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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 NAME</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISTORIC</td>
<td>Hopkins County Courthouse AND/OR COMMON</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER</td>
<td>Church and Jefferson Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY, TOWN</td>
<td>Sulphur Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>223</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATEGORY</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
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<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>❌ PRIVATE</td>
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<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td>❌ BOTH</td>
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<td>SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
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<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 OWNER OF PROPERTY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
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<td>Church and Jefferson Streets</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC</td>
<td>Hopkins County Courthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER</td>
<td>Church and Jefferson Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY, TOWN</td>
<td>Sulphur Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>Texas</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>Historic Sites Inventory &amp; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>1970 &amp; 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS</td>
<td>Texas Historical Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY, TOWN</td>
<td>Austin</td>
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## DESCRIPTION

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>EXCELLENT</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>GOOD</em></td>
<td><em>ALTERED</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>FAIR</em></td>
<td><em>MOVED</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>DETERIORATED</em></td>
<td><em>UNEXPOSED</em></td>
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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

San Antonio architect J. Riely Gordon was noted for the design of a number of Central Texas courthouses such as the Bexar County Courthouse in San Antonio, the Fayette County Courthouse in La Grange and the Victoria County Courthouse in Victoria, in which he developed a distinctive Romanesque Revival idiom characterized by use of towers, turrets and similar elements in broken massing, as well as by the use of polychromatic ashlar masonry. In a departure from the traditional cross-axial plan, Gordon developed a cruciform layout of a central space surrounded by a gallery and then by adjoining rooms. Convenient to all of the rooms, the stairway was placed in a central position. Access was effected at the reentrant angles of the resulting Greek cross plan. The Hopkins County Courthouse while similar in plan to Gordon's other efforts is sited differently from the traditional layout of Texas courthouses. Located across the street from the main square rather than squarely in the middle, as was usual, it lacks the normal quadrilateral symmetry of entrances, substituting a modified plan with entries on the northwest and southwest.*

The broken massing of Gordon's cruciform pattern was readily accommodated by the stylistic vocabulary of the Romanesque Revival. Walls were ashlar masonry in pink granite. Walls and steps were of polished blue granite. Completing the vivid polychromatic treatment, voussiers, lintels and strip courses were of red sandstone. A band of stones of contrasting hue, set in a checkerboard pattern forms a border at the roof line.

The dominant architectural feature is a hip-roofed central tower set off by ornamental turrets and dormers which break up the roof line.

In the center of the north and south facades below small balconies, appeared delightful carvings including designs and faces. Heavily carved cartouches, bear the date of construction.

The Hopkins County Courthouse, described with the other buildings of J. Riely Gordon, is a bold and vigorous statement of seats of government. Its overall state of preservation and intrinsic interest as a departure from the standard courthouse layout would appear to mandate its conservation.

*At the northeast and Southeast angles are three-story quarter-circular bays with flat arched windows on the first level and tall rounded windows on the second and third levels which have been enclosed.
8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- X 1800-1899
- 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- X ARCHITECTURE
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

1894-1895

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Land in Hopkins county was first patented during the period of the Texas Republic, and with the creation of the county on May 25, 1846, the town of Tarrant became the county seat. In 1871 following several boundary charges in which the county lost a portion of its area to Lamar County, the county seat was moved to Sulphur Springs.

By 1882, two courthouses had been built in Hopkins County. The third one, erected in 1882 was destroyed on February 11, 1894, by a fire that also burned the jail and several adjacent structures. On March 24, 1894, the County Commissioners' Court selected J. Riely Gordon of San Antonio as the architect for the new courthouse. The Dallas firm of Sonnafeld and Emmins was awarded the contract for construction.

Early in 1895, Austin architect A.O. Watson was hired to inspect the work. He admired the structure, praising it as a "very neat clean design, conventionally arranged and substantial in its general construction," but suggested additional bracing to strengthen the stonework.

The building was accepted on August 22, 1895, at a final cost of $75,000.00. A clock for the tower was petitioned for by some citizens, but the County Commissioners refused to provide funds for it.

The courthouse still serves its original function despite unsympathetic remodeling which detracts from the beauty of the original design. Examples include iron hand railings which cracked the sandstone when clamped to the stone, a wooden shed which covers the southwest entrance, and window enclosures. However, the alterations do not detract from the overall beauty of the design.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Latimer, Truett, "Evaluation of Application for Commemorative Marker, Texas Historical Commission" (Correspondence).
Hopkins County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Vol.7

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ½ acre

UTM REFERENCES

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The Hopkins County Courthouse is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of state highways 313 and 154. These highways border the north and west sides. On the east a jail joins the structure and on the south an unpretentious business building forms a physical boundary.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME/TITLE Willard B. Robinson, Professor of Architecture
S. Elizabeth Sasser, Research Associate
ORGANIZATION Division of Architecture-Texas Tech University
STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 4499
CITY OR TOWN Lubbock
STATE Texas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL ___ STATE X 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Property: Hopkins County Courthouse
State: Jeff.
Working Number: 11.11.76.4534

