

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Post Office  
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 101 E. Oak Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Palestine VICINITY: N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A  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.)

*Laurie 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) :

*Edson W. Beal*  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 6.11.98

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public - local

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	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

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/post office

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/government office; RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Beaux Arts

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION STONE/limestone  
WALLS BRICK; CONCRETE  
ROOF METAL  
OTHER METAL/iron

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Post Office  
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

The Post Office at 101 E. Oak is a 2-story institutional building in the heart of Palestine's central business district. Built in 1907 with Beaux Arts style detailing, the Post Office exhibits a formal cross-axial plan, stone foundation, and brick exterior finish. Renaissance details include the round-arched window and door openings on the ground floor and the low-pitched hipped roof with extended eaves and brackets. Although the Postal Service relocated to another facility in 1964, this building remains in good condition and currently houses county government offices. Despite minor modifications such as new windows at the ground level, the building retains a high degree of its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Post Office occupies a corner lot at the intersection of E. Oak and N. Sycamore and faces south on a parcel of land that slopes gently toward the southeast. Concrete sidewalks extend along the public rights of way and a paved driveway is to the east and north of the building. Small sections of lawn serve as buffers between the building and concrete sidewalks to the south and west. Concrete steps with metal railings extend from the primary entrance to the curb. Like most downtown area buildings, the Post Office has a rectangular plan; however, photographs taken in 1907 during the construction of the Post Office reveal that metal-frame construction was used. Therefore, the building's brick walls are not load bearing. The raised foundation consists of smooth stone blocks while rustication interpreted in brick extends along the base of the building. Decorative concrete accentuates prominent architectural elements and contrasts with the brick walls. The low, hipped, metal roof has wide overhangs and simple brackets within the soffits.

The front faces south onto E. Oak Street and presents a symmetrical composition with five vertical divisions. The primary entrance consists of a pair of metal frame doors set within the central bay under a round archway with concrete keystone and surrounds. Decorative metalwork fills the arch and surrounds the pair of doors. Similarly proportioned round arches crown each of the outer window openings on the ground level and contain double hung windows and fixed fanlight transoms. The second floor repeats the 5-part configuration, but has flat, rather than round arches. A paired set of double-hung windows and 2-light hopper windows are in each opening, all of which have decorative metal railings at the bases. Brackets highlight the broad soffits along the roof, and three arched dormers extend from the south slope of the low hipped roof.

The east and west elevations of the Post Office are similar to the south elevation but contain only three vertical divisions and a single arched dormer. The partial brick in-fill of some window openings appears in historic photographs of the building and is original to the historic fabric of the structure. Less exuberant Renaissance detailing occurs on the rear (north) elevation. New windows have been installed on the ground floor, but their impact to the building's overall integrity is minimal.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Post Office  
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

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Renovation of the building's interior created office partitions and a dropped ceiling with acoustical tile that detracts from the building's original character. The stairway, with its wainscoting and wood railing, remains unaltered. The removal of the counters and other postal-related features inside followed the Post Office's relocation and the conversion of the property into offices. Despite these interior modifications, the Post Office remains in good condition and the exterior of the building has changed little since its construction in 1907.

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**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:** C

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1907-1908

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1907-1908

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Taylor, James Knox

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

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**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 7

Post Office  
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

In 1907 James Knox Taylor designed Palestine's Post Office building in the Beaux Arts style, which was a rare architectural expression in Texas. For almost fifty years, the building housed the Palestine Post Office and physically reinforced the presence of the federal government in the town. In 1964 it was converted from a Federal Building into offices. Still one of the largest buildings in downtown Palestine, the Post Office symbolizes the local prosperity that followed the arrival of the railroad and remains a dominant and impressive local landmark. Evaluated within the broader context of *Community and Regional Development in Palestine: 1846-1945*, the Post Office is nominated to the National Register at a local level of significance under Criterion C as a noteworthy example of early 20th century institutional architecture in Palestine.

The Post Office, also called the Federal Building, was built on land purchased by the federal government from St. Phillip's Episcopal Church and Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Hicks. James Knox Taylor of the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Supervising Architect designed the edifice. The 1907 building replaced older facilities which had occupied various locations throughout the city since the mid-1800s. The thriving economy and population growth that followed the inauguration of railroad service to Palestine resulted in the need for a permanent post office building and provided the funds for its construction. A 1987 report on the building noted that:

...The building shows careful attention to detailing which stated over the years the presence of the Federal Government in Palestine. In the years prior to its construction, no other building of comparable stature has been erected in Palestine. To the townspeople, the erection of the new post office was a source of pride, not only in their government, but in themselves as a citizenry worthy of such an edifice" (Anderson County Historical Commission archives 1987:n.p.).

