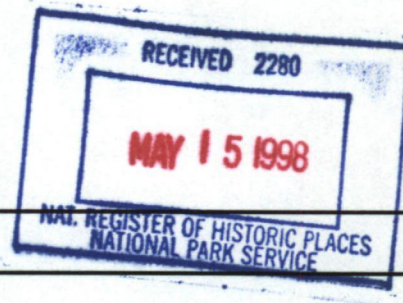


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Anderson County Jail
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 704 Avenue A

CITY OR TOWN: Palestine

VICINITY: N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

STATE: Texas CODE: TX

COUNTY: Anderson

CODE: 001 ZIP CODE: 75801

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Curtis J. Jannell
Signature of certifying official

5-5-98
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain) :

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall
Date of Action 6.11.98

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	2	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	2	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic and Architectural Resources of Palestine, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Art Deco

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE
WALLS BRICK
ROOF OTHER/tar and gravel
OTHER CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Anderson County Jail
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

Noteworthy for its Art Deco detailing, the Anderson County Jail is a 3-story institutional building with a generally rectangular plan and a flat roof. The walls are finished with brick and cast concrete and the foundation is built with concrete. The jail sits on a corner lot located diagonally from the county courthouse, within Palestine's original town site. The primary elevation faces Avenue A, and the focus of the facade is the 1-story porch which has angular and geometric ornament. The jail currently serves as the county's juvenile detention center and survives with few alterations to the exterior, thus retaining a high degree of its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Land on which the Anderson County Jail stands slopes gently to the southwest. A concrete sidewalk extends along the perimeter of property's east, north, and south sides. A small grass border with hedges along the base of the front and east side are the only plantings on the property. The building's generally rectangular plan features a slightly projecting wing on the north end. The jail occupies an irregularly shaped corner lot at the southwest intersection of Avenue A and Mallard Street, and the primary elevation faces north onto Avenue A. Because this thoroughfare extends diagonally through the prevailing grid pattern of streets, the lot is irregularly shaped and the facade of the jail has a stepped composition. An old service station is directly west of the building; otherwise, streets border the jail on all sides.

The facade presents a 2-part configuration, with a slightly projecting section on the east end of the facade. This part of the building contains the primary entrance and has three vertical divisions, each of which contains two openings per floor. The central division or bay is defined by brick piers that extend to the top of the facade. The 1-bay porch within the central bay has massive corner piers and a flat roof. The building's most conspicuous Art Deco architectural embellishment can be seen on this portico. The entrance includes a set of paneled wood doors with glazing. All of the windows on this part of the building, except for the two fixed-glass windows on the east end of the ground floor, are double hung and have metal sashes. A secondary entrance is in the set-back portion of the facade's west end. This section of the building also has a 3-part composition, but the central bay is slightly smaller, containing only one opening per floor. A door surround with detailing similar to the front porch marks a secondary entrance in the set-back portion of the facade's west end. The north elevation also faces a street and exhibits Art Deco detailing. Most of this embellishment is visible on the door surround, which is almost identical to the secondary entrance on the facade. The windows are double hung with metal sashes, except for the new, fixed-glass windows at the northeast corner of the ground floor. The rear elevation, which fronts onto E. Market Street, has windows similar to those on other elevations, but the entrance is unadorned. A small 1-story building with stucco finish and a low-pitched pyramidal roof is at the southeast corner of the property.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1931

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1931

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Maffitt, Theo S. (architect); Campbell & White (builder)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-6 through 8-7)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY See bibliographic references for the associated historic context, *Community and Regional Development of Palestine, Texas: 1846-1945*.

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Anderson County Jail
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

When the Anderson County Jail was constructed in 1931 it was considered the height of modernity and sophistication. The Art Deco design of the jail reflects the utilitarian nature of the building, while the county's construction of such an edifice indicates continued growth and economic prosperity following the inauguration of rail service to the city. Evaluated within the context of *Community and Regional Development of Palestine: 1846-1945*, the historic Anderson County Jail is nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a rare example of the Art Deco style in Palestine.

Along with the county courthouse, the county jail is a prominent symbol of local government and law enforcement within Anderson County. Located diagonally from the courthouse square, the Anderson County Jail occupies a highly visible corner in the original town site of Palestine. The building replaced an 1879-1880 brick building which had ably met the needs of the county for a half century. By early 1931 the jail was considered unsafe and Anderson County Commissioners deemed it necessary to replace the old structure with a new one. Palestine's increasing growth and development since the boom years of the 1870s and 1880s led to a resolution passed by the Court in April 1931, which stated:

Whereas the Commissioners' Court of Anderson County, after due consideration and investigation has ascertained and determined that the construction and equipment of a new county jail for said county is necessary; that the present jail is unsafe and persons are escaping therefrom; that several grand juries of Anderson County in the past who have investigated the matter and who have made person investigation of the jail building recommended to this court the building of a new jail; that the present jail was built more than fifty years ago and is wholly inadequate and cannot be remodeled... It is therefore ordered ... that a new and modern jail be built at a cost not to exceed sixty thousand (\$60,000.00) dollars (Minutes of the Anderson Commissioner's Court [MACC], Vol. 21, page 384).

