

**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 HCERS use only

received MAY 20 1980

date entered JUL 15 1980

1. Name

historic San Jacinto County Jail

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Slade and Loyd Streets _____ not for publication

city, town Coldspring _____ vicinity of congressional district 2

state Texas code 048 county San Jacinto code 407

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name San Jacinto County Commissioners Court

street & number San Jacinto County Courthouse

city, town Coldspring _____ vicinity of state Texas 77331

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Jacinto County Clerk's Office

street & number San Jacinto County Courthouse

city, town Coldspring _____ state Texas 77331

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1976; 1971 _____ 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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The San Jacinto County Jail, built across Loyd Avenue from the courthouse square in 1887 and expanded in 1911, is a two-story, rectangular (54' x 28'), yellow pink brick building with a corrugated metal hipped roof. Its main entrance is beneath a projecting shed roof which faces west onto Slade Street. Only now in 1980 after over 90 years of continuous use will this structure, an example of late nineteenth-century functional public building with Victorian influence, be replaced as the jail facility in this county seat.

The original 1887 jailhouse was a square (28' x 28"), two-story structure with so-called "common" brickwork, punctuated by several horizontal projecting courses and with masonry in high relief at the corners suggesting square partial columns. The corbeled cornice exhibits intricate brick detailing. Originally the only fenestration difference among the four sides, each with two windows above and two below, appeared on the north side with a centered entrance door which opened onto the now abandoned portion of Loyd Avenue and which faced the courthouse square across the street.

The tall, iron-barred windows with 4/4 sashes are framed (as is that doorway) by shallow, segmental brick arches with projecting double rowlock courses. This projecting detailing is carried down each side of the opening about one-fifth of the total height of the windows and resolves into a horizontal stretcher course which dies into the corner "columns." The rowlock window sills and the other horizontal bands likewise run from corner column to corner column.

Inside the walls were plastered and the first floor, which was wooden, served as the jailer's office, a prisoners' receiving area, a kitchen and two fire-places. Narrow metal stairs led to the cells on the second level which had a concrete floor supported by concrete beams which divide the structure into four equal bays with one concrete column in the center.

With its pleasing brickwork, its symmetrical brick chimneys, probably a hipped roof, and with its perfect bilateral symmetry about its north-south axis through the center of the entrance facing the courthouse square, the 1887 building presented a handsome and solid symbol of law and order in a no-frills (and virtually fireproof) public building.

In 1911 the jail was expanded, and its orientation with respect to the courthouse was shifted to its existing position facing west onto Slade Street instead of north onto Loyd Avenue. By being extended 26' to the south, the jail became its present 54' by 28' -- its long axis north-south and its main entrance just off center of the long west facade.

The construction methods, materials, and most details inside and out were mimicked for this new addition which increased the number of cells upstairs and which provided on the lower floor living quarters for the jailer and an entry foyer. The strict symmetry was abandoned in the new scheme. Though the brick detailing is apparently identical to the earlier work, there is one notable discrepancy: the fenestration brickwork on the lower floor of the addition has Roman semi-circular arches instead of the typical segmental arches seen in the original building and in the upper part of the addition.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1887

Builder/Architect L. T. Noyes, 1911 - Southern Steel Corp.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The San Jacinto County Jail, a significant monument to the county's early history and a good example of late nineteenth-century public building, is the last remnant at the original site of Coldspring's inception as the county seat. Its functional design allowed it to serve, after a 1911 addition, as the county jail for more than 90 years. Because of its abandonment as the city center early in this century, this area retains the original character in its unspoiled rural setting.

The original town of Coldspring, Texas, existed before 1847 when it was known as, and had post offices under the names of Coonskin and Fireman's Hill. In 1850 the name Cold Springs was adopted from the numerous springs in the area. In 1895 this name had to be yielded to an older claimant, and the town adopted its current name and spelling Coldspring. Coldspring had been designated the county seat in 1869 and the town derived much of its vitality (then as now) from this governmental occupation and from its attendant businesses.

