

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 6 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 1 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

Somervell County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Same as above

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

off TX 144

CITY, TOWN

Glen Rose

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11

STATE

Texas 76043

048

COUNTY

Somervell

CODE

425

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Somervell County Courthouse C/O Commissioners' Court

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Glen Rose

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas 76043

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Somervell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Glen Rose

STATE

Texas 76043

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Inventory and Recorded Texas Landmark

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas 78711

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Erected in 1893 and located in Glen Rose, the Somervell County Courthouse's civic function is visibly expressed through its strong, dignified and symmetrical architectural style. This ashlar masonry style, inspired by Henry Hobson Richardson's adaption of the Romanesque mode, was a predominantly used one in the construction of civic buildings throughout the 1890s, and one effectively accommodating one of Texas' natural building resources, stone. Use has also been made of several elements of the General Grant style, also extremely popular at the time, such as the mansarded roof and ornamental cresting.

It should be noted that recently a water-proofing application of dark, wooden shingles has been made to the tower, altering its former appearance, and resulting in a less than unified courthouse exterior. At that same time the cornices and pediments were painted a dark, matching shade in order to alleviate the abrupt effect that the new alteration had on the courthouse as a whole. This tower work was necessitated by limited county funds in hopes of preventing further damage to the structure, and plans have been projected to restore the clock tower back to its prior appearance, once sufficient funds become available.

The substance and character of the Somervell County Courthouse have been conveyed through symmetrical scaling and a simply embellished treatment of its rough-faced native limestone walls. Several elements have been employed to relieve the plain quality of these limestone facades, both structurally and decoratively.

Structurally the architect has slightly projected the central wall portions of each elevation, further calling attention to this effect by topping each protruded wall section with a pediment, intersecting the mansarded asbestos-shingled roof.

Ornamentally this has been done by the use of voussoir door and window surrounds, a belt course and the string course and dentils of the cornice areas, all built of the same limestone as the walls. A unifying factor has been further provided by the spacing at regular intervals of these arched windows and doors.

The roof and clock tower have been greatly altered through the years since their original construction. Early photographs show the mansarded roof and clock tower with elaborate cornice cresting, the clock faces themselves bold and handsome, and indeed the focal point of the building. However in 1902 a tornado did much damage to this portion of the building, and no attempt was ever made to restore the tower back to this original state.

Following the tornado, which had destroyed most of the cresting and the dignified clock faces, the tower was covered in pressed metal, the only embellishment remaining being the tower roof cresting, and the simple pilasters and keystone arches ornamenting the tower walls. It has appeared this way until its recent roofing alteration.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Two outhouses, constructed of the same stone as the main building, occupy the southwest and northwest corners of the courthouse property.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Site of Community civic and social activities.

SPECIFIC DATES 1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Carmachiel

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A small town courthouse has traditionally functioned not only as a seat of justice, but also as an accessible site for the civic and social activities of the community that it serves. Following this tradition for almost 86 continuous years has been the Somervell County Courthouse in Glen Rose, a fine, well preserved structure, whose architectural style utilizes elements of both the Richardsonian Romanesque and General Grant mansarded modes popular in the late 1800s.

Representing Texas' third smallest county, this sturdy and simply designed courthouse was built in 1893 by John Carmachiel at the cost of \$13,500. It had been built on the site of an as yet unfinished predecessor, work having been halted due to the continuing repercussions of the Panic of 1873 that had severely affected the Somervell area. A fire early in 1893 completely doomed this first courthouse, but a determined Commissioners' Court quickly ordered that a two story stone structure with a fireproof vault be built in its place.

That fall the present courthouse, with its Richardsonian Romanesque detailing and handsome clock tower atop the mansarded roof, was completed. A story is told by long time Somervell residents, that even before any partitions had been erected inside, the enthusiastically proud population held an impromptu Christmas dance there to celebrate their courthouse's newly laid floors.

Since that time its role as a center of justice has, of course, been its primary function, and within its offices, courtroom and judge's chambers several prominent community individuals have made many contributions to both the county and the state.

The Honorable A.J. Hart, who beginning in 1874 served for three consecutive terms as a state representative, sat on a number of important committees there, and is probably best remembered in the area for his efforts in bringing about the passage of the act creating Somervell County in 1875, where he later served two terms as its county judge.

