

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received FEB 23 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic

~~Historic Resources of Salado~~ ^{multiple Resource Area} (see continuation sheets)

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number See individual survey sheets

N/A not for publication

city, town Salado

N/A vicinity of

state Texas

code 048

county Bell

code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
resource		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See individual survey sheets

street & number

city, town

N/A vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bell County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Belton

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey

HABS - 1936

date HSI - 1970, 1977, 1981

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress; Texas Historical Commission

city, town Washington, D.C.; Austin

state Texas

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"Historic Resources of Salado" is a collection of 20 architectural and archeological sites believed to meet criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These sites were selected during a complete survey of this unincorporated Central Texas community. The initial survey work was done by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), in 1970 and 1977, as part of their continuing work in the state on the Inventory of Historic Sites. High interest locally, coupled with the acknowledged architectural and historical significance of the community, prompted the THC to pursue a multiple-resource nomination for Salado.

All previous survey materials were assembled and studied. They included photographs, site plans, drawings from the Survey of Historic American Buildings, and general background material. Working with property owners and members of the Conservation Society of Historic Salado, Inc., staff members from the National Register Department of the THC conducted, first, a reconnaissance of the community, noting omissions from previous surveys and properties which had since been restored or inappropriately altered. Since it is unincorporated, Salado has no city limits to serve as bounds for a survey. Thus every road in the community was reconnoitered to a point where the outlying farmland began. This reconnaissance was followed by several more visits to Salado, during which additional documentation and photographic work was done for sites intended for inclusion in the nomination. A local amateur archeologist assisted a staff archeologist in locating several prehistoric and historic archeological sites. On-site examination and some surface testing produced evidence that three of these sites should be included in the nomination.

Altogether some 30 sites were surveyed, of which four were archeological. The 20 sites chosen for this nomination are those which the THC staff, supported by the State Board of Review, found to represent best the architectural and historic development of Salado, and to retain the highest degree of integrity, both of site and form.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(see individual survey sheets)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Salado is a small, unincorporated community in Central Texas, situated in an area of southern Bell County marked by rich soils and a mild climate conducive to growing. The present multiple-resource nomination consists of a comprehensive collection of 20 sites, both archeological and architectural, which represents the prehistoric Indian occupation of the region and the historic Anglo-American settlement. Salado is located near the Balcones Escarpment in an area of limestone outcroppings and many springs. In addition, Salado Creek flows through the town year-round, and Indians were attracted by its waters during certain seasons of the year. In early Anglo-American days, one area along the creek was named Salado Springs, and was a popular camping place. In 1838, a military road crossed the creek at the place where Main Street does today, and the town grew up around this crossing. Most of the sites nominated herein are located on this old road and near the creek itself.

Included in the nomination are three archeological sites, one containing prehistoric artifacts and two bearing 19th-century Anglo-American structural remains. The architectural sites, for their part, reflect a period of residential and commercial building extending from the 1850s to approximately 1918. Viewed as a whole, this group of buildings portrays the evolution of a Central Texas town from the middle 19th century onward, bespeaking both frontier times and the early 20th century. Furthermore, the architectural integrity of the surviving, associated structures is quite remarkable and fortunate. Thus the specific features of Salado and its special history serve to set it apart from a host of other small Texas towns which originated in the 19th century.

When Salado was eventually bypassed by the railroad, it stagnated and failed to grow. Today the town maintains a distinct 19th-century ambience. The creek continues to be a major natural resource, flowing year-round through a lush greenbelt which has been established as a memorial park. Residential and commercial structures are spread nicely apart, with abundant greenspace and large trees around them. Clearly, Salado is a town with an unusually large proportion of surviving historical properties throughout its total area. Likewise significant from an architectural point of view, Salado boasts a number of early structures which display the symmetry, proportions, and detailing characteristic of both the Greek Revival and transitional Victorian styles. It is rare to find so many well-preserved and informative buildings in close proximity to each other.

