

56-1377

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 101 E. Franklin Street
City or town: Montague State: Texas County: Montague
Not for publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following levels of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer Date 6/1/17
Signature of certifying official / Title
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register
 other, explain:

for Colson H. Ball Date of Action 7.24.17
Signature of the Keeper

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

	Private
x	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property

x	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	1	objects
3	1	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Government: Courthouse; Government: Correctional facility

Current Functions: Government: Courthouse; Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick, Cast stone, Metal

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-10)

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 values, 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: NA

Areas of Significance: Politics/Government; Architecture

Period of Significance: 1913-1967

Significant Dates: 1913, 1939

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Burnett, George, architect, and Rogers, A. Z., contractor (courthouse); Southern Prison Company, contractor (Old Jail)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-11 through 8-19)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 9-20)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: *Montague County Historical Commission, Montague, TX*

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: Approximately 1.4 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

Latitude: 33.664546° Longitude: -97.720098°

Verbal Boundary Description: The entire block of Original Montague (Courthouse), bounded by Washington Street on the north, Grand Street on the east, Franklin Street on the south, and Rush Street on the west.

Boundary Justification: This is the parcel historically associated with the nominated resources.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Susan Allen Kline, Consultant, with sections adapted from the Montague County Courthouse Preservation Maintenance Master Plan by Komatsu Architecture, 2000

Organization: Montague County Commissioners Court

Street & number: P.O. Box 416

City or Town: Montague County

State: Texas

Zip Code: 76251

Email: sskline@sbcglobal.net (consultant)

Telephone: 817-921-0127 (consultant)

Date: March 27, 2017

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets Map-21 through Map-24)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-25 through Figure-33)

Photographs (see continuation sheets Photo-34 through Photo-40)

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Photographs

Name of Property: Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail
City or Vicinity: Montague
County, State: Montague County, Texas
Photographer: Susan Allen Kline
Date Photographed: January 3, 2017

Photo 1: Looking north at south elevation, west elevation of jail on far right

Photo 2: Looking southwest at east and north elevations of jail and east elevation of courthouse

Photo 3: Looking southwest at east and north elevations of jail and east and north elevations of courthouse; also view of Veterans Memorial

Photo 4: Looking southeast at west elevation of courthouse and Pioneer Families Memorial

Photo 5: Looking northeast at west and south elevations of courthouse and west elevation of jail

Photo 6: Looking east at details of north porch

Photo 7: Looking northeast from landing between second and third floors (elevator shaft upper left)

Photo 8: Plaster detail in corridor

Photo 9: Jail in foreground, looking northwest at south and east elevations

Photo 10: Jail cell on second floor of Old Jail

Photo 11: Jail lunch room with toilet in rear, locking mechanism to right

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail are prominently located on the courthouse square in the center of the small, unincorporated North Central Texas town of Montague. The four-story Classical Revival brick and concrete courthouse, constructed in 1912-1913, is a monumental building sited in the middle of the square which dates to the town's platting in 1858. At the southeast corner of the square is the Old Jail, a two-story rectangular brick building constructed in 1927. The well-maintained square consists of an entire city block with mature trees scattered across the grounds and concrete sidewalks bordering the perimeter and approaching each of the courthouse's four entrances. The grounds also contain several commemorative markers. The Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail retain a high degree of integrity.

Montague County, Texas is located in far North Central Texas. It is bordered on the north by the Red River which separates Texas and Oklahoma. The unincorporated town of Montague, the county seat, is located in the center of the county on State highways 59 (Photo 4) and 174. In 2010, it had a population of 304. It is approximately 90 miles northwest of Fort Worth and 56 miles east of Wichita Falls. The town was platted in 1858 in a traditional grid pattern with the courthouse square located in the center of the town, reflecting the Shelbyville square prototype. The four block faces that surround the square are sparsely occupied by commercial and government-related buildings that date from the late nineteenth-early twentieth-century to 2012. The low scale of these buildings reinforces the monumentality of the four-story Classical Revival style Montague County Courthouse. The rest of the town is also sparsely developed (see Map 2).

The Montague County Courthouse, built in 1912-1913, sits near the center of the courthouse square (see Map 5). It is elevated above the street level which contributes to its commanding presence. Its walls are sheathed with a brown iron-flecked brick supplied by the Acme Brick Company. Cast stone structural and decorative elements are painted white, providing a striking contrast to the dark base of the brick. The main block of the building is four stories with a cruciform plan and a temple style portico on each of the four elevations. Projecting three-story wings flank the porticos on the north and south elevations. The courthouse sits on a partially raised basement (now referred to as the first floor). Rising above grade is the concrete foundation which is painted white. Above the foundation is a banded brick base giving a rusticated appearance to the lower wall. This is a common feature of public buildings constructed during the early decades of the twentieth century. The walls of this level are penetrated by rectangular windows. It is capped by a cast stone belt course painted white. The entrances to the second level of each elevation are accessed by a long flight of concrete stairs with the exception that the primary (south) entrance's stairs were removed in 1986-87 and replaced with a split-level terrace that provides stairs to the second level as well as access to the first floor entrances located underneath the stairs (Photo 1).¹

The tops of the monumental stairs function as a stylobate, or platform, on which rest the rectangular bases of the four columns supporting the porticos' roofs (Photo 6). As stated in Komatsu Architecture's *Montague County Courthouse: Preservation Master Plan* "The portico design itself is a well-disciplined composition consisting of interpreted combinations of classical and ancient motifs. The pedestals with their paneled dados and massive block cornice almost replay the base as composition element, as if to allow the proportion of the columns in relation to the pediment to be maintained within a high, vertical distance, employing an intermediate or raised 'base.' This serves to exaggerate or heighten the vertical perception of the facades." The columns have the traditional entasis form but are capped by nontraditional capitals that are octagonally corbelled. At the third floor above the double door entrance is a crescent-shaped pedimented hood over paired windows that are fronted by a cast stone balustrade and balcony platform. Narrower windows with bracketed hoods flank this window and the entrance below.²

¹ The description of the Montague County Courthouse draws heavily from the Komatsu Architecture's *Montague County Courthouse: Preservation Master Plan, February 1, 2000*.

² Komatsu Architecture, *Montague County Courthouse: Preservation Master Plan, February 1, 2000*, pp. 7-8.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

The primary south elevation and corresponding north elevation are wider than the east and west elevations (Photos 1 and 3). Viewing these elevations head-on, they read as a two-story block (the actual first level appears as a base supporting the second and third floors) with a central portico in the foreground that protrudes from the three-story block in the background. The two-story blocks are framed at the corners by pilasters that are embellished at the top by an Art Nouveau-style mascarón painted a bronzed gold color. Above the pilasters is a galvanized sheet metal denticulated cornice (The dentils are also painted a bronzed-gold). Historically, these blocks were topped with a roof balustrade but as seen in old photographs, they were removed within the period of significance (Figures 6-9). Cast stone bracketed window hoods over the second level windows and header and sill blocks on the third level provide additional contrast to the brown brick. The fourth floor of the main block is barely visible on these elevations, partially hidden by the portico and the projecting wings (Photos 1 and 3). The top of the building is crowned by the galvanized sheet metal cornice with its classical denticulated architrave. Rising above the cornice is the hipped roof.

The west and east elevations have details similar to those of the south and north with the exception that the wings are recessed behind the portico so that the portico is in the foreground and the wings are stepped back and down (Photos 2, 3, 4, 5).

Alterations: As originally designed, the building featured a domed cupola at the center of the roof (Figures 5-7). The octagonal-shaped dome featured a drum pierced with narrow arched windows. Paired columns supported the base of the dome which was alternately adorned with triangular-shaped pediments and rondels. Hooded rondels also pierced the crown of the dome. The top of the dome was capped with a ball similar in size to the rondels. The dome likely had a wood-frame or light steel skeleton covered with a metal skin. Construction documents make reference to a clock mechanism but it is believed one was never installed. The dome was removed in 1939 after sustaining wind damage, making it a historic alteration. A gabled-roof pent house was put in its place (Figures 8 and 9). In time for the building's centennial, the pent house was removed in 2013. That same year, the building received a new clay tile roof.³

As previously mentioned the lower blocks of the courthouse were capped by cast stone balustrades. Although the date has not been determined, this is a historic alteration as seen in historic photographs (Figures 7-9). Other exterior alterations include the addition of tubular slide fire escapes from the third floor of the east block of the north elevation and the third floor of the northwest corner of the west elevation. In 2013-14, non-original windows were replaced with aluminum-framed double pane windows. Around this same time, new concrete sidewalks and curbs were replaced around the square.

