**NAME**

Historic Williamson County Courthouse Historical District

**LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**

bounded by Austin, 7th St., Main, & 9th St.

**CITY, TOWN**

Georgetown

**STATE**

Texas

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Williamson County Courthouse, 700 block, Austin Avenue

**LOCATION OF EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

Historic Sites Inventory

**DATE**

1970

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

Texas Historical Commission

**CITY, TOWN**

Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin

**DATE ENTERED**

JUL 26 1977

**RECEIVED**

FEB 11 1977
The Williamson County Courthouse Historic District in Georgetown, Texas, is an unspoiled, coherent and intact area composed primarily of two-story limestone structures of Victorian commercial design. These encircle the Courthouse which is located in the center of the District. Although the buildings range in date and style from those of the first permanent constructions to present-day restylings and replacements, the majority may be considered originals. The majority of structures in the District are of the Victorian commercial period and style, dating from 1870 to 1902. The non-Victorian structures include stylistic examples of Richardsonian Romanesque (1901), Classical Revival (1910), Beaux Arts (1920), and Art Deco. The buildings are well designed, harmoniously scaled and well proportioned in relation to each other. The variety and contrast of styles is such that each of the four blocks facing the Square has buildings which give each side a character of its own, although within the blocks and from one block to another, there are enough features in common to afford a certain pleasing coherence.

The predominant structural material is native limestone, worked in a number of ways and completely at home in this environment. Cast iron store fronts and supporting piers provide both structural and decorative functions. Wood or brick are also used on occasion. The most frequently used decorative devices are pressed tin cornices, many of them bracketed. Three of the corner structures have cast iron stairways on the exterior leading to the second floor. A corner wooden bay window on the impressive Masonic Temple (11) rises above the parapet and a corner cupola adorns the M. B. Lockett Building (3). Another outstanding decorative detail is the Romanesque arcade on the main facade of the P. H. Dimmit & Co. Building (19).

Set in the center of the square and surrounded by spacious grounds, the Williamson County Courthouse is the focal point of the district. The raised three-story building of beige brick follows the Classical Revival style. On each side of the rectangular building, a projecting central pavilion displays four Ionic columns supported by a base of rusticated stone with segmental arches dominating the structure is a central dome topped by a figure of Justice. By reason of the square's topographical elevation, the building is conspicuously visible from Interstate 35, the principal north–south freeway of Central Texas, and from the east-west State Highway 29.
Property owners and addresses of buildings indicated on map and in historic district, Georgetown:

1. The County of Williamson, Georgetown, Tx 78626
2. The County of Williamson, Georgetown, Tx 78626
3. Mr. Edward L. Evans, 1304 E. 15th St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
4. Mr. Tim Wright, 449 Oakcrest Lane, Georgetown, Tx 78626
5. Mr. Harry Gold, 204 East 2nd St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
6. The City of Georgetown, 103 West 7th St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
7. The City of Georgetown, 103 West 7th St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
8. Mr. J. T. Atkin, 1108 Church St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
9. San Gabriel Masonic Lodge, Georgetown, Tx 78626
10. Mr. Edward P. Morrow, 106 East 6th, Georgetown, Tx 78626
11. Mr. J. T. Atkin, 1108 Church St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
12. Mrs. A. S. Evans, 901 Country Club Rd., Georgetown, Tx 78626
13. Miss Donna Scarbrough, 1204 East 13th, Georgetown, Tx 78626
14. Linda Scarbrough, 32 Gramercy Park South, 3-B, New York, N.Y. 10003
15. Mr. James A. Rehler, 1014 County Club Rd., Georgetown, Tx 78626
16. Mr. A. S. Evans, 901 Country Club Rd., Georgetown, Tx 78626
17. Mrs. Dimmitt Hughes, c/o Mr. Phillip Joseph, Box 1687, Austin, Tx 78767
18. Mrs. D. G. Douglas, 611 North 5th St., #28, Temple, Tx
19. Mrs. Henry Burkhart, 1513 Ash, Georgetown, Tx 78626
20. Mr. Carl Keys, 1603 Main, Georgetown, Tx 78626
21. Mr. Joe B. McMaster, 114 West 8th St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
22. Mr. James Manning, 116 West 8th St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
23. Mr. I. J. McCook, Jr., 118 West 8th St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
24. Mr. Jack N. Webernick, 120 West 8th St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
25. Mr. E. E. Grogren, 1905 South Main, Georgetown, Tx 78626
26. Dr. R. W. Gamble, 824 Austin Avenue, Georgetown, Tx 78626
27. Milton L. Bankston and Daniel Herd, Box 2263, Austin, Tx 78767
29. Mr. Claud Eads, 1805 Austin Avenue, Georgetown, Tx 78626
30. Mr. Carl Doering, Box 466, Georgetown, Tx 78626 (two buildings)
31. Dr. Alexander Sacton, 2525 Spring Lane, Austin, Tx 78703
32. Mr. A. W. Hoyt, 1605 Gabriel View, Georgetown, Tx 78626
33. Mr. Bill Crenshaw, 211 West 8th St., Georgetown, Tx 78626
32. (cont'd) Mr. J. W. Lackey, Box 17 Georgetown, Tx 78626
   Mr. Paul I. Newson, Box 371, Georgetown, Tx 78626
   Mrs. Ben Neuman, 1801 Lavaca, Austin, Tx 78701

