**1 NAME**

Hudspeth County Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**
Millican Street

**CITY. TOWN**
Sierra Blanca

**STATE**
Texas

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**
16

**COUNTY**
Hudspeth

**CODE**
048

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X DISTRICT</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>X OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>COMMERICAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>PARK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**
Hudspeth County Commissioner's Court

**STREET & NUMBER**
Millican Street

**CITY. TOWN**
Sierra Blanca

**STATE**
Texas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**
Hudspeth County Courthouse

**STREET & NUMBER**
Millican Street

**CITY. TOWN**
Sierra Blanca

**STATE**
Texas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**
Texas State Historical Survey

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**
Texas Historical Commission

**CITY. TOWN**
Austin

**STATE**
Texas
The Hudspeth County Courthouse is a single-story adobe structure completed in 1922 to serve the newly created Hudspeth County. It is tee-shaped in plan, and contains about fourteen thousand square feet of floor space. There is a partial basement and a small mezzanine area.

The eighteen inch thick exterior walls and most of the interior partitions are constructed of native adobe brick. The walls have an exterior of stucco with wire mesh attached to the adobe and an interior of plaster. The adobe bricks are 18" x 24" x 3 1/2" and were made on the job site. Exterior grade beams supporting the walls are of concrete. The floor over the basement is of wood, and the remaining floor area is a concrete slab resting directly on the earth. The roof is supported by wood trusses resting on the load-bearing walls, and is covered by red Spanish tile. Ceiling heights are fifteen foot.

The symmetrical facade is distinguished by its arcaded side bays flanking a central arched entranceway vestibule. There is little detail on the side bays, while the entrance has decorative ornamentation of the Classical Revival style. An arched hood on consoles with a cartouche under the arch marks the entrance. Consoles support the cornice to either side of the central parapet. A low hipped roof reinforces the Classical Revival detailing.

Much of the present use of the courthouse follows the original plan. The District Court and County and District Clerk's offices are in the original form and condition. The concrete vaults, public offices, and arrangement of outside doors and corridors is unchanged. The Assembly Room has been partitioned into smaller offices. The original County Courtroom is now in use as a public library. A small jail is in use in the northeast corner of the building at the top of the stairs leading from the original jury room which is now occupied by the Sheriff of Hudspeth County.

There is some structural distress in the interior adobe walls which intersect the outside front wall of the building. The front wall of the Courthouse has settled differentially about 1 1/2 inches in the most severe location. The break in the most severe case is about 3/4 inch.
Similar cracks are exposed in the same walls above the ceilings. The soil bearing capability is marginal with respect to the loads of the bearing walls. Excessive water in the soil due to irrigation has reduced this capability. The quality of the bricks is moderate (319 pounds/square inch), while it would not comply with present-day building codes (about 350 pounds/square inch), its 55-year service indicates that satisfactory performance has been achieved with the exception of the present cracking. The general condition of the courthouse is good, and reflects adequate maintenance.
**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hudspeth County Courthouse is important in Texas as the only surviving adobe courthouse in the state that has been in continual use from the date of construction to the present time. The building is believed to be the largest adobe structure in the state, as well.

Adobe brick was formerly an important indigenous construction material in the southwestern United States. Its present day use, however, is limited to a few private structures. Almost certainly, no public buildings have been constructed of this material for many years, and Hudspeth County Courthouse may represent one of the best examples of adobe construction in public buildings which are still in everyday use.

The 18-inch wall thickness provides good thermal and acoustical insulation. High ceilings are typical of buildings designed for hot summer weather without modern air conditioning.

