

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received OCT 10 1979
date entered DEC 11 1979

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

1. Name

historic Old Morris County Courthouse

and/or common Morris County Museum

2. Location

street & number 101 Linda Drive _____ not for publication

city, town Daingerfield _____ vicinity of congressional district 1

state Texas code 048 county Morris code 343

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Morris County Museum and Historical Society

street & number 101 Linda Drive

city, town Daingerfield _____ vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morris County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Daingerfield _____ state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1977 _____ 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 _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The old Morris County Courthouse located in Daingerfield, Texas is a two story structure of load bearing brick walls surmounted with a low hipped roof with plain cornice and cupola. Completed in 1882 by the local construction firm of Peterson and Stuckey at a cost of \$5,500, the building stands today in good structural repair with the original exterior fabric largely unaltered.

The front (west) facade juts into three planes from the central rectangular block of the courthouse. At the center and southernmost is a three bay enclosed false portico entered through a recessed vestibule with double door and transom on the ground floor and topped with parapet wall. Four brick pilasters rise up through the cornice as square columns with corbeled capitals to form a three bayed corbeled parapet wall with the center bay rising above the two sides. Each panel formed by the pilasters and band contains a narrow 4/4 double hung wooden window. The pilaster and corbeled brick details continue back along either side of the portico forming a single windowed bay. The remainder of the building contains no decorative brick detailing.

The whole front portico projects from a facade consisting of a single bay on either side of the portico which steps out the width of a bay from the main portion of the building.

Each of the remaining three facades are evenly divided into bays with 4/4 double hung wooden sash windows in each bay with the exception of the west facade which contains a double door with transom centered on its westernmost projection and the east facade which contained an entrance, now sealed.

The present roof is white composition shingles, the square cupola is sided in pressed metal decorative sheathing and covered with a dome-like hipped roof.

In plan the courthouse is basically a rectangular central mass with stepped projections extending from each facade, thus increasing the number of rooms with corner light and ventilation. Originally the courthouse was arranged about cross axial halls traversing the building east-west and north-south. However, remodeling of the interior in about 1920 and 1950 has altered the interior plan. A one story brick, shed roofed, mechanical and utility room was added to the rear (east) elevation. A communications tower is mounted on the cupola.

The interior woodwork, although much altered, was produced locally by the contractor as was the furniture, which included a substantial judges chair and "well cushioned" jury bench. Plumbing was added to the building in 1884. The first electrical wiring was installed in 1915.

Since being replaced by a new structure in 1972 the old Morris County courthouse has been adapted as a county museum and offices for the county historical society. In an effort to stabilize the building repairs have been made in recent years to the roof and cornice, windows have been rebuilt, and interior maintenance performed.

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1882 **Builder/Architect** Peterson and Stuckey

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The old Morris County Courthouse was the first permanent seat of government built in one of Texas's smallest counties (259 square miles), formed in 1875 by subdividing an adjacent county. The courthouse, built in 1882, was not conceived as being architecturally unique. In fact, the contract specified the building was to be identical to the courthouse in nearby Franklin County, now demolished. The building thus represents the competitive and practical spirit of the newly prosperous region; the simplicity of the detailing however belies a rather complex and sophisticated plan designed to efficiently maximize natural light and ventilation with eighteen rooms having corner windows.

Spared demolition in 1972 when the new courthouse was built on a different site, the Morris County courthouse has witnessed nearly a century of the daily civic affairs of a small town and county. John Levi Sheppard was a familiar figure in the courthouse for twenty years as district attorney and district judge until his election to the U. S. Congress in 1900. His son Morris Sheppard who was born and named with the county in 1875, was elected to his father's unexpired term in 1903 and thus commenced a distinguished forty-two year career in the U. S. Congress and Senate. Efforts are underway to preserve the courthouse as a landmark and center of local history in a town first settled in 1830 and is currently the headquarters of the Morris County Museum and Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Connor, Jean, A Short History of Morris County, Daingerfield, 1975.
 Ponder, Jack L., A History of the Growth and Progress of Morris County
 From March 1836 Through March 1957, Daingerfield, Tx., 1965.
Daingerfield Weekly Banner, November 9, 1881, p. 1.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Daingerfield, Tx.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	3	3	9	2	3	4	3	6	5	5	9	1	7
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is bound on the west by Linda Drive, on the north by Jefferson Street, and on the south and east by two unnamed alleys. It is the only structure on that site.

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 Wm Keeton Turner, Research Associate

organization Texas Historical Commission

date September 26, 1979

street & number P. O. Box 5693

telephone 478-3845

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

Juell Salinas

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 28, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

Sally J. Oldham

date 12/11/79

Keeper of the National Register

Acting Chief of Regis

Attest:

Kristin O'Connell

date 12/6/79

Chief of Registration

79002997

Property Old Morris County Courthouse

State Tx (Morris) Working Number 10-10-79 2418

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 4
Maps 1

HISTORIAN

Courthouse significant primarily for historical association with early development of region, father + son who were politically prominent.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept
O'Connell
12/6/79*

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 11 1979



Old Morris County Courthouse
101 Linda Drive
Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission
1977.

West elevation.