33. Mrs. Ben Neuman, 1801 Lavaca, Austin, Tx 78701

34. County of Williamson, Georgetown, Tx 78626

35. Otis Callis and Robert Morris, c/o Robert Morris, Box 915, Austin, Tx 78766

36. Mr. Carl Doering, Box 466, Georgetown, Tx 78626

37. Mr. Tom Moore, 505 North Alamo Street, Rockwall, Tx

38. Ms. Gladys Bayer, Box 466, Jarrell, Tx

    Mr. Carl Doering, Box 466, Georgetown, Tx 78626
Another focal building in the area is the Williamson County Jail. Although physically separated from the district boundaries by three blocks, the jail is a vital component of the county complex. Built in 1888, the jail is an expression of the late 19th century architectural tradition of the local government and remains an early link with the county history. The building is a two-story, rusticated stone building with an irregular massing of rectangular blocks. The ornamentation is restricted to quoins, stilted arched lintels and a crenellated parapet. Across the west (main) facade is a one-story, frame gallery with Victorian trim.

The structures surrounding the courthouse typically form a block of contiguous commercial buildings on each side of the square. Originally most of the buildings were commercial; the Masonic Lodge has been housed on the Square since it was organized in 1851; and the U.S. Post Office had several locations on the Square beginning in 1848 and continuing until 1931 when a new Federal Building was erected one-half block away. In 1976, the buildings remain primarily commercial. The exceptions include the Courthouse and one former bank building now owned by Williamson County and housing county offices; the Masonic Temple, built in 1900 (in which the first floor housed the Post Office from 1900 to 1931), began at that time leasing the downstairs for commercial use, retaining the upstairs for San Gabriel Masonic Lodge No. 89—an arrangement which continues today; the Georgetown Public Library, owned by the City of Georgetown; the City Hall, also owned by the City.

The buildings are structurally sound and all are generally in good to excellent condition. At least eight of them have undergone major restoration in recent years. Half a dozen owners of other buildings are planning or are interested in similar projects. The upper story sections of all the buildings except two have remained essentially unaltered, but on eight buildings, facings have been applied to areas of the lower (street level) facades. Since the second story retains its original character, the Victorian theme is maintained. In 1966, over protests of many local citizens, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County ordered removed the balusters which encircled the dome of the Courthouse and four large pediments above the entrances. A plain brick facing was substituted. The Court promised that the renovation would be carried out in such a
way as to permit restoration at some future date. Pressure is now mounting for this move.

Only two structures which were considered originals have been removed from the District and replaced with contemporary buildings. These are the only modern intrusions. Both are located at corners which intersect the Square from a diagonal position and do not disturb the harmonious line of contiguous original buildings on the four sides of the Square. Only one of these buildings, the Georgetown Public Library (9) at the northeast corner of the Square, is located within the district boundaries. The library is a 1-story modern brick structure and although the design has altered the harmony of the late 19th and early 20th century buildings around the square, the size of the building maintains the district's sense of scale. The building fronts vary from one to two stories and contrast with one another in their variety of ornamentation. Corner structures enclose each block effectively, most of them being conspicuously taller than the other intervening fronts and presenting features of architectural interest.