The town of Salado is located in a rural part of Bell County which, itself, is part of a generally rural section of Central Texas. The landscape is dominated by the most prominent geological feature of the region, the Balcones Fault. This somewhat ill-defined, eastward-looking escarpment separates the flat Blackland Prairies, to the east, from the rolling Lampasas Cut Plains, to the west. It is characterized locally by bluffs and rugged stream-cut slopes containing thin soils and numerous limestone outcroppings. The latter provided useful quarries for use in the 19th century. Surface springs are common along the fault line, and were clearly one of the attractions which drew early Anglo-American settlers. Modern rainfall averages 33 in. yearly, and the growing season lasts some 246 days. Soils are made of clays, sandy clays, or stoney clays; in the area around Salado, the most developed soils occur on stream terraces. Before the advent of Europeans, the uplands were covered with grass, while the valleys contained shrubs--mainly oaks and junipers. Mesquite has flourished in recent times, and some soils have suffered from overgrazing and erosion. Most of the Blacklands to the east are still being farmed. Salado Creek flows through town year-round (photo 1) and its waters bubble up from a

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system of springs along its bed.

Resting on a [REDACTED] is the archeological site formed by repeated occupations of Indians utilizing [REDACTED] permanent supply of water (photos 21, 22). Judging from the styles of stone projectile points found in local artifact collections, this spot was used extensively during the prehistoric Archaic period (6000 B.C.--A.D. 500). Stone tools, bone fragments, and burned rocks from hearths have been identified (photo 23) and deep occupational deposits remain in, and around, [REDACTED] (the Davis Mill Site, #41BL242). There has been some damage to the site through work [REDACTED]

During the period of early colonization, one area along the creek became known as Salado Springs, and was a favorite resting place for travelers. In 1838, a military road was extended across the Republic of Texas and crossed Salado Creek at the place where Main Street does today (photo 1). This road later became an overland stage route, and was also used as a branch of the Chisholm Trail. Till the parallel construction of IH 35, the old Military Road was heavily used by automobiles, under the name of U. S. Highway 81, and it still serves as the main north-south thoroughfare for local motor traffic. Consequently, a majority of the sites nominated here either face directly onto this street or else have easy access to it, and are located near the creek. This placement reflects a pattern of settlement which is both remarkably consistent and venerable.

Begun in 1852 to serve travelers along the old stage route, the Stagecoach Inn (photos 2, 11, 12) is thought to be the oldest remaining structure in Salado. The simple, somewhat primitive wood-frame building of two stories is a good example of frontier vernacular architecture. It features a rectangular plan, and has a two-tiered portico supported by square columns running the length of the front (east) facade. A simple balustrade encloses the second-story balcony. The front facade is broken with a series of single doors and double-hung windows with six-over-six lights placed apparently randomly or as need called for. An addition was made to the rear of the building in the 1940s and again in the 1950s, to accomodate a growing restaurant clientele. These additions are not visible from public approaches to the building, and hence do not compromise the building's historic integrity.

After the period represented by the construction of the old inn, above, the Greek Revival style of architecture made its appearance locally. Despite the vernacular approach to building seen in the early structures of Salado, there is a surprising sophistication reflected in the local expression of the Greek Revival style. Yet isolation and the lack of rail transportation forced builders to rely on local craftsmen limited in their knowledge of current styles, and in the skills necessary for executing them. Locally available materials were a practical and economical choice for construction. Yet these so-called constraints helped produce some unique and altogether pleasing adaptations of the "high styles."

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This style known as Greek Revival, which gained prominence in the eastern states during the first half of the 19th century, became a preferred style in Salado during its settlement years. It continued in use locally well beyond the Civil War period, which generally marks the end of this mode in other parts of the country. But the Greek Revival style never gained complete dominance in the state, for Texas was an area engaged in a frontier struggle at the time when other regions were vigorously constructing elegant buildings. Texans were building, but were mainly after basic shelter. Many of Salado's early settlers, however, were educated, fairly sophisticated man and women of distinction and money. Some of them moved to Texas from the East, while others had been East for their educations, where they were exposed to the architectural expressions of the day. Among the early settlers of Salado were military men, physicians, and lawyers who turned to the symmetry, proportions, and details of Greek Revival architecture when constructing their homes. Of course they also wished to express their affluence and egos in the most up-to-date fashion. As a group, the Greek Revival buildings of Salado are geometrically simple in both plan and form, and are restrained in use of detail. Most are essentially vernacular structures.

