Property Missouri-Kansas-Texas Co RR Station

State IX - Hill Working Number 11-20-792787

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 8  
Maps 1

**HISTORIAN**

*Nice Queen Anne railroad station, significant as an example of an architectural type and for its association with the changes the railroad brought to this agricultural community. Moved, but for purposes of preservation. Much local enthusiasm for restoration project; grant has been applied for*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*Accept  
O'Connell  
12/10/79*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 2-3-81

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered DEC 19 1979

INT:2106-74



CLEM  
DOWNS  
TEX

HILL COUNTY

STATION BUILDING  
HILLSBORO, TEXAS

*Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station*

Katy Depot

NOV 20 1979

Bois D'Arc and Elm Streets (original site)

Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo: Hollingsworth Photo, Hillsboro, 1978

Northeast Oblique

Photo # 1 *4/3*

*OOE*  
DEC 19 1979



*Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station*

Katy Depot

NOV 20 1979

Bois D'Arc and Elm Streets (original site)

Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo: Hollingsworth Photo, Hillsboro, 1978

Northwest Oblique

Photo # 2 *of 6*

*DOE*  
DEC 19 1979



*Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station*

Katy Depot

NOV 20 1979

Bois D'Arc and Elm Streets (original site)

Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo: Hollingsworth Photo, Hillsboro, 1978

Southwest Oblique

Photo # 396

DBE

DEC 19 1979



HILLSBORO

MKT  
MISSOURI-KANSAS-TEXAS LINES

*Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station*

Katy Depot

NOV 20 1979

Bois D'Arc and Elm Streets (original site)

Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo: Hollingsworth Photo, Hillsboro, 1978

Detail; Southwest Oblique

Photo# 4 *48*

*DOE*

DEC 19 1979



*Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station*

Katy Depot

NOV 20 1979

Bois D'Arc and Elm Streets (original site)

Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo: Hollingsworth Photo, Hillsboro, 1978

Detail; Bracket

Photo # 5 *98*

*AOE*

DEC 19 1979



*Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station*

Katy Depot

NOV 20 1979

Bois D'Arc and Elm Streets (original site)

Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo: Hollingsworth Photo, Hillsboro, 1978

Detail; East Facade Projecting Bay and Gable

Photo # 6 *4/8*

HOLLINGSWORTH PHOTO  
1015 E. WALNUT  
HILLSBORO, TEXAS 76044

*DOE*

DEC 19 1979



*Missouri-Kansas-Texas-Company Railroad Station*

Katy Depot

NOV 20 1979

Covington Street (New Location)

Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 10/79

Northeast Oblique

Photo # 748

DOE  
DEC 19 1979



*Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station*

Katy Depot

NOV 20 1979

Covington Street (New Location)

Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

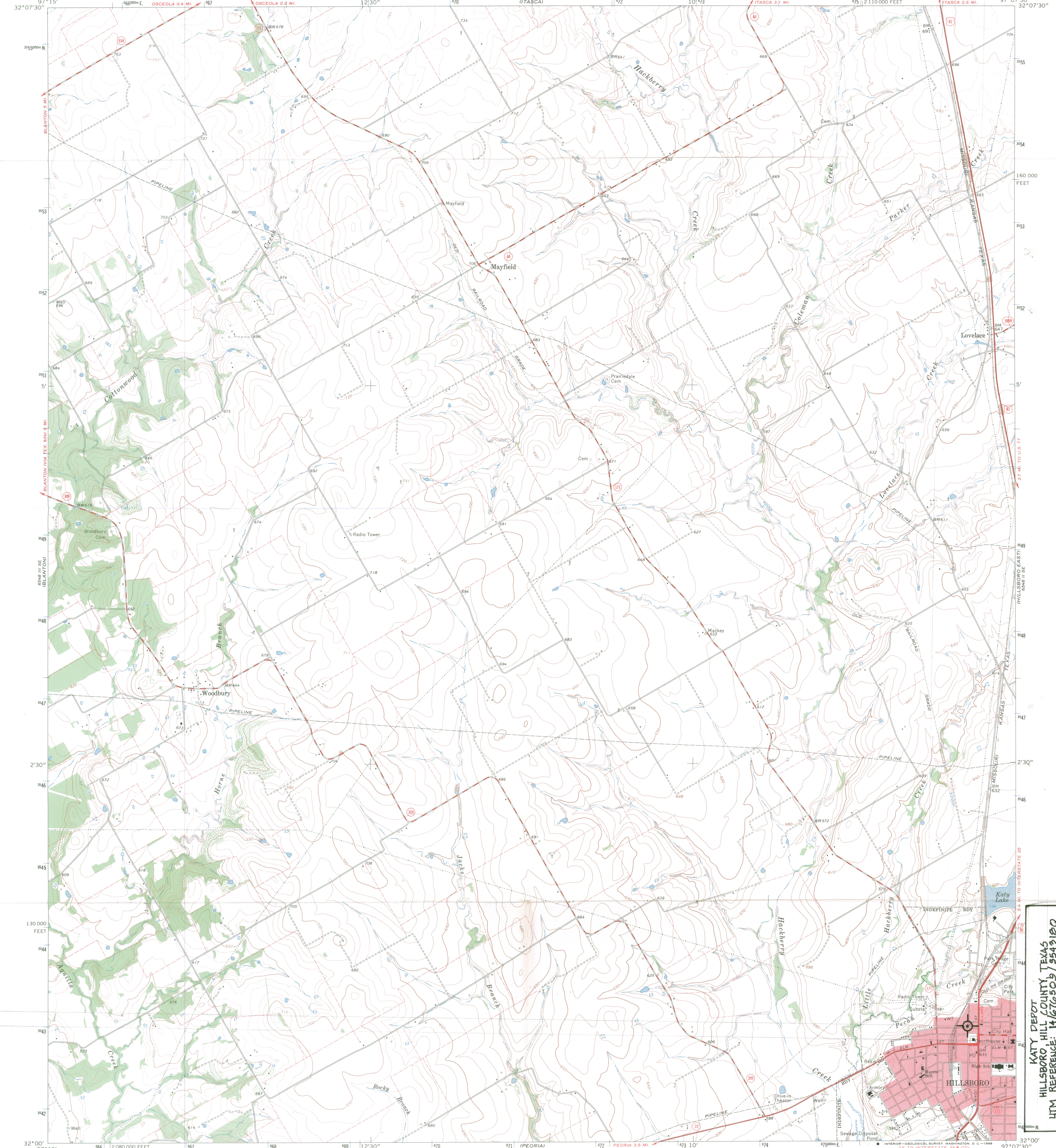
Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 10/79

Southwest Oblique

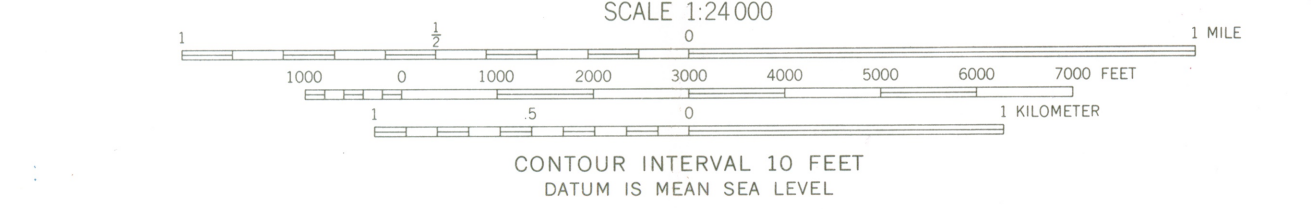
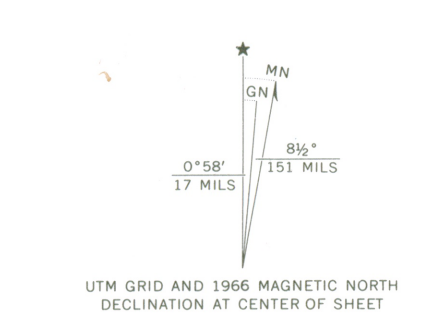
Photo # 8 *98*