The architect, Bradford Hardie of El Paso, also designed a two-story adobe store and office building during the same period on Sierra Blanca's main street. Hardie's architectural efforts, however, were not limited to Sierra Blanca as he also designed several El Paso schools, homes, and apartment buildings. Later, Hardie was company architect for El Paso Natural Gas Company until his retirement in 1960.
### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY</th>
<th>one acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### UTM REFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1,3</td>
<td>46,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3,4</td>
<td>49,900,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

---

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME/TITLE**

Joe R. Williams, Project Director

Mike D. Yancey, Architectural Consultant

**ORGANIZATION**

Texas Historical Commission

**STREET & NUMBER**

P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

**CITY OR TOWN**

Austin

**STATE**

Texas

**78711**

**DATE**

3/27/75

**TELEPHONE**

512-475-3094

---

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>LOCAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

State Historic Preservation Officer

**DATE**

March 28, 1975

---

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**DATE**

May 21, 1975

**ATTEST:**

**DATE**

5/20/75

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Hudspeth County Courthouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Number</td>
<td>41.75.552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>4.2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>W.R. Cole 4/22/75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural Historian</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archeologist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Unit Chief</td>
<td>Accept Cole 5.12.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Chief</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Register Write-up</td>
<td>7-1-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Register Entry</td>
<td>7-1-75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC Hudspeth County Courthouse

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Sierra Blanca VICINITY OF Hudspeth
COUNTY
STATE Texas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT Nancy Johnson
DATE OF PHOTO
NEGATIVE FILED AT Sierra Blanca 1974

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
PHOTO NO
South West Oblique, Front Facade 1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC Hudspeth County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Sierra Blanca
VICINITY OF
COUNTY Hudspeth
STATE Texas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT Nancy Johnson
DATE OF PHOTO 1974
NEGATIVE FILED AT Sierra Blanca

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Interior Wall showing structural distress

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#2 87 2

#2082
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1. NAME
HISTORIC Hudspeth County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2. LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Sierra Blanca
VICINITY OF
COUNTY Hudspeth
STATE Texas

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE USGS 6.5' Series, Sierra Blanca Quadrangle no. 3105-124
SCALE 1:24000
DATE 1964

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES 13/466000/3449390

INT: 2986-75
# ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

## STATE: Texas

**Date Entered:** May 21, 1975

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Post Sanitarium</td>
<td>Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzales County Jail</td>
<td>Garza County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudspeth County Courthouse</td>
<td>Sierra Blanca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Also Notified**

Hon. John G. Tower  
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen  
Hon. Omar Burleson  
Hon. Abraham Kazan, Jr.  
Hon. Richard G. White  
Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Trustt Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas State Historical Survey Committee  
Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

PR MMott/row 5/22/75
NR Data Sheet

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: HUDSPETH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

LOCATION:
- STREET & NUMBER: Millican Street
- CITY, TOWN: Sierra Blanca
- STATE: TX
- COUNTY: Hudspeth
- VICINITY OF: Sierra Blanca
- STATE: TX
- COUNTY CODE: 229

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)
- PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)
- N. ATLANTIC
- MID ATLANTIC
- SOUTHEAST
- MIDWEST
- SOUTHWEST
- ROCKY MOUNTAIN
- WEST
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERIOR</th>
<th>EXTERIOR</th>
<th>ENVIRONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substantially intact-1</td>
<td>Substantially intact-2</td>
<td>Substantially intact-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unknown - 4</td>
<td>unknown - 5</td>
<td>unknown - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not applicable - 7</td>
<td>not applicable - 8</td>
<td>not applicable - 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONDITION:
- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED
- Unexcavated
- Original Site
- ALTERED
- Reconstructed
- Unknown

ACCESS:
- Yes-restricted
- Yes-unrestricted
- No access
- Unknown

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?
- YES

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?
- NO

ADAPTIVE USE:
- YES

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
- Courthouse

SIGNIFICANCE:

Claims
- First? YES
- Oldest? YES
- Only? YES

SAVE YES

DATE: 10-20-76
Reviewer: Hesch
INITIALS: Hesch
NR: DOE 5/21/75

Surviving odds (counter) in 2001: 1,815,000
continued operations
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: MISSION ELEMENTS
architect/builder: BRADFORD HARDIE
landscape/garden designer: 
interior decorator: 
artist/artisan: 
builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal
(label role & appropriate date)

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1922
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)
one acre

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) ADOBE BRICK, STUCCOED; 1 STORY, T- SHAPED, HIP ROOF; CENTER ENTRANCE ARTICULATED BY GABLE BY GABED HOOD OVER BLIND CURVED FANLIGHT, AND ARCHED CONSOLED HOOD, WINDOWS SET IN RECESS

