

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Veterinary Hospital

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Alfred N. Poindexter Veterinary Hospital

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: E. M. Norris Street, bldg.# 0517

CITY OR TOWN: Prairie View

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Waller

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

VICINITY: N/A

CODE: 473

ZIP CODE: 77446-0519

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

6/3/99

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-State

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	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 Prairie View A&M University, Waller County, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/ research facility

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/research facility

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

MATERIALS:

FOUNDATION	CONCRETE
WALLS	BRICK
ROOF	ASPHALT
OTHER	CONCRETE; GLASS; METAL

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

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Section 7 Page 5

Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

Description

Built in 1925 as a teaching facility for veterinary training, this 1-story brick building reflects the modest influences of the Classical Revival style. Cast stone quoins at the entry and a centered hipped dormer grace the symmetrical façade to provide hallmarks of the style. One of two surviving works on campus by architect and educator Louis Fry, the building retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to remain recognizable to the period of significance.

The Veterinary Hospital (bldg. # 0517) is the campus' second oldest existing building. It is located on E.M. Norris Street on the far east side of the university campus. The building is a 5,350 square foot, single-story structure with an adjoining quarantine and treatment facility for large animals. The exterior is brick with cast concrete trim. The windows are metal framed throughout. The interior walls are a combination of brick, vitreous tile and sheetrock. The floors are composition concrete and tile. The laboratory walls are entirely vitreous-tile. The animal quarantine facilities were made using steel pipes for the gates and unfinished lumber for the perimeter fencing.

In 1972, a rehabilitation and renovation project changed some of the outward appearance to enhance the facility, upgrade existing problems and to refurbish. The exterior appearances underwent the removal of all existing windows and doors and new metal doors and frames were installed. All wood fascia and soffits were painted. The main renovations were interior. Complete painting of all walls, removal of floor tiles, replacing and leveling, upgrading of all electrical, mechanical and plumbing. A wall was installed in the hallway that provides an entryway (waiting room) and serves also to bar the public from the operating room, and back quarters of the clinic. Today, the operating room has been modified into a classroom area for lectures and demonstrations. The Bacteriology Room has become the examining, laboratory and surgery room (small animals). In the rear of clinic is the Horse Barn, comprised of the box, horse and pig stalls where individual animals are housed and boarded. The feed and tack rooms are at the farthest area in the back of the clinic. In the renovation, all sidewalks were replaced. On the south side of the building, a new concrete ramp was installed for the convenience of loading and unloading ill or injured animals to the rear stalls for examination and treatment.

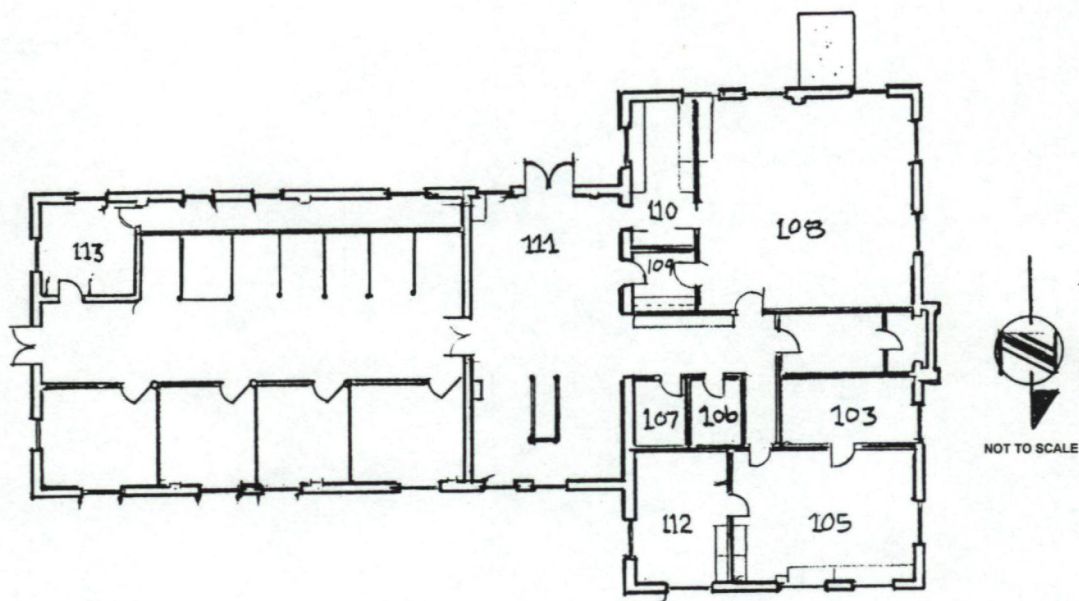
Over the years emergency roof and wall repairs have been made. The laboratory has, along with the electrical system been, upgraded. The overall infrastructure is seriously deteriorating. The plumbing, roof, ceiling and HVAC systems are in need of repairs and to be brought in compliance with the university's energy conservation plan. The requested appropriation will fund total building renovation. Additional exterior work will render the building watertight. The adjoining large animal quarantine and treatment facilities will be redesigned. The building will be brought into compliance with all applicable codes, in particular ADA and NFPA. The interior will be refurbished, with attention given to the laboratory and classroom so as to meet or exceed Southern College and University accreditation standards. The total cost of renovation is \$640,000.00. The building retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, setting, feeling and association to remain recognizable to its period of significance.