*DOE*

DEC 19 1979



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966  
 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 14, shown in blue  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
 U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

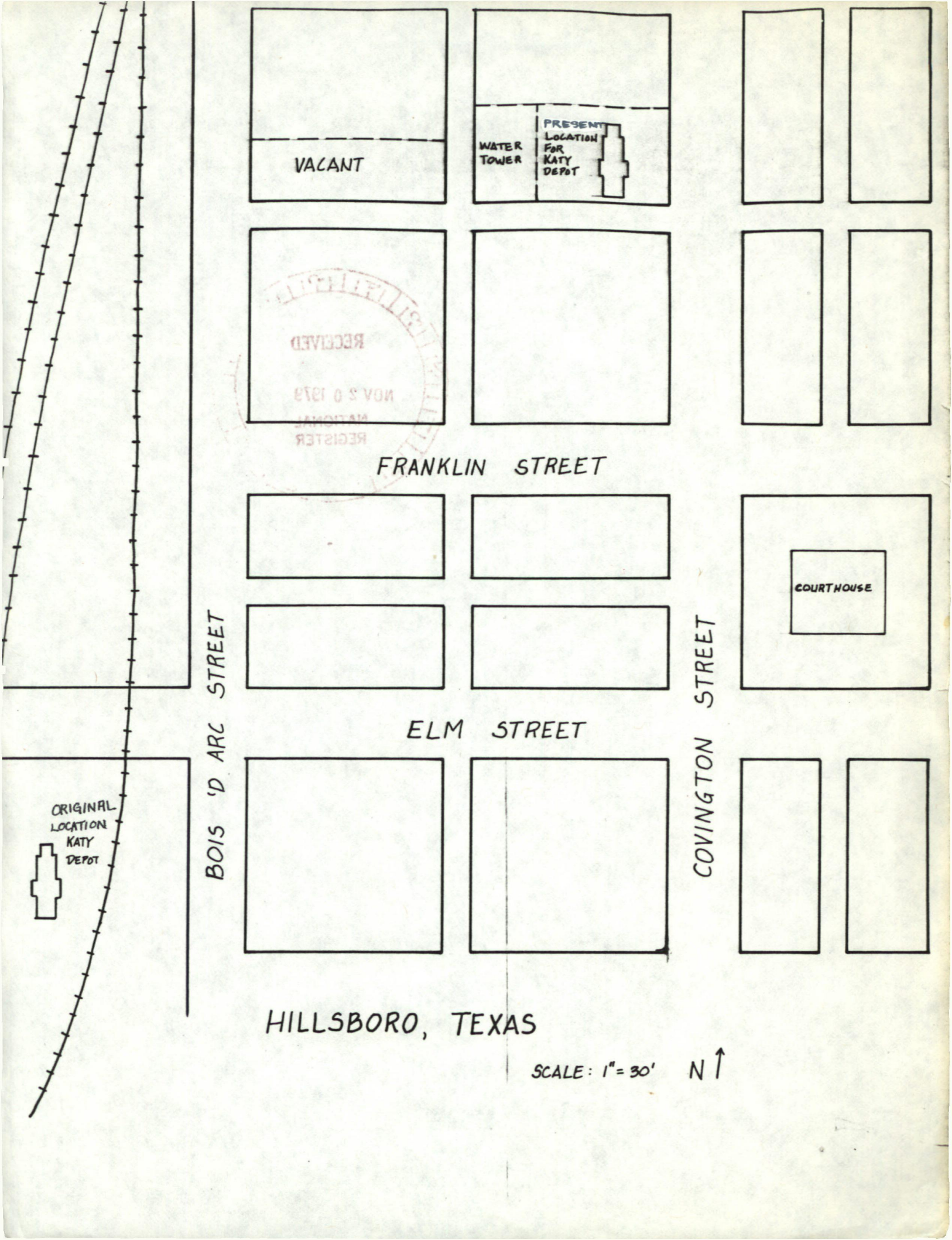
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