Workmanship in the District is excellent. At early dates, Georgetown was fortunate to have skilled stone masons, carpenters, and craftsmen, especially among Swedish and German immigrant settlers to this community. In 1881, George and Thomas Irvine established Irvine Brothers Lumber Company in Georgetown, and a number of their buildings and residences still remain in good condition over town. In 1890, C. S. Belford purchased the company and soon had an extensive operation in the contracting and lumber business, which dominated the local building for more than half a century. C. S. Belford was known as one of the most reliable firms of its kind in using standard but varied architectural designs which were available at that time. With his staff of skilled workmen, he produced sturdy, soundly built structures—both commercial and residential—buildings which were individualized and which showed special attention to quality materials and fine detailing. (An example of his work is the attractive Masonic Building (11) at 701 Main St. built in 1900). Tom Hutte, a man reputed to be one of the best stone and brick masons in this section, was employed by Belford Lumber Company for many years.
The outstanding representations of Victorian commercial and other architectural styles, the excellent quality of workmanship and materials, the overall arrangement of buildings make the Williamson County Courthouse Historic District a distinctive one.

INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT:

1. Williamson County Courthouse, Public Square

   1911. The dominant feature of the Williamson County Courthouse Historic District is appropriately the Courthouse. Standing in the midst of the square, the three-story brick building over basement is a rectangular building with projecting, central Classical porticos at each facade. Crowning the structure is a dome with inset clocks on four sides and topped by a figure of Justice. A balustrade above the cornice was removed in recent years and replaced with a solid parapet.

2. Williamson County Jail, northwest corner of 4th and Main

   1888. Serving both as the jail and jailers' quarters is a two-story rusticated limestone building with asymmetrical composition. The main (east) facade has a one-story gallery with Victorian trim and the building is embellished by quoins and a crenellated parapet.

3. M. B. Lockett Building, 119 W. 7th St.

   1896. A two-story, four-bay limestone building with red brick main facade. Cast iron columns support the main floor. The building has an angled corner with an oriel corbeled out from the wall of the second floor. A pressed tin parapet displays the date "1896" and "M. B. Lockett."
4. 117 W. 7th St.

A one-story Victorian commercial limestone building with wide pressed tin cornice.

5. H. C. Craig Building, 115 W. 7th St.

A two-story, six-bay limestone building with pressed metal ornamentation on the second floor and a metal cornice. Coupled pilasters divide the second floor windows and the parapet displays the original owner's name, "H. C. Craig."

6. Gold's Department Store, 105 W. 7th

An old two-story and an old one-story building that were altered in the late 1950's or early 1960's as a department store.

7. 103 W. 7th

A one-story stuccoed brick building.

8. 101 7th St.

A two-story limestone Victorian commercial building, whose main facade has been stuccoed and the windows on the front and side have been enclosed.

9. Georgetown Public Library, 609 Main (corner of Main & 7th)

A one-story modern brick building with a segmental arched arcade across the main facade.

10. 103-107 W. 7th

The western part of the building (103 & 105) is a one-story Victorian commercial limestone building with segmental arched openings. There are two principal double doors flanked by windows on each side with transoms above each of the openings. 107 is a brick addition matched to conform with the original scale and design of the old building.
11. Masonic Temple, 701 Main

1900. One of the most attractive buildings on the square is the Masonic Building, a two-story, rectangular limestone building with a narrow main (west) facade, a chamfered corner displaying an oriel and a side containing alternate entrances. The north (side) elevation is broken into three bays, focusing on the parapeted central portion which contains three large round arched double doors on the first floor and five segmentally arched windows on the second floor.

12. 703-705 Main

A one-story limestone building with 2 double doors and wide display windows for the two businesses.

13. 707-709 Main

Two brick, two-story, three-bay Victorian commercial buildings with quoins and limestone pedimented architraves over the windows. 707 Main has a molded brick cornice and 709 has a pressed tin cornice.

14. Old Shafer Saddle Shop, 711 Main

1870. A two-story limestone structure, located on the site of an 1848 cabin which served as the first courthouse.

15. Evans Building, 713 Main

1902. A two-story limestone building divided into three bays by pilasters of rusticated ashlar blocks. On the 2nd floor each bay contains two flat arched windows joined visually by a round arch. A pedimented parapet displays the name "Evans" over the central bay.

16. 715 Main

1885. A one-story, Victorian commercial, limestone building with pressed tin parapet displaying the date "1885," in the central pediment.
17. Dimmitt Building, 719 Main

ca. 1900. A two-story, six-bay limestone, Victorian commercial structure with cast iron front and an overhanging pressed metal cornice. A parapet over the chamfered corner entrance displays the name "Dimmitt Building." The south facade has eight-bays of rusticated limestone with smooth limestone architraves over the second floor windows.