The plantation of Col. Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson is outstanding among the architectural sites. This complex includes a complete assemblage of outbuildings and a residence which is one of the best examples of the Greek Revival style as it was interpreted in Texas. The buildings remain intact in their original setting, and form one of the best-preserved complexes from the plantation era. The facade of the house is divided into five parts, so that the central and two end bays constitute pavilions dominated by gables and separated by galleries (photos 4, 5, 6, 7). The house is reminiscent of some examples of American late Georgian architecture, and was likely inspired by a house in Tennessee that was the birthplace of the builder (Webb and Alexander 1966: 248). Squared columns support the two-story porticoes with their balustrades, and the central, double-door entrance has both transom and sidelights. Large double-hung windows with six-over-six lights and louvered shutters punctuate the clapboard walls, while dentils accentuate the cornice and pediments. In constructing his house, Col. Robertson included a "strangers' room" in one of the end pavilions, to allow newcomers and travelers to lodge at his home without bothering his family. The stone kitchen, originally detached, was joined to the house by an addition made in the 1880s, thus breaking somewhat the symmetry of the plan. Otherwise the house has remained intact through six generations of the Robertson family. Included in the nominated property are the servants' quarters (photo 8), which is a single-story stone structure of rectangular plan and gabled roof, a stone and wood barn, and the family cemetery in which Col. Robertson is buried.

Somewhat less elaborate than the Robertson House, but equally dignified, are the Capt. Halley House (photos 35, 36, 37), built ca. 1860, and the Maj. A. J. Rose House (photos 16, 17), built in 1870. Both are of wood-frame construction with clapboard siding, and have an ell-shaped plan. They exhibit Greek Revival symmetry and proportions in their five-bay fronts which feature double-hung windows with six-over-six lights, and pedimented two-story porticoes supported by square columns. Also typical is the use of simple cornice molding, as well as the presence of a central entrance marked with double

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doors, transom, and sidelights. In contrast, Dr. D. B. McKie turned to native limestone when he built his ell-plan, Greek Revival residence on the east bank of Salado Creek (photos 18, 19, 20). Stone mason "Whiskey Jack" Hendrickson used hand-tooled, rough-hewn limestone blocks quarried from a site near the creek in the construction of the house. Nestled in a grove of oaks, whence the name Twelve Oaks, the house features a symmetrical, three-bay front with dressed limestone quoins, double-hung windows with six-over-six lights, and a central, double-door entrance with transom and sidelights. The characteristic projecting portico has undergone alterations in the mid-20th century, but the changes are fortunately reversible. The original stone pillars and the prominent stone cornice topped with convex molding, have been plastered over with cement. Also, the proportions of the pediment are correct neither for the style nor for the scale of the house and its columns. Nonetheless, Twelve Oaks is an example of the Greek Revival style as it was interpreted locally, and the core of the dwelling remains intact.

Not all of the structures showing Greek Revival influence are as imposing as those discussed above. Consisting of a single story, the Levi Tenney House, (photos 30,31), build ca. 1860, and the Armstrong-Adams House (photo 28), built ca. 1868, are quite modest in size. Nevertheless, the latter is a fine example of the style. Constructed of dressed limestone blocks, its five-bay front features quoins, flat arches above double-hung windows with six-over-six lights, projecting portico with cornice, and a flat roof supported by square columns. Though less refined, the Levi Tenney House displays Greek Revival symmetry and proportions in its five-bay front. It also shows the use of quoins and flat arches above the doors and windows. The house was altered in the mid-20th century with a certain insensitivity to its original architecture. A recent owner, however, has removed several intrusive features which had compromised the integrity of the structure. The original windows probably had six-over-six lights, and the roof brackets were very likely not exposed. Nevertheless, this stone residence represents the Greek Revival style as it was interpreted by early Salado architecture.