The original courthouse was a symmetrical two-story frame building of Victorian character. The main entrance was on the north facing the main street Commercial Avenue, and the town's businesses encircled the square. To the back of the square and detached from the courthouse was built a wood-frame grand jury building (which is not extant and of which little is known). Across Loyd Avenue was constructed in 1887 the still existing San Jacinto County Jail. Architecturally complimenting the frame courthouse, this masonry jail also exhibited Victorian styling in brick.

Due to continual increases in the city and county population (from 6, 186 in 1880 to 10,277 in 1900) it was necessary to expand existing governmental facilities. In 1895 on the square behind the courthouse was built a fireproof brick records building, basically a one story miniature replica of the 1887 jail in all exterior details. Then in 1911 the county expanded its jail facilities into its present form.

When the courthouse, presumably the grand jury building, and several other buildings burned in 1915, all county records, fortunately, were saved in the records vault. It was determined that the new courthouse be built at a different location about four blocks to the south, and the merchants soon discovered that the people attending business at the new courthouse no longer visited the original town square. Soon the businesses migrated to the new square, and by 1923 Coldspring was firmly entrenched in its new location, and, except for the jail, the old square which had been the heart of early Coldspring and San Jacinto County was virtually forgotten and neglected.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Texas Marker Text, Texas Historical Commission.
2. Unpublished and published material provided by San Jacinto County Historical Commission which is on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Coldspring

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 15 296070 3384410
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Stephen Kubenka

organization Stephen Kubenka Company

date 1-3-80

street & number 3510 Clarkson Av.

telephone 512-477-7666

city or town Austin

state Texas 78722

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 28, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 7-15-80

Attest: Beth Grosvenor

date 7/14/80

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8

Page

1

The original square, owned by San Jacinto County, was subsequently sold in 1923 to private owners and by mesne conveyances deeded to the present owners Justice-of-the-Peace and Mrs. Jesse Neuman. The portion of Loyd Avenue which once separated the square from the jail has been abandoned,

No longer within acceptable limits of jail standards, the jailhouse was due to be vacated in January of 1980, replaced by a modern facility at another location.

In 1978 permission was granted by the County Commissioners Court to the Historical Commission to apply for National Register listing.

Early in 1980 the records vault was demolished, after strenuous efforts to save it, thus making the jail the only standing remnant at the old town site. The San Jacinto County Historical Commission proposes to undertake a reconstruction and adaptive reuse of the courthouse square site and jail, combining the operation of Historic County Museum and a Vanishing Crafts Teaching Institute.

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Continuation sheet

Geographical Data

Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal boundary description and justification

That property held by San Jacinto County, Texas, being "Lot #5 (five) in Block #5 (five) and bounded on the southwest by Slade Street, and on the northwest by Loyd Street, being the northwestern lot of said Block #5 and lying south of the Public Square, "as recorded in Vol. A, Page 228 et seq., Deed Records, San Jacinto County, Texas. This boundary includes the structure and its immediate environs only.

Property

San Jacinto County Jail

80004148

State

Tx - San Jacinto

Working Number

5-20-80 1381

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 3

Maps 1

HISTORIAN

*accept
Groover
7/14/80*

A good example of late-19th - early 20th c. public building, and also the last remnant of the towns original courthouse square, formerly the focus of the towns commercial center also.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*accept
Groover
7/14/80*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Accept. Joe Turner for Hall
7-15-80*

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered **JUL 15 1980**

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



San Jacinto County Jail
Slade and Loyd Streets
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

Photo yby Danny Hardy, 1976
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission

West facade, camera facing east.

Photo 1 of 3.

MAY 20 1980

JUL 15 1980



San Jacinto County Jail
Slade and Loyd Streets
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1976
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.

P

Photo 2 of 3.

