

**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

APR 30 1981

date entered

MAY 28 1981

1. Name

historic Hill County Jail

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 100 block of North Waco St. at Paschal St. not for publication

city, town Hillsboro

vicinity of

congressional district 6

state Texas

code 048

county Hill

code 217

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
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name Hill County, Texas

street & number Hill County Courthouse

city, town Hillsboro

vicinity of

state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hill County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Hillsboro

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1980

 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

Built in 1893, the Hill County Jail in Hillsboro is an excellent example of 19th century public architecture. Contributing to the jail's sturdy and imposing look is its castellation, one of the most popular details found in 19th century jail construction. The tall proportions and its vertical fenestration are also typical of 'Texas Courthouse Architecture', a style which utilizes massive forms and lofty fenestration.

Constructed primarily of load-bearing masonry, the two-story jail features an ell-shaped plan. Its massive structural system is based on a concrete foundation. The exterior is brick laid in common bond. A limestone band running laterally around the building gives it some native Texas flavor and adds to its character. The tall proportions and its vertical fenestration, especially the many tall wooden windows typify Texas Courthouse Architecture.

Topping the jail is a steep gable roof with brick battlements surrounding the building. At the top of the gables are round windows encased with cut limestone. The cornice work is of sheet metal.

Practicality is one of the reasons for the ell shaped plan for the 87 year old jail. The front portion serves the purpose of being the sheriff's and jailers' quarters while the rear section has been used for the cell blocks. Below the rear section is a full sized basement with a concrete floor. Also in the rear, the floors and roof are concrete. Not only serving the purpose of security the massive construction has aided in the continued soundness of the building's structure.

Alterations from the original plan are few and relatively minor. The front porch has been re-done. Wood columns, banisters and the original wood floor have been replaced by wrought iron columns on a concrete porch floor. Above the front porch is a new level where rooms were added. These changes are minor and reversible.

Featured in the interior of the front half of the building are eleven foot ceilings on both floors. The central hall is entered through large double wooden doors. A grand stairway complete with original railings and balustrades which lead up to the second floor invite the visitor upstairs. This stairway is found, appropriately enough, in the grand central hall.

Most of the rooms in this front portion of the building have beaded wainscotes with paper reaching up to the ceiling to complete the walls. Interior doors are wood paneled and have transoms above them.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED APR 30 1981

DATE ENTERED

MAY 28 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

In the rear portion, which is used to house prisoners, the walls are plaster over masonry. The floors are concrete. Corrugated steel barrel vaults support the concrete floor of the second story and serve as the first floor ceiling. The cells are constructed of high strength steel. Because the cells are located in the center of the rooms with walkways surrounding them the Hill County jail is afforded the luxury of the many tall windows. This arrangement is found on both floors of the rear portion.

Due to the specific purpose for which the building was designed the Hill County jail could be easily transformed into a museum without alterations and without sacrificing security. Cell arrangements could be left intact to serve as display areas.

Along the front property line is the original wrought iron fence. There is presently a garden to the rear of the building which has been kept up by the inmates.

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

Specific dates 1893 **Builder/Architect** W. C. Dodson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hill County Jail has served in its original capacity since its construction in 1893. This excellent example of nineteenth century Texas public architecture displays the castellation deemed appropriate for jails at the time. Its architect, W.C. Dodson, is responsible for many fine buildings in the north Texas region.

Dodson, architect for the jail, also designed the Hill County Courthouse. Dodson utilized the popular style which features massive forms and lofty fenestration for the jail. This was a popular style for Texas jails built at this time. Dodson's Waco firm designed many of the court houses in the surrounding area as well as a building on North Texas State Univeristy Campus.

This jail was the third one built in Hill County and has served its purpose well. It will eventually be replaced by a more modern facility. It is the hope of the area residents that this fine piece of work so characteristic of Texas will be utilized as a museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"The Early Settlers Life in Texas and the Organization of Hill County"

A. Y. Kirkpatrick, Hillsboro, Texas, 1909.

"The Hillsboro Daily Mirror", January 25, 1983, July 19, 1983, & August 23, 1893, June 18, 1930.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Hillsboro West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	7	6	6	8	0	3	5	4	3	3	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

North 1/2 of Lot 9, all of Lot 10, Block 2, City of Hillsboro. Hill County, Texas.

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 Carla Fraser

organization

date April 10, 1981

street & number 1721-B Enfield Rd.

telephone (512) 472-0123

city or town Austin

state Tx. 78703

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 20, 1981

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5-28-81

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

DUE 5/27/81 - 6/14/81
81000631
dnr-3

Name Hill County Jail
State, County TX Hill Co. Fed Nom or Request-Agency _____
Working Number 4/30/81/133 Federal Register Date 2-2-82

Nomination
 Determination of Eligibility
 On Nomination Form

Bldg(s)
 Site
 Object
 Structure
 District

Within:
 Multiple Resource Area
 Thematic Group

Maps 1
Photos 6

Nomination prepared by:
 State Staff
 Local
 Other

Action: **Entered in the National Register**
 ACCEPT 5-18-81
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

Check if Appropriate:
 State Request for Review
 Keeper's Decision to Review
 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				
4. Concepts/Criteria				
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date _____ See Attached _____



APR 30 1981

Hill County Jail
100 Block of N. Waco St.
Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Hillsboro Heritage League, date
taken is c. 1915. Location of original negative
not know, negative of copy on file at Texas Hist. Com.

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.

Photo 1 of 6.

MAY 28 1981

SW ob



Hill County Jail
100 Block of N. Waco St.
Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1980.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

West elevation, camera facing east.