On the northern fringes of the town, the Fowler House (photos 38, 39), built in 1872, denotes Revival symmetry and proportions in the two-story, five-bay front. This facade is marked by double-hung windows with six-over-six lights accented with pedimented hood molds. There is a central entrance surrounded by transom and sidelights. Both the scale and the details of the existing single-story portico with pediment suggest that it is not original. In all probability, the house had an earlier portico where the present one is located.

The Tyler House (photo 25), built in 1857, and the Anderson House (photo 26), built in 1860, are located across Main Street from each other, just north of the creek. They both witness the Greek Revival style in their overall forms and facades, but depart from that style in certain details. Most notably, their porticoes are horizontal in emphasis, and both their design and proportions are not typically those of the Greek Revival style as seen in Texas. It is even possible that the existing porticoes are not original. The single, carved doors of the Anderson House are generally associated with Victorian architecture. Furthermore, variations in the siding used on that house, as well as differences between windows on the first and second floors (six-over-six lights

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downstairs, four-over-four upstairs), suggest that the house was built in several stages. The Anderson House exhibits a single-story ell with a rear porch enclosed in the mid-20th century. Nominated along with the house are a barn, some sheds, and a one-room store built of native limestone which fronts on Main Street just north of the main house (photo 27). The originally detached kitchen of the Tyler House was later joined to the main structure around 1935, and in 1971 a one-story room was added to the north side of the house to expand business space. Compatible materials were used in the addition, although it was designed so that it could be removed.

The George Washington Baines House, built ca. 1866, represents an original construction in the Greek Revival mode, with later modification to transform the attic into usable space (photos 14, 15). Among its Greek Revival traits are the symmetrical placement of the double-door entrance with transom and sidelights, and the use of double-hung windows with six-over-six lights. Square columns supporting a projecting portico detailed with dentils can also be cited. Yet the high-pitched roof with intersecting gables, and the proportions of the pediment above the portico, are more characteristic of Victorian architecture. Also, both historic and physical evidence suggests that the roofline was altered in the 19th century. The owners of the house have just completed a thorough restoration of the property, largely returning it to its middle 19th-century condition.

Possibly the most important non-residential structure in Salado was Salado College (archeological site #41BL241), which was built about 1861 (photos 9, 10). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The building originally stood two stories tall, with the main entrance facing south. The west wall and the northeast corner of the east wall are all that survive, and both are in deteriorated condition amid piles of stone rubble. Examination of the remains, however, reveals a surprising sophistication in the construction of the stone walls, which were once plastered with a lime mortar and scored to emulate smooth, precise ashlar courses. Originally topping the two-story walls was a pronounced cornice with carved-stone molding just beneath the eaves of the roofline.

With the swift current of Salado Creek providing power, milling became an important early industry for Salado. Although historic documentation indicates that, in 1866, W. A. Davis build his wool-carding mill on the creek in what is now [REDACTED] (the Davis Mill Site, #41BL242), the remains of the structure may have been washed away in floods. There is no known evidence which would indicate the exact location or appearance of the mill. In contrast, structural remains can be seen at the Thomas Jones Mill Site (archeological site #41BL243), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (photos 42, 43, 44). The Jones Mill appears to have been built in 1869 against a small terrace or ledge, on the south side of the creek. Part of a wall, constructed of limestone slabs laid without mortar, and one iron sprocket are all that can be seen of the mill, which operated until 1884. The surrounding area has been completely developed as a golf course and condominium complex.

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Few commercial buildings remain from Salado's earliest years. The Barbee-Berry Mercantile Building (photos 3, 13), built around 1870 at the corner of Main and Royal streets, housed one of the earliest mercantile businesses, and exhibits fine masonry craftsmanship in its construction. The three-bay front is constructed of dressed ashlar, and marked with second-floor windows with six-over-six lights and a handsome, exaggerated cornice. Typically, the side and rear facades were constructed with less costly, quarry-faced ashlar. Though the building has been adapted for continued use, it remains a fine, essentially intact example of 19th-century commercial architecture.