The Post Office is one of only two local institutional buildings with Renaissance detailing; the other is the old Carnegie Library (N.R. 1988). The Beaux Arts style gained marginal popularity throughout Texas, making the Post Office in Palestine a rare example of this architectural expression. The cross axial arrangement, formal plan, and classical detailing created an imposing building which reflected the increasing prosperity of the local community. When completed in 1907, the Post Office immediately became a prominent architectural landmark in the community, in part because the building's classically influenced detailing contrasted with the Romanesque Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne architecture that prevailed in the downtown at that time. The placement of the Post Office as a detached building downtown further bolstered its physical character; the building literally stands apart from the rows of commercial properties in Palestine's central business district.

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

## **National Register of Historic Places**

### **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

Post Office  
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

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In 1964 the Postal Service built a new structure several blocks to the north and converted the old facility into a Federal Building to house a number of general offices. All the post office fixtures on the first floor were removed at this time, including the public counters, the screen line, and the postal boxes. New partitions and suspended ceilings were added.

In 1987 the government declared the building a surplus property and two years later the government transferred the building to Anderson County for use as county offices. The building still houses county offices and is now home to the Anderson County Historical Commission.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

**UTM REFERENCES**

**Zone Northing Easting**  
15 250820 3516960

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Palestine Original Town Site; Block: 142; Lot: 6,7,8,9,10.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Boundaries are those historically associated with the building.

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

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**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

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

MAPS N/A

**PHOTOGRAPHS** PHOTO 1: Photographer - Daniel Hardy; February 1994; Original negatives on file with the Texas Historical Commission; Oblique view of south and west elevations, camera facing northeast.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** N/A

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** Anderson County

**STREET & NUMBER:** P.O. Drawer 1990      **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 Post Office--Palestine  
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: 98000693

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

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



IRRADIATED

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Palestine Post Office (date of construction correction)

**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** previously listed as *Post Office*

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 101 E. Oak St.

**CITY OR TOWN:** Palestine

**STATE:** Texas

**CODE:** TX

**COUNTY:** Anderson

**CODE:** 001

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A

**VICINITY:** N/A

**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. (   X    See continuation sheet 8-2 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

11-2-01

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

   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): Additional Documentation Accepted

2/27/02

IRRADIATED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Palestine Post Office (date of construction correction)  
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

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The Palestine Post Office was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 under the Palestine MPS as "Post Office." Archival records confirm that the correct date of construction is 1911-12, and not 1907 as noted in the nomination. The deed, recorded November 11, 1907, indicates the year that the land was secured, but this was mistakenly used as the construction date in the nomination. Photographs on file with the John H. Reagan Memorial Center, a local museum Palestine, document the building's construction through 1911 and into early 1912. The building was completed and first occupied in 1912.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Post Office--Palestine  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Palestine, Texas MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Anderson

DATE RECEIVED: 2/04/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/22/02  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000693

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 2/22/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Additional Documentation Accepted*