Interior: Each floor has a cross-axial arrangement. Historically, there was a light well at the center of the building. It was enclosed for the installation of an elevator in 1985-1986. There is a double dogleg staircase of white Georgia marble with an ornate balustrade between floors on the south side of the central hall of the cruciform plan (Photo 7). The major departments of county government, particularly those associated with historic and vital records, are now housed in the courthouse annex located north of the courthouse square on Washington Street. However, several historic vaults remain in the building. The courthouse still contains the courtrooms for the county and district courts, offices for the district clerk, Veteran's Services, and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

First floor: Originally designated as the basement, the first floor historically had entrances beneath the monumental stairs on each elevation. The north entrance has been closed off and the space beneath the stairs and in the corridor now house storage space, a kitchenette and breakroom, and men's and women's restrooms. The suspended ceiling conceals electrical and HVAC systems (Figure 1).

Second floor: Vestibules are located off of the north and south entrances and converge at the center of the building with the main corridor and the elevator shaft. The corridors retain their original ceiling height and have flush mounted

³ Ibid, p. 8; *The Nocona* [Texas] News, May 23, 2013.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

fluorescent lights. At the ceiling/wall junction is a denticulated plaster cornice painted with a golden bronze finish. Plaster Ionic capitals on pilasters also have a bronze finish (Photo 8). Entrances are filled with aluminum-framed storefront style doors, transoms, and sidelights. At the southeast corner of this floor is the county courtroom. It has been altered with a dropped ceiling and wood paneling on the walls (Figure 2).

Third floor: The halls of this floor also have the plaster cornice and capitals that have been painted with a golden bronze finish. The light well's balustrade has been retained on this floor but now it encircles the elevator shaft. Entrances are filled with aluminum-framed storefront style doors, transoms, and sidelights. Most the east half of this floor is devoted to the district courtroom. Its ceiling was originally opened to the fourth floor and balcony over the west portion of the room. There is now a dropped ceiling but the location of the balcony is still discernable. The walls of the courtroom are covered with wood paneling. There is only one set of stairs that leads from the third to the fourth floor and it is in the southeast corner of the lobby (Figure 3).

Fourth floor: The fourth floor is mostly devoted to storage. The west half of the fourth floor was originally devoted to the jail. It still retains one jail door and bars over the windows. The east half of the fourth floor provided access to the balcony overlooking the district court on the third floor. The plaster cornice and capitals of the ceiling are still present as are some suspended light fixtures (Figure 4).

Alterations: The interior of the courthouse has sustained numerous alterations as outlined above. These include the enclosure of the central light well (as seen in Photo 7), dropped ceilings, courtroom finishes, and replacement of historic doors. However, it retains its basic circulation system and the ornate plaster cornices on the upper floors as well as the marble stairs with their decorative balustrade. These features still reinforce the symbolic importance of the building's historic and current functions.

Old Jail

Exterior: The 1927 Jail Building is located at the southeast corner of the courthouse square. It faces east toward Grand Street. It is slightly elevated above the street and is accessed by concrete stairs leading from the front sidewalk. The two-story brick veneered building has a rectangular massing and is approximately thirty-nine feet long and twenty-eight feet wide. The building is covered with a side-gabled corrugated metal roof with overhanging eaves. Its walls are sheathed with polychrome brown and buff-colored striated brick. Ornamentation includes a wrap-around limestone cornice, diamond-shaped stone blocks above the second story windows, and stone window sills. The use of security bars covering second story windows is a visual reminder of the building's historic function. It is described in greater detail below.

East elevation: The façade of the building faces east toward Grand Street. It has a symmetrical arrangement that features a centered entrance that is flanked on both sides by a double hung window. The entrance and flanking windows are protected by a portico that is supported by two square brick columns. The portico has a triangular-shaped parapet. Stone is used for the caps on the columns and the coping on the parapet as well as a band that wraps around the portico. The portico is covered by a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. The pitch of the gable conforms to the triangular shape of the portico's parapet. Flanking the portico are single double-hung windows toward the south and north ends of the façade. Brick soldier courses form the windows' lintels. The second story has four windows that are aligned with the windows on the first floor. The south and north windows are covered by steel bars. A row of brick soldier courses forms a continuous lintel around the across façade and wraps around the building. Below the parapet is a stone cornice that surrounds the building. A stone diamond is placed above the second story windows between the brick soldier course and the cornice. A concrete handicapped ramp with a simple railing wraps around from the north elevation and extends to the north edge of the portico's concrete floor (Photos 2, 3, and 9).

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

North elevation: This elevation has a symmetrical arrangement of apertures on the first and second floors. Slightly off-center to the left is an entrance to the first floor. There is a flat canopy over it supported by tie rods connected to the wall. On either side of the entrance is a single double hung window with stone sill. On the second floor are three double-hung windows vertically aligned with the first floor entrance and windows. The center and east window are covered with security bars. Above the second story windows are the decorative stone diamonds and cornice as found on the other elevations. Extending above the building's parapet is the gabled roof. The gable end is covered with vertical siding. There is a door on the gable end that allows access to the original flat roof. As mentioned, there is a concrete handicapped ramp with simple railing that runs along this elevation and wraps around to the east elevation. Adjacent to the north elevation is a concrete driveway that separates the Old Jail from the stairs and portico of the courthouse's east elevation (Photos 2, 3).

West Elevation: this elevation continues the use of stone and brick soldier courses for ornamentation. There is an entrance at the north end of the first floor with three double hung windows to the right. The second story has double hung windows that are vertically aligned with the first floor's entrance and three windows. The southern two windows are covered with steel bars (Photos 1 and 5).

South elevation: The south elevation has three windows on the first floor and two on the second floor. The latter are covered with steel bars. Above the first floor windows is a ghost line that marks the garage that was formerly attached to this elevation (see Figure 8 and Photo 9).

Interior: As originally constructed the building housed living quarters for the sheriff or his deputy on the first floor and the jail facilities on the second floor. Today, the first floor has two main rooms. Through the front door, one encounters a room that is used for storage and office space for the Montague County Historical Commission. To the left of this room is a large room that is used for the commission's meetings. At the northwest corner of the first floor off is a bathroom and small kitchen area. The north end of the first floor also contains an open metal staircase that provides access to the second floor.

The second floor contains the jail facilities. From the stairs, one encounters a corridor. On the west side are two cells originally constructed to house male juveniles, each with two bunks. On the east side is a single cell that was to be used for female prisoners. However, women inmates from Montague County were mostly held at the Wise County Detention Center. Each of these cells has a combination toilet and sink (the sink is above and behind the toilet). South of this corridor is a larger room that contains four cells, each measuring nine feet by eight feet. Each cell has four bunks (Photo 10). In the center of this arrangement is a lunch room with a table with connected bench seating. Adjacent to the lunch room is a small room with a shower and a combination toilet and sink (Photo 11). The cells in this room are arranged so that they do not extend to the perimeter walls, meaning that the jailer could walk behind the cell enclosures.

Alterations: The Old Jail was originally constructed with flat roofs over the main mass of the building and the portico over the front entrance. In the late 1990s-2002, gable roofs were constructed over both to remedy issues with water infiltration. Aluminum hung windows have replaced the original units. A handicapped ramp that wraps around from the north elevation to the front entrance on the east elevation has been added. The first floor of the interior has been altered with changes to room configurations. A bathroom and kitchen were added to the northwest corner. Two bedrooms and a bathroom on the south end were combined to make one meeting room. However, the building retains a high degree of integrity associated with its original function as a jail. The second floor is remarkably intact with the retention of its jail cells and locking mechanisms as well as the security bars over the second story windows.⁴

Although the building no longer serves as a jail, it still serves a public function as the offices of the Montague County Historical Commission and a local history museum.

⁴ Montague County Historical Commission. "The Old Jail at Montague, Texas." 2009, revised, 2012, p. 11.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Courthouse Square

The courthouse square is located in the center of the town of Montague and it provides a fitting foreground to the Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail. Over the years, its corners have been rounded and its lawn has been foreshortened to accommodate head-in parking on all four sides. These alterations serve to facilitate traffic flow around the courthouse especially as Rusk Street on the west side of the square and Washington Street on the north function as part of State Highway 59. Mature trees are located near the northwest and southwest corners and live oaks frame the north and south entrances. In 2013-14, new sidewalks were installed around the square. Non-historic low retaining walls of decorative concrete masonry units border the inside edge of the sidewalks. The square has served a prominent role in the lives of the county's citizens. As such it has been used for the memorialization of events significant in the county's history through the installation of markers or monuments. Two are described in more detail below.