TECHNICAL
Photos: 2
Maps: 1

BADLY ALTERED, BUT
SUFFICIENTLY INTACT.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
Accept
12-11-76

ARCHAEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER
Inventory
Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF
Accept
3-21-77

BRANCH CHIEF
3-25-77

KEEPER

National Register Write-up: 5-3-77
Send-back
Federal Register Entry: 5-3-77
Re-submit
Entered: APR 11 1977

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7
Hopkins County Courthouse
Sulphur Springs, Texas

Mike Yancey, May 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Northwest oblique
Photo #1 of 2
Hopkins County Courthouse
Sulphur Springs, Texas

Mike Yancey, May 1975
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique
Photo #2

O.E. APR 11 1977
**ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**STATE**  
TEXAS  

**Date Entered**  
APR 11 1977

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Also Notified**

Hon. John G. Tower  
Hon. Lloyd Bentsen  
Hon. Richard C. White  
Hon. Sam B. Hall  
Mr. Francis B. Rocha

Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

880 Mott/ej 4-12-77
**NR Data Sheet**

**NAME** AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Hopkins County Courthouse

**LOCATION:**

- **STREET & NUMBER:** Church and Jefferson Sts.
- **CITY, TOWN:** Sulphur Springs
- **STATE:** Texas
- **VICTOR:** Sulphur Springs
- **COUNTY:** Hopkins
- **COUNTY CODE:** 223
- **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 1st

**OWNER OF PROPERTY:**

- **PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOVT MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER:**
- **ADMINISTRATOR:** Underscoring
- **FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):**

**NRPS REGION:**

- **N. ATLANTIC:**
- **MID ATLANTIC:**
- **SOUTHEAST:**
- **MIDWEST:**
- **ROCKY MOUNTAIN:**
- **WEST:**
- **PACIFIC NORTHWEST:**

**FEATURES:**

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<td>unknown 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>not applicable 7</td>
<td>not applicable 8</td>
<td>not applicable 9</td>
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**CONDITION:**

- **EXCELLENT**
- **GOOD**
- **FAIR**
- **EXTERIOR, INTERIOR, ENVIRONS NOT INTACT**
- **EXTERIOR**
- **INTERIOR**
- **ENVIRONS**
- **RUINS**
- **UNEXPOSED**
- **UNALTERED**
- **MOVED**
- **EXCAVATED**
- **RECONSTRUCTED**

**ACCESS:**

- **Yes-restricted**
- **Yes-unrestricted**
- **No access**
- **Unknown**

**WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?**

- **YES**

**WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?**

- **YES**

**ADAPTIVE USE:**

- **YES**
- **NO**

**FUNCTION(S):**

- **.saved?**
  - **YES**
  - **NO**

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

- **ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC**
- **ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC**
- **AGRICULTURE**
- **ARCHITECTURE**
- **ART**
- **COMMERCIAL**
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
- **CONSERVATION**
- **CONSUMPTION**
- **ECONOMICS**
- **EDUCATION**
- **ENGINEERING**
- **EXPLORATION**
- **FINANCIAL**
- **INDUSTRY**
- **INVENTION**
- **LAW/Gov't/policies**
- **LITERATURE**
- **MILITARY**
- **MUSIC**
- **PHILOSOPHY**
- **POLITICS-GOVERNMENT**
- **POLITICS-SCIENCE**
- **POLITICS-SOCIAL/HEALTH**
- **RELIGION**
- **RECREATION**
- **SETTLEMENT**
- **SOCIOCULTURAL**
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- **URBAN & COMMUN PLAN**
- **VALUE**
- **WELL-BEING**
- **YOUTH**
- **SOUTH**
- **MIDWEST**
- **PACIFIC**
- **NORTHWEST**

Claims

- "first?" **YES** **NO**
- "oldest?" **YES** **NO**
- "only?" **YES** **NO**
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Romanesque

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Romanesque

architect/ builder: J. Chisholm Gordon

landscape/garden designer: artist/artisan: Sennafield + Emmins

builder/ contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1994-5

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) 3

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

At great Pink granite ashlar, blue granite, red sandstone trim; 3 1/2 stories, Greek Cross shape, intersecting gabled and hipped roof sections; central bell tower with open bell section, canenturke and pyramidal roof; bowed porch sections set into corners created by arms of the cross with enclosed 2nd story and balustraded 3rd story deck, window arcades, turrets, gilded doors. Richardsonian Romanesque

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

This distinguished building designed to symbolize its function continues to serve as courthouse for the county after three-quarters of a century.