The building to the rear of the Dimmitt Building is a modern, two-story brick building with stucco on the main facade.

18. P. H. Dimmitt Building, 112-114 E. 8th

A two-story rusticated limestone building with three arched openings on the first floor and six flat arched windows on the second floor. A central parapet displays the name "P. H. Dimmitt."

19. P. H. Dimmitt & Co. (Old Dimmitt Hotel), 801 Main

1901. A one-story rusticated limestone building with a stone parapet revealing the name "P. H. Dimmitt & Co., 1901." The main facade is recessed behind the first floor Romanesque arches, creating an open arcade across the front.

The remainder of the 800 block of Main (east side) maintains the scale of the district in its one and two-story commercial buildings, but they are generally not of the design quality as those stores facing the square. The exception to this is 813 Main, a one-story frame Victorian commercial building with a pressed tin cornice. At the corner of the block is a one-story Victorian cottage at 101 E. 9th.

20. Old City Hall and Fire Station, NW corner of 9th and Main

A two-story, ell-shaped rusticated limestone building with main facades on both Main St. and 9th St. The Main St. portion contains the fire station and the first floor was altered in 1971 to accommodate the fire trucks. The building material is an unsympathetic yellow brick. But the second floor retains the three bays of coupled windows,
each group connected by galvanized iron architraves. The building is crowned by an iron cornice. The 9th St. portion, now housing the Chamber of Commerce, contains flat arched openings and is also crowned by a pressed tin cornice.

A one-story modern yellow brick building was built adjacent to the fire station matching the altered first floor of that building. However, it is incompatible with the design of the historic buildings.

The building at 812 Main is a simple, one-story Victorian commercial building with a dentilled cornice, while the building at 810 is a simple one-story brick building with no decoration.

21. 102 W. 8th St.

1884. A two-story, three-bay, limestone Victorian commercial building with a pedimented pressed tin cornice on the main facade. The first floor has been altered with a brick enclosure, but the second floor contains the original round arched windows framed by molding. The east (side) facade of rusticated limestone contains five round openings and three doors on the first floor and five round arched four-over-four light windows on the second floor.

22. 104-106 W. 8th St.

A two-story rusticated Victorian commercial building with six flat arched windows across the second floor. An overhanging pressed metal cornice crowns the structure.

23. 108-112 W. 8th St.

A series of four one-story Victorian commercial buildings. The structures at 108 and 110 have been altered on the main facade. 112 and 114 are frame buildings with a pressed tin cornice. The building at 114 has recently been brick-faced.
24. 116 W. 8th St.

A two-story, three-bay stuccoed limestone building with quoins and dentilled cornice. The second floor contains the original round arched Victorian windows.

25. 118 W. 8th St.

A two-story, cut limestone structure with pressed tin cornice. The stilted windows, enclosed in the 1970 photograph, have been restored recently, but the first floor has been altered with brick veneer.

26. 120 W. 8th St.

A two-story rusticated limestone building with a pressed tin cornice. The first floor has been altered since the 1970 photograph with a brick veneer facade. However, the second floor contains the original windows, grouped in two bays, each containing triple windows with smooth limestone architraves.

Immediately behind this building on the east side of Austin is a one-story, nondescript commercial building.

27. Gas Station, Northeast corner of Austin and W. 9th

A small corner gas station, built ca. 1920's or 1930's, that has been converted into a grocery store. The angled driveway is sheltered by a steeply pitched tile roof and supported on concrete piers.

Adjacent to the gas station on W. 9th St. is a one-story warehouse intrusion.

28. 812-824 Austin

On the west side of Austin St. beginning at 9th St. there is a series of four one-story Victorian commercial buildings, the two corner buildings are stuccoed masonry with pressed tin cornices, while the other two are brick buildings.
29. Palace Theatre

ca. 1930's. A two-story, three-bay stuccoed building with Art Deco motifs. The outer bays of the second floor contain a window and are ornamented at the roof level by dentils. The smooth wall surface is broken in the center bay by the sawtooth pattern which forms the background for the vertical marquee displaying the theatre's name. A stepped parapet crowns the central bay.

30. 802 Austin St.