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) THE ONLY ADOBE COURTHOUSE IN THE STATE IN CONTINUOUS USE AT THE PRESENT TIME.
One of best examples of large-scale adobe construction used in public buildings in state, oldest surviving adobe courthouse in continuous use.
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Mission Elements

ARCHITECT/M-Builder: Bradford Hardie
Landscape/garden designer: -
Interior decorator: -
Engineer: -
Artist/artisan: -
Builder/contractor: -

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal
(label role & appropriate date)
events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1922

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOVT MUNICIPAL COUNTY

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) one acre

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The only adobe courthouse in the state in continuous use at the present time.

One of best examples of large-scale adobe construction used in public buildings in Texas, oldest surviving adobe courthouse in continuous use.
### FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

#### 1. TYPE OF ACTION
- Preapplication [x] Application [ ] Notification of Intent (Opt) [ ] Report of Federal Action

#### 2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION IDENTIFIER
- a. Number: 00221-00
- b. Date: 1976 3 25

#### 3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER
- a. Number: N/A
- b. Date: 1976 4 8

#### 4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT
- a. Applicant Name: State Historical Preservation Officer
- b. Organization Unit: Texas Historical Commission
- c. Address: P. O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas
- d. City: Austin
- e. County: Travis
- f. ZIP Code: 78711
- g. Contact Person: Truett Latimer
- h. Telephone No.: (512) 475-3094

#### 5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.
- 74-6016195

#### 6. PRO-GRAM
- a. Number: 15-904
- b. Title: Historic Preservation

#### 7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT
- Hudspeth County Courthouse, Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth County, Texas; Development Project - Phase I. Work to include structural stabilization; repair of roofs, gutters, plasterwork, and removal of existing sidewalk, placement of new sidewalks. Continued use as county courthouse. Source of matching money: county funds.

#### 8. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING
- 12,000,000

#### 9. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of Cities, Counties, States, etc.)
- Texas

#### 10. PROPOSED FUNDING
- a. Federal: $25,000
- b. Applicant: 25,000
- c. State: 0.00
- d. Local: 0.00
- e. Other: 0.00
- f. Total: $50,000

#### 11. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:
- a. Applicant: statewide
- b. Project: 16

#### 12. TYPE OF APPLICATION
- a. New
- b. Renewal
- c. Continuation
- d. Amendment
- e. Revision
- f. Other (Specify): C-Loan
- g. Increase Duration
- h. Decrease Duration
- i. Cancellation

#### 13. FUNDING
- 12,000,000

#### 14. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY
- 48-76-00221-00

#### 15. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
- 1977 3 28

#### 16. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
- Grants Administration Div., National Park Service

#### 17. FEDERAL GRANT RECEIVED YEAR
- 1977

#### 18. FEDERAL GRANT RECEIVED DATE
- 3 28

#### 19. FEDERAL GRANT DEFINITION
- 48-76-00221-00

#### 20. REMARKS ADDED
- No response attached

#### 21. REMARKS ADDED
- No response attached

#### 22. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE
- a. Typed Name and Title: Truett Latimer, State Historic Preservation Officer
- b. Date Signed: 1977 3 23

#### 23. APPLICANT
- Department of the Interior
- National Park Service

#### 24. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT
- Grants Administration Div.

#### 25. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION
- 48-76-00221-00

#### 26. ADDRESS
- 18th & C Streets NW., Washington, D.C. 20240

#### 27. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST
- OAHP, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240

#### 28. FEDERAL AGENCY AWARDED
- Department of the Interior
- OAHP

#### 29. ACTION TAKEN
- a. Awarded: [ ]
- b. Rejected: [ ]
- c. Returned for Amendment: [ ]
- d. Deferred: [ ]
- e. Withdrawn: [ ]

#### 30. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION
- A-95 Application

#### 31. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION
- a. Number: N/A
- b. Date: 1976 4 8

#### 32. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION
- a. Number: N/A
- b. Date: 1976 4 8