

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 30 1979

SEP 26 1979

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Palo Pinto County Jail

AND/OR COMMON

Old Sandstone Jail of Palo Pinto County

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Elm Street and Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Palo Pinto

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17

STATE

Texas

— VICINITY OF

CODE

048

COUNTY

Palo Pinto

CODE

363

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

☒ MUSEUM

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— EDUCATIONAL

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Palo Pinto County Historical Association, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Elm Street and Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Palo Pinto

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas, 76072

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk, Palo Pinto County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Palo Pinto

STATE

Texas, 76072

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

— 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

The concept of design for the Palo Pinto County Jail was similar to that employed for many other late 19th century jails throughout Texas; however, subtle distinction is achieved in some of the detailing. The jail is a two story masonry cube, thirty by forty feet in plan and twenty-eight in height. Quarters are provided for the jailer on the first floor while cells are located on the second floor.

The walls are constructed of brown sandstone, thirty-two inches thick, which was quarried near Palo Pinto. Quarry-faced stones laid in regular ashlar pattern provide a texture to the facades of the building. The first floor door and window openings are spanned with cut-stone arches comprised of three voussoirs. The intrados of each arch follows a semi-circular curve while the extrados follows the curve of a pointed arch. Cut stone lintels with segmental arch curvatures span the second floor openings. Sills of cut stone are employed for all window openings and cut-stone imposts support the arches and lintels. The door openings incorporate a smaller semi-circular arch within the pointed arch. The composition is crowned with a fine cut-stone entablature. These details work together to provide a simple aesthetic distinction for the jail.

The interior of the ground floor was divided into living quarters. A kitchen, living room, and bedrooms accommodated the jailer and his family. Also located on this floor was a trustees' room which was separated from the kitchen for preparation of the prisoners food by a steel door.

Housed on the second floor, accessible by an interior iron stair from the trustees' room, were the free-standing iron cages which served as cells. These cages incorporated the latest developments in detention facility design. In 1907 officials installed a device for execution by hanging, which evidently was never used. The second story openings are secured by three sets of iron bars. Single sets of bars secure the first floor windows while double sets secure the doors.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Martin, Byrnes, and Johnston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Palo Pinto County Jail is a fine and well-preserved example of the functional, rugged masonry style preferred for 19th century Texas jails. Basically a simple, cubic structure, it is embellished with simple carved stone details. It was built by Martin, Byrnes and Johnston, an important firm of the period. As the oldest public building remaining in Palo Pinto County, the jail is a treasured local landmark.

Located in north central Texas, Palo Pinto County was created in 1856 and organized the following year. The county seat, Palo Pinto, was founded in 1858 and town lots were sold. Although the town prospered at first, it declined when the Texas and Pacific Railroad passed to the south. Today the town of Palo Pinto has a population of less than four hundred, but still serves as the government seat. In historic times as well as recent, ranching has been an important industry.

As was common in Texas, the first public buildings for Palo Pinto County were crude shelters. Log structures served until substantial buildings could be realized. On November 13, 1879, the Commissioners' Court of Palo Pinto County ordered that plans, specifications and bids be solicited for the construction of a new jail to replace the log original. Martin, Byrnes and Johnston of Comanche, Texas, was selected as architect and contractor. Later this firm designed and constructed public buildings throughout the state including courthouses for the counties of Caldwell(1893) and Goliad(1894) as well as county jails for Bastrop(1891) and Brown(1901). The first three of the aforementioned structures are listed on the National Register.