Immediately north of the Palace Theatre is a two-story rusticated limestone building embellished by dentils, a frieze with circular motifs, and a bracketed cornice. The corner building at 802 Austin is a two-story stuccoed stone building, whose entablature matches that of the adjacent building. The distinctive feature of this corner structure is the pronounced truncated hipped roof.

31. 212-224 W. 8th St.

A series of one-story masonry buildings divided by a narrow alley. 212 is the earliest structure, a one-story limestone building with triangular dentils. The remainder of the structures are early 20th century red brick commercial buildings.

At the corner of Rock and 9th St. are two one-story warehouse intrusions at 215 and 217 9th St.

32. 215-223 W. 8th St.

A series of one-story commercial buildings. 215 and 217 are Victorian commercial stuccoed brick structures with dentilled cornices, but altered facades. Both originally had three round arched openings and both have been enclosed. 219 W. 8th is a one-story rusticated limestone structure with three arched double doors with transoms. 223 W. 8th is a one-story frame building with double door and transom, flanked by two windows.
33. 718 Austin St.

A two-story limestone building with false front on main facade. The openings on both floors of the south (side) facade have been enclosed.

34. Farmers State Bank, 716 Austin St.

1920. A two-story, concrete block faced, Beaux Arts building. Classical details such as the two fluted Corinthian columns in antis dominating the central mass, the sculptural detail and the elaborate pediment embellish the building.

35. 714 Austin St.

A two-story, three-bay rusticated limestone building with a pressed tin cornice. Cast iron columns are still visible as the first floor supports and the second floor contains three segmental arched windows.

36. 712 Austin St.

A two-story, three-bay Victorian commercial building, faced with brick and crowned by a pressed tin cornice.

37. Mileham Building, 708-710 Austin St.

A two-story, seven-bay Victorian commercial building with elaborate pressed metal embellishment. Coupled columns divide the window openings and a highly ornamented entablature crowns the building. The bracketed cornice has a wide overhang and the parapet displays the name of the building.

38. 706 Austin St.

A two-story, four-bay limestone Victorian commercial building that is faced with brick on the main facade. Pressed tin pilasters divide the four 2nd floor windows, now enclosed. The building is crowned by a pressed tin cornice.
29. 704 Austin St.

A two-story, five-bay limestone building with brick facing on the main facade. Segmental arched windows, now enclosed, define the second floor, while a pressed tin cornice tops the structure.

40. 702 Austin

One-story stuccoed brick building with a stepped parapet.

The last buildings in the district are located at the southeast corner of 7th St. and Rock. Both are considered intrusions. 212 7th St. is a one-story stuccoed concrete tile building, while 707 Rock St. is a one-story concrete tile building with stone veneer front and wood-shingled roof.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD
- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-1923

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1870-1920

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The public square formed the nucleus of the 19th century Texas county seat with the courthouse as the focal point of the city. The most frequently used plan in Texas was a block reserved within a grid of streets. The Williamson County Courthouse Historic District represents an excellent example of this form, for its plan remains unaltered and most of the 19th century commercial structures, built to face all sides of the square, remain intact. Georgetown's square provided not only a site for county government activity, but also fulfilled the economic and social needs of the small community. Containing continuous blocks of one and two-story, 19th century and early 20th century commercial buildings, the Georgetown district is one of the most complete examples of the 19th century public square in Texas.

The architectural and historical development of the community have been interrelated and are reflected in the Williamson County Courthouse Historic District. Williamson County and the City of Georgetown were organized simultaneously in 1848. The townsite chosen was located in an undeveloped frontier section, and the first town lots in the new village were sold on July 4, 1848. By the end of the year, a handful of log buildings had been put up near the "common," as the Square was then called. The first Courthouse was a tiny, one-room log house erected in late 1848 or early 1849 just east of the Square. Prior to that time, meetings of the County Court and Grand Jury were held under a large live oak tree a block south of the Common. The second Courthouse (1851-1857) was a rented frame residence just off the Square, and the third was the two-story rubble limestone building with hipped roof located on the Square. It was used 1857 to 1877. Joseph S. Williams received $5 for his plans for the Courthouse, but he may not have been an architect, for the building developed problem after problem and repairs were necessary even before it was completed. In 1873, four iron rods were installed the full length of the structure "so as to make the same safe if possible." Construction
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Deed Records of Williamson County, Williamson County Courthouse, Georgetown, Texas.
- Inventory Files for Georgetown, Texas. National Register Department, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas, 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 14 626780 3390270
B 14 626860 3397710

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northern boundary of the Williamson County Courthouse Historic District begins at the intersection of 7th St. and Rock and follows 7th St. east for one block. At Austin St. the line proceeds north for a half block, turns east to include all the buildings in the south half of block 38 and continues across Main to include the south-

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>

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
J. R. Williams, Project Director; Marie D. Landon, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
Texas Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN
Austin

STATE
Texas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL X

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

DATE 12/30/76

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
of business buildings apparently followed patterns similar to the early Courthouses, for two buildings dated 1870 are the earliest of the permanent buildings now surviving.