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Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas



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: Education; Ethnic Heritage/Black

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1925 - 1948

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1925

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: Evans, Dr. E.B.

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Fry, Louis E. (architect)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-9).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY See bibliographic references for the associated historic context, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Prairie View A&M University, Waller County, Texas*.

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:

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Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Noted African American architect Louis Fry designed this building in 1925 to serve as an instructional facility and animal hospital in support of the veterinary vocational training program on campus. Construction of the utilitarian building was overseen by Dr. E.B. Evans, the first African American veterinarian licensed to practice in Texas. Dr. Evans subsequently served as the inaugural president of Prairie View A&M University under the 1948 legislative reorganization. This building represents the continuing role of the vocational curriculum at the campus during the early 20th century and is related to the historic context, *Development of Prairie View A&M University, 1876-1998*. As one of two surviving examples of Fry's contributions to campus architecture, the veterinary hospital is therefore nominated at the state level of significance under Criteria A and B in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage and under Criterion C for Architecture at a state level of significance.

Constructed in 1925 the Veterinary Hospital is the second oldest structure on campus. (See Map 12) It was designed by Mr. Louis E. Fry, a faculty member of Prairie View Normal & Industrial Institute (now Prairie View A&M University) and constructed by the students, faculty and staff. Mr. Fry, a Prairie View graduate, was one of the first African Americans to graduate from both Harvard University and Kansas State University with a Masters Degree in Architecture. (To prove his proficiency and in order to transcend any technical objections to his senior project, Mr. Fry drafted his plan in ink vs. lead). The plans for the Veterinary Hospital were approved by Century Architecture and Planning, a professional firm hired by Texas A&M College. It was designed to house the animal science laboratories, veterinarians' hospital and animal husbandry classrooms. The Veterinarian from 1918 - 1948 was Dr. E.B. Evans, who was the first African American Veterinarian licensed to practice in Texas, June 18, 1919. Dr. Evan's permanent license number is #237, which indicates that prior to the issuance of his license, there were only #236 licensed Veterinarians in Texas. Dr. Evans, in his published autobiography entitled *Down Memory Lane* relates the following: "The classroom facilities were rather crude when I first came to Prairie View. I had no equipment, no funds for a laboratory or teaching materials, consequently, I set about immediately, with the assistance of my students, to prepare teaching specimens from material coming from the slaughterhouse and any other sources from which they could be gathered. Our ingenuity plus hard work resulted in an effective teaching program despite the absence of a laboratory and teaching specimens."

He continues, "It was not long before farmers and ranchmen began to come to the campus seeking information and assistance. I had no means of transportation, but transportation was provided by those who needed my services beyond the campus. Often I would leave the campus in a buggy to travel to points that required a full day to accomplish my mission. I was so interested in serving people that I never thought of money, and I gave the best service that I knew how to give to the rich and poor, black and white alike. I always kept my promise. I do not recall a single instance where I failed to make a call after promising assistance to a person. Sometimes I would be delayed, but I always kept my word regardless of the distance, the weather, and the hour of the day or night." Dr. Evans recalls, "I had one personal experience that I shall never forget. One morning the principal of the institution, Dr. J.G. Osborne, called my office and requested that I meet him in front of the Administration Building under an old oak tree that still stands. I immediately became disturbed and wondered what he wanted with me. He approached me with a large envelope in his hand and said that he had never had an experience of

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Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

with me. He approached me with a large envelope in his hand and said that he had never had an experience of this kind. The envelope contained a petition that white farmers and ranchmen had sent to him and Dr. W.B. Bezell (President of the Texas A&M System), telling them of the valuable service that I had rendered the community and expressing their hope that both Dr. Osborne and Dr Bezell would do all that they could to furnish me with the necessary facilities and equipment to expand the services. I was surprised and stunned as I did not have the slightest idea that my services were appreciated to that extent."