Pioneer Families Memorial

In celebration of the Montague County's centennial in 1958, a memorial was installed at the northwest corner of the square commemorating the county's pioneer families, particularly those killed or taken captive by Native Americans. The names are cast on a bronze tablet which is attached to a rustic granite monument. The monument is approached by concrete stairs and a sidewalk. It is counted as a contributing object because it was erected during the period of significance defined as 1913-1967 (Photo 4).

Veterans Monument

A large monument of black granite is located at the northeast corner of the square. Although sited near the street, the monument is oriented toward the courthouse. The three-side (wing-shaped) piece is eight feet high and thirty feet long. It is composed of a center panel with a rounded top engraved with the Great Seal of the United States and contains a dedicatory statement. It is flanked by five stair-stepped panels to the right and four panels to the left. The inscribed names include both Confederate and Union veterans of the Civil War and veterans of later conflicts. On the reverse side facing the street, the five center panels are etched with the seals of the five branches of the military and images of combat. The three panels facing Grand Street and the two panels facing Washington Street are etched with the names of veterans or are available for the addition of more names. The Memorial was created by Lancaster Memorial of nearby Bowie, Texas and dedicated on November 14, 2013. The monument is accessed by concrete stairs from the street corner. The memorial is counted as a noncontributing object because it was not present during the period of significance (Photo 3).

Integrity

Both buildings have been altered over time. The main change to the courthouse was the removal of the dome. Although a significant loss, it is now a historic alteration. The key component of a preservation master plan created in 2000 is the reconstruction of the dome. The removal of the "doghouse" on the roof in 2013 was a step toward achieving that goal. Other major alterations included the removal of the monumental stairs on the south elevation and the installation of ADA-accessible entrances on the first floor and new stairs to the second floor. On the interior, the center light well was converted to an elevator shaft to provide compliant access to all floors. If the dome is reconstructed, then the elevator shaft would be removed and one installed elsewhere in the building. The public circulation systems remain on all floors as do the grand staircases. The major alterations to the Old Jail consist of the addition of gabled roofs over the portico and the main block of the building and the reconfiguration of rooms on the first floor. The second floor jail remains largely intact. The alterations to these buildings do not significantly impact their original design and they therefore retain a good degree of integrity.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Statement of Significance

Located in the heart of Montague County and prominently placed on the courthouse square in the town of Montague, the Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail are significant for their association with the administration of government in this far North Central Texas county. Completed in 1913, the monumental Montague County Courthouse is a powerful representation of the role county government plays in the lives of its citizens. The Old Jail, constructed in 1927, is a visual reminder of the consequences of not obeying that government's edicts. In addition, the courthouse is an excellent local example of the Classical Revival style, a style that was extensively used for government buildings constructed in the early decades of the twentieth century. For these reasons, the Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government. The courthouse is also eligible for listing at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance is from 1913, the year the courthouse was completed, to 1967. The latter year corresponds with the National Register's 50-year criterion and recognizes the buildings' continued significance as the seat of government in Montague County.

Montague County is located in North Central Texas along the Red River. It is approximately ninety miles northwest of Fort Worth, Texas. It encompasses approximately 937 square miles within the western Cross Timbers supporting a post oak savannah. The terrain is generally level or gently rolling with rough features, grasslands, and scrubby trees. The area was originally occupied by Comanche, Wichita, and Kiowa Indians. It was organized for non-native settlement after statehood. The county was established by the state legislature on December 24, 1857. Eight months later on August 2, 1858, it was formally organized and carved out of Cooke County. It was named for Daniel Montague, the surveyor of the Fannin Land District and a veteran of the Mexican War. At the time, there were three villages in the county but none was located near its center. An uninhabited area of 160 acres was chosen in the center of the county and the county seat was laid out there in a traditional grid pattern with the courthouse square in the center of the grid. The town was also named for Daniel Montague.⁵

At the time of the county's organization it had less than 1,000 residents. Most had come from the upper South, primarily Tennessee, as well as Kentucky and Arkansas. But a sizable number were farmers from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The slaveholding plantation society was never established in Montague County although there were slaves there at the outbreak of the Civil War. Voters rejected secession in 1861 by a vote of eight-six to fifty-one. This may have been because of the county's proximity to Indian Territory and the fear of Native American reprisals once federal troops pulled out of the Red River area. Indeed, for the duration of the Civil War and into the 1870s, Native Americans raids forced some farmers to abandon their homes. In the 1870s, counter assaults drove Indians from the county. Non-native settlement increased so that by the early 1880s, Montague County had a population of 11,000.⁶

Because of its ample grasslands, Montague County attracted cattlemen. It was the last county in Texas that the drovers on the Chisholm Trail crossed before entering Indian Territory. Cattle raising became an important part of the local economy and area farms took to raising forage for livestock and food rather than cash crops. With increases in population and the establishment of large ranches, railroads were laid through the county. Soon, three rail lines crossed the county, but none ran through the county seat. The town of Bowie, located in southern Montague County, challenged Montague's primacy as the county seat. An election was held in 1884 that called for the removal of the seat to Bowie. Although Bowie received more votes, it did not receive the required two-thirds majority. Montague remained the county seat but Bowie is still the largest and most important town in the county.⁷

⁵ *Handbook of Texas Online*, David Minor, "Montague County," accessed February 27, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcm16>.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

By the turn of the twentieth century, cotton production had replaced cattle as the basis for the county's economy and by 1910, the county had a population of more than 25,000. However, the plague of the boll weevil and then the Great Depression took their toll on cotton farming and the county's population. Farmers turned to truck farming and cattle ranching made a resurgence. Petroleum and natural gas production helped diversify Montague County's economy. By the mid-1960s, the county's population was starting to increase and by 2014, it 19,416 residents.⁸

Unfortunately, the community of Montague did not flourish. It was incorporated in 1886 but the residents voted to unincorporate in 1890. By 1915, it had a population of 315 and shortly after World War II it had 284 residents. Census figures for 2010 indicate it had a population of 304. The construction of State highways 59 (runs along the west and north sides of the courthouse) and 175 through the town to Farm roads 1886 and 455 allows it to remain a market center for area ranchers and farmers.⁹

Montague County Courthouse

There is some confusion regarding the number of courthouses that have served Montague County. The first courthouse was a log cabin constructed in 1858 of locally available materials. This building was meant to be a temporary structure but it was used through the Civil War. A frame store on the north side of the courthouse square was then used as a courthouse. An early resident recalled that a frame courthouse burned in 1873, but it is uncertain if the frame courthouse was the store or a building that had been constructed specifically for use as a courthouse. A recently written history of the county's courthouses assumes that they were two different buildings. All county records were destroyed in that fire.¹⁰

Until a new courthouse could be constructed, a rented house and former saloon were used for county offices and functions. The new courthouse was constructed in 1879 of sandstone. It was built by John S. Thomas of Fort Worth for \$22,000. This building was also destroyed by fire on March 31, 1884. The fire was blamed on three men who had been indicted for cattle rustling and allegedly burned the building to destroy incriminating evidence. It was after this fire that residents of Bowie attempted to get the county seat moved to their town but failed to get the needed majority votes. In 1885, the destroyed courthouse was replaced by a stone building designed by J. J. Kane and constructed in the Second Empire style. In 1905, a tornado destroyed the building's clock tower. The courthouse again sustained damage during a storm in 1912. This building would be demolished to make way for the present courthouse.¹¹

On April 20, 1912, the Montague County Commissioners voted that a new courthouse was to be constructed on the site of the 1885 courthouse. Nine days later, the commissioners entered into a contract with George Burnett, an architect from Waco, Texas, for the design of a new courthouse. In June, a company from Fort Worth received the contract to demolish the old courthouse. On August 12, 1912, the county commissioners approved a bid of \$79,957.66 submitted by A. Z. Rogers, a contractor from nearby Henrietta, Texas, for the construction of the new courthouse. While waiting for the new building to be completed an opera house in town was used for county and district courts.¹²

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, David Minor, "Montague, TX (Montague County)," accessed February 27, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hlm79>; Montague, Texas Population: Census 2010 and 2000 Interactive Map, Demographics, Statistics, Quick Facts, accessed March 20, 2017, <http://censusviewer.com/city/TX/Montague>.