MAY 20 1980

JUL 15 1980



San Jacinto County Jail
Slade and Loyd Streets
Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas

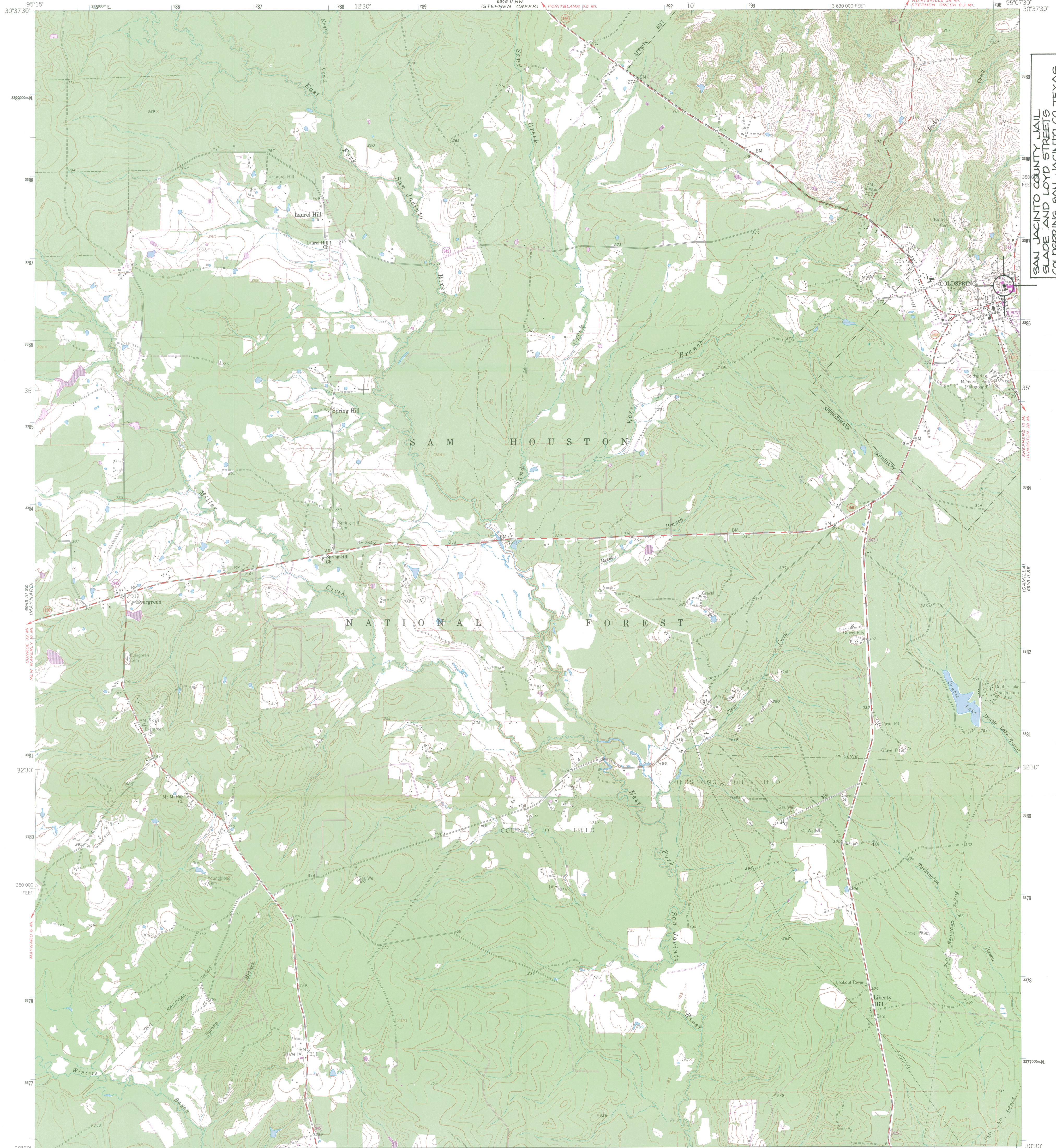
Photo by Danny Hardy, 1976
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 3.