RECEIVED  
 HILLSBORO WEST TEX.  
 N3200-0907.5/NOV 20 1979  
 NATIONAL REGISTER  
 AMS 6548 II SW SERIES 1980  
 DEC 19 1979

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3297-112

KATY DEPOT  
 HILLSBORO HILL COUNTY, TEXAS  
 UTM REFERENCE: 14T676506/3543180



VACANT

WATER TOWER

PRESENT LOCATION FOR KATY DEPOT

RECEIVED

NOV 30 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER

FRANKLIN STREET

COURTHOUSE

ELM STREET

BOIS 'D' ARC STREET

COVINGTON STREET

HILLSBORO, TEXAS

SCALE: 1" = 30' N ↑

ORIGINAL LOCATION KATY DEPOT



DEC 19 1979

TRUETT LATIMER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



P. O. BOX 12276  
AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

November 7, 1979

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Attached is the nomination for the Katy Depot in Hillsboro, Texas. The structure is vitally important not only to the architectural and historical heritage of this small town, but also to the preservation effort there.

On December 2, a celebration is planned to recognize those persons involved in the Depot restoration and the project's progress. To have the nomination approved by that date would be a major addition to the observance. Seldom have I seen a town support a project so wholeheartedly. I would be very pleased if we could help their efforts along with this "pat on the back".

Therefore, I respectfully request that the review of this nomination be expedited. The City of Hillsboro will send a letter waiving the 30 day waiting period immediately upon receipt of your notice.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Truett Latimer", is written over the typed name "Truett Latimer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mr. Charles Herrington  
Acting Keeper of the National Register  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Pension Building  
440 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20243

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

*Krohn*

City of

HILLSBORO TEXAS



POST OFFICE BOX 568  
HILLSBORO, TEXAS 76645

OFFICE OF: City Manager

December 3, 1979

Ms. Carol D. Shull  
Acting Keeper of the National Register  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior, Pension Building  
440 "G" Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Att: NCM

Dear Ms. Shull:

Acting on information from the Texas Historical Commission we are corresponding regarding the nomination application for placement on the National Register of the Katy Depot, Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station at Hillsboro, Texas.

The application was approved by the State of Texas Historical Preservation Office, Mr. Truett Latimier, Austin, Texas on November 2, 1979, and forwarded to your office.

This is to advise that we understand the incentives and discentives of being on the register. The Hillsboro Restoration and Preservation Board (appointed as an agency of the City of Hillsboro, Texas) is the owner of the Depot building.

With these understandings, we respectfully request the thirty (30) day waiting period be waived and the application be processed as promptly as possible.

Sincerely,

Martha G. Vaughan  
Martha Vaughan, Chairman  
Hillsboro Restoration and Preservation Board

Harry F. Blount  
Harry F. Blount, Mayor

Joe H. Ward  
Joe H. Ward, City Manager

DEC 10 1979

Handwritten notes and stamps at the top of the page, including a circular stamp and various illegible markings.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES	REF ID: A63883
DATE RECD	DEC 10 1979
INDIVIDUAL REPORT (ATTACHED)	
INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT	
TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)	
DATE ACTION TAKEN	
INITIALS	

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like "REPORT" and "ACTION" are partially visible.]

[Large, faint, mirrored watermark or bleed-through text at the bottom of the page, including the word "CLIPPER" and other illegible characters.]

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 19 1979

Name

Location

Missouri-Kansas-Texas Company Railroad Station

Hillsboro  
Hill County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Phil Gramm

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 1/7/80

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