Reference has been made to a significant number of stone structures in Salado, the craftsmanship of which is outstanding. Stone mason "Whiskey Jack" Hendrickson has been identified with Twelve Oaks and Salado College, and architectural evidence suggests that he may have worked on other structures in Salado. Similarities in craftsmanship and detail with Twelve Oaks can be seen in the Armstrong-Adams House and the Barbee-Berry Mercantile Building. Another stone house of merit showing fine craftsmanship and detailing is the Barton House (photo 32), which is distinct in several of its features. Built in 1866 of quarry-faced ashlar, the house consists of two full floors and a cellar, constructed into a hillside. The high pitched roof gives it a vertical emphasis, but even more unusual for its time and context is the off-center entrance and the single-story wing which projects on the north side.

At about the time the college closed, in 1885, and due partly to the lack of a railroad, the economy of Salado began a long decline. When other towns and cities across the state were enjoying a Victorian building boom, Salado was architecturally and economically dormant. Of the few modest Victorian structures built in the town, two are included in this nomination. The Salado Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1890, portrays the popular Gothic Revival style (photo 29). It has pointed, quatrefoil windows, typical Victorian brackets, and fish-scale shingles in the corner spire. The Vickrey House, built in 1886, is a charming, if modest, example of Second Empire construction (photos 33,34). This Victorian style was less common than some others in Texas, and it is unusual to find a fine example of a Mansard roof on this small, ell-plan house. This roof, combined with the concentration of bobbin work on the corner portico, make it an altogether Victorian confection.

Also included in the nomination are structures which do not readily fit into any stylistic category, but do reflect the settlement and development of the area. The Davis House, built ca. 1874 on Main Street, has developed from an original, double-pen log structure into the almost random plan of today (photo 24). It even incorporated a small frame store that was moved up the hill from the creek and attached in 1900. Another addition was completed in 1920. Moving into the 20th century, the White-Aiken House (photos 40, 41) shows a continuation of this adaptation to meet changing needs. The structure was built as a rural farmhouse in 1910, and then moved to its present location on a rise just north of town, in 1918. With a simple ell plan originally, the house

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has been considerably modified. A second floor was added at the new location. The house is a good example of an early 20th-century farmhouse, and is the only one of this kind found in Salado. Although interspersed with some early structures that were inappropriately altered, and an increasing number of modern ones, the properties nominated herein paint a cohesive mural of Salado's history. Located throughout the community on their original sites, they maintain the 19th-century appearance of the town, which is one of its main features.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

N/A

Builder/Architect

N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Salado is a small community in Central Texas, rich in cultural resources that reflect its historical evolution. Sited along the lush banks of spring-fed Salado Creek, this area was known long before Anglo-American settlement. For centuries it was a favored occupational site for prehistoric Indians who camped near the permanent springs. Archeological remains indicate seasonal use by hunting-and-gathering people who occupied the area for at least 7000 years. This land was claimed in 1825 as part of the Nashville Colony (known later as the Robertson Colony), although it was not permanently settled by Anglo-Americans till about 1848, when Archibald Willingham settled 320 acres on Salado Creek and built a double log cabin near the Stagecoach Inn. Around 1852 Col. Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson moved to the area and established a plantation on the creek. Robertson actively encouraged others to join him in settling the rich farmland and was soon followed by a number of settlers. Notably, many of these pioneers were prominently established in medicine, law, politics, and the military profession. They preferred residential structures in the fashionable Greek Revival style, most of which remain today as a concentrated survival of a style which never became altogether dominant in Texas. The establishment of Salado College, in 1859, due largely to Robertson's efforts, brought both recognition and more people to the settlement. The town quickly grew into a bustling agricultural center serving the southern half of Bell County, and eight water mills were built along the creek between 1850 and 1880. This development was soon curtailed, however, when the railroad crossed Bell County in the 1880s, yet bypassed and isolated the town. The closing of Salado College in 1885 worsened a bad situation and the population suffered a sharp decline over the next few years. Yet Salado's history has long been a source of pride to the community, and steps have been taken to preserve and commemorate many sites associated with this history. Today Salado is an active community which is once more experiencing some growth and development. It still retains a significant concentration of historic resources in a setting that clearly portrays the ambience of a Pioneer Texas community.