For many years the first floor of the jail building housed county offices. In 1907 a steel trap door was installed for hangings, but was never used. In 1941 Palo Pinto County erected a new courthouse. As was typical of courthouses erected during that period, new jail facilities were included on the third (top) floor. When it was no longer used as a detention facility, the old sandstone jail continued to function as a residence. In 1968 it was vacated and subsequently deeded to the Palo Pinto County Historical Association. In 1976 the building was converted into a museum which houses artifacts associated with the pioneer culture of the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Palo Pinto County Deed Records, Vol. 407, P. 196; Vol. 423, p. 7

Palo Pinto County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Book B, pp. 290-93; Book F, pp. 60, 165

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

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Palo Pinto, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 4 5, 6, 5 0, 7, 5 3, 6, 2, 4 1, 3, 7

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southwest corner of the intersection of Elm Street and Fifth Avenue. The property extends sixty feet along Fifth and two-hundred feet along Elm.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Willard B. Robinson, Professor of Architecture

ORGANIZATION

Texas Tech University

DATE

7/16/79

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 4140

TELEPHONE

806/742/2789

CITY OR TOWN

Lubbock

STATE

Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

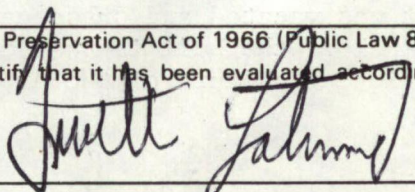
NATIONAL ☐

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 7/27/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William H. Brackman

DATE 9-26-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Beth Groves

DATE 9/25/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Property

Palo Pinto County Jail

79003005

State

TX.

Working Number

7.30.79.1808

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

CONTROL

OK 7.30.79

HISTORIAN

accept
B. Grosvenor
9/25

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
B. Grosvenor
9/25/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