¹⁰ Montague County History, Vicki Jones and Martha Romaine, "History of the Montague County Courthouse," June 13, 2011, accessed March 21, 2017, <http://montaguecountyhistory.com/history-of-montague-county-courthouse-p.91-103.htm>.

¹¹ Jones and Romaine, "History of the Montague County Courthouse"; Details for Montague County Courthouse, Courthouse—Atlas Number 4302002479, accessed January 4, 2017, <http://atlas.thc.texas.gov/Details/4302002479>; Details for Montague County Courthouse, Courthouse—Atlas Number 4302002480, accessed January 4, 2017, <http://atlas.thc.texas.gov/Details/4302002480>. The Texas Historical Commission's Atlas states that the storm occurred in 1911.

¹² Minutes of the Montague County Commissioners Court, Volume G, pp. 634 and 635 and Volume H, pp. 6, 21 and 39, transcription provided by Komatsu Architecture, Fort Worth, Texas.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

A somewhat sophisticated choice for a small town, Burnett's design for the building embraced the popular Classical Revival style. It had a cruciform plan and was set on a raised basement, later referred to as the first floor. It was sheathed with a polychrome brown brick provided by the Acme Brick Company. The four entrances were aligned to the cardinal direction and accessed by long flights of stairs. The southern entrance facing Franklin Street was considered the main entrance. At the top of the stairs was a full-height colonnaded gabled-roof porch, each with four concrete columns supporting a pediment with unadorned tympanum. The main body of the building was sheltered by a hipped roof. A two-story octagonal dome rose from its center. In Texas, domes were more than just decorative elements. In the days before modern air conditioning, domes played an important role in the building's ventilation system. They were typically placed above the center of the building and served as a flue through which hot air could escape while cooler air was drawn through open windows on the lower levels.¹³

On November 7, 1912, the Montague Masonic Lodge No. 415 leveled the cornerstone. On April 27, 1913, the *Dallas Morning News* published a photograph of the partially constructed courthouse. It indicates that work had not yet started on the dome. The cutline for the photo noted that instead of being financed by bonds, its construction was being funded by "court house warrants" issued by the commissioners court. The building was described as being constructed of "brick, with concrete facings, pillars and solid concrete floors. The offices are large and roomy with ample light facilities. A good artesian well is in the basement and will supply the building and town. Waterworks facilities are being placed in the building, also lighting facilities. The building when complete will be one of the most commodious court houses in Texas." The courthouse was completed in September and on October 15, 1913, final payment was made to the contractor. The following day the contractor turned the building over to the county.¹⁴

The courthouse contained two courtrooms, one for the county court and one for the district court as well as county offices. A new trend in courthouse construction in the early decades of the twentieth century included the incorporation of detention facilities within the building instead of having a freestanding structure. It was thought that including jails within the courthouse provided better security between the courtrooms and the cells. It also made the jail less visually dominant as was the case with a separate building. In many cases, the jail was placed in the basement with an internal stairway passing from the detention center to the upper floors where the courtrooms were. In the Montague County Courthouse, the jail was located on the fourth floor of the new courthouse but prisoner transfers occurred in public passages.¹⁵ This arrangement lasted fourteen years when a separate jail building was constructed on the courthouse square in 1927 (see discussion below).

The courthouse was an integral part of community life in the town of Montague and the county. In addition to being the seat of the county government, residents used it for other functions. Unlocked doors served as an invitation for men to play dominoes on the first (basement) floor while children roamed the building at night. Modern toilet facilities also made it a popular stopping place. After new jail facilities were constructed, the Masonic lodge met in the vacated space for a time. During the Great Depression, a canning factory was conducted in the basement and for a time in the 1930s and 1940s, a local doctor had his office on the same floor.¹⁶

¹³ Brantley Hightower, *The Courthouses of Central Texas*, Number 20, Clifton and Shirley Caldwell Texas Heritage Series (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2015), p. 19.

¹⁴ *Dallas Morning News*, April 27, 1913; Komatsu Architecture, *Montague County Courthouse: Preservation Maintenance Master Plan, February 1, 2000*, pp. 9, 11.

¹⁵ Willard B. Robinson, *The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails, and Municipal Buildings* (Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association in Cooperation with the Center for Studies in Texas History, University of Texas at Austin, 1983), p. 226; Komatsu Architecture, *Montague County Courthouse*, p. 3.

¹⁶ Jones and Romaine, "History of the Montague County Courthouse."

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Judge Louis Todd Holland, a notable Texas jurist, had a long association with the Montague County Courthouse (Figure 10). Holland (1906-1978) was born at Saint Jo in Montague County. He attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and received his law degree at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Kentucky. After completing his degree, he returned to Montague County where he practiced law in Nocona, and then served as county attorney and county judge. In 1946, Governor Coke Stevenson appointed him to fill an unexpired term as judge in the 97th District Court which covered Montague, Archer, and Clay counties. He was subsequently elected to that post where he served until his resignation in 1970. In addition to his duties with the 97th District Court, he also served as a visiting judge in other jurisdictions, at times taking on controversial cases. His most notable case occurred when he was appointed to serve as the judge for the re-trial of Jack Ruby, the killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Holland ordered a change of venue for the trial from Dallas to Wichita Falls. The trial was to begin in February 1967 but Ruby died before the case commenced.¹⁷

Several decades after the building was completed, it underwent renovations. After receiving damage from a storm in 1939, the county commissioners awarded T. Lacy, a contractor from Bowie, a contract to remove the dome.¹⁸ The loss or alteration of domes and towers on Texas' county courthouses was a common occurrence, whether it be through damage suffered through natural disasters or fires, in mitigation of ongoing maintenance issues, or changes in architectural tastes. Examples where such features were substantially modified or removed are the Bastrop County Courthouse, Bastrop (originally constructed in 1883, tower altered in 1923), Bell County Courthouse, Belton (originally constructed in 1883-1884, later removed, and then reconstructed in the late 1990s), Clay County Courthouse, Henrietta (originally constructed in 1884, clock tower replaced by a dome), Fannin County, Bonham (1889, tower removed, façade altered after fire in 1929), Fisher County, Roby (1909-1910, dome removed 1950s, entire building replaced in the 1970s), Goliad County, Goliad (1894, tower removed after a hurricane in 1942), Haskell County, Haskell (1892/1906, tower removed in 1931), Milam County Courthouse, Cameron (1892, tower removed in the 1930s), Randall County Courthouse, Canyon (1908-1909, tower remodeled 1945), and the Scurry County Courthouse, Snyder (1909-1911, dome removed 1950).¹⁹

At some point the cast stone balustrades on the lower blocks were removed. In 1963, the four sets of paired entrance doors and transoms on the second floor were removed and replaced by aluminum framed sets. The original doors and transoms were installed in the entrances at the basement level. Other modifications were made to meet changing needs. These included the accessible entrance on the south elevation and the installation of the elevator shaft in the center of the building.²⁰

In 2012-13, an annex was constructed north of the courthouse on Franklin Street. It now houses the offices of the county judge and commissioners court, county attorney, county auditor, county treasurer, county clerk, and the county tax assessor-collector's office. The courthouse retains the county and district courts, offices for justices of the peace, Veteran's Services, and an office for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

In commemoration of the building's centennial, it was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 2013.

¹⁷ "Louis Holland," *U. S., Department of Veteran Affairs, Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS) Death File, 1850-2010*, Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs [database on-line], Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah, USA; Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011; *Fort Worth [Texas] Star-Telegram*, January 24, 1963 and June 23, 1965; *Dallas Morning News*, June 23, 1965, December 7, 1966, February 3, 1969, and October 31, 1970.

¹⁸ *The Saint Jo [Texas] Tribune*, July 14, 1939.

¹⁹ Mavis P. Kelsey, Sr. and Donald H. Dyal, *The Courthouses of Texas: A Guide* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1993), pp. 41, 44, 69, 104, 118, 134, 193, 221, and 263; Robinson, *The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails, and Municipal Buildings*, pp. 121, 124, 128, 130, 138, 221, 222-23, and 228.