"This act on the part of the ranchers and farmers in the community finally resulted in the construction of a modern veterinary hospital on the east end campus. At the time that the building was constructed, it contained all of the necessary facilities and equipment necessary to conduct a general practice adapted to this section of the country, and it created much favorable comment. I think it is important to relate the above incident in order that young people might learn the value of superior training and the importance of giving conscientious and dedicated service to the public under all circumstances." Dr. Evans eventually became Principal of Prairie View, in fact he has the distinction of being the last Principal of Prairie View Normal & Industrial Institute and the First President of Prairie View A&M University College in 1948.

From 1945 to the present, Dr. Alfred N. Poindexter has continued this commitment and tradition of excellence in service and education to the students and the community. Superlatives come easy when talking about this distinguished South Texas scholar and veterinarian. Dr. A.N. Poindexter has been a professor of veterinary medicine at Prairie View A&M University since 1945 and is the oldest practicing African American veterinarian in the United States. He is one of the first two Black members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association. While he is a man of many firsts, perhaps his most significant accolade is that, among his peers, he is considered a "vet's vet."

Dr. Poindexter has left an indelible mark in the community. The Kansas City native is a Reserve Captain in the United States Air Force Vet Corp. He was the first Black to serve as chairman of the board of a local bank in Waller County. In 1992, the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture named Dr. Poindexter one of four outstanding Black agriculturists in the state. Another special tribute was accorded in 1995 when Prairie View A&M University presented him with its 50-Year Award for Outstanding Service. And in 1996, in a July ceremony in Lexington, Kentucky, the American Veterinary Medical Association awarded Dr. Poindexter its prestigious Gold Card Membership.

A.N. Poindexter is still very active in his profession and in the community. He teaches Anatomy and Physiology, Diseases and Sanitation, Animal Health, Animal Breeding and Reproductive Physiology at Prairie View and provides veterinary services to the community, the university and counties within a 150-mile radius. Alfred Nelson Poindexter is a living legend at Prairie View A&M. Generations of students have gained scientific knowledge from his classes and learned lessons in humanity from his example.

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Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

Summary

These two gentlemen are widely known as two of the best veterinarians in Texas and have earned a most deserved reputation for the Prairie View Veterinary Hospital as a place to receive quality service and education on animal science issues. The Veterinary Hospital still serves the needs of the university and the surrounding communities in Waller County. The building, although in need of repairs, is still recognizable from its period of significance, 1925. The building is named for the one of the states most capable veterinarians and is related to the historic context, *Development of Prairie View A&M University, 1876-1998*. The building is therefore nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage and Criterion C for Architecture at a state level of significance.

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Continuation Sheet

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Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

Bibliography

(See historic context, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Prairie View A&M University," Waller County, Texas)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	212420	3332700

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-11)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-11)

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Karen Riles, THC Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Karen Charleston, Staff Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Prairie View A&M University

DATE: 8 May 1998

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 519

TELEPHONE: 409/857-3200

CITY OR TOWN: Prairie View

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 77446-0519

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-12)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-13)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Prairie View A&M University

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 519

TELEPHONE: 409/857-3200

CITY OR TOWN: Prairie View

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 77446-0519

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Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is a rectangular parcel of land measuring 84.1 feet x 145.1 feet, whose northwest corner is 21.2 feet in a northwesterly direction from the northwest foundation corner of the Veterinary Hospital and whose southeast corner is 31.8 feet in a southeasterly direction from the southeast foundation corner of the Veterinary Hospital.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