The County Court in 1877 employed well-known architects Preston and Ruffini to draw up new plans for the fourth Courthouse. A handsome Victorian one was erected by John Didelot, contractor, at a cost of $27,400. The present Courthouse was designed by C. H. Page and Brother of Austin and built by W. C. Whitney of Beaumont, contractor. It was built in 1910 and cost $120,000. It was also during this period of the last two Courthouses that most of the other structures in the Williamson County Courthouse Historical District were erected, between 1877 and 1910. No other architects are known to have been employed on the original buildings in the District. Architects have been employed in recent years for the two contemporary buildings and also in several of the renovation and restoration projects. Skilled workmen were available to put up the two plain, rubble limestone stores in 1870. After 1881, Georgetown had reliable contractors for such work. Stone was hauled from quarries a short distance west of town. Rail facilities became available to the community in 1878 when a link line tied Georgetown to main rail lines and then a greater variety of building and decorative materials permitted more elaborate construction.

The district has important architectural significance for both the state and local community. The majority of the buildings reflect the Victorian commercial style (1870-1902), while several others reflect later stylistic motifs—Richardsonian Romanesque, Classical Revival, Beaux Arts and Art Deco. The jail, located at 4th and Rock St., is also a good example of a typical late 19th century jail design displaying battlements which create the impression of a fortress.

Historically, the district is significant. It has contained the seat of county government since 1848. Here officials met the problems of the frontier, dealt with financing a fledgling county, faced difficulties resulting from the Civil War and Reconstruction, and made decisions required by the era of cattle drives. The major cattle trail of Texas, leading to the well-known Chisholm Trail, went along present
Austin Avenue in the heart of the district. The county felt the impact of the new frontier when railroads came to the state and county, and the officials of the county took action to stem the tide of violence during the 1870's and 1880's.

Soon after the Civil War, "First Monday" was inaugurated in Georgetown, an event which continued until well past the turn of the century. This was a gathering of cattlemen and others from over Williamson and adjoining counties to sell and trade cattle and other commodities, to bid on "estrays," and to celebrate a festive day in town. The gathering centered around the Courthouse. Long, continuous lines of vehicles and horses were hitched to the posts around the Courthouse and across the street in front of the stores. The original curbstones and a number of hitching rings fastened to them remain today in the four blocks facing the Square. Some years, for "First Monday," long picnic tables were set up on the Courthouse lawn where the public could enjoy its own picnic meals or purchase prepared food to eat.

Besides playing its traditional role as the center of county government, the Courthouse has figured in other events of importance to the area, state, and nation. Two from the early twentieth century bear special note. Dan Moody, who became Governor of Texas, began his political career here as the county's youngest County Attorney. He then progressed to the office of District Attorney and in that position led the prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan in several flogging cases. These trials, held in the Courthouse, brought landmark decisions which not only broke the power of the Klan, but catapulted Moody rapidly to the offices of Attorney General of Texas and then to the governorship. About the same time, a Georgetown woman named Jessie Daniel Ames was gaining national recognition for her efforts for the rights of children and women, for prison reform, and as a founder of the Texas League of Women Voters. When women received the right to vote, only two weeks were allowed for them to register in Williamson County. Mrs. Ames spearheaded a drive to get them registered within that time. She astounded people around the Courthouse and the public by leading 3,300 women from this rural county who marched to the Courthouse to register. They came "by wagon, hack, and on foot."
Other prominent personages had associations with the town square. Sam Houston, as President of the Republic of Texas, later as Governor of the State, visited several friends with offices or businesses on the Square, and his son-in-law, Captain J. C. S. Morrow, ran a large mercantile business on the north side of the Courthouse. Judge Thomas P. Hughes whose law office faced the Square was one of three delegates in Texas' Secession Convention to vote against secession. One of Sam Houston's sons read law in Judge Hughes' office; another Houston son practiced medicine here for about a year. At least eleven merchants and professional men from the square helped build Georgetown College in 1870 and later lent their influence to persuade Texas Methodists to establish their state university (now Southwestern University) here. Five of these same merchants founded the Georgetown Railroad Company in 1878 and built a link line to join the town with major rail lines. Another attorney who practiced law on the square became an early Dean of the School of Law at the University of Texas (Austin). An influential cattleman, Captain John Sparks, was a bank partner of Moses E. Steele in one of the fine old buildings still standing in this district. Sparks also founded the famed Winecup Ranch in Nevada and was elected to two terms as Governor of Nevada. In this century, a young Congressman from Georgetown's Tenth Congressional District, Lyndon Baines Johnson, made periodic visits around the square and especially enjoyed the soda fountain in the P. H. Dimmitt Building there. The Brown and Root brothers did their first construction business for Williamson County after many roads and bridges were destroyed during the September 1921 flood, and they often visited in Burkhart's Newsstand and Confectionary south of the Courthouse. They subsequently founded the internationally-known Brown & Root, Inc. Two local attorneys and a businessman from the town square met at Burkhart's to form a new company, which eventually became Texaco, Inc.