Perhaps one of the most notable residents to practice law in the courthouse was Ernest T. Adams. Adams, who died recently at 73, acquired, throughout his lifetime, a reputation in the county approaching near legend. His many accomplishments included attending Oxford University as Baylor's first Rhodes Scholar, serving for about twenty years as Somervell's only practicing attorney, and actively pursuing his interest in archeology. Regarded as an expert in Indian artifacts, his most well known discovery was several dinosaur tracks,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

found in the area, and now moved to the courthouse square.

In addition to serving the Somervell community in its judicial capacity, the limestone courthouse has also been the site, since the days of its construction, of many local celebrations and daily events of its population.

In its very early days, prior to a ruling in the 1910s prohibiting it, the courthouse was sometimes used for religious services. Early photographs, taken at the turn of the century, show revival meetings held on the grounds with baptisms performed in a horse trough. Presently services are still held occasionally in the bandstand there.

The square has also served as a gathering point for traditional holiday and lodge celebrations, community dances and fiddlers' contests, as well as important public meetings. Demonstrating the courthouse's continuing relevance in Somervell's modern age, it will be the site of the May 1979 meeting of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the controversial Commanche Peak Steam Electric Plant.

Perhaps one of the most interesting episodes to take place on the courthouse square involved a raid which took place in 1923, a time when Glen Rose had the reputation of Texas' moonshine capital. According to press coverage of the incident, the raid netted not only 23 local citizens, including the county attorney and sheriff, but also 66 gallons of whiskey, 84 gallons of hœ beer, eight gallons of wine, 550 pounds of sugar and seven stills. When all of contraband was piled up on the courthouse square, it was said to resemble a junkyard.

Fifty-six years later, though somewhat changed in appearance due to its recent roofing alterations, Glen Rose's courthouse still remains an integral fixture of the Somervell area, serving it well, both in judicial and community spirit.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Unpublished Monograph on the Somervell County Courthouse by Mrs. Wayland G. Adams on file at the Texas Historical Commission.

Robinson, W. and Webb T., Texas Public Buildings of the 19th Century,

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES Quadrangle name: Glen Rose West, TX Scale: 1:24000

A	<u>14</u>	<u>617260</u>	<u>3566960</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Somervell County Courthouse is bounded north by Vernon Street, south by Bernard Street, west by Elm Street, and east by Walnut Street.

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 Amy Jo Hofner- Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission DATE May 18, 1979

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 12276 TELEPHONE (512) 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN Austin STATE Texas 78711

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

[Handwritten Signature] 5-29-79

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 25, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Handwritten Signature] DATE 8.1.79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION *[Handwritten Signature]* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]* DATE 7/31/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

79003008

Property Somervell County Courthouse
State Tx. Working Number 6.6.79.1340

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 6.6.79

Will accept as center for politics/government--local significance.
Can not understand why State significance is checked on nomination form.

HISTORIAN

Accept
Sheffield 7-30-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

Architectural significance was not discussed in terms of other Texas courthouses. In spite of recent unsympathetic alterations to its clock tower & windows, the building retains the majority of its exterior character and integrity. Richardsonian Romanesque/General Grant architectural style and historical association provide at least local significance.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Call [unclear] OK
7/31/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 9-4-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered AUG 1 1979

Somervell County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Gen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

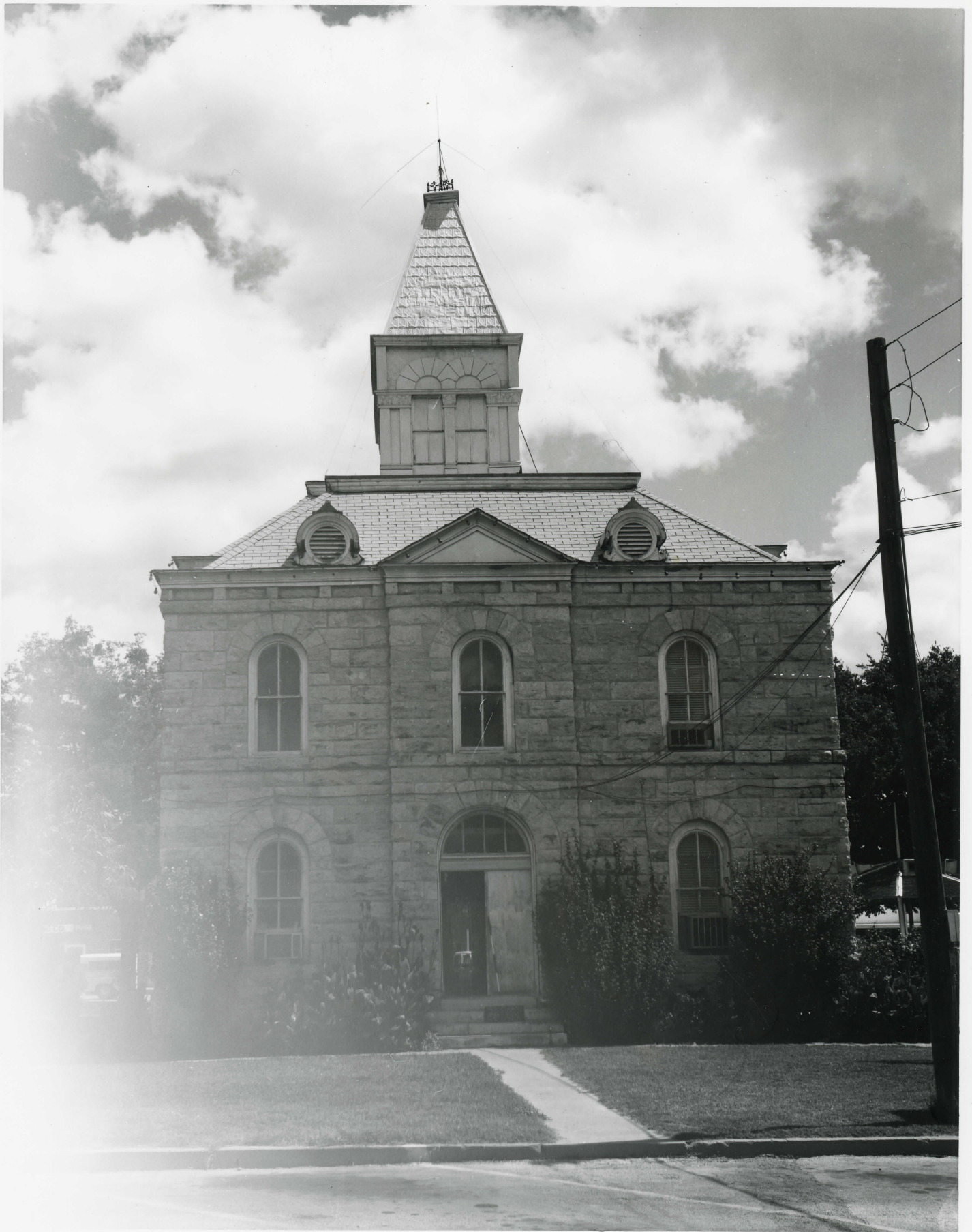
Photo by Texas Historical Commission, 1975

East facade

Photo #1 *of 3*
DOE

AUG 1 1979

JUN 6 1979



Somervell County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Photo by Texas Historical Commission, 1975

North facade

Photo #2 **93**

JUN 6 1979

DOE
AUG 1 1979



Somervell County Courthouse
Somervell County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Photo by Texas Historical Commission, 1979

Southwest oblique, showing outbuilding.

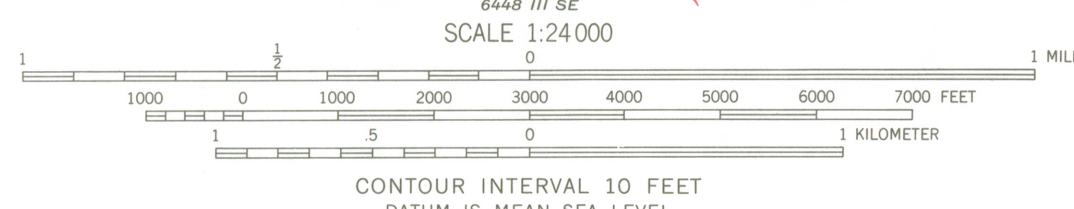
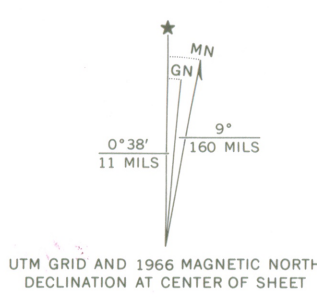
Photo #3 **73**

JUN 6 1979

AUG 1 1979 **DOE**



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
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

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



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

GLEN ROSE WEST, TEX.
N3207.5-W9745/7.5
3297-224
AMS 6448 III NE-SERIES V882

JUN 4 1969

AUG 1

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered AUG 1 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Aue Stagecoach Inn	San Antonio vicinity Bexar County
Somervell County Courthouse	Glen Rose Somervell County
Wooldridge Park	Austin Travis County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Tom Loeffler
Honorable Marvin Leath
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle

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 8/6/79

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