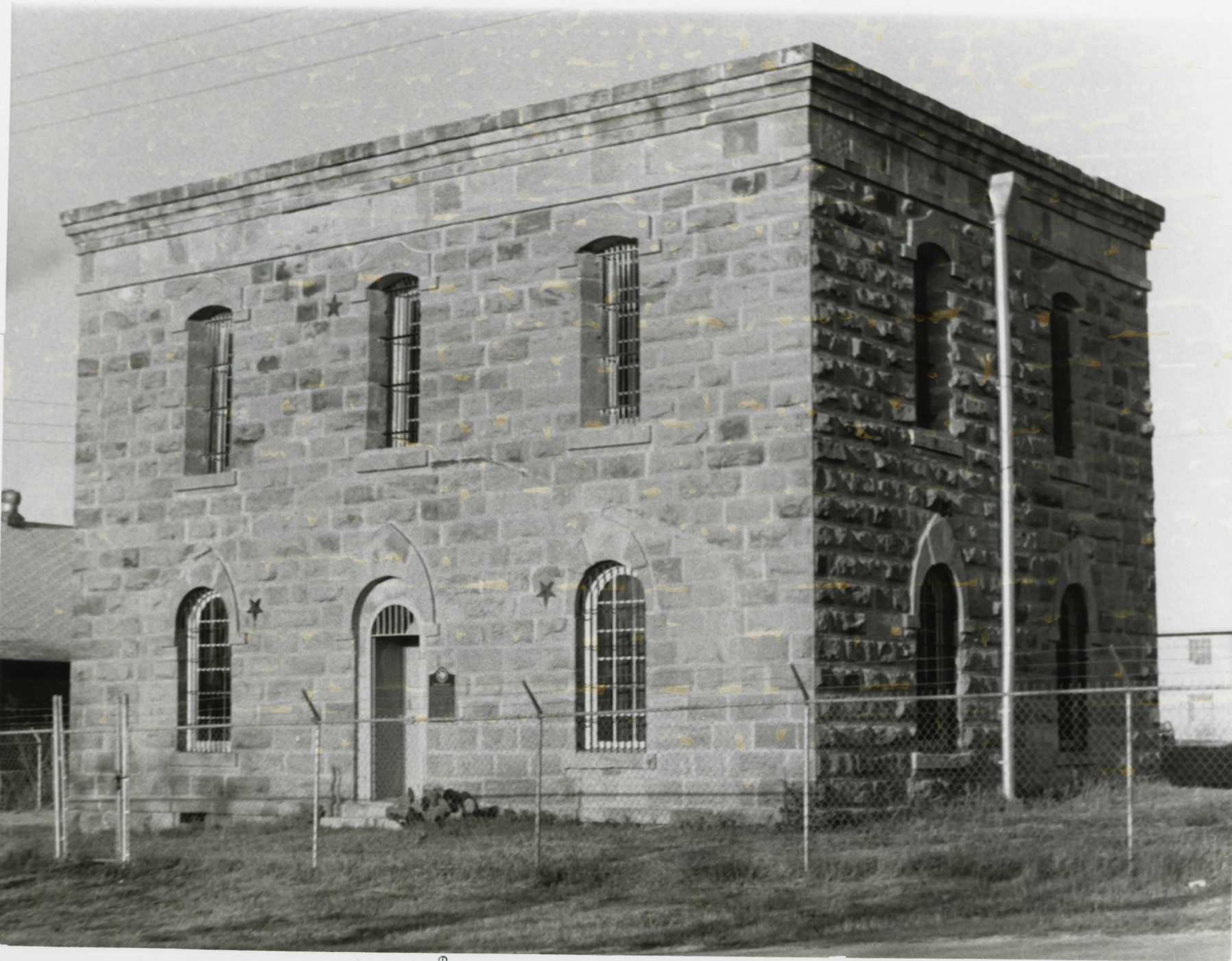
Entered

SEP 26 1979

Federal Register Entry

11-6-79

Re-submit



Palo Pinto County Jail

Elm Street and Fifth Avenue

Palo Pinto, Palo Pinto County, Texas

Photo: Willard B. Robinson, 1978

Southwest Oblique

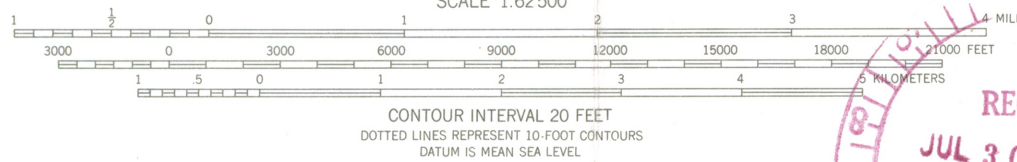
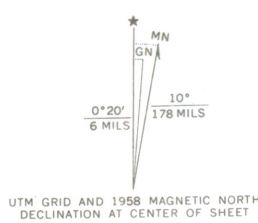
Photo # 1

SEP 26 1979

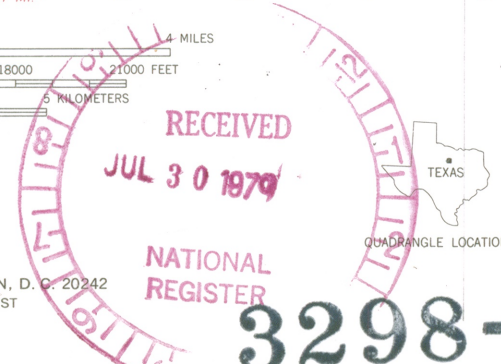
JUL 30 1979



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1958. Field check 1958
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
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern
are subject to controlled inundation. Maximum pool elevation
1000 feet



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



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

SEP 26 1979

PALO PINTO, TEX.
N3245-W9815/15

1958
AMS 6349 IV—SERIES V782

3298-430

PALO PINTO COUNTY JAIL
ELM AND FIFTH AVENUE
PALO PINTO, PALO PINTO COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES: 14/565975/3624137
350

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered SEP 26 1979

Name

Location

Copperas Cove Stagestop and Post Office

Copperas Cove vicinity
Coryell County

Callender House

Victoria
Victoria County

Palo Pinto County Jail

Palo Pinto
Palo Pinto County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower

Honorable Marvin Leath

Honorable Joseph P. Wyatt, 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

9/27/79

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