Georgetown had its share of visits from infamous outlaws of the nineteenth century. John Wesley Hardin's impending arrival was always a signal for the local banker northwest of the Courthouse to have his gun ready and to take up a watchful position in the bank. Hardin once threatened to demolish the offices of the local newspaper and print shop--the Williamson County Sun, established in 1877 and still in publication. This newspaper has been located in several buildings on the
Square, as it is today, and at one time was housed in the top floor of the Courthouse. Members of Sam Bass' gang visited the Square to get a boot mended, possibly at Shaffer's Saddlery east of the Courthouse, a week before the shootout in nearby Round Rock ended Bass' life. Members of the Olive cattle family were in and out of the Courthouse frequently between 1866 and 1886 and were said to have dominated the court dockets. A family feud ended in a double shooting outside the Masonic Temple.

Businesses around the Square have included mercantile, grocery, hardware, drug, confectionary and tobacco shops, banks, hotels, funeral parlors, furniture stores, offices of newspapers, doctors and lawyers. Three theaters have been operated in the District, and two halls on the second floors of business houses were used for theatrical traveling productions, social gatherings and church services. The Courthouse was the scene of other church services and of gala balls. The town's first public library had its modest beginning in the offices of the Williamson County Sun.

The list is far from complete, but represents the rich heritage of events and people interrelated with the section of Georgetown known as the Town Square Historical District.

By Clara S. Scarbrough
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM NUMBER</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Scarbrough, Clara Stearns, Personal Files. Georgetown.
west quarter of block 39. The eastern boundary proceeds from the center point of block 39 southward until it intersects with 9th St., including the western halves of block 40 and block 52. The southern boundary continues west until it intersects with Rock St., including all of block 51 and block 50. The western boundary follows Rock St. from 9th to 7th St., including all of block 41. The nomination also includes the Williamson County Jail at the corner of 4th St. and Main.
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

East elevation of the Williamson
County Courthouse (1)
Photo #1720

FEB 11 1977

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Williamson County, TX
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

Southwest oblique of the Williamson County Courthouse (1)
Photo #2 of 20

FEB 11 1977
JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

East elevation of the county jail (2)
Photo #3 of 20

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

South elevation of the county jail (2)
Photo #4

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Stanley Klein, December 1976
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique of the north side of the square, 100 block of W. 7th (#3 through #8).

Photo #5/20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Williamson County, TX
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

South elevation of the M. B. Lockett
Building at 119 W. 7th St. (3)
Photo #6/20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Williamson County, TX
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

Northwest oblique of the Masonic Temple, 701 Main St. (11)
Photo #74120

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Williamson County, TX
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

West elevation of the Dimmitt
Building, 719 Main St. (#17)

Photo #8of20

JUL 26 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas

Stanley Klein, December 1976
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique of the east side
of the square, 700 block of
Main (#11 through 17). The
Dimmitt Building (17) is in
the foreground.

Photo #9 of 20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

Southeast oblique down the alley
of the 700 block of Main St.
showing the rear facades of the
buildings facing the east side of
the square.