MAY 20 1980

JUL 15 1980



SAN JACINTO COUNTY JAIL
SLADE AND LOYD STREETS
COLDSPRING, SAN JACINTO CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15T296070/3364410

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 1960

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum

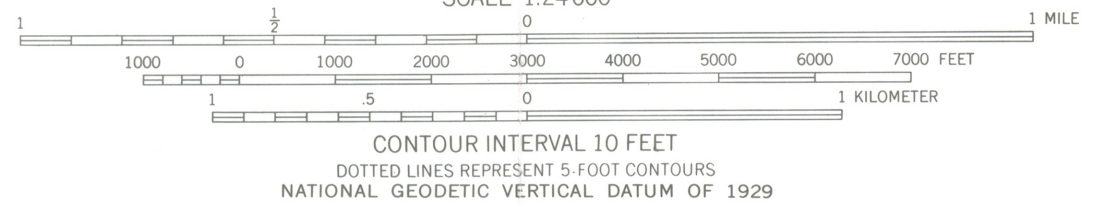
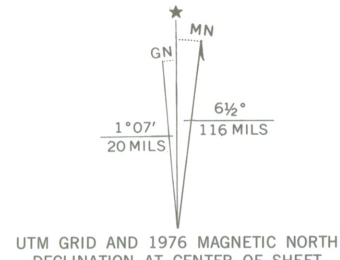
10,000 foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, central zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs

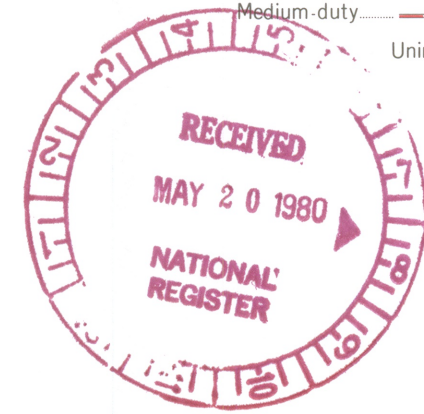
This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976. This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Light-duty	---
Medium-duty	---
Unimproved dirt	---
State Route	○



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3095-412
JUL 15 1980

COLDSPRING, TEX.
N3030-W9507.5/7.5
1960
PHOTOREVISED 1976
AMS 6945 II SW-SERIES V882

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS
Date Entered JUL 15 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
San Jacinto County Jail	Coldspring San Jacinto County

Also Notified

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
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/mjd 7 /28/80

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

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Reply to:

Lake Plaza South, Suite 616
44 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80228

March 25, 1981

Mr. Jonathan L. Markley
Acting Regional Environmental Officer
Economic Development Administration
600 American Bank Tower
221 West 6th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

COPY

Dear Mr. Markley:

We have received your letter of March 17, 1981, in which you determined that proposed rehabilitation and adaptive re-use would have no adverse effect on the San Jacinto County Jail, Coldspring, Texas, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Executive Director objects to your determination because the lack of architectural plans and specifications prevents an adequate evaluation of the undertaking's effect.

Pursuant to Section 800.6(a)(2) of the Council's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Executive Director will withdraw this objection if the following condition is met:

Prior to advertisement for bids, the Grantee will provide evidence to the Government that the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council have commented on the preliminary plans and specifications and have reviewed and approved the final plans and specifications.

If you agree to this condition, please sign on the concurrence line below and return this letter to us. This will then be incorporated into your determination and the Executive Director will withdraw his objection to your determination of no adverse effect.

Page 2

Mr. Jonathan L. Markley

San Jacinto Jail

March 25, 1981

In accordance with Section 800.9 of the Council's regulations, a copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be included in EDA's records as evidence of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jane King

Louis S. Wall
Chief, Western Division
of Project Review

Adm

I concur:

date