At the same meeting, the Commissioners selected local architect Theo S. Maffitt to design the facility and instructed that bids be advertised for contractors. On June 25, 1931, the Court awarded the contract to Campbell and White (general contractors) of Tyler, Texas. The Southern Prison Company of San Antonio was hired to provide all of the jail cells and equipment (MACC Vol 21, page 410).

Theo S. Maffitt was the son of Cicero S. Maffitt, a prominent local builder and contractor during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The younger Maffitt obviously shared his father's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Anderson County Jail
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

interests in construction and attended the University of Texas where he received a degree in architecture in 1916. Soon after graduation, he leased office space in Palestine from his father and co-founded a short-lived architectural firm with Hunter Price. In 1917 Theo S. Maffitt enlisted in the Navy and served as a draftsman. After his stint in the Navy, he returned to Palestine and resumed his architectural practice. His clients included many of Palestine's most influential individuals, businesses, and institutions and he designed numerous public and private buildings in the city over his long career. In addition to the 1931 Anderson County Jail, Maffitt also drew plans for the Rusk Elementary School (1931) on W. Palestine, the gymnasium annex (1937) to the Lincoln High School (1923) at 920 W. Swantz, and the Palestine Municipal Building (1939) on Oak Street.

Maffitt's design for the new jail encompassed the stylized, geometric forms characteristic of Art Deco architecture. The style originated in France and gained popularity among American architects and designers during the late 1920s and 1930s. Hallmarks of the style evident on the jail include the minimal stepped parapet that tops the building, the zigzag and chevron detailing of the door surrounds, and the stylized geometry of the facade's stepped pilasters. Art Deco domestic architecture is relatively uncommon in the United States, in part because the style reached its height during the Depression. However, many public buildings of that era, including the Anderson County Jail, exhibit Art Deco details because local, state, and federal governments had the economic resources necessary for new construction in the 1930s. Thus, the Anderson County Jail gains much of its significance from the rarity of the Art Deco style in Palestine as well as the remarkable retention of its architectural and historic integrity.

The building served the county as the primary jail until the mid 1980s. In 1986 under pressure to upgrade the facility to meet new standards, County Commissioners decided to erect a new jail at another location, rather than renovate the old one. Arguments for building a new jail were remarkably similar to those voiced a half century earlier. Following completion of the new jail a few blocks east, the old jail was left essentially unused; however, in November 1991, the County Commissioners hired Ted Maffitt, son of Theo S. Maffitt, to undertake a feasibility study to convert the building into a juvenile detention center. His report was favorable, and in February 1992, the Scheppler Construction Company contracted to complete the work.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

Zone Northing Easting
15 251220 3517100

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Palestine Original Town Site; Block: 16; Lot: 3B, 4A, 4B.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary follows the lot and block historically associated with the property.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Amber Degn, THC Historian)

NAME/TITLE: David Moore (Project Director), Matt Goebel (Historian)

ORGANIZATION: Hardy-Heck-Moore & Associates **DATE:** February 1994/March 1998

STREET & NUMBER: 1414 West Sixth Street **TELEPHONE:** (512) 478-8014

CITY OR TOWN: Austin **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 78703

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS N/A

PHOTOGRAPHS PHOTO 1: Ralph Newlan - Photographer; February 1994; Original negatives on file with the Texas Historical Commission; Oblique view of north and east elevations, camera facing southwest.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS N/A

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Anderson County
c/o County Judge and County Commissioner's Court

STREET & NUMBER: Anderson County Courthouse **TELEPHONE:** (903) 723-7406

CITY OR TOWN: Palestine **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 75801

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Anderson County Jail
NAME:

MULTIPLE Palestine, Texas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Anderson

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/26/98
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/11/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/29/98
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000692

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6.11.98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