²⁰ *The Saint Jo Tribune*, April 19, 1939.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Old Jail

The Old Jail that sits at the southeast corner of the courthouse square is the third jail to serve Montague County. The first jail was a two-story building constructed of native stone quarried four miles west of Montague. It was built in 1876 until 1912. It was replaced by the second jail which was on the fourth floor of the present courthouse building, a common feature of courthouses built in the early twentieth century. Although this was a convenient arrangement for the sheriff and the county's judicial system, housing criminals in a highly used public building also came with inherent risks. This became apparent in March 1926, when three of six prisoners housed in the jail escaped, locking the jailer in the cell. A similar incident happened in February 1927 when two prisoners overpowered the jailer and took his gun which fortunately was unloaded. This incident happened when the jailer attempted to take another prisoner to a courtroom for trial. Both escapees were later caught.²¹

Two months prior to the February 1927 jailbreak, the Montague County Commissioners had entered into a contract with the Southern Steel Company of San Antonio (soon to be renamed the Southern Prison Company) for the construction of a new jail facility. The freestanding building was to be located at the southeast corner of the courthouse square. It was expected to cost \$34,000 and "be a modern prison building in every way, equipped with steam heat, water and sewerage." It was to be constructed of the same brick used for the courthouse, be two stories, and have a capacity for twenty-four prisoners. Construction of the building was financed through a special fund set aside from the county's permanent improvement fund designated as a Jail Building Warrant Fund. The funds came from a five cent tax on \$100 valuation of taxable property in the county. The tax was to remain in effect until the indebtedness was paid off. Payments were made in semiannual installments of \$500. Although the contract called for the building to be completed by May 15, 1927 it was not finished until July with the jailer moving in shortly thereafter.²²

The brick veneered building measured approximately thirty-nine feet long and twenty-eight feet wide. It faced east toward Grand Street. For a time, a garage was attached to the south elevation. The first floor provided living quarters for the sheriff or his deputy, along with other family members. It included two bedrooms, one bathroom, a kitchen, and another room that was at times used as a third bedroom or a dining room. This arrangement remained in place until the jail was closed in 1980. The second floor housed the jail cells. There were four cells for men, each measuring nine feet by eight feet. Each cell had four bunks. These were arranged on opposite walls with one bunk above the other. The four cells were grouped around a small center section containing a truncated "picnic" style metal table. In a section of the floor closest to the stairs were two juvenile cells that measure approximately eight feet by eleven feet that contained two bunks. Opposite these cells was a cell for women which had four bunks. However, women were generally incarcerated in the nearby Wise County Detention Center.²³

Throughout the fifty-three years the building was in use, the jail housed prisoners whose offenses ranged from drunkenness to murder. It, too, endured a few prisoner escapes. Early on, the sheriff acted as the county's sole law enforcement officer. He was later joined by a deputy. By 1962, the county had a sheriff, a chief deputy, and another officer who worked in the office and as a deputy.²⁴

Post-World War II changes in prison standards rendered many facilities across Texas obsolete. A survey of the state's jails in the 1970s revealed antiquated facilities that suffered from overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, and safety deficiencies.

²¹ Montague County Historical Commission. "The Old Jail at Montague, Texas," p. 5.

Dallas Morning News, April 1, 1926; *The Saint Jo Tribune*, February 11, 1927.

²² *The Saint Jo Tribune*, December 3, 1926; Montague County Historical Commission. "The Old Jail at Montague, Texas," pp. 5-6; *The Saint Jo Tribune*, July 29, 1927.

²³ Montague County Historical Commission, "The Old Jail at Montague, Texas," pp. 6-7.

²⁴ *Ibid*, p. 9.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Like the one in Montague County, 146 jails were constructed prior to 1940. In 1975, the state legislature passed a law requiring individual counties to provide jails meeting minimum standards. To enforce the law, the Commission on Jail Standards was created to inspect jail facilities and verify compliance.²⁵

Montague County constructed a new jail facility immediately across Grand Street in 1980. The Old Jail remained largely unused except as a storage facility. However, its historical significance was recognized by some in the county. In 1991, it was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. In 1996, the chairman of the Montague County Historical Commission, Melvin Fenoglio, appeared before the county commissioners' court to request that the historical commission be allowed to use the building for its meetings. The request was granted. The historical commission received a fifty-year lease at the rate of one dollar a year until 2046. With the exception of the addition of gables roofs over the building and the portico, the removal of the garage, and the elimination of a few partitions on the first floor, the building retains a high degree of integrity. In particular, the interior of the second floor retains an exceptional level of integrity and its ability to convey its original use as a correctional facility.²⁶

Shelbyville Square

Montague County's courthouse square reflects the Shelbyville plan which originated in Tennessee. This typology places the square in the center of a traditional grid pattern with four full block faces surrounding it. The lots of these blocks are oriented toward the square. The courthouse sits in the middle of the square, making it the focus. The Shelbyville plan is the most common prototype found across the country. Among Texas' courthouse squares, it accounts for 157 examples, including modified versions, or 62 percent of the county seats and is found in all parts of Texas. In his book, *The Courthouse Square in Texas*, Robert E. Veselka attributes this to several factors. It was a pattern that was familiar to many Anglo-American settlers, was easy to plat, did not disrupt traffic or land use of adjacent property, and provided a prominent focus for the community. Most of the Shelbyville plans in Texas, including Montague County, were laid out between 1840 and 1890.²⁷

George C. Burnett, architect

George Caldwell Burnett (1873-1932) was born on May 4, 1873 in Lewistown, Missouri. Although he did not obtain a degree in architecture, he studied at Missouri State University and what is now known as Colorado State University in Pueblo, Colorado. He worked for Frank E. Kidder in Colorado for four years. In 1895, he married Calcedonia (Dona) Neeley in Canon City, Colorado. The couple had three children; Bryan, Neeley, and Elba.²⁸

In 1900, he worked in Rocky Ford, Otero County, Colorado and by 1909 he was practicing in Amarillo. In early 1910, it was announced that he had purchased one hundred lots in the University Heights and Miller additions in that city with the intention of building homes at a time when Amarillo was suffering from a housing shortage. He later moved to Waco, Texas where he was living at the time he received the commission for the Montague County Courthouse. During World

²⁵ Robinson, *The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails, and Municipal Buildings*, pp. 317 and 322.

²⁶ Montague County Historical Commission. "The Old Jail at Montague, Texas," pp. 10-11.

²⁷ Robert E. Veselka, edited by Kenneth E. Foote, *The Courthouse Square in Texas*, Number Two, Clifton and Shirley Caldwell Texas Heritage Series (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2000), pp. 20 and 32.

²⁸ Application for Membership, American Institute of Architects, March 17, 1921, Burnett, George Caldwell, Membership File, The American Institute of Architects Archives. *The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*, "Burnett, George Caldwell," (ahd1006008), accessed March 1, 2017 (<http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki>); State of Colorado, Division of Vital Statistics, Marriage Record Report No. 1255, accessed February 28, 2017, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indivi=1&dn=FSMarriageColorado&h=53826>; 1910 United States Federal Census; Amarillo, Potter, Texas; Roll T624_1582; Page 16B; Enumeration District: 0196; FHL microfilm: 1375595, Accessed February 28, 2017, http://interactive.ancestry.com/7884/4454869_0126.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

War I, Burnett served stateside with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he achieved the rank of major. During his service, he was stationed at Washington, DC; Watervliet, New York; Lakehurst, New Jersey; Camp Travis, Texas; and Eagle Pass, Texas. After his discharge on September 30, 1920, he practiced in El Paso from 1921 to approximately 1923. He then moved to California where he practiced in Los Angeles and Santa Ana. He died December 17, 1932.²⁹

Burnett's work in Texas included the President's Residence, West Texas Normal College, Canyon, c. 1910. While in Waco, Burnett had several commissions around the same time he designed the Montague County Courthouse. These include the Denton County National Bank, Denton, a two-story Classical Revival style limestone building constructed in 1913 (listed in the National Register in 2000 as a contributing resource in the Denton Courthouse Square Historic District). That same year, he provided the plans and specifications for alterations to the Bell County Courthouse, a Renaissance Revival style building constructed in 1884, as well the design for the new Taylor County Courthouse in Abilene (NR 1992, State Antiquities Landmark [SAL], 2000) Lynn. The latter, completed in 1915, is also an example of the Classical Revival style. Instead of the cruciform plan like the one used in the Montague County Courthouse, the Taylor County example had a simple rectangular form. The symmetrical arrangement of the four elevations and engaged Ionic columns between second and third floor windows add to the building's monumental appearance. It also incorporated the use of terra cotta and ornamental brickwork.³⁰