Photo 2 of 6.

APR 30 1981

MAY 28 1981



APR 30 1981

Hill County Jail
100 Block of N. Waco St.
Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1980.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.

Photo 3 of 6.

MAY 28 1981



APR 30 1981

Hill County Jail
100 Block of N. Waco St.
Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1980.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest.

Photo 4 of 6.

MAY 28 1981



Hill County Jail
100 Block of N. Waco St.
Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

APR 30 1981

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1980.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 5 of 6.

MAY 28 1981



APR 30 1981

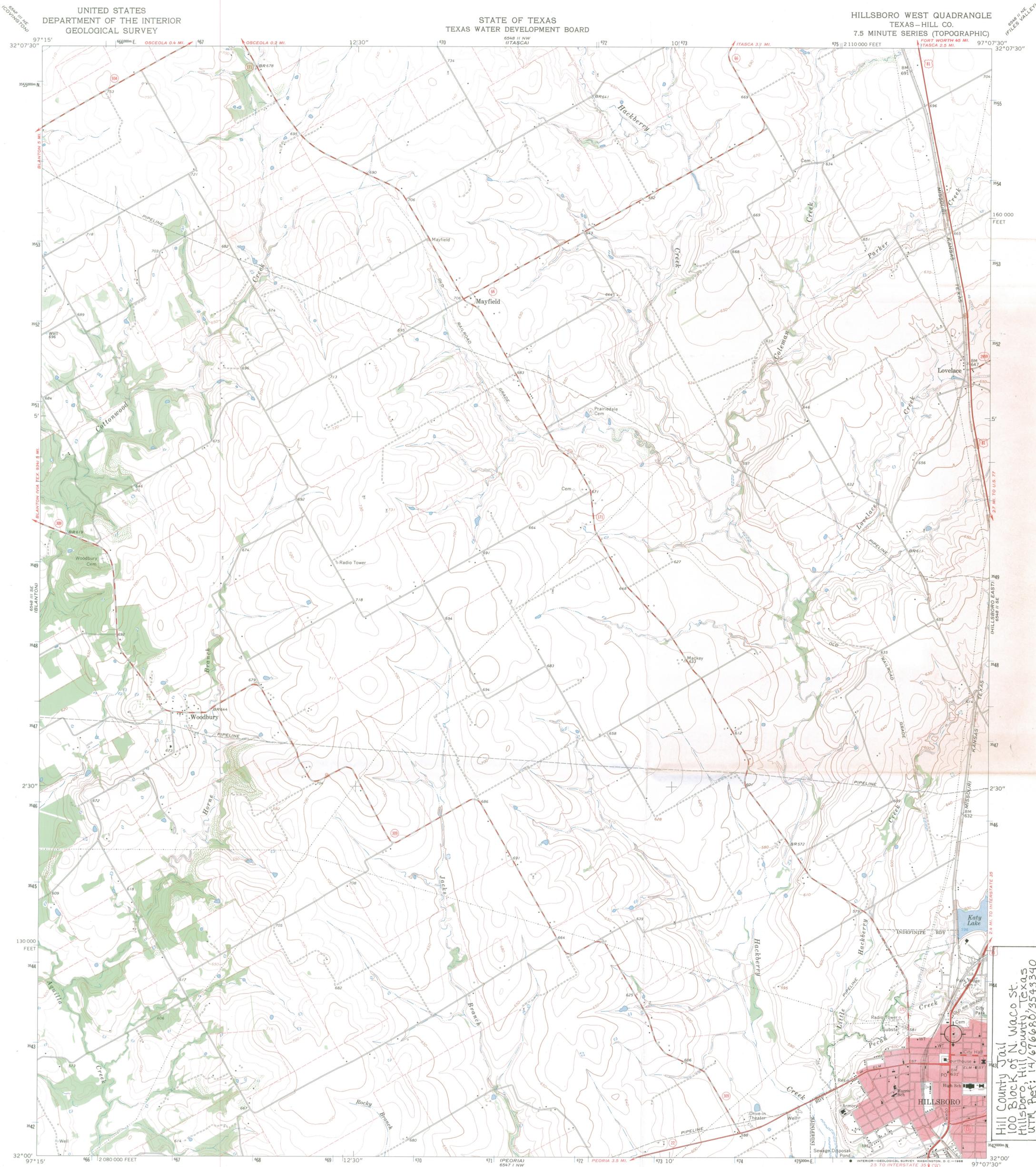
Hill County Jail
100 Block of N. Waco St.
Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

Photo by Carol Kennedy, 1980.
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

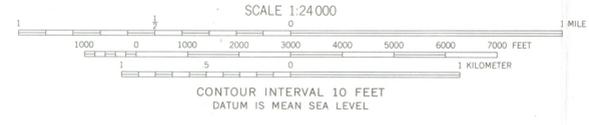
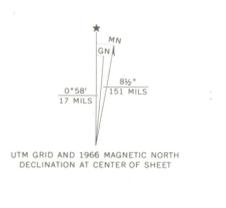
East elevation, camera facing west.

Photo 6 of 6.

MAY 28 1981



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

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NATIONAL REGISTER

HILLSBORO WEST, TEX.
N3200—W9707.5/7.5
1966
AMS 6548 II SW—SERIES V882

Hill County Jail
100 Block of N. Waco St.
Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas
UTM Ref: 14/676688/3543340

3297-112 MAY 28 1981

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered MAY 28 1981

Name

Location

Kyle, Claiborne, Log House

Kyle vicinity
Hays County

Hill County Jail

Hillsboro
Hill County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle
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

South Central Region, HCRS

NR Byers/njr/6/1/81

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