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

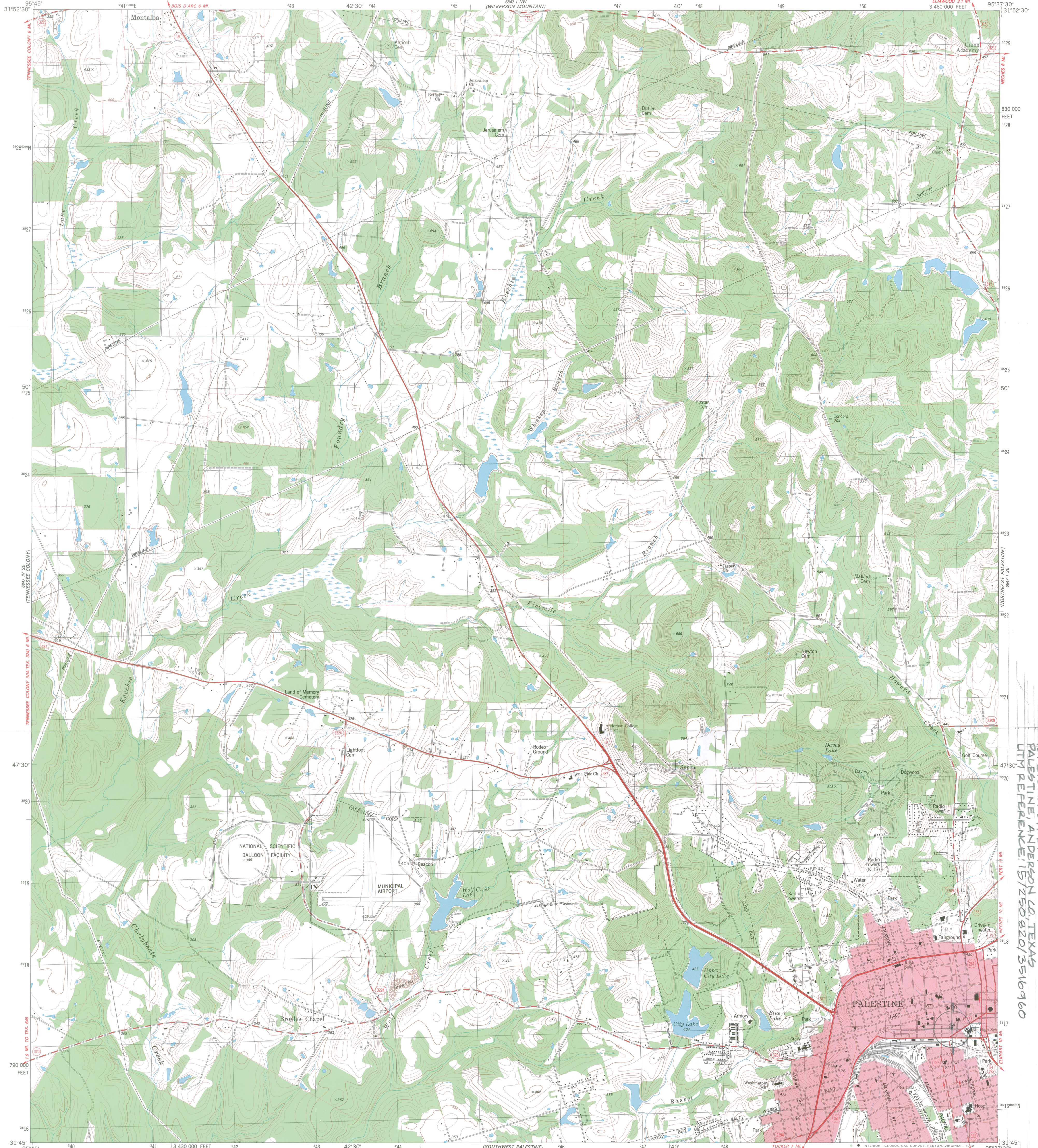
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



POST OFFICE, OLD  
101 E. OAK STREET  
PALESTINE, ANDERSON CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 1



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

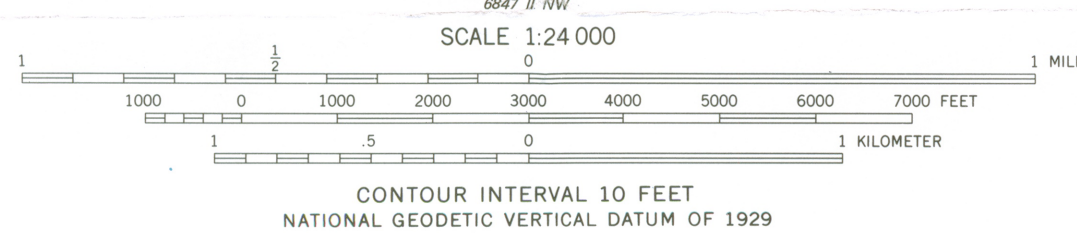
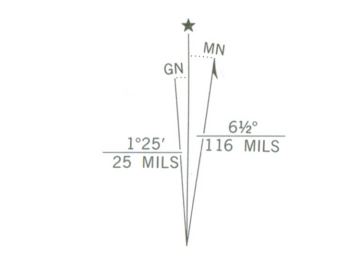
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1982

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

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

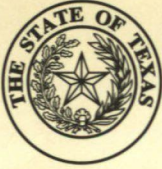
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80226, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3195-342

MAPSCO, INC.  
6118 CAMP BOWIE  
FORT WORTH, 76116 817/731-1666

1982  
DMA 6847 I SW-SERIES V882

POST OFFICE  
101 E. OAK STREET  
PALESTINE, ANDERSON CO. TEXAS  
CITY REFERENCE: 15/250/8201/3516960



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

IRRADIATED

1 RR  
Admitted

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 29, 2001

Linda McClelland  
US Dept. of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 2280 Suite 400  
1849 C ST NW  
Washington DC 20240



RE: Palestine Post Office, Anderson County, Texas

Dear Ms. McClelland:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination amendment for the Post Office in Palestine, Anderson County, Texas. The nomination is being amended to reflect the correct date of construction. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (512) 463-6013. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Smith  
National Register Coordinator

98009693

enc.