A. Z. Rogers, contractor

A. Z. Rogers of Henrietta, Texas, approximately thirty-six miles from Montague, was awarded the contract for the construction of the Montague County Courthouse in 1912. Little biographical information has been found on him. An article published in Brownwood's *The Daily Bulletin* in 1913 identified him as a banker and a contractor. Another article published a few days later in the same paper described him as "one of the big contractors of the state, but he always handles one job at a time, applying all of his energies and using all his work force at a single place. This allows him to complete buildings in a short time."³¹ In addition to the Montague County Courthouse, Rogers' firm constructed a Methodist church in Pilot Point (1910), the Brownwood Opera House, Brownwood (1913); Newton Sanitarium, Cameron (1913), Taylor County Courthouse (also designed by George Burnett, 1913-1915, NR 1992, SAL, 2000), and the Lynn County Courthouse (1916, NR 1982, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, 2008).³²

Southern Prison Company, builder of the Old Jail

The Southern Prison Company, later known as the Southern Steel Company, was founded in San Antonio by David Franklin Youngblood (1869-1954) in 1897. It was originally known as Youngblood Brothers Steel and then changed its

²⁹ AIA Application for Membership, Burnett, George Caldwell; *Abilene [Texas] Daily Reporter*, November 28, 1909; *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, January 30, 1910; New York State Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919, Adjunct General's Office, Series B0808, New York State Archives, Albany, New York, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=NYAbstractsWWI&h=423609>. This record states that he did not serve overseas although his obituary states that he served in France. The obituary also referred to him as an architect and engineer. See *Los Angeles Time*, December 21, 1932 in *The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*, Membership File, "Burnett, George Caldwell." An article appearing in the *Abilene Daily Reporter* on December 19, 1915 stated that Burnett was a resident of Henrietta, Texas at that time.

³⁰ *The Hereford [Texas] Brand*, March 25, 2010; "100 N. Locust-Denton-LocalWiki," https://localwiki.org/denton/100_N_Locust, accessed February 27, 2017; *The Temple [Texas] Daily Telegram*, June 24, 1913;

³¹ *The Daily Bulletin* (Brownwood, Texas), December 10, 1913 and December 12, 1913.

³² *Record and Chronicle* (Denton, Texas, July 21, 1910; *The Daily Bulletin*, December 10, 1913; *San Antonio Express*, March 17, 1913; *Abilene Semi-Weekly Reporter*, June 12, 1914; Lynn County Courthouse, Atlas Number 5507015274, <http://atlast.thc.texas.gov/Details/5507015274> (accessed March 19, 2017).

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

name to Southern Structural Steel in 1903. In 1927, the year that the Montague County Jail was constructed, the name was changed to the Southern Prison Company. In 1943, the name was changed to Southern Steel Company.³³

Youngblood first got into the jail construction industry through employment with Hull Construction in Troy, Alabama. After developing tuberculosis, his doctor encouraged him to move to a dryer climate. After the Pauly Company of St. Louis, also a jail contractor, turned down his application to be its sales agent in Texas, he moved to Uvalde, Texas and within a year, relocated to San Antonio. In 1897, he purchased 500 acres on the southern end of the city. There, he built a plant for the manufacture of steel products such as vaults, bridges, and jails. He was soon joined by two brothers. In 1927, the brothers focused on the manufacture of jails and received several patents for the manufacture of jail cell doors and locking mechanism. While operating under the name Southern Prison Company, the firm constructed or supplied equipment for numerous jails and prisons in Texas and other states. These included the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, McAlester (1927), Clay County (1927, installed in jail building originally constructed in 1890), San Patricio County (1927, jail installed in a new courthouse), Hutchinson County (1928, jail installed in a new courthouse), Midland County (1930, jail in a new courthouse), and Taylor County (1931, new jail building). By 1940, the firm had erected or provided jail equipment for at least thirty-nine jails in Texas.³⁴

Criterion A: Historical Significance

The Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance in the area of Politics/Government. The Montague County Courthouse served as the seat of government for Montague County throughout the period of significance which is defined as 1913, the year it was completed, until 1967. The latter year corresponds to the National Register's 50-year criterion and recognizes the building's continued use as a courthouse. The Old Jail, constructed in 1927, was also used throughout the period of significance and is associated with the county's correctional system.

Criterion C: Architectural Significance

The reliance on classical architecture as a unifying theme at Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893 had a profound effect on city planning and architecture across the country. But the style was gaining popularity prior to the exposition. Earlier prominent public buildings employing classical architecture included the Boston Public Library by McKim, Mead and White (1888-1892) and the Library of Congress designed by Smithmeyer, Pelz and Casey (1888-1898). Texans had to look no further than their state capitol in Austin, designed by Michigan architect Elijah Meyers (1882-1888) to find one of the largest classical buildings in the country. In the early decades of the twentieth century, designers of the state's public buildings embraced the formality of this style by producing monumental edifices perched on elevated platforms, fronted with porticos with colossal columns, and crowned with towering domes. When applied to county courthouses, the interplay of these features brought "temples of democracy" to rural and urban communities alike.

The Montague County Courthouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in area of Architecture as an outstanding example of the Classical Revival style. It features such hallmarks of the style as symmetrical massing set on a raised platform, full-height colossal columns supporting pedimented gabled porch roofs, and the main body of the building covered by a hipped roof. In its preservation master plan prepared for the building in 2000, Komatsu Architecture described the building as "a subtle but elegant massing in

³³ Edward A. Blackburn, Jr., *Wanted: Historic County Jails of Texas*, Number Eleven, Clayton Wheat Williams Texas Life Series (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2006), pp. 13-14.

³⁴ Blackburn, *Wanted: Historic County Jails of Texas*, pp. 13-14, 71, 239, 293, 316; *Dallas Morning News*, July 4, 1927 and July 17, 1927; *San Patricio County News* [Sinton, Texas], June 16, 1927; *Borger [Texas] Daily Herald*, March 1, 1928; *Dallas Morning News*, January 12, 1930 and February 1, 1931.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

one of the state's strongest examples of Classical Revival, and certainly one of the most surprising and outstanding examples stylistically found in North Central Texas in the quiet county seat of Montague." The report further proclaimed that the building's "simple yet sophisticated interplay of cross axis spatial blocks [creates] an overall interlocking mass that has been deftly articulated in the use of Classical Revival elements and motifs on the facades. The scale created by the stepping up and back of the central and wing blocks is a [well-studied] orchestration of proportions and delineation of window patterns, solids, and voids, culminating in well situated roof forms."³⁵

³⁵ Komatsu Architecture, *Montague County Courthouse: Preservation Master Plan, February 1, 2000*, 6.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Bibliography

- Blackburn, Edward A., Jr. *Wanted: Historic County Jails of Texas*. Number Eleven, Clayton Wheat Williams Texas Life Series. College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2006.
- Burnett, George Caldwell, Membership File, The American Institute of Architects Archives. *The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*, "Burnett, George Caldwell," (ahd1006008). Accessed March 1, 2017, <http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki>.
- Dallas Morning News*.
- Handbook of Texas Online*. Minor, David. "Montague County." Accessed February 27, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/Handbook/online/articles/hcm16>.
- _____. Minor, David. "Montague, TX (Montague County)." Accessed February 27, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/Handbook/online/articles/hlm79>.
- Henry, Jay C. *Architecture in Texas: 1895-1945*. Austin, Texas: University of Texas, 1993.
- Hightower, Brantley. *The Courthouses of Central Texas*. Number 20, Clifton and Shirley Caldwell Texas Heritage Series. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2015.
- Montague County History. Jones, Vicki and Martha Romaine. "History of the Montague County Courthouse," June 13, 2011. Accessed March 21, 2017, <http://montaguecountyhistory.com/history-of-montague-county-courthouse-p.91-103.htm>.
- Komatsu Architecture. *Montague County Courthouse: Preservation Maintenance Master Plan, February 1, 2000*.
- Montague County Commissioners Court. Minutes of the Montague County Commissioners Court. Annotated transcription provided by Komatsu Architecture.
- Montague County Historical Commission. "The Old Jail at Montague, Texas." 2009, revised, 2012.
- The Nocona [Texas] News*.
- Robinson, Willard B. *The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails, and Municipal Buildings*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association in Cooperation with the Center for Studies in Texas History, University of Texas at Austin, 1983.
- The Saint Jo [Texas] Tribune*.
- Texas Historic Sites Atlas. Various records at <http://atlas.thc.texas.gov/Details>.
- Veselka, Robert E., edited by Kenneth E. Foote. *The Courthouse Square in Texas*. Number Two, Clifton and Shirley Caldwell Texas Heritage Series. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000.