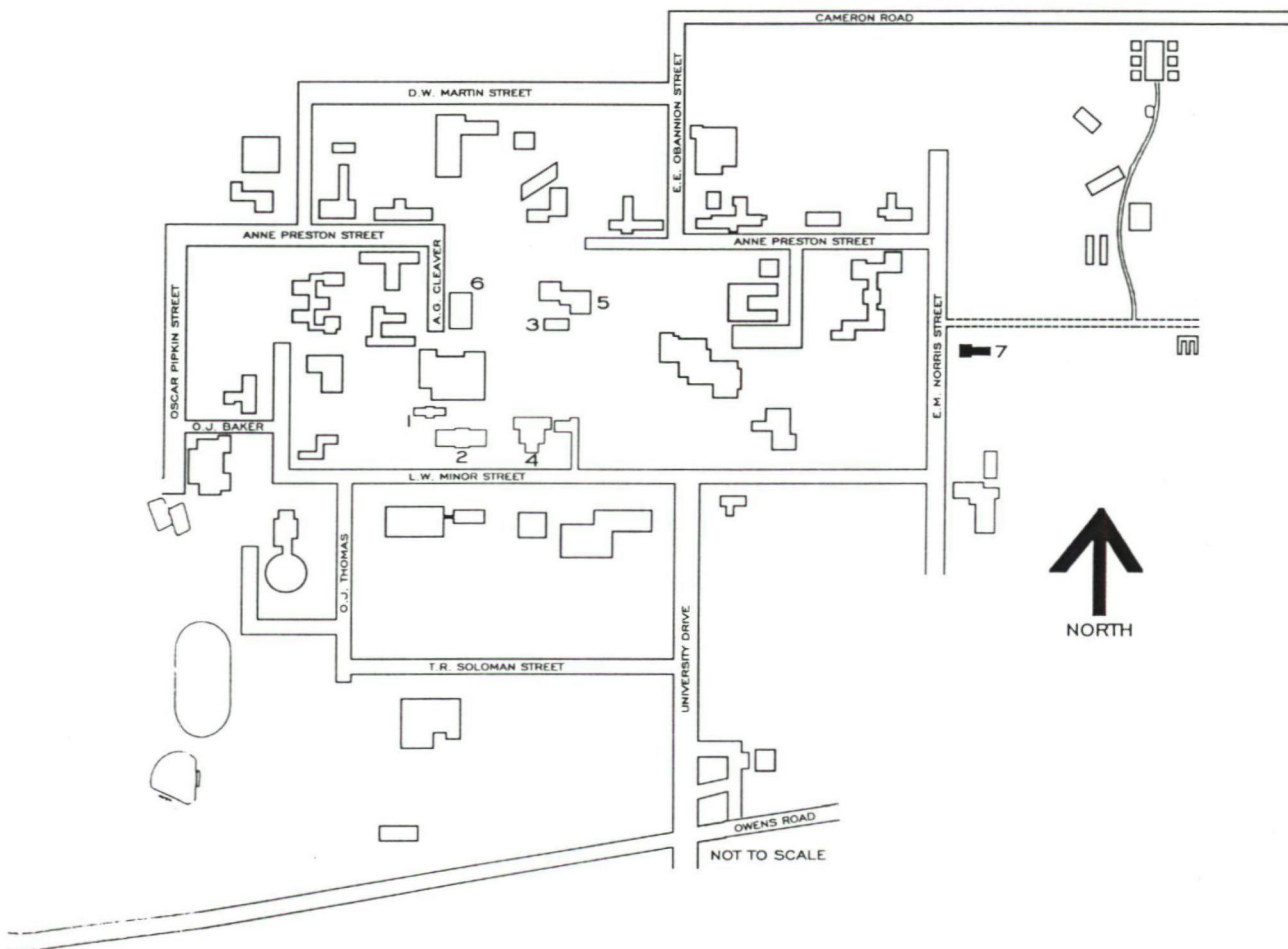
The boundaries include resources associated with the 1925 college building that retain sufficient historic and architectural integrity.

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Section Map Page 12

Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas



BUILDING KEY

1. L.C. ANDERSON HALL-#0541
2. ANNIE LAURIE EVANS HALL-#0544
3. G.R. WOOLFOLK SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE
BUILDING-#0503
4. W.R. BANKS LIBRARY -#0508
5. FRY-THOMAS POWER PLANT-#0529
6. HILLIARD HALL -#0537
- 7. VETERINARY HOSPITAL-#0517

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Section PHOTO Page 13

Veterinary Hospital
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

PHOTO LOG

(Photos taken in 1997 by Charles Peveto, staff member of the Texas Historical Commission)

1. Front facade
Camera facing northeast
2. Side and back façade
Camera facing northwest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Veterninary Hospital
NAME:

MULTIPLE Praire View A&M University MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Waller

DATE RECEIVED: 4/21/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/03/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/19/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/05/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000617

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 6/3/99 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