OCT 10 1979

Photo #174

DEC 1 1979
DOE



Old Morris County Courthouse
101 Linda Drive
Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical
Commission, 1977

Southwest oblique

Photo #284

OCT 10 1979

DOE
DEC 11 1979



Old Morris County Courthouse
101 Linda Drive
Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical
Commission, 1977

East elevation

Photo #3⁹⁴

DOE

DEC 11 1979

OCT 10 1979



Old Morris County Courthouse
101 Linda Drive
Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical
Commission, 1977

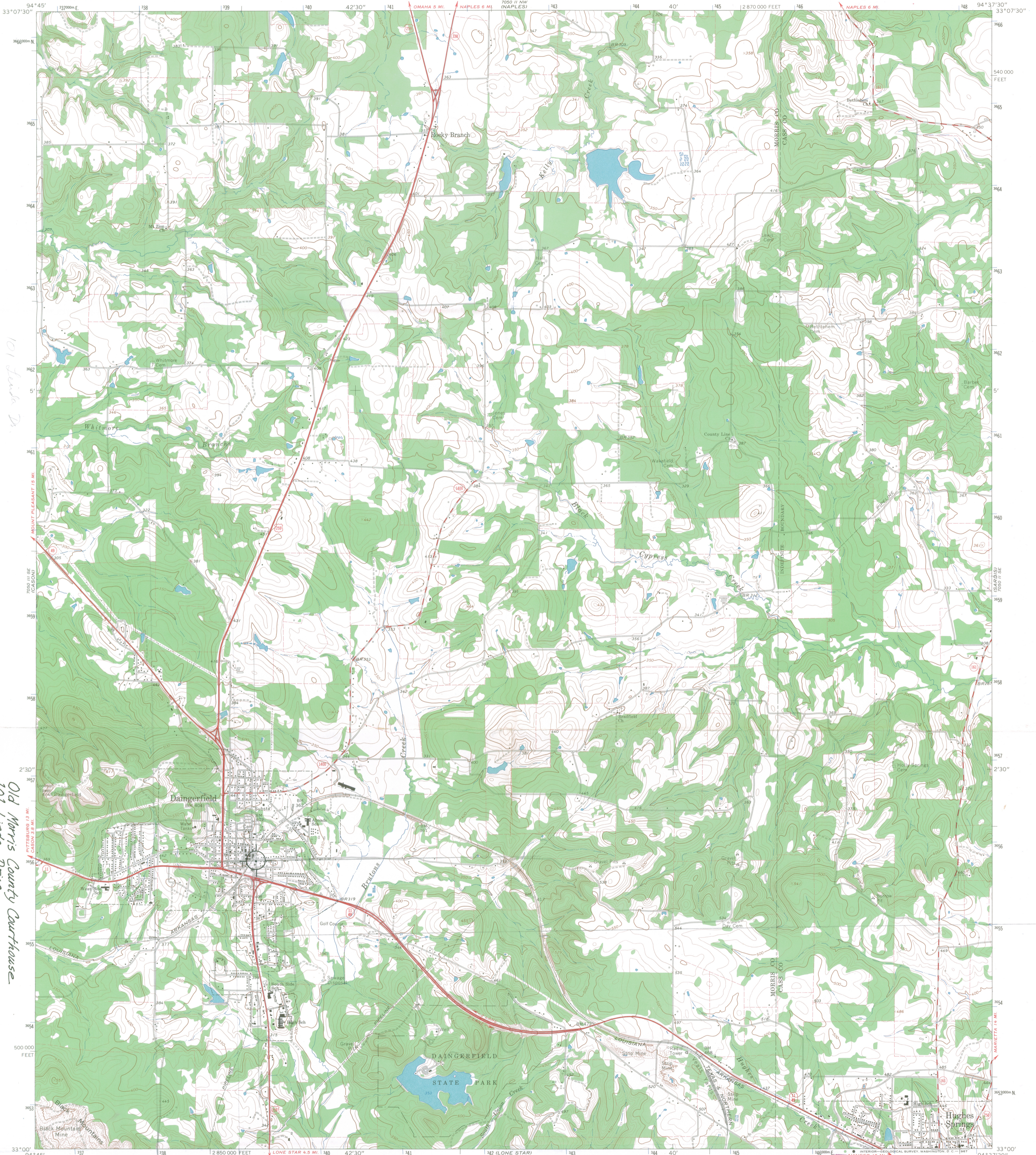
North elevation

Photo #494

OCT 10 1979

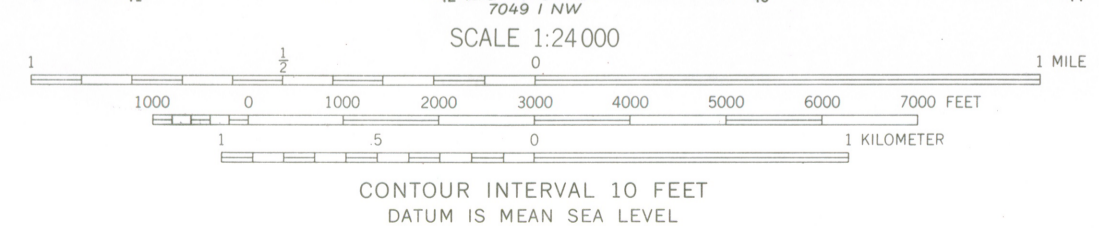
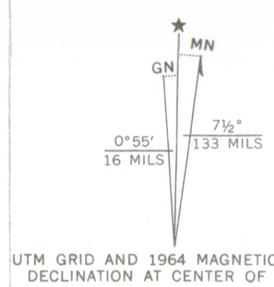
DOE

DEC 11 1979



101 Linda Drive
Old Morris County Courthouse
Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas
15/339234/3655917 - UTM Reference

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1964
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

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

NATIONAL REGISTER
OCT 10 1979

DAINGERFIELD, TEX.
SW/4 DAINGERFIELD 15' QUADRANGLE
N3300—W9437.5/7.5

1964
AMS 7050 II SW—SERIES V882
DEC 11 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

3094-212

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 11 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Starr House	Marshall Harrison County
Old Morris County Courthouse	Daingerfield Morris County
Arnold-Simonton House	Montgomery Montgomery County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

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

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 12/17/79

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