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Map 1: Montague County highlighted in red.



Map 2: Google Map, retrieved May 26, 2017.



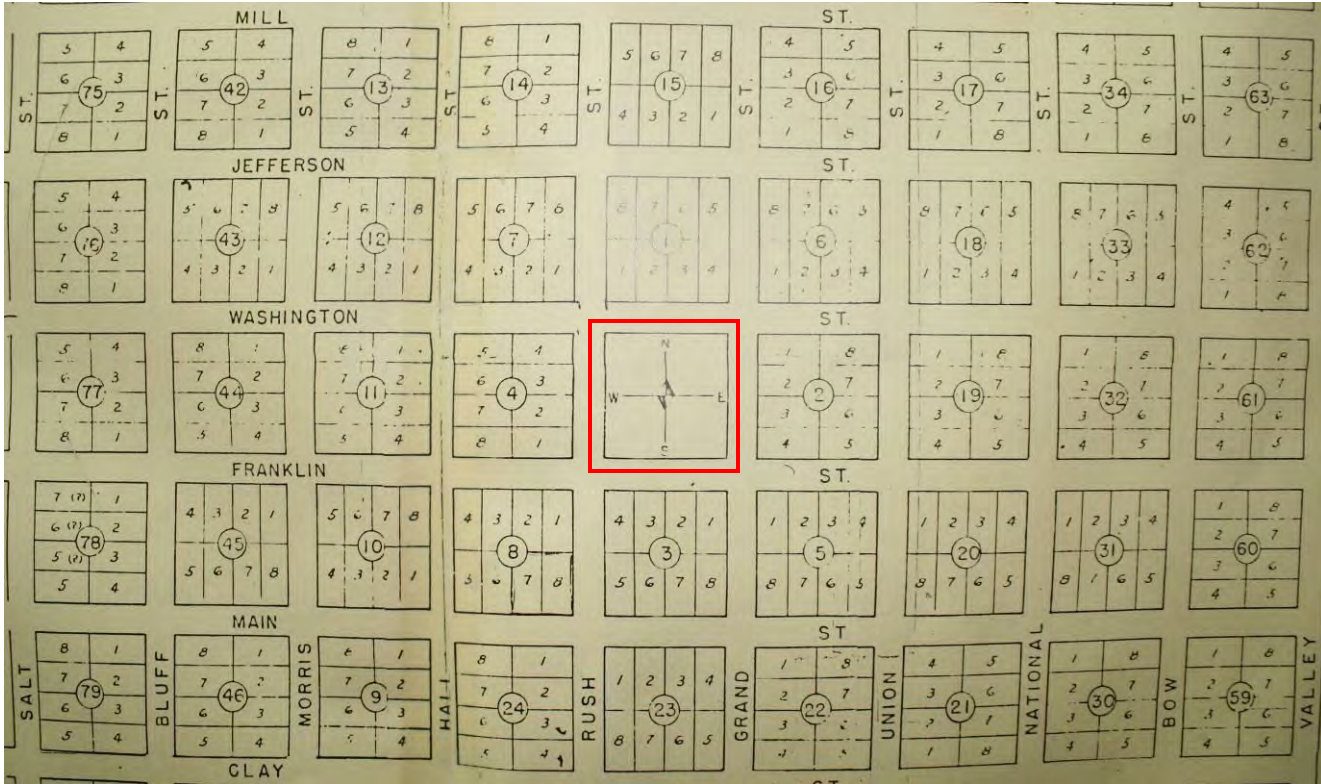
Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Map 3: Plat of Montague, Montague County, Texas. Courthouse square circled in red. *Courtesy Montague County Historical Commission.*



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

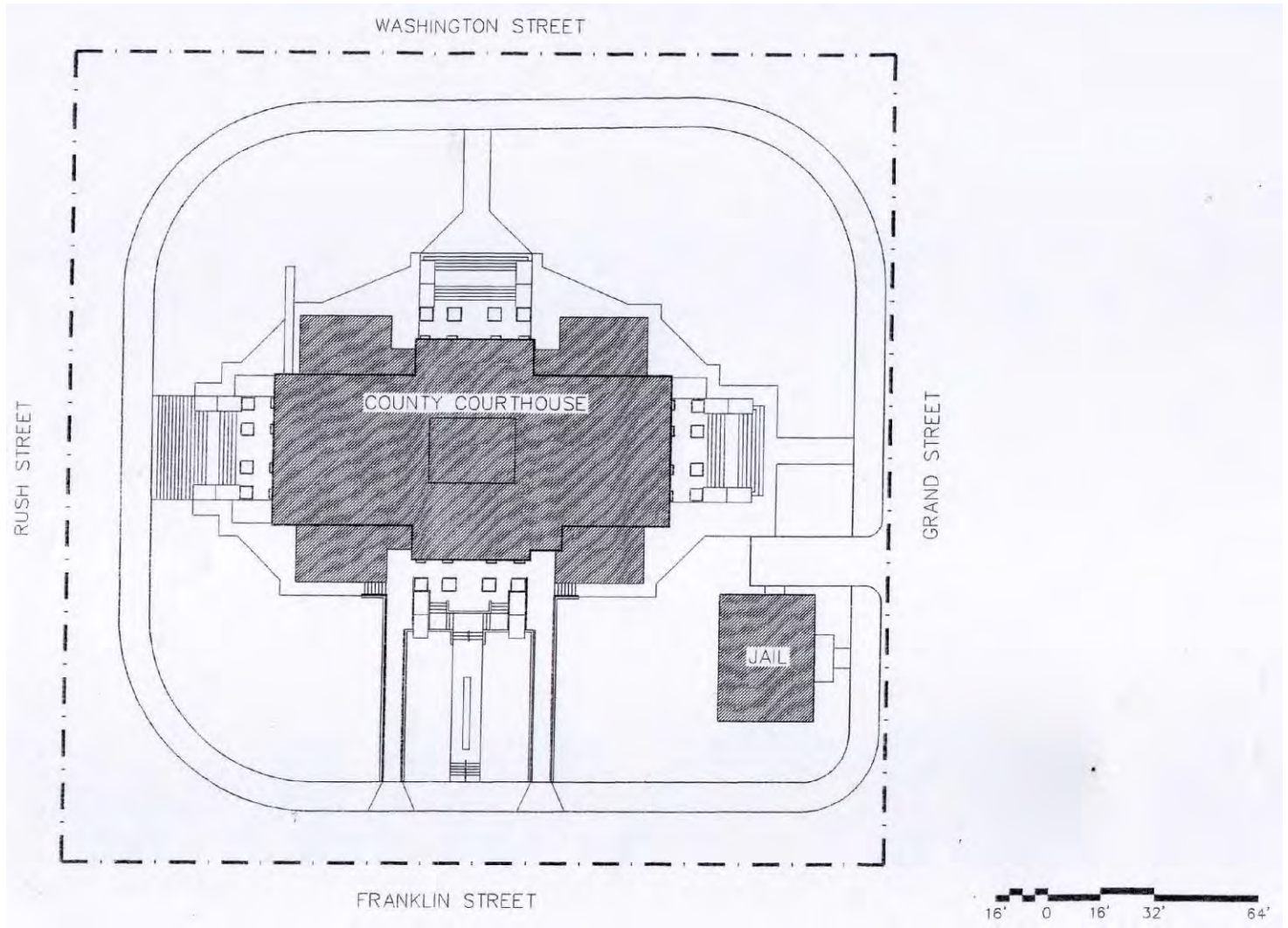
Map 4: Portion of plat of Montague showing courthouse square in the center (the block is unnumbered).