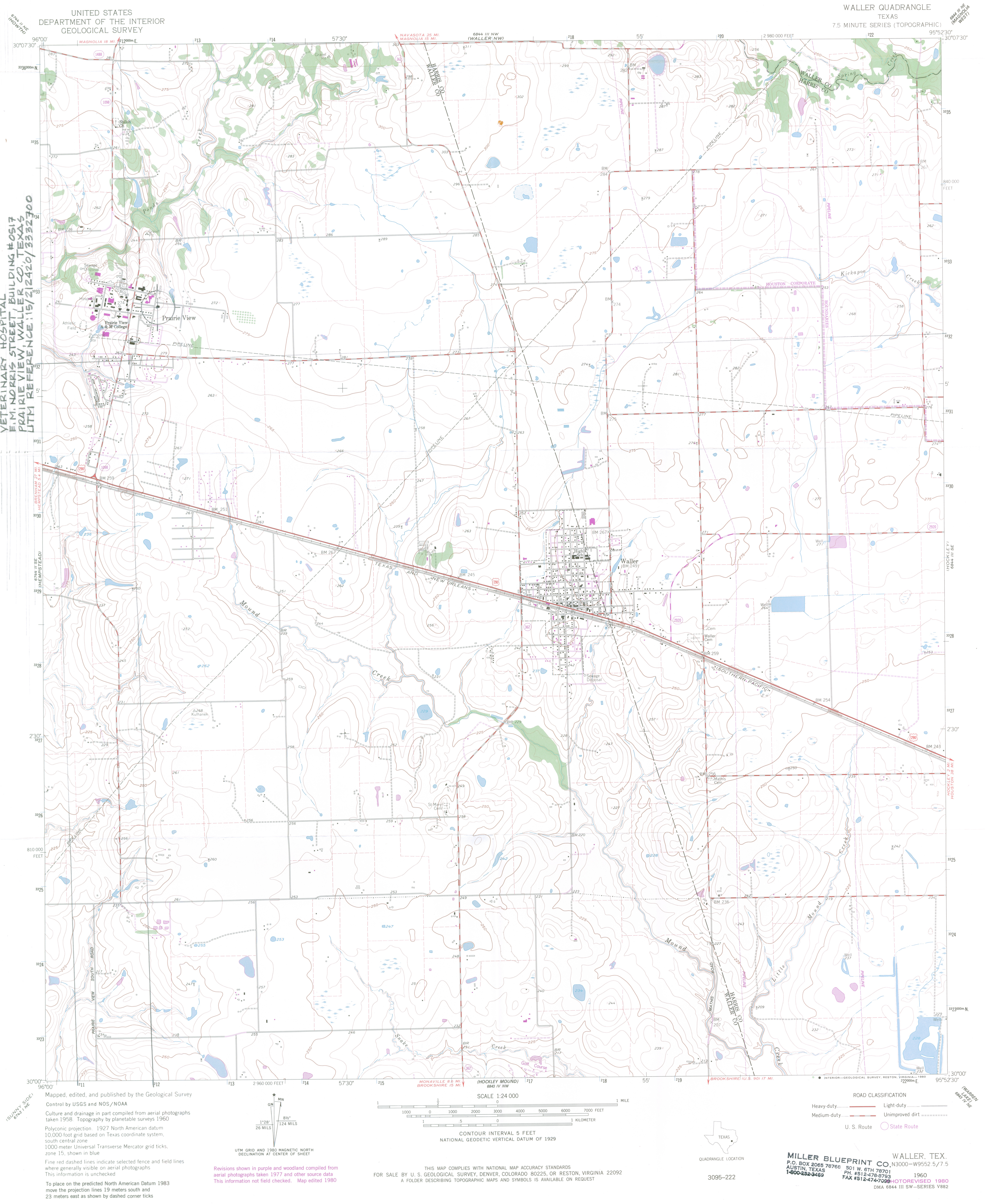
VETERINARY HOSPITAL
E.M. NORRIS STREET, BUILDING # 0517
PRAIRIE VIEW, WALLER CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 2



VETERINARY HOSPITAL
E.M. NORRIS STREET, BUILDING # 0517
PRAIRIE VIEW, WALLER CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 2



VETERINARY HOSPITAL
F.M. NORRIS STREET, BUILDING #0517
PRAIRIE VIEW, WALLER CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 19/212420/3332700

(SUNNY SIDE)
6844 III NE

6844 III NE
WALLER
HARRIS CO.

HOCKLEY
6844 III SE

WARREN
6844 III E

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WALLER QUADRANGLE
TEXAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1958. Topography by planetable surveys 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000 foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
south 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
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 19 meters south and
23 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data
This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

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



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