Long before its permanent Anglo-American settlement, the site of present-day Salado was used by Indians. The inexhaustible local sources of water, later called Salado Springs, attracted aborigines on a seasonal basis. The prehistoric archeological sites in, and adjacent to, Salado have not been carefully investigated, but similar Indian sites were excavated at [REDACTED] (Sorrow et al. 1967). There, temporary occupations by hunters and food gatherers were identified from early Archaic (6000 B. C.) to late prehistoric (A. D. 1600) times. These ancient occupations are identified by burned-rock hearths and middens, bone and shell fragments and stone artifacts. The Davis Mill Site (#41BL242) [REDACTED] is a prime archeological location and should someday be excavated. Elevated somewhat above the permanent water supply, the deposits there are reported to be at least 12 ft. deep according to local sources, and offer a potentially good stratigraphic separation between different periods of occupation.

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During the surge of westward expansion in the 19th century, a Texas Association was formed in 1822 by a group of adventuresome individuals in Nashville, Tennessee. They were interested in colonizing a part of the newly opened Texas frontier. Robert Leftwich, acting as agent for the group, obtained a contract in 1825 to settle 800 families within the basin of the Brazos River in Texas, on a land grant first known as the Nashville Colony. Second in size only to Stephen F. Austin's colony, this one encompassed all, or part, of thirty present counties. In 1827, Hosea H. League was named empresario of the colony, and set about the task of bringing colonists to Texas. By 1830, however, a legal conflict arose between League and Stephen F. Austin, concerning rights to some land claimed by the Nashville Colony which bordered Austin's colony. Due to League's poor health and personal legal difficulties, Sterling C. Robertson took over as spokesman for the colony, and represented their claims to the Mexican government. In 1834, the dispute was settled in favor of the Nashville Colony. Robertson was made empresario and the name was changed to "the Robertson Colony." This colony actually had no immediate effect upon the land on Salado Creek which is the subject of the present report, but it nonetheless was of considerable importance as an early colonization effort.

The creek was first crossed at Salado Springs by the old Military Road, and later by a stage route which ran between Little Rock, Arkansas, and San Antonio. One of the oldest remaining structures in Salado is the Stagecoach Inn, which has been serving travelers since 1852. Originally an overnight inn, the structure now functions as a restaurant, while a nearby addition serves as a motor hotel. Settlers are known to have resided in the area as early as the fall of 1851, but the permanent establishment of Salado at the site of Salado Springs is credited largely to the efforts of Col. E. S. C. Robertson, son of the famous colonizer and empresario who died in 1842. Robertson, who established himself prominently in the public workings of the Republic of Texas, owned several leagues of land in the area, and moved to Salado Springs in 1852 with his new bride, Mary Elizabeth Dickey. Two years later they began construction of a permanent residence on their plantation. The house and dependent buildings are one of the best-preserved plantations in the state. Col. Robertson's house is an impressive structure in Greek Revival style. Although Robertson encouraged others to join him in the area, and offered farmland for sale, it was not until 1859 when a college was established that Salado began to develop as a permanent settlement.