Photo #10920

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Stanley Klein, December 1976
Texas Historical Commission

North elevation of the P. H. Dimmitt
Building at 114 E. 8th St. (18).
Photo #11 of 20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

Northwest oblique of the P. H.
Dimmitt & Co. Building at
801 Main (19).
Photo #12 of 20

FEB 11 1977

JUL 26 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Williamson County, TX
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

Southwest oblique of the Old City Hall & Fire Station (20). The building has been altered on the Main St. facade first floor since this photograph was made.
Photo #13 of 20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

Northeast oblique of the 800 block of Main (west side). The fire station (20), altered on the 1st floor in 1971, can be seen in the background. The adjacent dark painted building has been replaced by a one-story brick building.

Photo #14 of 20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

Northeast Oblique of the 100 block of W. 8th St., south side of the square (#21-26). 102 W. 8th (21) is the building in the foreground.
Photo #15 of 20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Stanley Klein, December 1976
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique of the 800 block
of Austin St., west side (28-30).
802 Austin (30) can be seen in the
foreground.
Photo #16 \( \frac{1}{20} \)

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas

Williamson County, TX
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

East elevation of 802 Austin St. (30).
Photo #178/20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Stanley Klein, December 1976
Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique of the 200 block
of W. 8th St., north side (32).
Photo #18 of 20

Williamson County, TX

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Williamson County, TX
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

Southeast oblique of the 700 block
of Austin St., west side of square
(33-40). The Farmers State Bank
is the Beaux Arts building in the
foreground (34).

Photo #19 of 20

JUL 26 1977
Williamson County Courthouse
Historic District
Georgetown, Texas
Williamson County, TX
Texas Historical Commission, 1970
THC

East elevation of the Mileham
Building (37) at 708-710 Austin.
Photo #20

FEB 11 1977

JUL 26 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
FEB 11 1977

- Buildings that contribute to the district.
- Buildings that are compatible with the district.
- Nonconforming intrusions.
- Boundary line of district.

NO SCALE
Dear Property Owner:

As you have probably already been informed by State or local representatives, the property you own is included in a district that has been nominated by the State for listing in the National Register which is that list of evidences of the past deemed worthy of keeping for the future by the Secretary of the Interior. This nomination is pending in our office.

Since you may not have been aware of potential benefits and provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 when the district including your property was originally considered by the State for nomination, we are sending informative material at this time. If you wish to make comments about your property or the district relative to the National Register "Criteria for Evaluation" (see enclosed green leaflet), we will be pleased to consider them as an adjunct to our evaluation of placing your property in the National Register. Comments should be made within 30 days of the date of this letter and should be addressed to Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Information concerning standards for rehabilitation may be obtained from Technical Preservation Services, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Questions concerning the National Register program or the implementation of the historic preservation provisions of the Tax Reform Act should also be addressed to the Keeper of the National Register. Inquiries must include the name of the district (see address label) and property address to be properly handled.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosures
Mrs. D. G. Douglas
611 North 5th Street, #28
Temple, Texas

(Re: Williamson County Courthouse Hist. Dist.)
## ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**STATE:** TEXAS  
**Date Entered:** JUL 26, 1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Williamson County Courthouse Historical District</td>
<td>Georgetown Williamson County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Also Notified

- Hon. John G. Tower  
- Hon. Lloyd Bentsen  
- Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle  
- 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  

MMott/rjs 8/2/77
NR Data Sheet

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Williamson County Courthouse Historical District

LOCATION: Rock and 9th Sts., Main and 7th Sts (includes both sides)

CITY, TOWN: Georgetown

STATE: Texas

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

ADMINISTRATOR: NAME: (underline)

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

FEATURES: INTERIOR - Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3 - Unknown -4 - Not applicable - 7 EXTERIOR - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3 - Unknown - 5 - Not applicable - 8 ENVIRONS - Not applicable - 9

CONDITION - Excellent - Good - Fair - Deteriorated - Ruins - Unexposed - Reconstructed - Excavated - Original Site - Moved - Unknown

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

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words) Then: commercial, government

now: commercial, government

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHEOLOGY: PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY: HISTORIC CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION HERITAGE INDUSTRY INVENTION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION LAW/Gov't/politics SCIENCE LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS-GOVERNMENT SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: late 19th C

architect/m.builder: engineer:
landscape/garden designer: artist/artisan:
interior decorator: builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal
(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): late 19th C (1870-1920)

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) 15

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

mixed brick & stone, over two story fronts
focus is 3 story rectangular, brick courthouse with stone

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Signifies County Courthouse Square with commercial architecture.