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Map 5: Site Plan. *Courtesy Komatsu Architecture, Fort Worth, Texas.*

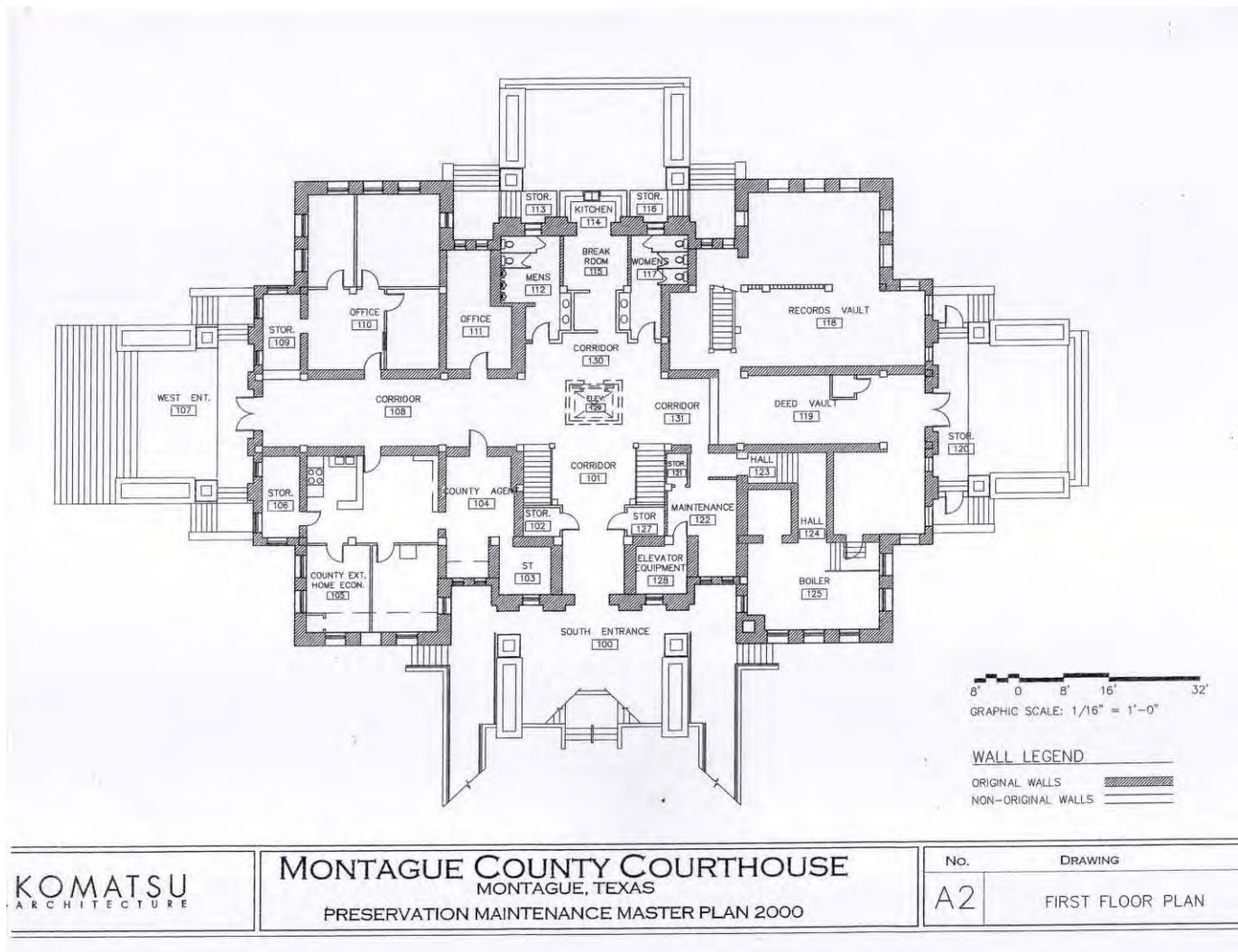
N↑



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 1: First floor before the construction of the courthouse annex in 2012-13. *Courtesy Komatsu Architecture, Fort Worth, Texas.*

N↑



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 2: Second floor before the construction of the courthouse annex in 2012-13. *Courtesy Komatsu Architecture, Fort Worth, Texas.*

N↑

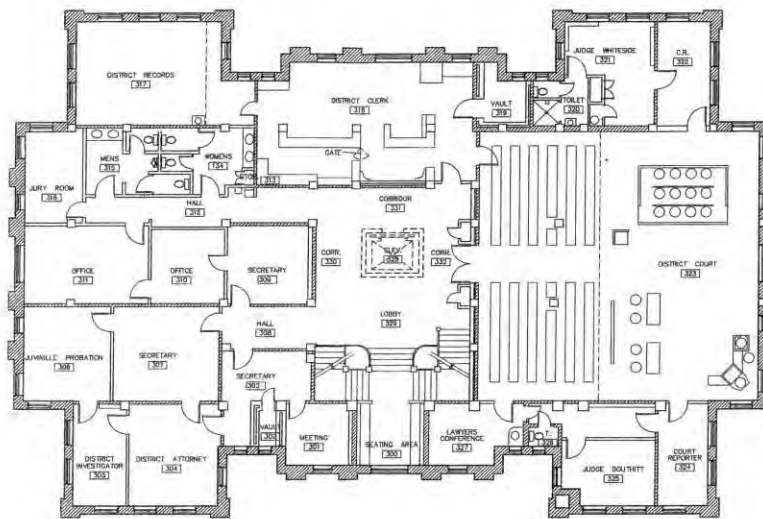


	MONTAGUE COUNTY COURTHOUSE MONTAGUE, TEXAS PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE MASTER PLAN 2000		NO.	DRAWING
			A3	SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 3: Third floor before the construction of the courthouse annex in 2012-13. *Courtesy Komatsu Architecture, Fort Worth, Texas.*

N↑



8' 0 8' 16' 32'
 GRAPHIC SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

WALL LEGEND
 ORIGINAL WALLS [hatched line]
 NON-ORIGINAL WALLS [solid line]

KOMATSU
 ARCHITECTURE

MONTAGUE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 MONTAGUE, TEXAS
 PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE MASTER PLAN 2000

No.	DRAWING
A4	THIRD FLOOR PLAN

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 4: Fourth floor before the construction of the courthouse annex in 2012-13. *Courtesy Komatsu Architecture, Fort Worth, Texas.*

N↑



KOMATSU ARCHITECTURE	MONTAGUE COUNTY COURTHOUSE MONTAGUE, TEXAS PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE MASTER PLAN 2000	No.	DRAWING
		A5	FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 5: Cupola under construction, 1913. *Courtesy Montague County Historical Commission.*



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 6: View of cupola. Photo likely taken around the time the building was nearing completion. View looking northeast. *Courtesy Montague County Historical Commission.*



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 7: Historic photo likely taken around the time the building was completed, c. 1913. View looking northeast.
Courtesy Acme Brick.



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 8: Courthouse after removal of dome and balustrade on the lower blocks with the jail building (with garage) to the right. Note doghouse in place of the dome. View looking north/northwest. *Courtesy Montague County Historical Commission.*



Figure 9: Photo after removal of dome (note “doghouse” in place of the dome). Jail building on the right. View looking north/northwest. *Courtesy Montague County Historical Commission*



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Figure 10: Judge Louis T. Holland in courtroom, 1946. *Courtesy Montague County Historical Commission.*



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Photo 1: Looking north at south elevation, west elevation of jail on far right



Photo 2: Looking southwest at east and north elevations of jail and east elevation of courthouse



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Photo 3: Looking southwest at east and north elevations of jail and east and north elevations of courthouse; also view of Veterans Memorial



Photo 4: Looking southeast at west elevation of courthouse and Pioneer Families Memorial



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Photo 5: Looking northeast at west and south elevations of courthouse and west elevation of jail



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Photo 6: Looking east at details of north porch



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Photo 7: Looking northeast from landing between second and third floors (elevator shaft upper left)



Photo 8: Plaster detail in corridor



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Photo 9: Jail in foreground, looking northwest at south and east elevations



Photo 10: Jail cell on second floor of Old Jail



Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

Photo 11: Jail lunch room with toilet in rear, locking mechanism to right







ATCO TOOLS





SCHOOL
SPEED
LIMIT
25
MILES
PER HOUR

USE
CAUTION
SCHOOL
ZONES







NO FUMOS EN ESTAS ESCALERAS









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/9/2017 Date of Pending List: 7/18/2017 Date of 16th Day: 8/2/2017 Date of 45th Day: 7/24/2017 Date of Weekly List: 7/27/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 7/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Edson Beall
 National Register of Historic Places
 Mail Stop 7228
 1849 C St, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas

DATE: May 30, 2017

The following materials are submitted:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Montague County Courthouse and Old Jail, Montague, Montague County, Texas
	Resubmitted nomination.
X	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk.
	Resubmitted form.
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	Correspondence.

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do___) (do not___) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