Many of those moving into the community were educated, aspiring individuals who made formal instruction a high priority. A tent-meeting was held at the springs on October 8, 1859, to discuss founding a college in Bell County. Col. Robertson donated 740 acres of land for the school, including a 100-acre building site [redacted] and a section of land to be laid out for a town. It was sold off in lots, with the proceeds going to the school. A joint-stock company was organized, and the college was chartered by special act of the legislature on February 8, 1860, as a nondenominational and coeducational institution. Classes began in a temporary wooden structure on February 20, and plans were drawn up for a permanent building. The remains of this stone structure can still be seen [redacted] (Salado College, archeological site #41BL241). Rev. Levi Tenney, a scholarly Presbyterian minister, was hired as the first principal of the college,

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and a modest, vernacular stone cottage showing Greek Revival principles was built as his residence (Levi Tenney House, ca. 1860). It is located just north of the springs. The establishment of the college created an interest in Salado Springs, and a period of growth and prosperity began. Many Greek Revival residences were constructed during the next decade as prominent families came to town who were interested in educational opportunities for their children. The Capt. Robert B. Halley House (ca. 1860), Twelve Oaks (1867), and the A. J. Rose House (1870) are part of this collection.

The natural resources of Salado and the surrounding area drew to the region settlers with agricultural interests. A continuous supply of water, abundant fertile land, and a mild climate made the locale suitable for planting and livestock raising. In July of 1873, the first Grange of Texas was organized in Salado. A non-partisan agrarian order with national affiliations, the Grange offered farm families "co-operation in business, happier home lives, more social contacts, and better educational opportunities." When the Texas State Grange at Dallas was organized the following October, members from Salado were present and were involved in drafting the constitution and by-laws. In the days of the cross-country cattle drives of the 1860s and 1870s, cattle from Texas were brought through Salado en route to Kansas markets. The famous Chisholm Trail came through town along the old stage road (now Main Street), and crossed Salado Creek near the present highway bridge. These cattle drives, which sometimes brought as many as 2,000 or 3,000 head of cattle through at one time, ended with the introduction of barbed wire across the prairies and plains. The concurrent growth of the railroads furnished a better way to transport livestock to markets.

The years following the establishment of the college were prosperous ones for Salado. As enrollment increased, families continued to move into the area and more businesses opened. Salado Creek flowed with enough current to operate mills, and eight of them were established along a nine-mile stretch of the stream. W. A. Davis built his grist- and wood-carding mill near the townsite and college, [REDACTED] (the Davis Mill Site, #41BL242). In addition to its important role in Salado's industrial history, the mill's operation was quite controversial. When the college sold land and granted permission to use the creek waters for milling, a restriction was placed in the deed stating that the water level should not be raised so high that the springs overflowed. But in the course of his operations, Mr. Davis constructed several dams, all of which covered the springs. So controversial was the issue that the suit brought by the college against Davis, in 1870, reached the U. S. Supreme Court before it was finally settled in favor of the college. Davis lowered the height of his dam, although it was eventually washed away by a flood in 1913 and never rebuilt. Col. Thomas J. Jones came to Salado in 1868, and constructed a gristmill [REDACTED] (the Jones Mill Site, #41BL243). Jones built his home on a hill overlooking the mill, which he operated until 1884. Today all that remains at this site is part of a limestone wall and an iron milling sprocket.

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Early residents crossed the creek on stepping stones and crude log walkways that were apt to disappear during high water. So it is not surprising that the decision to incorporate the settlement was made, since it arose mainly from the need for a permanent foot bridge. Application was made under the general law, and in January 1867, the county court authorized an election for town officials. Judge O. T. Tyler was elected as Salado's first mayor. Solicited donations failed to provide the capital needed for construction of the bridge, so in December 1868, city officials ordered that bonds be issued. With the resulting \$2500, the suspension footbridge was designed and constructed by local residents. Dressed stone piers carried the galvanized wire-rope cables from which the plank walkway was suspended (photo 3). The footbridge, which existed just east of the current Main Street bridge, was swept away in a flood in 1900, along with a wagon bridge that had also been built. The bridges were rebuilt, only to be washed away again in the flood of 1913, and again in 1921.

Salado thrived until the early 1880s, and its merchants served the needs of a large section of southern Bell County. When, however, the Santa Fe and MKT railroads were laid considerably to the northeast of Salado, trade was quickly drawn to the new railroad towns. Although the college charter expired in 1880, the school continued to operate till 1885. In that year the buildings, grounds, and equipment of the college were turned over to officials of the Salado free public schools, and were used as a high school until the building was destroyed by fire in 1924. Salado's charter of incorporation expired in 1917 and was never renewed.