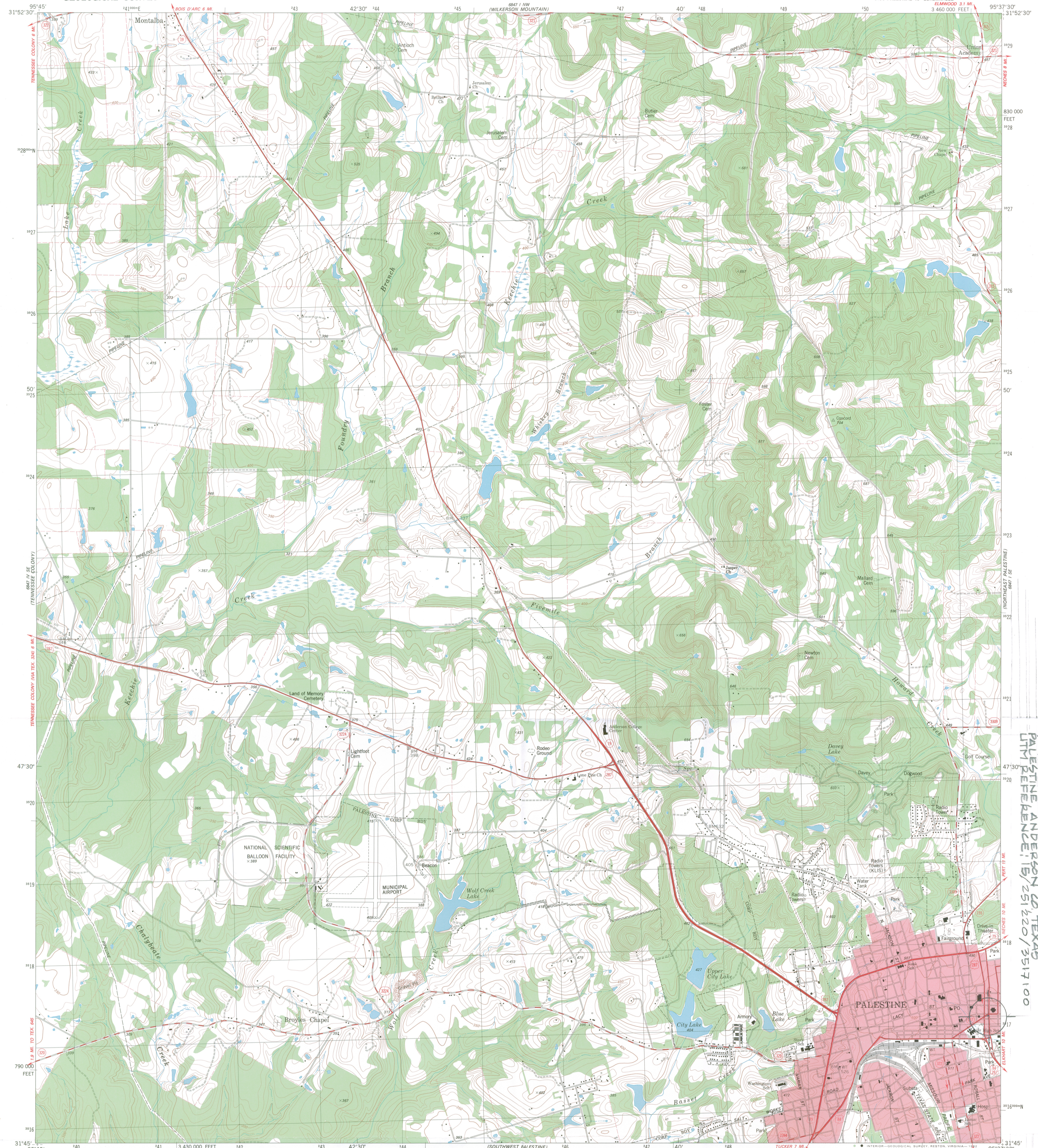
REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

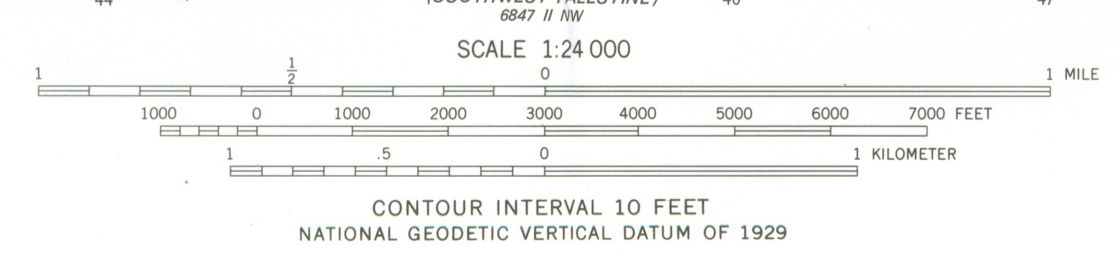
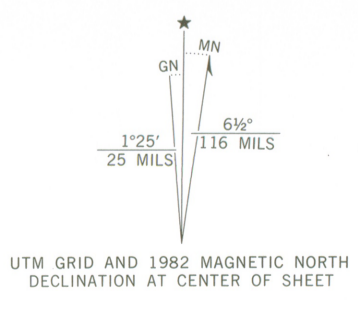
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



ANDERSON COUNTY JAIL, OLD
704 AVENUE A
PALESTINE, ANDERSON CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 1



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1982
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15 1927 North American datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 14 meters south and 23 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
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

3195-342

MAPSCO INC.
13536 Preston Rd.
Dallas, TX 75240
(214) 960-1414

NORTHWEST PALESTINE, TEX.
SW/4 PALESTINE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3145-W9537.5/7.5

1982
DMA 6847 1 SW-SERIES 582

ANDERSON COUNTY JAIL, OLD
704 AVENUE A ANDERSON CO. TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/251220/3517100