Through the early decades of the 20th century, Salado experienced a steady economic decline. The population dropped from 900 in 1882, to 400 by 1914. And by 1950 the population was only slightly over 200. In 1943, the Stagecoach Inn was purchased by a couple who put together what quickly became a nationally acclaimed restaurant. A motel facility was added to the inn property in the 1950s, and fronts on Interstate 35. Thus the popularity of this charming little community on the creek began to grow. During the 1960s, Salado began to experience something of a rebirth. The same elements which had attracted the early settlers were again appealing to new settlers. Easily accessible from various parts of the state, Salado is surrounded with choice grazing and farmlands. The spring-fed creek continues to wander through town. Although the banks of the creek are not as lush and wooded as they once were, they continue to be a valuable natural asset to the community, and were listed as a Natural Landmark by the Texas Historical Commission in 1867. Today, the large number of historic properties readily visible from the public thoroughfares gives Salado a unique character peculiar to its own historical development. The artists, craftsmen, and antique dealers who were drawn to the picturesque little community breathed new life into its economy. Publicity has been given to Salado's history, and has helped make the town a popular stop for tourists. The population in 1980 was 400, twice the figure for 1950.

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Salado is located on IH35, in the high-growth corridor that runs between Austin and Dallas. The threat of urban encroachment is, therefore, real. The residents of Salado, however, recognize the historic value and architectural integrity of their area. They have committed themselves to its protection. Already several properties have benefitted from careful restoration work and regular maintenance, while the indications are strong that this trend will continue.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property (see individual survey sheet)

Quadrangle name Salado, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A
Zone Easting Northing
C
E
G

B
Zone Easting Northing
D
F
H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual survey sheets.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Flory Butler, Historian (LeRoy Johnson, Jr., ed.)

organization Texas Historical Commission (contract) date August 31, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 796 telephone 512-863-0062 or 863-0934

city or town Georgetown state Texas 78626

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 16 Feb. 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda McClelland

date 4-5-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Interviews by Linda Flory Butler with the following Salado residents: Mrs. Pat Ashe, Mrs. Pat Barton, Mr. Chester Critchfield, Mrs. Thelma Fletcher, and Mrs. Sterling C. Robertson.

Telephone Interviews by Peter Flagg Maxson with Dr. Douglas, Willingham on January 21, 1983.

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Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, on file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Salado Multiple Resource Area
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Stagecoach Inn

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 4/5/83

Attest

2. Barbee-Berry Mercantile Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Rebecca Givens 8/22/84

Attest

3. Baines, George Washington, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

4/5/83 Melores Byers

Attest

4. Robertson, Col. Elijah Sterling
Clack, Plantation

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

4/5/83 Melores Byers

Attest

5. Rose House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Rebecca Givens

Attest

6. White-Aiken House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

4/5/83 Melores Byers

Attest

7. Armstrong-Adams House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

4/5/83 Melores Byers

Attest

8. Davis House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

4/5/83 Melores Byers

Attest

9. Pace Memorial Park
Archeological Site/Davis
Mill Site

Substantive Review

Keeper

Rebecca Givens

Attest

10. Salado College Archeological
Site

Substantive Review

Keeper

3/1/85 Yvonne B. Stewart

Attest

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Salado Multiple Resource Area
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓11. Vickrey House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 4/5/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓12. Twelve Oaks (McKie House) | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 4/5/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓13. Barton House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 4/5/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓14. Jones, Thomas, Mill
Archeological Site | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> S |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓15. Tyler House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 4/5/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓16. Tenney, Levi, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 4/5/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓17. Fowler House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 4/5/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓18. Anderson House and Store | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 4/5/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓19. Salado United Methodist Church | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Beth Garwood</u> 8/22/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| ✓20. Halley, Capt. Robert, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | 4/5/83 <u>Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |