

THE RED TOP JAIL MUSEUM

Interpretive Resource Plan



Photo: Red Top Jail, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail

Developed in collaboration with:



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By

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and

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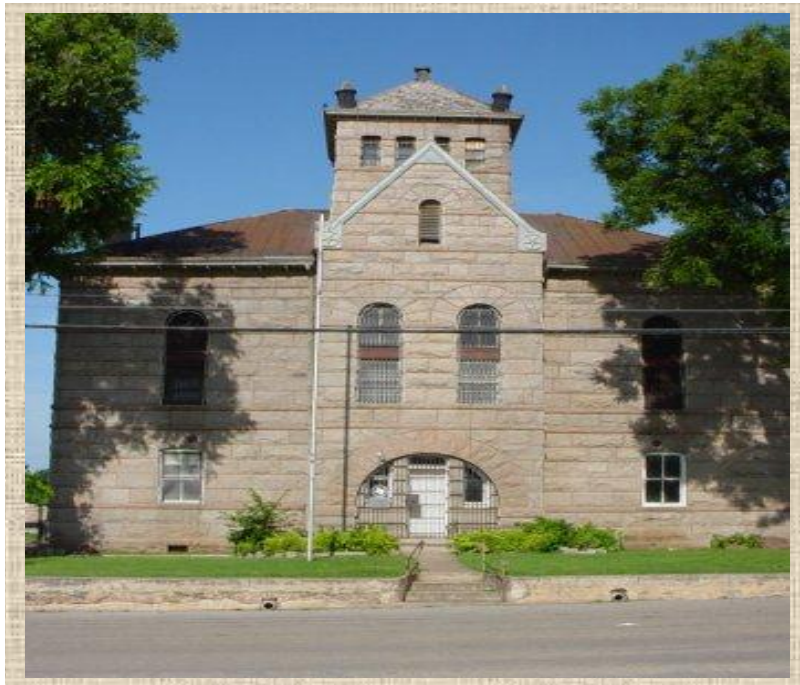


Photo: Llano Red Top Jail

Introduction to the Project

The Interpretive Resource Plan for the Llano Red Top Jail Museum results from a need within the community to begin planning for a museum in this historic structure. The Llano Red Top Jail is on the National and State Registers of historic places. It was created during the “wild west” boomtown days of Llano’s history and has many stories within its walls, some of which have been documented in an Oral History Compilation in Appendix G.

Interest in developing a museum results from efforts of the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano Main Street and the City of Llano to conserve this building – named by Preservation Texas as one of "Texas's Most Endangered Places" on February 4, 2010. Thanks in part to the National Park Service Preserve America grant, the Llano Red Top Jail Museum may be developed as a paradigm for other rural historical tourist destinations.

The goal of this project is to transform the old county Llano Red Top Jail into a jail museum that interprets Llano’s history as a western frontier town at the turn of the 20th century and that situates this history within the context of the frontier movement in the U.S. The Llano Red Top Jail project will result in: 1) the conservation of this monument, 2) its transformation from a maintenance concern into a revenue-generating asset for the city, and 3) the development of exhibits that engender public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of this cultural legacy.

By creating public awareness of this significant building and by providing plans to transform the historic structure into a state-of-the-art museum with experiential, interactive, and interpretive exhibits, this project endeavors to conserve both the structure and its colorful history for future generations to enjoy and protect.



Executive Summary

The Llano Red Top Jail Interpretive Resource Plan is divided into two elements (1) Interpretive Significance and Resources for Planning and (2) Interpretive Museum Plan. Planning assumptions are delineated prior to these discussions and will be further defined throughout the text of this document.

1. Interpretive Significance and Resources for Planning.

The first part of the Interpretive Resource Plan highlights the historical and cultural significance of the Llano Red Top Jail. Value to the community as a museum in terms of an educational tool and a

tourist destination is discussed. This section includes a discussion of tourism in Llano and surrounding counties, community interest in the Red Top Jail and the importance of creation of a museum plan.

Local, state and national resources specifically useful for the creation of the museum are discussed in this section. Recommendations for future concentration of efforts are discussed. This section includes resources and suggestions for further definition of visitor demographics and economic impact. Specific ideas for partnerships with regional, state and national tourism programs, as well as the inclusion of Llano students in these activities are included in these recommendations.

2. Interpretive Museum Plan. Key themes and messages that are expected from a tour of the Llano Red Top Jail Museum are included in the second part of the plan. This plan discusses the results of meetings with stakeholders concerning the museum theme and objectives and provides a detailed exhibit plan and storyline development to satisfy these objectives. The audience profile and visitor needs are addressed. A Museum Interpretive Plan developed by Toxey/McMillan Design Associates is the main focus of the second section.

Appendices

Several appendices outlining interpretive resources available for the Llano Red Top Jail Museum are included. In addition, excerpts from the architectural Preservation Master Plan are provided with reference to the local historical context of the jail and heritage tourism in Llano. Building evaluation and recommendations by the architect are included. Accessibility issues for persons with disabilities are addressed in two sections of the Appendix, as well as the text of this document. The recent enactment of a historic ordinance covering the

Llano Historic District, including the Llano Red Top Jail is documented in the Appendix. In addition, visitor profile data in Llano and nearby tourist attractions is shown.

Through this grant, the National Park Service funded a unique Oral History Project involving Llano High School students and former Red Top Jail denizens, orchestrated by the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail. The result of this project is a Llano Red Top Jail Oral History Compilation and a movie (redtopjailthemovie.wav), both of which are included as part of this report.

The goal of this project is to assist in the development of the jail into a valuable resource for the community in terms of economic tourism with historical, cultural and educational value. The ultimate goal is to create a Llano Red Top Jail Museum that will become a focal point of learning, historical preservation and local western penal history. Creation of a first-class museum will enhance tourism in the City of Llano.

Planning Assumptions

1.a. Status of the building.

The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail are working together with the City of Llano, the building's owner, to restore the jail building. The Architectural Preservation Master Plan delineates 9 phases of restoration of the jail. The renovation is now in phase 4, stabilization of the foundation. Grants are currently in place to perform this necessary stabilization, and the Friends have already removed the floors and floor joists for this process. After a stonemason completes the repointing and mortar work, 32 piers will be installed. These piers have been funded by local donations and fundraising efforts, as well as grants written by the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail for the City of Llano. Therefore, the City of Llano is committed to the restoration of the building for use as a future museum and is actively repairing the structure.

1.b. Importance of the building to the City of Llano.

Llano Main Street is very active and seeks to preserve the historic buildings in Llano. The full-time Llano Main Street Director is also paid by the City of Llano for community development. The building is on the national and state registers of historic places and is therefore

protected. A local historical ordinance was enacted in 2011 that includes the Llano Red Top Jail (Appendix D). Restoration of the Llano Courthouse was recently completed and serves as a historical treasure to Llano. The Llano Red Top Jail was named as one of Texas' most endangered places by Preservation Texas in 2010. This points to the value that is placed on the restoration of the jail by the local and state communities.

1.c. The museum will preserve the integrity of the building.

Tourists coming to the Red Top Jail Museum want to experience the stark jail cells, walk up the gallows tower and view the jailor's quarters. None of these aspects will be disturbed. In fact, they will all be enhanced by the interpretation that is presented. The only additional structure that may be added is a small elevator going up the central tower one story to the second floor jail cells. The granite façade and red roof will not be altered, except for repointing of some joints. The interior structure will be restored to its original floor plan, with restrooms being provided in a separate building.

The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail and the City of Llano are very sensitive to maintaining the integrity of this historic treasure. As an example of their attention to conservation detail, an outside company from Galveston, Source Group, Inc. scientifically analyzed the exact color and composition of the red roof prior to restoration. This was a recommendation listed in the planning document previously obtained from Karl Komatsu, Inc., the Llano Red Top Jail Preservation Master Plan. In addition, damaged metal corbels were remade identically to those in place. The roof is now restored as an exact match to its original design. Thus, owners and stakeholders of the building are deeply concerned about maintaining the integrity of the Llano Red Top Jail.

1.d. The history of incarceration will be presented without prejudice for those incarcerated.

As a rural community, Llano does not have a “bad part of town”, nor does it have any gangs or histories of “bad families”. The jail log books on record show that the majority of offenses were minor and fleeting. More serious crimes were rare. In the Oral History Compilation (Appendix G), those incarcerated were not identified by name. The few criminals that are mentioned in the discussion of Llano’s penal history in this report were nationally notorious, e.g., Johnny Ringo. Nevertheless, since the jail was used until 1982, care was taken to exclude the names of those incarcerated at the Red Top Jail.

1.e. Historic facts and themes are substantiated by reliable research.

The Oral History Compilation is a living document and more research can be done to further substantiate stories told by jailors and their families. This will be done before the project is published. Library research on this project was not part of the scope of work from this grant, but will be completed by the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano County Museum, Llano County Public Library (and Friends of the Llano Library) and Llano High School. The movie that resulted from the oral history project is based on known facts that have been substantiated from several sources.

All of the research presented in the Interpretive Resource Plan has been substantiated with references to historic treatises and documents.

Part I.

Interpretive Significance and Resources

The following discussion is a summary of work that is presented in more depth and documentation later in this plan or the appendices.

As introduction, the interpretive significance of the Llano Red Top Jail as a historical treasure is placed into the historical context of the western expansion and civilization of America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The building itself serves as an architectural and historical testament to cultural themes that Llano citizens of 1895 wanted to convey, some of which endure today. The context of the need for the construction in 1895 of the Llano Red Top Jail will be discussed in this plan as a basis for thematic presentation of a “western jail museum”.

Historical Context during the Construction of the Llano Red Top Jail. The visually solid, Romanesque-Revival, Llano County Red Top Jail (1895) is the architectural and civic complement to the showy, eclectic Llano County Courthouse (1893). As with most county seats in Texas, these two buildings form the epicenter of the county.

The Red Top Jail is significant to local, regional, state, and national history. It reflects the economic and population booms that Llano was experiencing in the late 19th century. The Red Top Jail is constructed of local granite, whose quarrying provided an economic base for the region. The region's rich mineral history produced the wealth that built the jail and the burgeoning population that needed a jail.

The building also represents many aspects of late 19th-century urban, legal, and architectural history in Texas. It is a product of post-Reconstruction legislation and funding and the selection of Romanesque Revival for the architectural details reflects the desire for security and permanence felt among settlers of the recently conquered frontier.

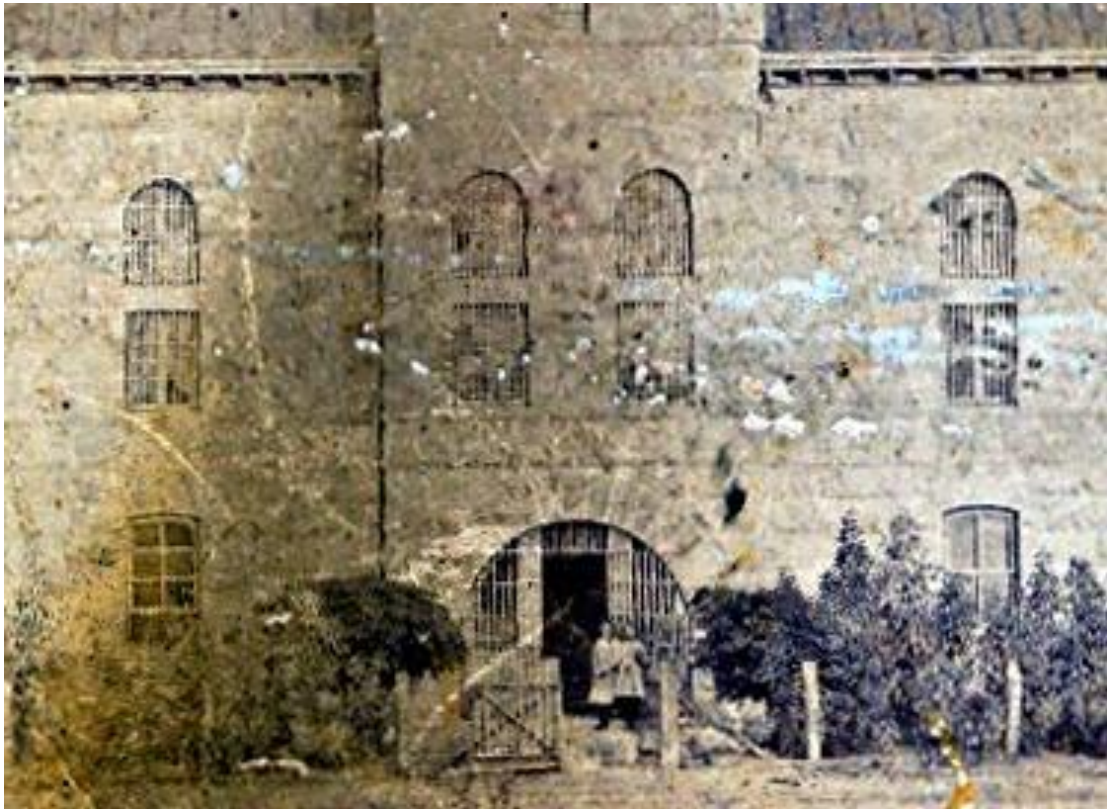


Photo: Llano Red Top Jail around 1900. Photo courtesy of Larry Jones. Note the two girls in front of the entrance. These girls may be family members of the first jailor, Barry Hickman Russell (Oral History Project Compilation, Appendix G).

In addition, the Red Top Jail demonstrates contemporary U.S. developments in penology, industrial production methods, transportation, and construction systems. Well-lit and ventilated cells with live-in jailers and home-cooked meals represented a dramatic change from the dark, airless dungeons in which prisoners were previously held. These design reforms resulted from concern for prisoner wellbeing that was being espoused nation-wide. Also, the use of iron and concrete for building systems and jail cells was state-of-the-art at the time of construction and being experimented with at this time across the U.S. and Europe. The recent extension of the railroad to Llano made possible delivery of these products from their Midwest manufacturers.

The Llano County “Red Top” Jail was designed by notable Mississippi architects F.B. and W.S. Hull with cells produced by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri. The newly extended railroad line to Llano allowed these materials to be brought by rail from St. Louis to Llano. Therefore, the structure served as an illustration of the ability of a frontier town like Llano to procure materials and design services from out of state.

The previous jail was located directly on the courthouse square and was condemned in 1892 as the courthouse was being built. The difference between this original 2-story adobe brick structure and the 4-story 1895 Red Top Jail with gallows tower denotes growth in the town’s wealth and prominence. As shown in the photo, the previous jail was a product of the folk or frontier style of architecture, while the Red Top Jail represented the availability of modern materials that could be delivered by the new railroad, just across the river.



Photo: From “Cobwebs and Cornerstones”, 2011, P.W. Almond and S.O. Franklin, Ginny’s Printing. Note the early adobe brick jail building on the left of the courthouse square. This jail was destroyed after the Red Top Jail was built in 1895. The courthouse, early construction shown on the right, was finished in 1893.

To place the “new” jail of 1895 in context, the origin of Llano’s new source of wealth must be explained. At that time, Llano was a boomtown with the recent discovery of iron ore in the region. The population soared from around 2,000 people to around 10,000,

basically overnight (Almond and Franklin, 2011). The town was a part of the “Wild West” frontier and was replete with gunfights in the streets and numerous saloons. The photo shows that it was not intended as a statement, but rather as a convenient place to hold prisoners during the frontier days of Llano’s history. Construction of the imposing, granite Red Top Jail was intended to serve as a deterrent to the lawlessness that was rampant at that time. This new 4-story structure with a gallows sent the message that breaking the law was no longer acceptable in Llano County.

For a more in-depth discussion of the history of Llano and Llano’s historic buildings, including the historic district and historically designated buildings, please see “Excerpts from Llano County Red Top Jail Preservation Master Plan” in the appendix. The Master Plan was compiled by Karl Komatsu Architecture in 2009 for the City of Llano with the help from a grant from the National Trust.

Cultural Significance of the Llano Red Top Jail. Of perhaps greatest importance, however, is the cultural significance that this building holds for the community of Llano. It has been a landmark structure in the city for over a century, and was in use as a jail for most of that time (1895–1982). Many residents of Llano descend from former sheriffs and jailers who lived in or were closely associated with the jail, and many more remember the jail from the other side of the bars. The cultural significance of the building is that it serves as a reminder of the consequences to breaking the law in the 1890s and beyond. It also embodies the history of jailors and their families and life in the jailor’s quarters at the turn of the century and beyond.

A museum dedicated to re-creation of the Red Top Jail and the history that it holds would be a fascinating, unique and exciting tourist destination. The plan is to create a first class museum for the enjoyment of visitors of all ages. In doing so, the jail might also continue to serve its original goal, to be a deterrent to breaking the law, for future generations.

Community Interest in the Llano Red Top Jail Museum. The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail was formed in 2007 with the mission to restore, preserve, and promote the jail and its historical significance. Membership in this organization is around 100 citizens, some from out of state. Before the jail was deemed unsafe for tours in 2011, tours were given on Saturdays and during festivals in town. The Friends sponsored period music and cowboy reenactments at the Red Top Jail during these festivals such as Heritage Days, the Texas Proud Festival and other events. The Friends have worked with the City of Llano in fundraising and have to date obtained funds to match other state and private grants. Sources of this money include grants from the Summerlee Foundation and the Texas Historical Foundation. In addition, the Friends started an “Adopt-a-Pier Campaign” to raise money for the renovation of the foundation. The friends also worked with the City to obtain the last and only grant given by the Texas Historical Commission in 2010 for the restoration of the foundation of this structure. As mentioned, Preserve America named the Llano Red Top Jail as one of seven of Texas’ Most Endangered Places in 2010. This designation was given at the Texas State Capitol in a formal ceremony and was attended by many members of the Friends, the Mayor, City Manager and other Llano dignitaries. The Friends have a website, llanoredtopjail.com and are on Facebook. Therefore, the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail are a very active group concerned with fundraising and conservation of the jail.

An architectural preservation master plan was compiled in 2009 for the Llano Red Top Jail by Karl Komatsu Architecture. This was the result of funding from the National Trust and the City of Llano. Excerpts from this plan are included in the Appendix. The plan serves as a guide for the renovation of the jail and lists 9 phases of restoration with a timeline and cost estimates. The master plan is a useful tool for fundraising and demonstrates the extent of community interest in the restoration of the Red Top Jail.

Most members of Llano are aware that the old jail is being renovated for use as a future museum. Public meetings between the museum

planning team Toxey/McMillan and town stakeholders took place on December 20, 2010, February 24, 2011 and December 20, 2012. At the first meeting, the museum theme and overall objectives were discussed and congealed. A draft conceptual plan was presented at the February, 2011 meeting and suggestions put forth by the audience were addressed. At the last meeting in 2012, the conceptual plan was presented to the public at the historic LanTex Theater. Throughout the process of the creation of the interpretive plan, calls for participation to the public and potential stakeholders were made and meetings were published in the local newspapers. Therefore, interested persons were kept informed of the need for input and suggestions were welcomed and addressed. The decision to plan a museum based on the early to mid-20th century focusing on Llano penal history and life at the jail met with no opposition during these meetings or after. Therefore, it appears that community leaders and business owners are unanimous on the adaptive reuse of the Red Top Jail as an interpretive museum based on its prior history as a jail.

Importance of Creation of a Museum Interpretive Resource Plan.

One of the most compelling reasons to create an interpretive plan at this juncture of the renovation was that many suggestions for the intended use of the jail as a museum were being discussed. A consensus from the many ideas was needed among stakeholders as to the ultimate goal and theme of this museum. The most frequently voiced suggestion for the Red Top Jail was to use it as described in this plan. However, other suggestions were to use it as a local and state law enforcement museum (Llano City and County, Texas, and Texas Rangers) or as a minerological museum, due to Llano's unique rich natural resources. Other suggestions were to turn it into a Bed and Breakfast, a tearoom or a bar. It was important to obtain a consensus of the purpose of the museum so that the stakeholders could work toward one common goal. A final consensus on the purpose was accomplished with this work, which is to use the building as a museum focusing on its original intention as a jail.

The rural community of Llano, Texas is close to other major cities within Texas and has major tourist draws, explained in the next

sections. In addition, the jail building itself is historically significant. Therefore, development of a museum at the Llano Red Top Jail focusing on history of the region in the context of U.S. expansion to the west is of interest to many people interested in history. Elucidation of the resources available for development of this museum is important for the achievement of this goal.

Use of the Llano Red Top Jail Museum as an Educational Tool. The Llano Red Top Jail Museum will be an important educational tool for students of history of all ages. Until the jail was closed for tours, every third grade class in Llano toured the facility for several years. Students witnessed the cold, stark jail cells firsthand and experienced the feeling of being locked in jail. Even though jail cells are considerably more comfortable now, children came away with the feeling that they don't want to break the law. This experience will be fortified when the museum is completed, since the second floor jail cells will remain untouched and the incarceration experience will be enhanced, according to the Museum Interpretive Plan. In addition, special effects such as the technique known as Pepper's Ghost will bring life into the exhibits.

Nearby Tourist Attractions. The Llano Red Top Jail Museum will have its own website and will link to other tourist entities such as: Llano Chamber of Commerce, City of Llano, County of Llano, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Heritage Trails (Llano is on the Texas Hill Country Trail), Texas Highways, Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que, etc. Note, busloads of Japanese tourists from Austin are frequently seen at Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que and Cooper's has an extensive online business. In addition, Red Top Jail Museum brochures and links will be distributed to tourist attractions in nearby counties, including: Admiral Nimitz Museum and National Museum for the Pacific War (Fredericksburg, see discussion below), Lyndon Baines Johnson National Park (Johnson City), Fort Mason (Mason), Fort Croghan (Burnet), Enchanted Rock State Park (15 miles away), and others. The brochures and links will also go to information kiosks at airports, major museums, centers and hotels in nearby Austin (70 miles away) and San Antonio (100 miles away). Therefore,

creation of a first-class museum at the Red Top Jail will serve as a focal point for tourism in Llano. This ties in with one of the goals of the project, which is to turn the jail into a revenue-generating asset for the city.

For a more in-depth discussion of demographics of nearby tourist attractions, please see the Visitor Profile Section of this plan in Appendix E. In addition, a detailed discussion of the anticipated audience profile based on these demographics is in Part II of this report.

Llano as a Historical and Natural Resource Tourist Attraction.

Llano is currently a tourist destination as it is on the Texas Hill Country Trail, part of the Texas Historical Commission's Heritage Tourism Program. The Llano Red Top Jail Museum will be highlighted as a major part of that trail in the future (The Hill Country Trail has only recently been designated by the THC).

In addition, Llano was listed in 2012 as one of the "Top 10 Western Towns" by True West Magazine. This is in part because Llano has many festivals honoring its history, including Heritage Days, the Texas Proud Festival, the BlueBell and Bluegrass Festival, Fiddle Fest and others. During these festivals, events such as the Chuck Wagon Cook-off, Gunfighter Reenactment Competition, Old West Reenactment, Historical Dress Contest, Fiddler Contest and period/old western music performances are common. In fact, the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail were the recipients of two grants from Humanities Texas in 2010 and 2011 to sponsor the Celtaire String Band, a period band that performs music from the 1800s-early 1900s during festivals at the Red Top Jail. Notably, these grants also funded performances of the Celtaires at Llano public and private schools. Thus, their interpretation of early Texas music served as a teaching tool.



Photo: Celtaire String Band Performance at the Llano Red Top Jail 2011. Note the limberjack dolls used during the performances, as well as the homemade musical instruments.

During several recent festivals in the past few years, the Friends and Llano Main Street hosted the Brazos Bottom Cowographers and the Badland Texas Rangers to perform dramatic old west reenactments. These period musical and dramatic performances were very well attended and popular with visitors of all ages. In addition to the festivals already mentioned, the Llano Crawfish Festival annually brings in over 30,000 attendants. This festival benefits local charities and features crawfish dinners, a rodeo, arts and crafts, an auction and country music. The festival is completely run by volunteers from

Llano. This and other festivals are documented in the appendix as examples of Llano Heritage Tourism in the excerpts from the Preservation Master Plan.

Llano is also known as “The Deer Capital of Texas” as most local ranchers sell deer leases on their property. A major industry in Llano, hunting brings in numerous people who are interested in local lore and history. The predominant profile of visitors during deer season is wealthy businessmen and women from major cities throughout Texas and the U.S. There is always an increased interest in tours of the Llano Red Top Jail during deer season.

Llano was sighted as a tourist destination in a recent TV feature on the PBS production “The Daytripper”, produced by KPBS in Austin. In this program, the Llano Red Top Jail was toured, as well as Cooper’s Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que and other Llano attractions. This program can be accessed through www.redtopjail.com, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail website, as well as the KPBS website. The TV program was recently shown during the Texas Main Street Managers’ Winter Workshop held in Llano, Texas January 29-February 1, 2013 and its economic impact was discussed.

As part of the Texas Hill Country Trail, the trip to Llano from Austin or San Antonio during the spring is highlighted by fields of bluebonnets and other native wildflowers. A popular motorcycle destination, Cooper’s Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que is often the ultimate destination of a tour of the hill country in Texas. Many motorcycle and vintage car groups congregate in Llano during the wildflower season, in part due to the majestic vistas and winding back roads of the Texas Hill Country. These people are also often interested in touring the Llano Red Top Jail on their visit to Llano. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin is one of the tourist attractions to which the Llano Red Top Jail Museum will be linked.

The Llano River flows through Llano and is a popular tourist attraction for swimming, gold panning and fishing. The Llano Red Top Jail sits on the banks of the Llano River next to the beautiful,

historic Inks Bridge. The Llano River feeds into the Colorado Lake System known as the Highland Lakes. The lakes were dammed in the mid-20th century for water conservation and all are very popular for swimmers, boaters and fishermen, especially in the summer months. The closest lake of this series, Lake Buchanan, is about 15 miles away and the last dammed lake in the Highland Lakes is in Austin, 70 miles away.



Photo: Inks Bridge and Llano River. Photo taken from the roof of the Llano Red Top Jail. Note the easy accessibility of the public restrooms with red brick and green roof near the Llano Red Top Jail.

The Llano Economic Development Commission (LEDC) has recently commissioned the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to create a strategic plan for Llano, which includes a survey of tourists to Llano. This information will be invaluable to the Red Top Jail Museum in terms of creating a more accurate visitor profile.

The Llano Red Top Jail Oral History Project. Appendix G contains the Oral History Project Compilation that will eventually become a

separate publication to be sold at the Red Top Jail Museum. This project was a cross-generational collaboration between students at the Llano High School and (predominantly) senior citizens who had stories to tell about the Llano Red Top Jail. The students interviewed many former and current residents of Llano who were either related to jailors, law enforcement or inmates during the time the Red Top Jail was used as a place of incarceration. 13 of these interviews were conducted at the Llano High School or at the Llano Red Top Jail. Three others were conducted by phone. The students wrote up the stories as part of a class assignment. Dr. Sheri Zoch assembled them into a continuous oral history of life at the Llano Red Top Jail. The result of this undertaking is a very unique oral history of a frontier town western jail from 1895 to 1982 as told to and recorded by high school students.

In addition to Llano history, the students learned about museum conservation, journalistic interview techniques and even movie production through this project. The students even produced a movie that is available now on YouTube. This movie recreates scenes of stories told to them by people they interviewed. Please see:

Redtopjailthemovie, a YouTube Movie Production

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZnQuT21mDs>

This movie is included in the final report as a CD attachment.

Therefore, the Oral History Project that was commissioned from the National Park Service Preserve America program became the catalyst for local students to not only learn about their history, but become active participants in its preservation. The Oral History Compilation provides a framework for future generations to document and preserve this history. We recommend that local student involvement in conservation at the Red Top Jail Museum will continue as the museum is developed and becomes operational. The opportunities to use this local resource may serve as a paradigm for other rural communities.

As an interesting example of the continuing need to seek out historical references to the Red Top Jail, the picture on p. 13 of this

Interpretive Plan was obtained by Larry Jones on eBay in 2011. This important picture, with two little girls standing in front of the jail, was lost to history until Mr. Jones found it on the internet. We are confident that more pictures and stories abound about the Red Top Jail. In particular, many current residents spent time incarcerated at the Red Top and have stories to tell. As they become older and an interest in their oral history is made known, they may be more amenable to tell their stories about the jail. To date, we have only one oral history of an inmate at the Red Top Jail.

All of the oral histories will be treated with respect and names will not be disclosed if permission for publication of this information is not granted. The resulting oral history will be copyrighted.

Resources Available for Museum Planning.

A. Local and State Resources

A few of the many resources available for interpretive planning for the Llano Red Top Jail Museum are discussed in this section. A more detailed listing of local, state and regional sources is given in Appendix F.

A. 1. The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The LCRA was created by the state legislature to manage water use from the central Colorado River lakes to the gulf coast. Many free programs exist for community and economic development within the LCRA. The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail have already completed a 5-year strategic plan with guidance and workshops organized by the LCRA in 2010. This planning resulted in the formulation of a mission statement and a “strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats” (SWOT) analysis. Four goals were determined and strategies given for achievement of these goals. The goals were to increase membership by 10%, create a promotion strategy for the jail and its history, fundraising, and develop a sustainable legacy-giving program. It is recommended that the Friends revisit this plan yearly and continue the process of obtaining a strategic plan every five years.

Another service of the LCRA is to provide an economic impact analysis, including festivals and events. For example, in 2009, the City of Brenham's Main Street Program requested that the LCRA determine the economic impact of one of their festivals. The analysis found that the festival's total economic impact on the city and county was over \$500,000. The impact study further broke down the economic impact on local restaurants, bars and lodging, as well as the demographics of visitors. This resource should be tapped for future festivals involving the Llano Red Top Jail so that a clearer audience profile can be generated. Information on the economic impact will help to achieve funding in terms of grants (such as the Llano County and City of Llano Hotel/Motel Tax funds) and donors.

The LCRA gives grants for the purpose of community development. The Llano Red Top Jail received an initial grant from the LCRA in 2008 to repair the roof and restore its original red color. While many state and national resources have recently not been funded by legislative bodies, the LCRA continues to provide funds to rural communities within their jurisdiction, including Llano.

A.2. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Llano Main Street. The Texas Historical Commission has been an active partner in the preservation of the Llano Red Top Jail. The jail was listed as a historical landmark on the state register with the THC in 1979 and has a plaque on the front of the building. The building served as headquarters of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas after it ceased use as a jail in the 1980s.

A description of the state of Texas Main Street program from their website follows:

The national Main Street revitalization effort for historic downtowns was formed more than 30 years ago and there has been a statewide Texas program since that time operating through the Texas Historical Commission. The Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) is one of the oldest and largest in the nation, with more than 80 fully designated communities.

Main Street seeks to preserve the history of rural towns in Texas by

providing façade grants and moneys for festivals and events. This entity is very active in Llano.

The THC also funded the complete restoration of the Llano Courthouse, one block away from the Llano Red Top Jail. Up until recently, the THC gave community grants through its Texas Preservation Trust Fund. The Llano Red Top Jail was actually the last recipient of this fund for the stabilization of the foundation of the jail.

The THC currently has a staff of architects and administrators that manage projects statewide and are a free source of information for planning, including identification of project professionals and guidance for ADA compliance, as well as monitoring the building restoration.

The Texas Hill Country Trail is part of a series of Texas highway trails managed by the THC. While the Texas Department of Transportation manages these trails, the THC promotes the historical, cultural and natural resources along these trails. It is suggested that the Llano Red Top Jail Museum specifically partner with the Hill Country Trail for marketing and advertising purposes. For example, the jail could be featured in the Hill Country Trail brochures and blogs as a free source of advertising.

B. National Resources

Depending on funding availability, the National Park Service has a variety of services that may be useful for museum planning. Save America's Treasures and Preserve America are managed by the National Park Service and provide funding for historic property and collections projects. The National Park Service also partners with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities for funding opportunities. In addition, the Historic Preservation Fund grants can be a source for project-related and museum planning services.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has many grants that could assist the Red Top Jail Museum at the planning stages. A Museum Assessment Program exists for historical societies to improve collections management, community engagement and public programs. This assessment includes a site visit by museum professionals who put forth recommendations for improvements. The Museums for America program supports learning experiences, community anchors and collections stewardship. Other grant programs within this Institute may help with the museum planning for the Red Top Jail.

Appendix F lists sources of funding for the Llano Red Top Jail Museum.

Recommendations for Museum Planning at the Llano Red Top Jail

1. Continue to define the visitor profile.

As soon as tours are available, a detailed log book of visitors should be kept that lists age group, special needs, and origin of visitors. Visitors should be allowed to add comments of the experience and suggestions for better presentation of material. During festivals and events, random surveys should be conducted to define the audience profile. These surveys can be conducted by the LCRA as a free service. The surveys and guest information should be tabulated periodically and kept as a spreadsheet for use in future fundraising efforts. Statistical comparison of these numbers with other museums can be a useful source of information for future planning and will provide a measurable outcome of planning.

2. Link with partners.

A wide variety of free resources are available to increase the visibility and population of visitors coming to the Llano Red Top Jail Museum. A few suggestions follow. The Texas Hill Country Trail, part of the Texas Historical Commission Heritage Trails Program has social networking and resources for promoting the Jail Museum. The Texas Film Society can help find independent movie production companies

that may use the jail as a movie locale. Other nearby tourist attractions, including the LBJ National Park and the Admiral Nimitz Museum/National Museum of the Pacific War should be consulted by the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail to obtain information about museum conservatorship and meeting the needs of visitors. All of the nearby tourist attractions listed in the Introduction section of this plan should be contacted for partnership. The LCRA can help define demographics and economic impact of the museum, as well as structure further strategic plans. Finally, linkage with motorcycle and car groups, as well as tour bus and limo services around the central Texas region will boost attendance at festivals and events around the Llano Red Top Jail Museum and provide a steady influx of tour participants.

3. Continue to involve the community in conservation and promotion.

The Llano Library is adjacent to the Llano Red Top Jail and is currently digitizing local newspapers. The Friends of the Llano Library is a very active group that could be tapped for help with research on the Red Top Jail for the museum. The Llano County Museum was used extensively as a resource for the Museum Interpretive Plan and should continue to be accessed for information.

Business owners as valuable community stakeholders should be engaged in the planning and conservation as much as possible. For example, owners of Cooper's Bar-B-Que and other local businesses should be asked to serve on a museum advisory board.

In order to ensure the preservation of the jail museum by future generations, it is important to involve students. The Oral History Project should be continued with the Llano High School in order to more fully document history of the Red Top Jail. Students should be encouraged to research materials at the Llano Library and Llano County Museum to search for interesting articles and photos related to the jail. In addition, students could take a more active role in the documentation of the restoration of the jail and conservation of artifacts. Universities with architecture programs that are available

to help in this include Texas A&M, Texas Tech, University of Texas San Antonio and University of Texas Austin. HABS/HAER programs should be investigated for assistance during the restoration of this important historic building.

4. Develop publications.

The Oral History Compilation is a very unique story of life at the Llano Red Top Jail from 1895-1982, the years of operation of the jail. The story as told to Llano High School Students should be completed, edited and published as an e-book and pamphlet. This compilation will be a great resource for the jail and for other communities with similar historical structures.

After touring the Red Top Jail Museum, a small picture book including some of the digital conceptual drawings rendered in the Interpretive Museum Plan could be sold as a memento. This would provide some additional income for the jail if published economically.

Part II. Llano Red Top Jail Museum Interpretive Plan

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to transform the old Llano Red Top Jail into a jail museum that interprets Llano's history at the turn of the 20th century and that situates this history within the context of the state and nation. The project will result in: 1) the conservation of this monument, 2) its transformation from a maintenance concern into a revenue-generating asset for the city, and 3) the development of exhibits that engender public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of this cultural legacy.



Photo: "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

Intent of the Interpretive Plan

The goal of this Interpretive Plan is to guide the development of planning and design of the museum and exhibits. To accomplish this, the plan:

- Defines learning, behavioral, and emotional objectives for the museum and exhibit components
- Establishes an interpretive theme for the project
- Develops storylines
- Identifies general intent of museum planning and design
- Identifies possible translation of storylines into exhibit components
- Outlines other historical and geographic amenities in Llano that can be tied to the Red Top Jail for further development and interpretation of the city's history.
- Projects a possible visitor profile

Methodology and Development Process

The interpretation developed here results from a combination of meetings, conversations, field research, and bibliographic and archival research. In particular, these include a Llano City Council meeting held December 20, 2010, a public meeting held February 24, 2011, and a series of meetings among members of the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, the City of Llano, and the selected exhibit developer (Toxey/McMillan Design Associates – TMDA) held between fall 2010 and summer 2011. Final presentation of the plan at the LanTex Theater in Llano occurred December 20, 2012. During all of these interactions with the public, themes and museum objectives were discussed so that stakeholders had an active participation in the outcome.

In addition, representatives from these groups (Sheri Zoch, Sarah Oatman Franklin, Gene Hall, Mike Reagor) have led TMDA on driving tours of Llano. The Llano County Museum also made its exhibits and related archives available to this project. Also of great significance, the Llano County Public Library has made its extensive photographic archives, clipping files, and book collection available to the project. In addition, the community and its high school have initiated an oral

history program related to the Red Top Jail, whose files will be of use to the new museum as well as the community at large. A list of bibliographic sources consulted can be found in the References at the end of this document.

Audience Profile

A visitor profile compiled by the Llano Visitor Center for the Texas Department of Transportation (Appendix E) shows that close to 6000 visitors stopped by the visitor center for information about tourist attractions around Llano in 2012 and about 10% of these were from out of state. As with most southeastern and southwestern states of the U.S., many visitors to central Texas in the winter are “snowbirds” from northern states and Canada. As shown in Appendix E, the increase in visitors from January-March, in part accounts for this. The summer in Llano is hot, indicated by the paucity of visitors during these months.

Some local tourist attractions include the restored LanTex Theater, which hosts weekly movies and the Country Opry once a month, the restored Llano County Courthouse, nearby Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, Lake Buchanan, Llano River, and Cooper’s Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que. These destinations draw a broad range of visitors from families with small children, to young adults, to elderly individuals and groups. While it is anticipated that most visitors travel in small numbers by private automobile, Cooper’s Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que reports busloads of visitors that come for barbecue, especially during wildflower season in the spring. They come from Houston, Midland, Austin, and foreign countries. They represent all ages; however, seniors are most prevalent during bluebonnet season. Cooper’s alone attracts several hundred thousand out-of-town visitors every year.¹

Cooper’s Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que has a history of drawing hunters and tourists. From Jason Wootan, co-owner of Cooper’s Restaurant,

¹ Jason Wootan, co-owner, Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que, personal communication, May 2012.

>95% of the restaurant's visitors are from out of town. Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que restaurant grossed \$4,100.000 in 2012. With an average plate cost of \$20, this represents over 200,000 people served per year. This business has a limo service that transports visitors from the Llano Airport to the restaurant and to any other destinations within the area, according to assistant Dee Holden. Therefore, inclusion of this successful business as a partner of the Llano Red Top Jail Museum will be an important connection to be fostered and maintained.

In addition, the county population swells during fall and winter deer-hunting season. Known as the "Deer Capital of Texas," Llano draws hunters from all directions. They and their spouses provide considerable business for Llano shops and restaurants and are potential museum visitors. This group of people generally ranges from 20-70 years old.

The Admiral Nimitz Museum/ National Museum of the Pacific War in nearby Fredericksburg of adjoining Gillespie County serves as a model historical museum for the Llano Red Top Jail Museum. This modest, small town museum has grown as a designated historic landmark of Admiral Nimitz' fame to a national resource as an interpretive museum of the Pacific Theater. Ticket sales are run by the Texas Historical Commission and therefore a meaningful visitor profile breakdown by intrastate, interstate and international visitors is available (Appendix E). From this profile, it is clear that the majority of visitors to this model museum are from Texas (61%), which is not surprising considering the Hill Country region is in central Texas, the second largest acreage state in the U.S. Interestingly, visitors touring the Nimitz Museum/ Museum of the Pacific War predominantly are from the Midwest and Southwest regions of the U.S. The next largest source of visitors to the Nimitz Museum is from the southeast, south central and north central portions of the U.S. Since Llano is a mere 30 miles away from this major tourist attraction, it is reasonable to assume that tourists from afar would travel another 30 miles to visit another first-class historical museum. However, 3% of the visitors to the Nimitz

Museum were from international locations. Anecdotally, many people who have taken tours of the Llano Red Top Jail were from other countries. This perhaps denotes the anticipation of a Texas “wild west” experience.

The Admiral Nimitz Museum / National Museum of the Pacific War serves as a model for the adaptive reuse of the Llano Red Top Jail as a museum. Converted from an abandoned hotel, this museum has evolved into a national museum that draws in 25,000 visitors a year (Appendix E). Admission price is \$14 for adults with various breakdowns for other visitors. The museum has a foundation with a full-time staff for fundraising and is open seven days a week. This museum is a mere 30 miles from Llano.

Similarly, the LBJ Ranch in nearby Johnson City is part of the National Park Service and draws 120,000 visitors per year (Bonnie Jenschke, Supervisor, tel. 830-868-7128 X222). This park includes the Lyndon Baines Johnson boyhood home and associated structures, as well as the LBJ ranch and is located approximately 45 miles from Llano.

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area also attracts 300,000 visitors annually. Specific data of age, income, education, and travel group size is not available; however, the park manager estimates that a majority of the visitors come from Austin via Fredericksburg, without passing through Llano. Nevertheless, a substantial number — including many of those arriving from north of Austin — do pass through Llano on Highway 16 to get to the park.

Based on this information, the Llano Red Top Jail Museum can anticipate exposure to these same visitors and the possibility of attracting more, as the jail has already done in the form of paranormal researchers, as well as re-enactors staging theatrical events. Visitors will be able to provide the museum with a revenue stream to help cover maintenance and operations.

Also of significance to the museum mission and program is the fact

that the jail museum will serve the Llano County community as a teaching tool for residents and schoolchildren, a venue for community events, and a focal point. Until the jail was closed for tours, every third grade student was taken to the Red Top Jail on field trips for several years. Students also benefitted from performances by the Celtaire String Band at their schools during festivals at the Red Top Jail as part of a funding agreement from Humanities Texas. Llano High School students have done the interviews for the Oral History Compilation as part of this final report and have made a movie based on these stories. Therefore, the Red Top Jail Museum will only enhance these experiences for children. The exhibits described in the Museum Interpretive Plan will have direct relevance to school-age children of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

The 2010 census provides the following demographic information about Llano County, whose residents the museum will serve. The county population in 2010 was 3,232 of which 47.1% were male and 52.95 were female. The median age was 44.2 years, which is 3.6 years older than the median age of all Texans, illustrating a slightly older community. The median household income in 2009 was \$32,987, which was 68% of the state median household income; however, the cost of housing in Llano was also 68% of the state median value, therefore indicating parity of quality of life. Ethnically, the community is "Caucasian" (84.7%) and "Hispanic" (12.9%) with very few other ethnicities represented. Ancestries, presumably of the "Caucasian" population, are described as being: German (21.6%), Irish (12.9%), U.S. (12.8%), English (12.5%), Scottish (2.8%), and French (2.5%). The breakdown shows that a large majority of the population is Caucasian. However, the location of Llano close to Austin and San Antonio suggests that visitors to the Llano Red Top Jail Museum are within day trips from these airports. This, plus the fact that Texas is a border state with Mexico highlights the fact that international visitors will continue to visit the region. Therefore, exhibits with more pictures and less words are recommended.

To summarize, the target audience for the Llano Red Top Jail

Museum will be children and adults from 6 years old to 100 of all ethnicities and national origins.



Photo: "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

Visitor Needs

To address a variety of learning types and ages, proposed interpretation includes graphics, text, sound, and tactile as well as interactive components.

Due to the evidence of seniors and persons with disabilities in the community profile and the visitor profile, an elevator leading to at least the second floor of the museum is desirable and can be retrofitted at a cost of \$25,000. Appendix A lists several alternatives for this access. However, the state of Texas and local codes do not require access to the second floor of historical buildings with less than 3,000 square feet per floor. Please see the Exhibit and Media Plan and Recommendations later in this report for a detailed discussion of ADA access options.

An interesting audience that could be readily included in the Red Top Jail Museum is the hearing impaired. Tours of the jail could be enhanced with interpretive signs and perhaps signing tour guides for this group of visitors. Anecdotally, there have been many hearing impaired visitors during tours of the Red Top Jail and this population could be readily included in the experience.

Project Objectives

The objectives listed below were voiced and discussed at the Public Meeting in Llano on February 24, 2011.

Learning Objectives:

After experiencing the *Llano Red Top Jail Museum*, visitors will:

- understand the architectural significance of the building
- understand the role that the building played in the shaping of Llano
- understand this building in relation to Texas history
- understand this history as part of the American story of Westward migration
- understand where this building stands within the history of incarceration

Behavioral Objectives:

After experiencing the *Llano Red Top Jail Museum*, visitors will:

- visit the Llano County Courthouse
- visit the Llano County Museum
- explore more of the city and surrounding region to expand their knowledge of Llano history
- notice historic courthouses and jails of other Texas counties as they continue on their travels
- recognize the importance of conservation of historic structures
- get involved with the Llano Red Top Jail Museum and/or join the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail
- have increased respect for law and order
- be deterred from crime and maintain a law-abiding lifestyle to avoid incarceration themselves.

Emotional Objectives:

After experiencing the *Llano Red Top Jail Museum*, visitors will:

- be respectful of the experience of incarceration
- feel a connection with the history and the people who have come before them
- appreciate Texas history and historic structures
- feel appreciation for the quality of life that we now enjoy
- feel empathy for prisoners
- feel as if they've gone back in time to 1900.



Photo: "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

Underlying Theme:

An interpretive project has a central theme, which ties together the information presented. It defines what the content covers and does not cover. It establishes the main idea, like the moral of a story.

Llano Red Top Jail Museum Theme:

The Llano Red Top Jail epitomizes the intense and evolutionary moment in local and national history in which modern ideas and industrial methods replaced older ones, fueling social change and Westward expansion.



Photo: “Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan”

Interpretation Topics and Subtopics:

Topic 1: Llano Penal History

History of the succession of jails in Llano

- 1a. Late 19th-century lawlessness in and near Llano
- 1b. Texas legislation helping counties financially and requiring them to build new jails
- 1c. Technological advances and social reform leading to jail reforms; Implementation of improved living conditions for inmates (over log cabin)
- 1d. The broader history of U.S. jails

Topic 2: Design History: Architecture as Metaphor

Stone jail as a symbol of permanence and civic enlightenment

- 2a. Romanesque Revival and significance of use in jails
- 2b. Architectural and programmatic innovations; Iron, concrete, and stone: Tension and meaning
- 2c. Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company and F.B. & W.S. Hull Architects

Topic 3: Economic Story of Llano and the Red Top

Topic 4: Jailers, Inmates, and Offenses: Life in the Red Top



Storyline Development

1: Llano Penal History

History of the succession of jails in Llano

Many terms have been used historically to describe a jail, for example, gaol, hoosegow, calaboose, lockup, slammer, cooler, pokey, clink, chain gang, Bastille, and crowbar hotel, as well as more clinical terms like county work farm, house of correction, workhouse, detention center, and correctional facility. Despite this abundance, negative associations with jails have led to a paucity of jail records and literature in Llano as elsewhere. This institution, however, like the courthouse, was an essential part of every growing community in Texas, especially along the expanding frontier.

Although the area surrounding Llano was inhabited by German and



Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Anglo-American settlers beginning in the 1840s, Llano County was not organized until 1856. The first recorded jail house was constructed in the 1870s; however, county officials would have found other ways to detain wrongdoers during the intervening years. Many counties chained prisoners to trees or windmills on courthouse squares when formal jail structures were not available. In fact, an oak tree at the corner of Main Street and Highway 16 in Llano is the known site of hangings prior to the construction of the Red Top.² All that is known about Llano's first recorded jail derives from court minutes dated 1881 that refer to a jail with an iron roof, built in 1873 or 1874 after the State of Texas passed legislation allowing Llano County (and Texas counties in general) to retain taxes these years for jail construction.³ Due to destruction of the county's records in the burning of the courthouse on October 17, 1880, little is known of earlier jails located here.

Court minutes further indicate that this building was dismantled and its iron roof sold in 1881. Before a new holding structure was built, the basement floor of a two-story building (the G.W. Miller and J.M. Bourland building) on the north side of the courthouse square served as an interim prison. The double doors leading to the basement were guarded. Historian Wilbur Oatman in his book, *Gem of the Hill Country*, recalls when, as a boy, he and friends interacted with the prisoners through an iron ventilation grate.⁴

In 1882 a new jail was erected by the firm of Martin, Byrnes, and Johnson for a sum of \$7,600. It was located on the southeast corner of the courthouse square where the World War I monument now stands. Following the standards of the day, it was a stone building (as opposed to a log structure as many pre-Civil War frontier jails had been) with quarters for a jailer on the ground floor (another new feature) and an underground dungeon containing an iron cell for inmates.

² Hall, p.129.

³ Hall, p.129.

⁴ Oatman 1970; Fowler, quoted in Hall, p.129.

They were often described as doorless, windowless, and therefore lacking air and light – as well as plumbing. Bexar County’s dungeon-jail was infamously known as the Bat Cave.⁵



Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

In 1890, the Llano jail was upgraded with sewer pipes leading to the Llano River. Apparently, this improvement was insufficient to satisfy the townspeople. In 1894, the relatively new jail was condemned as a public nuisance. The City of Llano successfully sued the County of Llano to remove the jail away from the public square. The situation may have been compounded by a smelly stockyard next to the jail. Both were removed.⁶

⁵ Stirpes, 39 (3): Sept. 1999, p.56. Texas State Genealogical Society.

⁶ Fowler, p. 1.

In 1895, the county selected a design for a new jail by F.B. and W.S. Hull and contracted the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company to build it with their iron and steel accoutrements. A location two blocks east of the central square was chosen, and the Red Top Jail was built.

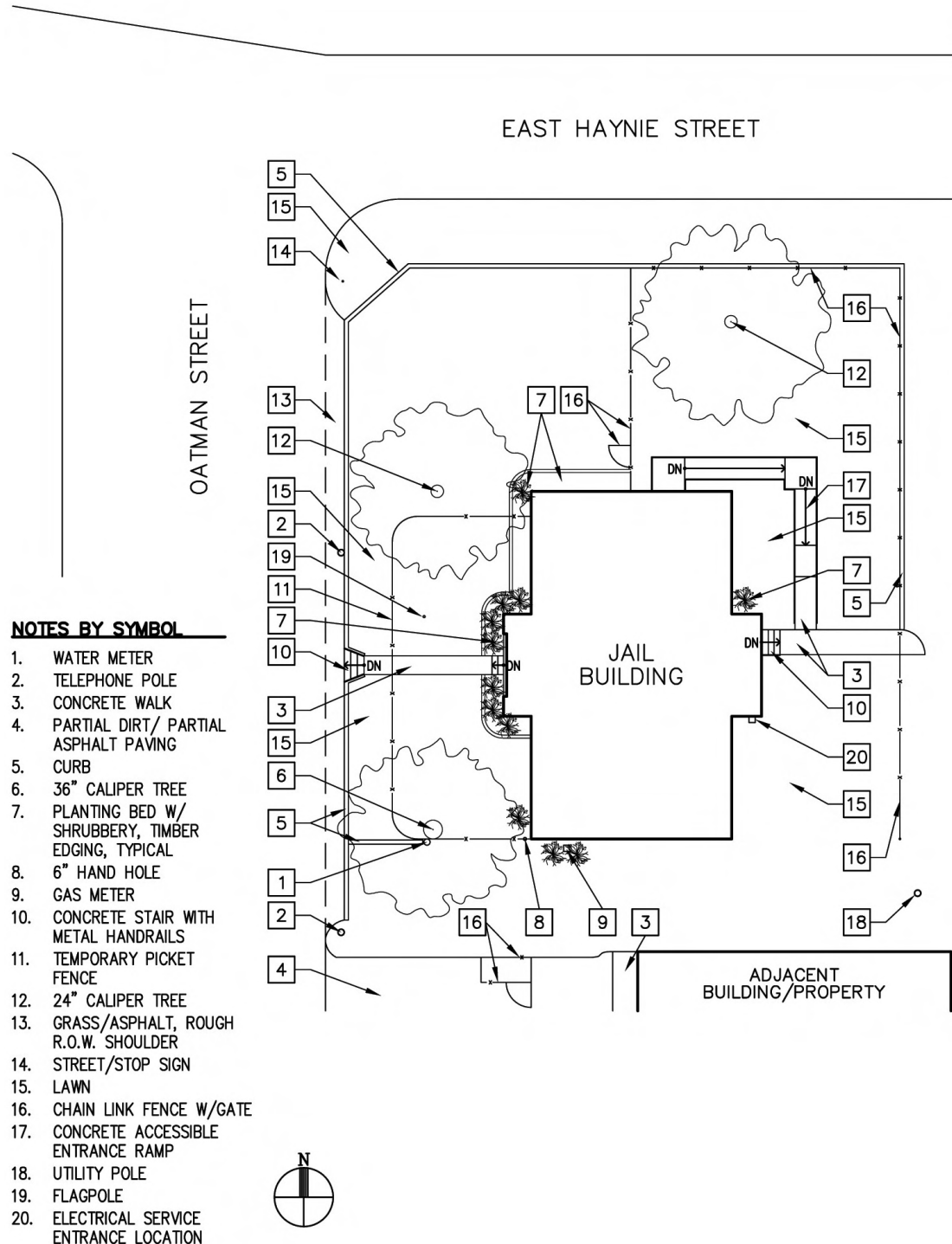


Photo: "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

It was state-of-the-art in every way. Jailer's quarters were again located on the ground floor. These were spacious enough that one sheriff was subleasing them and pocketing the rent until the county forbade this commerce.⁷ The second floor contained iron cages for cells, set around a central, internal gallows. Large windows provided light and air. A heating system, though crude by today's standards, was progressive for the time. Note: added in 1917, indoor plumbing was also early for its time. The exterior was clad in local granite. The resulting exterior sent a message of progress, safety, and stability.



Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Unlike its ephemeral predecessors, the Red Top served as the county jail for nearly a century. It belonged to an era of substantial jail building that reflected the law, order, safety, and permanence that the late 19th century brought to the West. Although many counties replaced their jails in the post-World-War-II decades due to overcrowding and to the structures' inability to meet rising living standards, the Red Top Jail continued to serve its original function

⁷ Hall, p.130.

until 1982.⁸ A major case of litigation against the Texas Department of Correction led to the establishment of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, formed in 1975, which mandated the closure of many historic jails, eventually including the Red Top Jail.

With closure of the Red Top Jail, the decision was made to move the jail to the third floor of the Llano (Dell) Hotel, located on the town square across the street from the courthouse at 100 W. Sandstone. While this structure was being renovated to serve as a jail – replete with jailer’s accommodations, sheriff’s office, and other offices, such as those of the Texas Rangers – prisoners were taken to Boerne and later to Brady for lock up (60 miles away).

The Llano (Dell) Hotel location served as jail until 2002 when the jail moved to a new, large facility north of the City of Llano on Highway 16. Once again, the new jail meets the elevated living standards of the day such as the requirement of air-conditioning and the latest research in the field of penology. Following current social preference, the jail has been removed from the center of town, where it used to serve as a constant reminder of the risk of wrongdoing.

Unlike the Red Top Jail, the current jail is not an architectural showpiece, looking like other institutional buildings. This is due to changes in incarceration practice and also due to post-World-War-II changes in building technologies. Gallows towers in county jails are no longer needed, tall ceilings and operable windows for ventilation are no longer needed, materials and construction methods are standardized, and ornament and stylistic variation are no longer valued. The building is utilitarian, efficient, and programmatically highly specialized.

⁸ Sam Oatman, Personal Communication. 2011.

1a: Late 19th-century lawlessness in and near Llano

Not only was the American Civil War an incalculably disruptive and destructive event in the history of U.S. society, it also marked the end of the previous epoch of social stability and ushered in a time of uncertainty and change. Due to the post-Civil War opening of the West for U.S. expansion and the construction of transcontinental railroads, which made accessible the remote interior of the continent, people were uprooting from their eastern homes and migrating westward. In Texas, this effect was compounded by the influx of Northerners and Southerners during the postwar Reconstruction period.

Severed from the society that provided structure and enforced decorum and far from the reach of the law, bandits proliferated at this time. The enormity of the areas being settled and the relative paucity of military and police presence allowed lawlessness to proliferate. Outlaws and bandits outnumbered sheriffs and Texas Rangers, and concerns for security in frontier areas like Llano ran high.⁹



Photo: Llano County Historical Museum

⁹ Blackburn, p. 7. Robinson 1983, p. 44.

In addition, Llano was drawing new residents from many directions due to discoveries of its mineral wealth, for example, iron ore and granite. The influx of miners – and the saloons that served them – brought an additional need for law and order. The finely tooled granite blocks used in the jail further attested to the influx of skilled labor. It is locally stated that Scottish immigrants in particular settled in Llano to quarry and sculpt granite. This is as opposed to German immigrants, who were trained to work with softer limestone.¹⁰



Photo: Old Stag Bar; Llano County Historical Museum

¹⁰ Afflerbach; Almond and Franklin; Fry, D. 1989; Fry, D. 1989; Fry, D. 1985; Fry, T. 1973; Fry, T. 1943; "Notes on the Geology of the Llano Uplift", Llano County Library clipping files; "Gem and Mineral Trails of the Texas Hill Country." Brochure, Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, n.d.; Oatman, 1990; Oatman, 1970; Schenk.

Conflict with Native American tribes also heightened in the post-Civil-War years, as their lands were encroached upon and they saw their way of life disappearing. Fear of Indian raids added to the uncertainty of life on the frontier.¹¹

In addition, Llano was disturbed in the mid-1870s by another upsetting event: the Hoodoo War.¹² Though focused in the neighboring town of Mason, citizens of Llano were nevertheless involved and impacted by the events of this localized civil war, which began on February 18, 1875 when a mob forced open the Mason County jail to remove and lynch the Backus Gang. Vigilante committees such as these were fairly common on the frontier in these days. Motivated by fear that the lawbreakers would escape the fairly insecure jails or that the judicial system would break down (as it often did in these days due to uneven, inadequate, and prejudiced law enforcement), they took the law into their own hands to punish thieves and outlaws. Unfortunately, this particular event in Mason erupted into a violent conflict between German-American and Anglo-American settlers, which lasted for two years and accentuated the feeling of instability of the region.

Due to events such as these and to the frequent intentional burnings of courthouses to destroy criminal records (which also occurred in Llano in 1893), the citizens' need for security and for sturdy masonry jails and courthouses was accentuated. This need led to a fecund period of jail and courthouse construction in Texas—one in which the visual impression of strength was valued. It represented society's intent to reestablish civility and discipline.

¹¹ Blackburn, 2006.

¹² Johnson; Hader, G. "The Mason County Hoo Doo Wars" <http://texfiles.com/texashistory/hoodoowar.htm>; Sonnichsen, 2000; Southworth, 1999.



Photo: "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

1b. Texas legislation helping counties financially and requiring them to build new jails

Prior to 1880, sophistication in jail and courthouse design and construction across Texas varied with location and maturity of the community, the more solid examples being in the east where materials were more accessible. Just prior to the Civil War, this situation was changing with the arrival of railroads, improving economic conditions across the state, and increased availability of materials. However, the war and following privations of the Reconstruction period set back these advances.

In 1870, Texas was readmitted to the United States. After several years of abuses and embezzlement at the hands of the Reconstruction government's state police force, the police force was disbanded in 1873, and the Texas Rangers were reorganized in 1874. The new mission of the Texas Rangers was to control outlaws and the border problems with Mexico. The focus of their mission was to civilize under-populated West Texas, where cattle rustlers and bandits abounded.

The Texas Rangers had a positive effect on taming the lawless West, but jails were needed to hold lawbreakers. A law passed in 1856

required Texas counties to provide clean and healthy jails with proper ventilation, no overcrowding, and clean, comfortable, and sufficient bedding. It also required provisions for carrying out the death penalty *inside* the jail, as opposed to outside, and it empowered the sheriff to serve as jailer.¹³ Without financial provisions for carrying out these orders, few counties could comply. In 1876, more legislation made county jails mandatory and required to be “safe and suitable” and “kept in good repair.”¹⁴ Certain counties were authorized by law to levy a tax in 1876–78 to fund jail constructions. However, all counties were made responsible for providing secure and humane jails. In 1881 a law was passed allowing all counties to sell bonds to cover the cost of courthouse construction, in the absence of ready capital. Finally, in 1884 the act was amended to include jail construction.¹⁵

The impetus behind these laws was a growing conviction that prisoners should receive standardized treatment. Some people believed that counties should not have control over inmates, stating that this was the responsibility of the state. However, clipping counties’ autonomy by taking away their administration of justice was not a popular idea. State legislators chose instead to address the situation through the passage of laws that would define standards in jails and in prisoner treatment.

The abundance of Texas courthouses and jails dating from the 1880s–90s (and continuing through the 1920s) in almost every county results directly from the 1884 law. Architects, builders, and jail manufacturers stayed busy for decades, the most prolific of the jail manufacturers being the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri, followed by Diebold Safe and Lock Company of Canton, Ohio, and Southern Steel of San Antonio. Due to the widespread circulation of people and materials at this time — largely enabled by the proliferation of railroads — civic structures in

¹³ Cowden; Dunks, p. 32.

¹⁴ Dunks, p. 33.

¹⁵ Blackburn p. 7; Robinson 1983, 86.



Photo: Llano Courthouse, 2011, Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

remote towns could be designed and built by non-local talent. This is why Llano's courthouse of 1884 was designed by Alfred Giles, its courthouse of 1893 was designed by Jacob Larmour and A.O. Watson, and its Red Top Jail of 1895 was designed by Mississippi architects F.B. and W.S. Hull with a kit of parts designed and fabricated by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis. Due to the kit nature of the design and fabrication of the jail cells, the Red Top Jail's total fabrication time was only a few months. Without the need of local skills, local materials, or deep pockets, county seats across the nation were able quickly and efficiently to build strong, state-of-the-art jails, the Red Top Jail among them.



Photo: “Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan”

1c. Technological advances and social reform leading to jail reforms; Implementation of improved living conditions for inmates

Our county jails ... are properly beginning to attract public attention. Our Jails are as bad as they can be. When so constructed as to secure the prisoners confined in them they become dense and unfit for habitation of wild beasts. When not made secure, and this is the case in about four-fifths of the counties, the constant escape of the prisoners is made the excuse ... for the wholesale murder of persons charged with offense.

— Texas Governor E.J. Davis, 1873¹⁶

Changes in social thought and constantly improving living conditions of American citizens have led to an ongoing critique of U.S. jails that began in the 19th century and continues today. This, in turn, has led to waves of jail reforms that can be seen in each

¹⁶ *Standard* (Clarksville), Feb 1, 1873, p.3; in Robinson 1974, p. 193.

generation of new jail construction. Changes in technology, transportation, and building methods also impact jail construction.



Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

In general, as U.S. living conditions rise, our society pursues equally and consistently humane conditions for the incarcerated. The ideology behind incarceration has also been changing since the 19th century from one of punishment for criminal acts to one of behavioral reform, a concept that also impacts jail design and management. Discourse on penology and jail reform in Texas has been consistent with national sympathies.

In the late 19th century when the Red Top Jail was built, county sheriffs had been struggling to balance their responsibility to the community of securing prisoners, with their responsibility to provide for prisoner welfare. The appropriateness of these stark spaces for confirmed criminals was debated, but all agreed that they were inappropriate for the merely accused who were awaiting trial and for those arrested for minor offenses. The overriding sentiment was that

“legal punishment should be humanized, not brutalized.”¹⁷

Jail manufacturing companies that appeared at this time, most notably Pauly, Diebold, and Southern Steel, solved this problem with a new approach to jail design. Inside a masonry structure designed by an architect or builder were placed free-standing, self-contained, iron or steel cell blocks designed, patented, and fabricated by one of these companies. This design reflected technical advances in iron and steel production and transportation advances with railroad development. The surrounding masonry shells were spacious, light-filled, and well ventilated with large windows. The space around the cell blocks could be used for prisoner exercise. These modifications addressed the criticism that inmates were idle and suffered from lack of air and light.

Though crude by 21st century standards, built-in heating (with plumbing added in 1917) made these buildings state-of-the-art. Cells held only one or two inmates, and they were often zoned so as to separate men from women, accused from convicted criminals, youth from adults, major from minor offenders (i.e., drunks, prostitutes, and other misdemeanants), and the mentally ill. This consideration responded to some of the harshest criticisms of early jails in which different categories of inmates were mixed together in a single space, providing no privacy for women, treating the mentally ill as criminals, and negatively influencing young and minor offenders through contact with hardened criminals.

¹⁷ *San Antonio Express News*, “Behind Bars: Then & Now,” January 16, 1966.

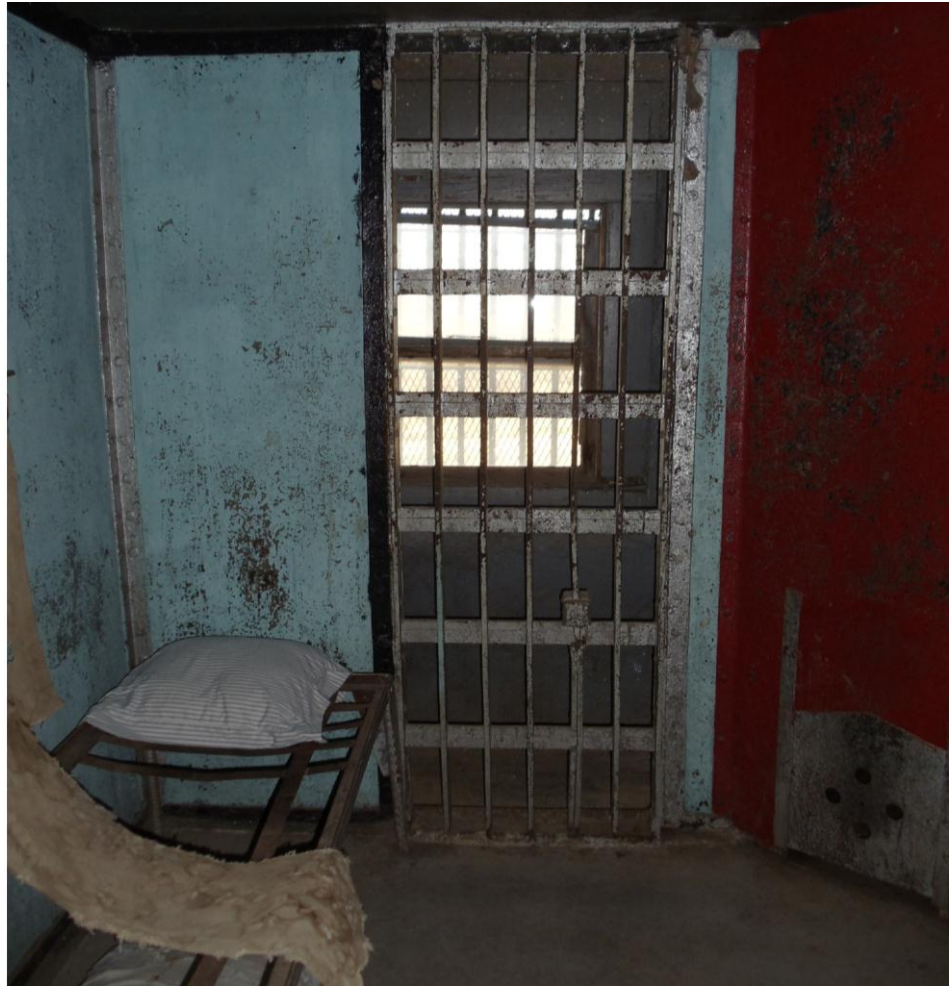


Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Protection of jailers from prisoner attack was another area of design research introduced in the late 19th-century and witnessed at the Red Top Jail. In addition to their other merits, the iron cages that jail manufacturers developed at this time included sophisticated locking systems that allowed jailers to operate locks at a safe distance from prisoners.



Photo: Jailer's quarters, Red Top Jail, Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Another reform included in late 19th century jails, such as the Red Top Jail (and the 1882 Llano jail), was the inclusion of jailers' quarters on the ground floor. Under the constant care and supervision of the jailer and his (or her) family, inmates were supplied with home-cooked meals and immediate medical attention. According to later oral histories (Appendix G, Rhoades family) the matron was also given responsibility of female inmates, a concept that reflected reformers' concerns of propriety.

Another reform witnessed by the Red Top was the inclusion of an internal gallows. In Texas prior to 1924, the only allowable form of capital punishment was hanging, except during the Civil War when shooting by firing squad was practiced. Through the mid-19th century and even later, public hangings took place outside (usually under a large, central tree, as in Llano) and were social events. Families brought picnics; photographers took photos and sold souvenirs. Public display of discipline had been practiced for thousands of years by many cultures leading to U.S. penal practices. Pillories, crucifixions, guillotines, stocks, gibbets, pyres, firing squads, and other forms of corporal and capital punishment were traditionally located in public view in order to dissuade misbehavior among the citizenry by making an example of wrongdoers.

Part of the argument for greater control of capital punishment came from abuses, especially during the Reconstruction era, but also due to the rough conditions and limitations of the frontier. Part of it came from criticism of county executioners who may have prolonged a prisoner's death due to lack of job training. The result of reformers' entreaties was the 1856 law requiring Texas county jails to provide interior gallows, though exterior hangings continued. While no longer in the public view, this gallows was usually the center of view of inmates (as in the Red Top Jail) who may have been deterred from committing further crime by its ominous presence. In 1923 Texas passed another law limiting capital punishment to the state penitentiary at the hands of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). In the 28 years that the Red Top Jail stood before this law was passed, Llano county records show no indication that hangings took place here. However, it is possible that surrounding counties that did not have a gallows may have used the Red Top Jail gallows for this purpose.



Photo: Gallows, Red Top Jail, Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

1d. The broader history of U.S. jails

U.S. jails are based on English precedent – like our laws, criminal justice system, and so many other aspects of our society – and therefore reflect centuries-old ideas of incarceration. One aspect of

the old English “gaol” which U.S. jails still maintain is the purpose of detaining a variety of different people, such as those accused and awaiting trial, misdemeanants, social misfits, men, women and children. The difference is that in the English system, at least prior to the modern age, the gaol served only as a holding cell and was not a punishment in itself. Punishment, instead, was corporal or financial. This changed in the 18th century. At that time, public sentiments began to disfavor punishment by mutilation, which was allowed by law and were influencing the concept of confinement as a punishment in itself. English gaols, however, were unfit for long-term confinement and came under the harsh criticism of John Howard (1726–1790), a former county sheriff. His acerbic observations on the unhealthy physical and mental conditions found in jails and his push for reforms influenced not only the English system, but also American and Canadian jails.



Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

While England was making strides in bringing humane treatment to prisons and jails, the U.S. conceived strategies for reforming prisoners themselves. Based on two different philosophical approaches to the problem, two competing systems developed in the U.S. and were replicated by other nations. These were the Pennsylvania, or Separate system and the Auburn, or New York system.



Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

The Pennsylvania system had its roots in William Penn's Quaker penal code of 1682. It was based on the idea that reform of the offender was more important than his punishment. It also eliminated the death penalty. Although this code was repealed after Penn's death, the Quaker society of Pennsylvania nevertheless carried forward Penn's ideas, as well as those of John Howard and many other English and French reformers. A group of people concerned for prisoner welfare formed the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, now known as the

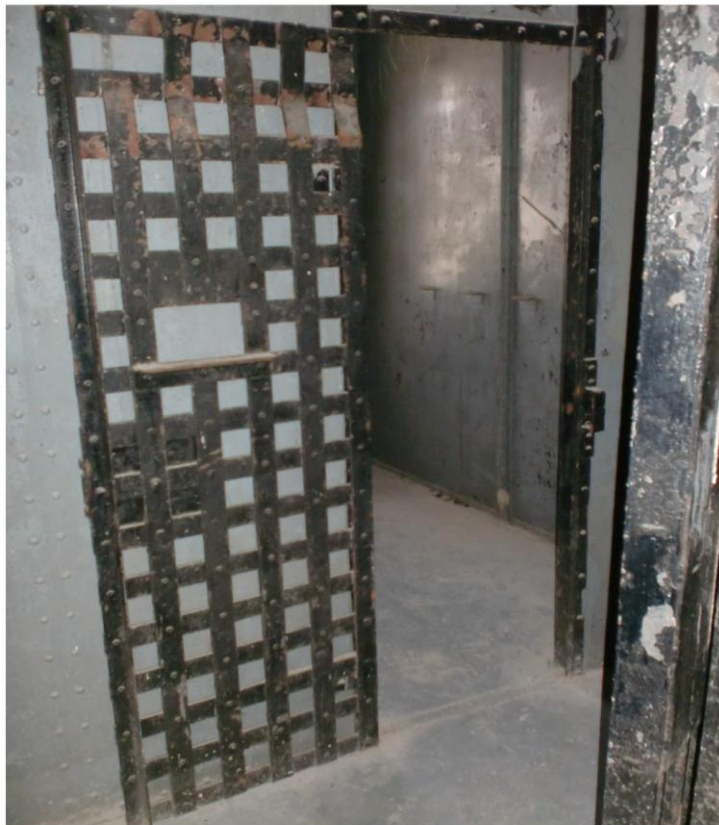


Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Pennsylvania Prison Society and advocated for prison reform based on the concept of a separate cell for each prisoner. The name of this new type of prison was a "penitentiary," and the idea of it was to make prisoners penitent through solitary, spiritual reflection. The proponents of this philosophy believed that by removing a prisoner from fellow offenders and giving him the opportunity to think in silence of his misbehavior and the ugliness of his crime, he would become penitent, and his behavior would reform.

Although the Pennsylvania system of behavioral correction was employed in the U.S. and to a greater degree in other countries, the approach that met greater favor in the U.S. was the Auburn system. It grew out of the Pennsylvanian precedent and shared aspects, such as enforced silence at all times and solitary confinement at night. However, it also allowed for physical punishment, and during the day it required prisoners to work in groups in productive pursuits, learning skills and being of use to society.



Photo: "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

The austerity and harshness of these state prison systems were not implemented at the county jail level, but the penological discussions behind them, such as work vs. idleness, corporal punishment vs. penitence, silence and solitude vs. community, reform vs. punishment, religious instruction vs. none. These in turn have influenced jail design and administration. At the Red Top Jail, cells were designed to hold two prisoners apiece, which are closer to separate cells than to the large group confinement rooms prevalent in earlier Texas prisons. There were enough cells to provide some separation of women from men, of juveniles from adults, of "drunks" from criminals, and so forth. Work was not required of them, but space for exercise was provided. Being a small county jail in which many inmates were neighbors being held for misdemeanors such as disorderly conduct, the atmosphere was reported as being fairly

casual. Offenders of serious crimes were usually transported to the state prison in Huntsville. The Red Top Jail did, however, house hardened criminals, some of whom managed to escape (Oral History, Appendix G).

Despite more than two centuries of jail reforms, many of the criticisms made of jails in the past persisted in the 20th century and can be made today. The following excerpt from “A Human Dumping Ground,” by Joseph F. Fishman in 1923 mirrors the words of John Howard from the 1700s:



Photo: Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail

Jail: An unbelievably filthy institution in which are confined men and women serving sentences for misdemeanors and crimes, and men and women not under sentence who are simply awaiting trial. With few exceptions, having no segregation of the accused from the convicted, the well from the diseased, the youngest and most impressionable from the most degraded and hardened. Usually swarming with bedbugs, roaches, lice, and other vermin; has an odor of disinfectant and filth which is appalling; supports in complete idleness countless thousands of able

bodied men and women, and generally affords ample time and opportunity to assure inmates a complete course in every kind of viciousness and crime. A melting pot in which the worst elements of the raw material in the criminal world are brought forth blended and turned out in absolute perfection.¹⁸

Fishman's greatest censure was reserved for the idleness he saw in jails:

Far more disastrous to the prisoners and to society than all the evils...is that great unmitigated curse of idleness...whether confined for a day, a month, a year, or five years, they are kept in utter and complete idleness. The economic loss to the individual and to the state, the mental and physical stagnation, and the moral pollution, which inevitably follow in the wake of the man who has nothing to do, daily take their relentless toll in the jails. Here indeed is the devil's prime ingredient. Idleness is prevalent in practically all jails.¹⁹

Another area that remains problematic in today's jail system is the incarceration of women, who have generally been treated with benign neglect due to their inferior numbers. In larger cities with larger numbers of female inmates, separate prison wings are developed. Nevertheless, the Red Top Jail layout had enough separation that men and women did not share cells. Regardless of how cells were meant to be used by the designers of the Red Top Jail, the cells in which women were usually kept were the two "drunk tank" cells on the west side of the building. To provide some privacy from male inmates in other cells, a shower curtain was strung up.²⁰

¹⁸ Joseph F. Fishman, quoted in Ruddell, p. 19.

¹⁹ Joseph F. Fishman, quoted in Ruddell, p. 12.

²⁰ Ward, 1972.



Photo: "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

2: Design History: Architecture as Metaphor

Stone jail as a symbol of permanence and civic enlightenment

Architecturally speaking, the Llano Red Top Jail expressed significant meaning for the surrounding community at the time of its construction. Built of stone, it was first and foremost a symbol of security:

- 1) physical security in the form of separation of wrongdoers from the community and in the establishment of law and order,
- 2) fire security in the form of a structure that could not easily burn (conflagration being one of the largest destroyers of cities of towns), and
- 3) psychological security in the form of permanence. In the context of the rough-and-ready frontier, where towns appeared and disappeared over night, a monumental stone public building was an emotional anchor and a guarantee of posterity. It signaled to prospective immigrants that this was a safe home and a good investment.



Photo: Llano County Courthouse, Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Paired with courthouses, jails also helped towns compete for the honor of serving as county seat, which was the ultimate assurance of permanence. Describing the construction of Seymour's courthouse, an observer hopefully wrote: "When our \$40,500 temple of justice is completed, prospectors and railroads may turn an inquisitive eye to our prosperous Western town."²¹

Pride in the public's ability to finance jails and other civic buildings was often expressed in newspapers. For example, the following article was published on November 1, 1907 in the *Robert Lee Observer*:

COUNTY BUILDS "PRETTY" JAIL

The Jail has been finished and turned over to the county commissioners. The building is substantial and the cells and fixtures are the very best. The building contains 7 cells above [i.e., 2nd floor]. It has 4 rooms below [i.e., first floor] for the sheriff and family, including an office room. The building is well furnished throughout and a credit to the contractors. Coke County can now boast of having one of the most substantial as well as pretty jail buildings in the west.²²

²¹ *Fort Worth Daily Gazette*, November 23, 1884, p.4; cited in Robinson 1974, p. 195.

²² Copeland, n.p.



Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Monumental, rusticated stone, such as the Red Top Jail's exterior walls, also conveyed the strength and authority of local government. In addition, it demonstrated progress and pride in the success of pioneer efforts to create a lasting community in the face of adversity and instability. Brick, used in the Llano County courthouse and stone, used in the jail are materials symbolizing permanence and impenetrability. These structures stamped the aspirations of city leaders onto the raucous frontier town of Llano, whose saloons were numerous and legendary.²³ As part of the Historic Walking Tour published by Llano Main Street, the locations of saloons such as the Klondike, the Palace, the Silver King and the Bloody Bucket are noted.²⁴ In addition, the stately Red Top Jail and its counterpart, the exuberant Llano County Courthouse, also demonstrated the wealth of the community and its economic ambitions to afford labor-intensive, expensive civic constructions designed by reputable architects. They

²³ Almond and Franklin 1976.

²⁴ Historic Walking Tour, brochure, 2006. Included in this report as supplementary material

were also emblematic of the community's confidence in its democratic judicial system, its dedication to order, and its commitment to cultural advancement.

Llano was not alone in this material choice and design aesthetic. Most Texas jails built at this time were masonry – and nearly every county in Texas acquired a new jail and courthouse at this time in response to the passage of laws requiring their construction and providing a means of financing them. Like the Red Top Jail, other jails also had a fortress-like appearance of solidity, replete with ornamentation that referenced antique fortifications. Reversing history, however, these “castle keeps” were not structures in which communities could take cover and defend themselves from attack; in fact, the threats to communities' peace and safety were held inside.



Photo: “Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan”

Apart from its unusual mineral wealth, Llano is typical of central Texas towns at this time, whose development belonged to a state-wide push for settlement and expansion. This, in turn, was part of the national western expansion movement, which demographically and economically reshaped the nation. The consistency of Llano's town plan with other frontier Texas towns from the 1800s demonstrates its relationship to larger social trends: a central courthouse square, on which earlier jails were located surrounded by commercial structures with residential streets extending in a grid iron from the center.

Largely due to the Industrial Revolution, economic changes were also taking place at this time. They resulted in increased wealth and mobility and changes in taste, hence the lavish ornamentation and exuberance of Victorian styles, including revival styles. Viewed another way, this was a nouveau riche society flaunting its coming of age – and in the same way that old money censures new money, later generations disparaged late 19th century architecture for being gaudy. This period also resulted in the energetic erection of buildings, including the development of some new building types, such as railroad depots, and the expansion of some older building types, such as courthouses and jails.²⁵ The Red Top Jail belongs to this active building period that celebrated historical precedence using revival styles.

²⁵ Robinson 1983, p. 195.

2a. Romanesque Revival and significance of use in jails

The Red Top Jail is gray granite on the exterior, believed to have been locally quarried and plastered rubble on the interior. It is three stories high with a central hanging tower and cupola. It is symmetrical with handsome proportions and fine workmanship.



Photo: Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail

Stylistically it belongs to the Romanesque Revival, which, by the 1890s followed the example of architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Rounded-arch windows and doorways identify it with this Victorian style. The square tower is borrowed from fortified medieval castles or military architecture. Described as architectural metaphor or



Photo: Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail

architecture parlante (architecture that speaks), these features along with rusticated stonework symbolize the strength, solidity, and defensive capabilities of the structure.

For this reason, Romanesque Revival was a popular style for Texas jails built at this time. The fact that the people of Llano and other towns chose a fashionable architectural style for their jails indicates their esteem for the institution and the significance of its role in the community. Even more opulent were the “temples of justice,” or courthouses, built at this time that also engaged revival styles. By

elevating civic building to monumental status, communities replaced the feudal symbols of power in Europe, such as castles and cathedrals with American symbols of democracy, including courthouses and jails.

Prior to statehood – when Texas architecture bloomed in the popular yet sober antebellum style of Greek Revival – most buildings in Texas were humble structures designed by necessity. By the late 19th century, however, Texas architecture strove for grandeur and elegance. These features reflected the affluence the state was experiencing from economic stimulation and expansion of railroads and industry, which provided an outlet for East Texas lumber and Central Texas cotton. Excess wealth also took the form of competition among neighboring counties to build fashionably yet distinctively.²⁶

2b. Architectural and programmatic innovations; Iron, concrete, and stone: Tension and meaning



Photo: Iron clockworks, Llano courthouse, Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

²⁶ Robinson 1983, p. 152.

The Red Top Jail represents a tense period in the history of architecture in which new materials and methods of construction were being introduced yet cloaked in traditional architectural raiment. Use of iron and concrete to create long structural spans and large interior spaces identifies the building with the modern movement and with the technological developments of the Industrial Revolution, which is also credited with the transportation of materials to this previously remote site. However, the load-bearing, cut-stone exterior walls of the jail recall medieval architecture and preindustrial building practices.

The building's modernity, however, is evident on the interior. Modern materials and building systems, consideration of prisoners' comfort and needs, humane cells with sophisticated locks that protected jailers from attack, and internal gallows that shielded hangings from public view all witness changes in jail design, in attitudes toward punishment, and in prisoner treatment that were being incorporated in the final years of the 19th century and resulted from technological, scientific, and social changes.

Like many Texas jails constructed at this time, the Red Top Jail has two levels of living spaces: One, below, for the sheriff or jailer and his family; one above for inmates. The central tower of the building soars



Photo: Top of gallows tower, Red Top Jail, Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

five stories and includes a gallows. Though not visible to the public, this feature is very visible to inmates, whose cells are arranged around the central volume. Many Texas jails from this period include this feature, which was mandated by law and available in the Pauly and Diebold jail manufacturers' kits.

Other innovations in the design were the use of free-standing iron cages, which were far more secure than the rooms which previously held inmates. These are set within light-filled, well-ventilated spaces with room for exercise. At the Red Top Jail, the jail cells are located in a double-height space with large windows. The gallows tower acts as a central cooling tower, pulling air through windows on the cell floor and exhausting heat through its high windows. Light and air were the mantra of modern planners from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, who believed that this combination would correct all social ills as well as physical ailments. The importance of these amenities to late 19th century jail design cannot be overstressed. With the addition of built-in heating generated from fireplaces in the north and south cells and in the jailer's quarters and sanitation, this was a far cry from the dank, dark dungeons of the previous époque. It met the legal requirements of security and humaneness as well as the reform criteria of the jail reform movement.



Photo: Top of gallows tower, Red Top Jail, Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

Another novelty introduced in the kit jail cells was an ingenious lever locking system that allowed a jailer to lock several cells at a time and from a safe distance. The sound that the lever made when slamming shut led to the term “slammer” for a jail, describing the sound of lost freedom.



Photo: Cell locking system, “Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan”

The structure-free open floor plan, metal-strap cells, and two-story ceilings allowed jailers and guards to observe all inmates from a safe distance and elevated location in the central tower. Separating inmates into small, semi-private cells and supervising them (panoptically) from a central location was another new feature of jails promoted by late 19th century penology.

Should prisoners be allowed to leave their cage cells, 20-inch thick stone walls would impede their escape. Another security measure of the Red Top Jail shared by many jails of this time was the floor system: Corrugated iron vaulting supported on iron I-beams and topped by a concrete slab created long, structure-free spans that were also impenetrable as digging through floors was a common method



Photo: Corrugated metal vaulted ceiling and I-beams, "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

of escape in prior jails.²⁷ This practical, long-span solution was also used in the Llano courthouse. In addition to opening up spaces and preventing prisoner escape, this floor system was less prone to burn than its wooden precursors and therefore also provided a measure of fire safety. In fact, very little wood was used in the Red Top Jail's construction, earlier jails having been largely constructed of logs and vulnerable to fire. As with the iron strap jail cells, the iron floor system was part of the jail kit produced and provided by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company.

Another sanitary innovation seen in the Red Top Jail and other jails at this time was the use of hammocks for prisoner beds. Hemp canvas hammocks that could be folded away during the day to provide more space and were washable were used, as opposed to mattresses of previous *époques* that became filthy and infested with vermin. The

²⁷ This system was used extensively in Texas county jails of the period. For example, architect J.J. Kane specified for the second floor of the Bosque County courthouse: "iron I beams, corrugated iron arches, filled with concrete," and the Caldwell County courthouse designer requested: "corrugated iron arches laid on the bottom flange of beams and on the channel bars built into the walls," quoted in Robinson 1983, p. 101.

hard, scrub-able surfaces of concrete and iron that surrounded prisoners were also considered to be a sanitary improvement.

Treating prisoners decently while securing them and protecting jailers were the central concepts of late 19th century jail reform that the new jails of this time attempted to meet through innovations and new technologies.

2c. Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company and F.B. & W.S. Hull Architects

A large percentage of Texas jails from the late 19th century was designed and/or built by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company, located in St. Louis, Missouri. Over 100 of them still stand today. Competitor, Diebold Safe and Lock Company of Canton, Ohio, and, later, Southern Steel of San Antonio, Texas, also held market share in the provision of jail designs and patented iron parts during this busy period of jail construction in Texas.

Pauly's role in the conception and construction of jails varied widely, from simply the provision of pre-fabricated cells to complete service, which included everything from architectural design to construction and provision of materials, labor, and furnishings. This explains both the similarities between late-19th century Texas jails, as Pauly was involved in a large percentage of them and the differences among them, as Pauly's role varied from project to project.

The two firms responsible for the design and construction of the Red Top were Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company and F.B. & W.S. Hull. It is not clear from published accounts which firm played which role, since both Pauly and Hull have histories of designing jails as well as contracting and building them. F.B. & W.S. Hull was an architecture firm, construction company, and lumberyard in Jackson, Mississippi. After 1904, it re-formed as F.B. Hull Construction Company. The firm is known for designing and erecting public buildings, namely courthouses and jails, as well as



Photo: PaulyJail.com; “Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan”

churches. Its largest contribution was as builder/contractor for civic buildings in Mississippi and across the South. However, in a description of Southern Steel in San Antonio, founder David Franklin Youngblood is said to have learned the trade of jail construction while “working for Hull Construction, a manufacturer of jails in Troy, Alabama.”²⁸

According to one report, the Red Top Jail’s architectural design was carried out by F.B. & W.S. Hull, and the construction was done by Pauly.²⁹ Another version of the story names no “Architect” but

²⁸ Blackburn, p. 13.

²⁹ Texas Historical n.d.

credits Pauly as the “Design Firm” and F.B. & W.S. Hull as the “Contractor.”³⁰ Another variation states that the plans were drawn by F.B. & W.S. Hull, who as architects or builders/contractors tailored a set of standard Pauly design plans to this specific site, foundation requirements, and specific building materials.³¹ Another version is that F.B. and W.S. Hull were Pauly’s representatives and built the jail.³² Another account specifies John Goodman as the appointed construction supervisor, supposedly contracted directly by the county, and paid \$75/month for the period of June–December, 1895.³³ The same actors and the same ambiguity surround the design and construction of the Austin County Jail in Bellville, Texas, constructed one year after the Red Top Jail in 1896.³⁴ Llano city administrators familiar with county history state that Pauly was in charge of the Red Top Jail’s construction, having hired a superintendent who, in turn, hired local labor and oversaw stone quarrying.³⁵ Regardless of who did what, the sturdy granite pile was completed and accepted within a year (1895) of the county commissioners letting a contract for construction in the amount of \$11,500.

The stone for the Red Top Jail is very similar to local granite and a scientific study is currently underway to determine the exact quarry of origin. In addition, the ironworks, patented in 1874 came from Pauly’s foundry in St. Louis. Thus, the jail design and composition mirrors that of many other Texas jails built at this time.

Pauly’s story, like many entrepreneurs as this time, including Pauly’s two main competitors is the American dream. Peter Joseph Pauly was

³⁰ Texas Historical Commission 2010

³¹ Mark Cowan, Texas Historical Commission, personal communication, November 17, 2010.

³² Fowler, p. 3.

³³ Woodall, n.d.

³⁴ Texas Historical Commission’s jail database, an electronic file entitled “Texas Jails 2010-11-17.xls” identifies F.B. & W.S. Hull as being the “contractor” for this structure with Pauly as the “designer,” but with no architect listed. The National Register for Historic Places describes W.S. Hull and F.B. Hull as the “Architect, builder, or engineer.”

³⁵ Mike Reagor and Sheri Zoch, personal communication, June 1, 2011.



Photo: Pauly patent, “Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan”

born in Germany in 1832 and emigrated to the U.S. at age 14. He apprenticed himself to a St. Louis blacksmith before striking out on his own in 1849 as a blacksmith and machinist. In 1856 his brother joined him to develop a steamboat blacksmithing business. With the advent of the transcontinental railroad and the waning of the steamboat industry, the brothers began to produce jail and prison equipment in 1870. Fortuitously, this shift in manufacturing coincided with the great westward expansion of the nation and the need for countless jails in the rapidly expanding frontier. Locating in St. Louis, they were situated at the “Gateway to the West” as well as at the foot of Iron Mountain, their source of iron ore. The Pauly company states this strategy up front in its catalogue:

After figuring the number of counties in the U.S., [Pauly] at once saw that he had a wide field before him and that by improving the character of the jails, both in the construction of the buildings and in the system and construction of the cell work, his patronage could be extended to almost every county in the US and possibly beyond its boundaries.³⁶

The first jail products that Pauly manufactured were simply metal

³⁶ *Illustrated Descriptive Catalogue of Steel Jail Cells and other Steel and Iron Work, for County Jails and Other Prisons, manufactured by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Co.* St. Louis: The Pauly Company, n.d. (but written ca. 1892), cited in Dunks, p. 40.

cages transported by wagon. Responding to demand, the

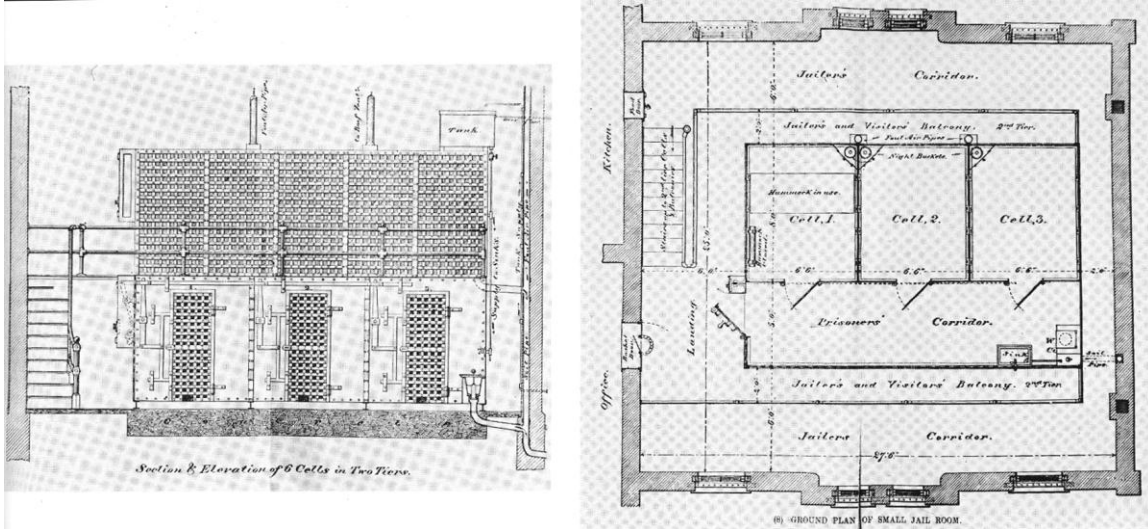


Photo: Floor plan and section-elevation of the patented Pauly Jail; *The Paul Jail Building and Manufacturing Co. Catalogue*, 1889, published in Robinson 1983, p. 87.

sophistication of the product line grew. Peter Pauly's experience as a machinist led the company to invent better locking systems and to continue to improve their designs. They engineered, constructed, and assembled complete jail cells at their plant in St. Louis. These were then disassembled, shipped, and reassembled in new or remodeled jails. Industrialized building processes allowed Pauly, as well as its competitors, to produce jails in quantity and to ship them via the nation's new rail system to the burgeoning frontier. As demand for new jails increased, the business grew to include complete jail design and construction services. They also met demand by selling jail kits, jail designs, jail parts (such as window bars and trap doors), and whole jails. Many of their products are featured in the catalogues they distributed of patented jails and jail furnishings. Along with their archived drawings, these document many elements of their designs that have been changed or lost over time in the actual jails.

One of the most remarkable features of the jail building industry that developed at this time was the entrepreneurs' ability to design modular jails that could be located anywhere. Patterns and patented products displayed in illustrated catalogues recall the mail-order houses being sold through Sears-Roebuck catalogue at this time. It exemplifies the wealth of resources easily available to both urban and

rural areas as a result of the Industrial Revolution.

3: Economic Story of Llano and the Red Top Jail

The city and county of Llano typify settlement patterns in central Texas in the mid-late 19th century. The area was settled in the late 1840s by German immigrants. The county was formed in 1856 on 250 acres of land donated by area residents. German and Anglo-American settlers were attracted by the Llano River, artesian springs, and temperate climate, which supported prosperous farming of corn, wheat, and cotton in the north and cattle and sheep ranching in the south.

The Civil War combined with Comanche raids destabilized the community and limited growth during the 1860s and early 1870s, but the region regained vigor in the mid-1870s and 1880s. The City of Llano's population surged to 7,000–10,000 between 1881 and 1890, at which time the county was bustling with 858 farms and ranches.³⁷ Corn and cotton were important export crops; however, ranching dominated the economy then — as now.



Photo: Toxey/McMillan Design Associates

³⁷ Texas State Historical Association 2012; Mike Reagor, personal communication, June 1, 2011; Roger Pinkney, personal communication, November 16, 2010; Note, unfortunately, the 1890 census was destroyed in a fire at the National Archives.

State-wide the 1880s were prosperous times. The cattle and cotton industries were expanding, railroads were providing export markets for Texas products and importing cultural amenities and refinement to the frontier state. Industrial expansion attracted out-of-state investment and an influx of people and commercial activity. A feeling of unbridled optimism and confidence pervaded the period.

Interest in Llano's mineral resources led to the establishment of an iron ore mine and an economic boom that hit in the mid-1880s, augmented by an influx of money from outside investors. Hopeful monikers described Llano as the "Iron City" and "Pittsburg of the West." The Llano Improvement and Furnace Company drew up plans for an iron smelter and foundry. The company also platted the north side of town for commercial real estate development. Streets in this area were named after Pennsylvania cities with iron mining and processing histories, such as Birmingham, Pittsburgh, and Bessemer.



Photo: Llano County Historical Museum

In 1892 at the peak of the boom, the city of Llano incorporated, and the Austin and Northwestern Railroad was extended to Llano – to the new industrial part of town north of the river. In the same year, the city built a bridge across the river to reach its new north side, new businesses moved to town, and a number of brick commercial buildings were erected in the new north side. Marking Llano's rise in importance and the pervading optimism of the times was the construction of the Algona Hotel also built in 1892. This elegant, granite, three-story structure was financed by the Llano Improvement and Furnace Company at a cost of \$60,000.³⁸

Granite quarries and finishing businesses also appeared for the first time in 1888, and geologists scanned the geologically rich region known as the Llano Uplift for other useful minerals. One rare form of granite found here in 1889 by state geologist, M.J. Comstock, exhibited by local mineralogist, Professor N.J. Badu and named for Llano is *llanite*, which was originally called *opal granite* for the blue



Photo: John Barringer, Barringer Hill Mine 1902, Llano County Historical Museum

³⁸ Russell 2012.

inclusions thought to be opals. The availability of stone such as granite and marble also attracted several sculpture studios to Llano including Teich Studio and Z.A. Blodgett Granite Works. Many other minerals have been found, and most have been mined at some time or another. Some of these include: sandstone, serpentine, vermiculite, graphite, gadolinium, gold, silver, copper, diamonds, talc, silica, soapstone, and asbestos.



Photo: Teich sculpture studio, Llano County Historical Museum

1893 marks a nation-wide economic panic and the beginning of a depression. It also marks the end of Llano's boom. Many people moved away, and others burned their buildings to collect insurance.³⁹

It was in this post-boom period that the Red Top Jail was built. The sight of the stately new jail would have been sobering to the rowdy element introduced by the boom. This rough element of the populace moved along, however, when it became clear that the iron mine was not profitable and the dreams of wealth and grandeur were unfounded.

After the boom, the city still had its vital connection to the railroad — literally providing a lifeline for towns — and experienced a few more moments of growth. In general between 1900 and 1920, however, Llano's economy and population declined, and the county settled back into its ranching and agricultural roots, with stone quarrying balancing the economic picture.



Photo: Hauling granite, Llano County Historical Museum

³⁹ Roger Pinkney, personal communication, November 16, 2010; Mike Reagor, personal communication, June 1, 2011.

4: Jailers, Inmates, and Offenses: Life in the Red Top Jail

An Oral History Project was initiated as part of the matching portion of the National Park Service Preserve America grant in 2010. This oral history was collected as a series of interviews between students of the Llano High School and former jailors, their families and inmates of the Llano Red Top Jail. The history is included as an appendix to this report and will be published in the future in a book that will be available for purchase at the Llano Red Top Jail Museum.

The oral history project compilation provides many clues for life at the Red Top Jail and will provide the backdrop for the design of the jailor's quarters. The stories and descriptions of the interior of the building will serve as a model for exhibit space development. For example, the escape of a prisoner from the second floor described by jailors Janie Prew and Ken Rhoades will be part of an interpretive exhibit in the gallows tower. A wood stove similar to one used to cook both prisoners' and jailor family's meals will be placed in the kitchen.

Several items of particular value to the future Red Top Jail Museum were donated to the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail and the City of Llano during the oral history interviews. For example, a prison logbook from 1947-1970, law enforcement handcuffs and many photographs were collected and documented by the students. These artifacts are now being archived and stored by the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail and the City of Llano for display in the future Red Top Jail Museum, in addition to other items previously acquired.

The logbook from 1947-1970 provides a fascinating insight into the people who were detained at the Red Top Jail. Tallying the entries of five random pages taken from the logbook over 10 years shows considerable consistency of charge and of demographics. 88% of the bookings were related to drinking: 65% for drunkenness, 6% for disturbing the peace, 10% for driving while intoxicated, and 7% for fighting, drunken fighting, or knifing. The rest of the charges were occasional occurrences. A few of these include: Attempt of murder,

vagrancy, hog theft, felony, hot check, forgery, reckless driving, and hunting. 88% of those booked were white males, 6% were white females, 6% were "Mex." males, and there was one single "colored" male.

The jail log will be an important source of information to be compiled and analyzed by historians for years to come.

1949									
PRISON REGISTER									
DATE	TIME	NAME OF PRISONER	AGE	WEIGHT	MALE OR FEMALE	OFFENSE CHARGED	OFFICER PLACING IN JAIL	TYPE OF BOND	COURT
6-24	11:20 PM	J. D. Shatley	27	170	M	Disturbing Peace	M. A. Moore with	none	County Court
6-25	9:40 PM	A. L. McDaniel	27	170	M	Disturbing Peace	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
6-26	11:40 PM	Robert Marshall	19	160	M	Drunk	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
6-29	11:40 PM	Pete Hatch Katts	48	170	M	Attempt Murder	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
6-30	11:40 PM	Robert Marshall	48	170	M	Disturbing Peace	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
6-30	11:40 PM	Morgan Marshall	48	170	M	Disturbing Peace	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
6-30	11:40 PM	Ben Schuchman	50	170	M	Drunk	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
7-3	11:40 PM	V. H. Collins	55	170	M	Drunk	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
7-7	12 PM	Chas. Henson	18	170	M	Left cell 12 PM	Rob. Lott	none	J.P.
7-8	12 PM	Lorenzo Gungale	35	170	M	Drunk	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
7-9	12 PM	Gom Richards	60	170	M	Drunk	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
7-10	11:30 AM	Art Mickel	48	170	M	Drunk	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
7-16	4 PM	Lyde Alwood	41	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-17	10 PM	Diana Knathaus	27	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-19	10 PM	Vance Smith	47	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-21	1 PM	Olis Campbell	45	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-23	2:20 AM	Alvin Handshumert	32	170	M	Drunk	M. A. Moore with	none	J.P.
7-25	4 PM	Bob Ravis	53	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-25	10:20 PM	James Gage	35	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-25	10:20 PM	W. J. Ridings	41	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-26	11:40 PM	Blanche Bell Marshall	29	170	F	Drunk	Chas. Castles	none	J.P.
7-26	3 PM	Roy Mickel	57	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-27	10 PM	M. L. Maxwell	51	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
7-29	8:30 PM	Morgan Marshall	30	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
8-24	8:30 PM	Ray Davis	42	170	M	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.
8-24	8:30 PM	Blanche Bell Marshall	29	170	F	Drunk	L. B. Furburville	none	J.P.



Photo: Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail. Thumbcuffs with key and metal identification tag used by jailor Dan McDonald from 1928-1932.

In addition to these stories, many interesting newspaper articles about the Red Top Jail have been discovered as the local newspapers are being digitized by the Llano County Library and will be a valuable source of information for future exhibits at the Red Top Jail Museum. For example, the Llano News from Dec. 27, 1962 described how Mrs. Clive Stovall served Christmas supper for 9 inmates, "turkey with dressing and trimmings". A 1978 Llano News article describes the repair of the iron cells following a jail break. The Llano News archive is currently digitized only from the present to 1970, but the library is actively pursuing completion of the project so that the papers can be searched for content by subject.

Life at the Red Top Jail consisted of an "Upstairs-Downstairs" split of activities and experiences. In some cases, the strong metal door separating the jailor's quarters from the booking room and upstairs jail cells was kept locked. In other cases, the door was open and children were allowed to play cards with inmates in their cells. Downstairs was a typical home for the jailor's family, with much of the activity happening in the kitchen. Children played indoors during winter and outside during summer. The nearby Llano River, with its opportunities for fishing, gold panning and make-believe

provided a natural playground for the children. Children had friends stay overnight and played like normal children in any household.

The kitchen was a busy place, as the jailor's wife provided meals for the prisoners and her family. Meals were sometimes meager, sometimes more grand, depending on the economy. Game wardens frequently brought poached deer or hog for butchering and fried venison or pork was often enjoyed. In some cases, a hog pen or rabbit hutch was kept outside. A vegetable garden provided side dishes. Meals were cooked over a wood stove until 1948, when the leaning chimney was removed and gas was brought in. Children bathed in washtubs in the kitchen during the winter or outside during the summer. Heat for the household was provided by wood-burning fireplaces. At least two of these show evidence that the fires got out of control on occasion. The photo from around 1900 on p. 13 shows a large wood pile to the southeast side of the building that would have been used to heat the house and wood stove.

Prisoners were brought in through the booking room by the sheriff or deputy and the jailor was notified by a bell. The jailor would sign the prisoner into the log book and escort him up the stairs into the second floor. In later years, intoxicated prisoners were simply put in beds outside the jail cells and left to "sleep it off". Earlier, they would be locked into the "drunk tanks". They would often get a meal in the morning and be set free. Many reported that the excellent breakfast served by the jailor's wife was worth being arrested. More hardened criminals were placed into the jail cells with more secure locking mechanisms. The many hours of idleness were evident from the numerous graffiti markings, dating back to as early as 1918. Prisoners would pass the time playing cards or talking to friends, relatives and passers-by through the second floor windows. A single shower was used by all inmates. A trustee was named to take the food from the food slot in the downstairs central tower to the other prisoners upstairs. The jail cells had small grates for wood or coal for heating, although chimneys for these are absent. The design of the building helped during the summer months, with the high ceilings

and open second floor plan leading into the central gallows tower. The windows in the gallows and second floor were opened for hot air to escape. The photograph on p. 13 shows iron bars on the windows of the second floor around 1900.

Women were placed in the west "drunk tank" and their privacy was protected by a shower curtain or blanket. Interestingly, in the entire log book from 1947-1970, no record of prostitution was mentioned. Many women were arrested for public drunkenness, disturbing the public or fighting. While the women's cells had their own toilets, the physical proximity of their jail cell to the men's was one reason that the jail was deemed unsuitable in the 1970s.

There were at least two escapes that were described in the oral history and historical research is likely to reveal more. Indeed, the iron bars of the jail cells show signs of being sawed or bent in attempts to escape. Families of prisoners were often allowed to bring food to the prisoners and even baked escape implements into these food items.

An occasional skirmish between jailor and inmate occurred, with some inmates resisting being taken upstairs, some trying to escape downstairs, and suspected drunks ranting and singing during the night. These were all handled swiftly by various means. At least in one case, the jailor was accidentally locked into the jail by a young family member.

Thus, life for the jailor's family was little altered by living in the Red Top Jail downstairs, while men and women were incarcerated in the jail cells above. Sometimes the two intertwined, but other times little contact occurred. All of the jailor's families felt that this was simply their home and didn't think it was strange to live in a jail. As time goes on, it will be interesting to collect more stories from both sides of the iron bars.

Exhibit and Media Plan and Recommendations

The overall exhibit concept proposed here is to recreate the experience of visiting the old Red Top Jail from the perspective of a criminal being booked into jail. The objective is to accentuate the difference between the jail cell floor versus the jailer's quarters — the latter representing freedom and the former exhibiting incarceration. This contrast will be made by accentuating the comforts and society of the jailer's quarters in comparison with the austerity, discomfort, and isolation of the jail cells: the sacred and the profane. To this end, the entire jail will become a walk-through diorama.

This approach calls for the jail cell floor (whose use has never been altered) to remain much as it currently is, with the addition of exhibits and special effects that tell stories of prisoners' lives as well as the history of jail reforms that have been incorporated into the design of the building.

The jailer's quarters will also remain as they were from around 1900-1960. Our knowledge of the jailer's quarters is from the oral history compilation told by different people who experienced the spaces, for example, as sheriff, jailer's child, jailer's grandchild, or friend of jailer's family. We will use this pastiche of memories and the general feeling that they portray to present an interpretation of this space over time with different rooms and spaces denoting different eras within this time frame.

The visitor experience begins upon entrance into the jail's booking room through the front door. As much as possible, the booking room will be reconstructed to resemble what it looked like in recent memory. The actual desk that was in use when the jail closed is among the museum's artifacts. Jailor's families recall the same desk being present in the 1940s. On this desk, prisoners' personal information was logged into a large book. The jail log from 1947-1970 is also one of the museum's artifacts. As part of the admission procedure, a visitor will be "booked" into jail. Each visitor will be

charged with a crime, assigned a number, and written into the jail log (i.e., guest book). Mug shots will be taken of visitors in front of a height chart, holding their numbers. As a revenue-generating activity, these could be printed on postcards (digital or paper) reading, "I escaped from the Red Top Jail," and sold to visitors. Alternately the booking agent could offer to use visitors' cameras for this souvenir photo op. The staff person will be dressed as a sheriff or jailer and will act the part, reading the accused's (visitor's) rights and the rules of the jail (museum). If budget allows, staff person will demand that each visitor "hold out your hands" while he/she snaps an ID bracelet (admission bracelet) onto the visitor's wrist like a handcuff.



Conceptual design: booking room (south and west walls)

An iron door (currently missing and needing to be replaced) separates the cozy, safe world of the jailer's family from the harshness of the inmates' world, which begins in the ground floor booking room and extends up the gallows stairwell into the cell floor.



Conceptual design: booking room (north and east walls)

After being booked, visitors pass through an existing iron door and trudge up the steep metal stairway in the gallows tower – each uncomfortable step leading farther away from friends, family, freedom, and the comforts of home. We want them to feel what it was like to be an arriving prisoner.

Addition of an elevator is not required by law;⁴⁰ however, to provide the jail experience to all visitors, an elevator or lift for elderly and physically disabled visitors may be added. The benefits of this will need to be weighed against the cost and the risk of physically or experientially changing this historic structure. The initial code review from the Red Top Jail Preservation Master Plan in Appendix B

⁴⁰ Texas Accessibility Guidelines do not require elevators to be installed in buildings with fewer than 3,000 s.f. per story or in buildings that are suitably classified as historical and in which an elevator would damage historical significance.

discusses the lack of a need for an elevator to the gallows: “Do not alter floor plan configuration, walls or ceilings in any way on the upper floors; this would be considered altering a primary function...”

Initial research (see appendix A) shows that several non-structurally and non-visually invasive options exist for bringing visitors up one to two stories within the gallows tower (in the space enclosed by the wrapping stairway). The least costly alternative for some buildings is a chair lift. However, due to space constraints, this is not feasible for the Red Top Jail. A small elevator that could accommodate a wheelchair to go from the first to second floor would cost approximately \$25,000, according to Artisan Elevators in Dallas. This size elevator would fit in the present space of the central tower.



Photo: Steel and masonry interior structure framing the open, central gallows tower, which could include a lift, “Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan”

One of the museum’s strongest experiences and largest lessons will be the visitor’s simple act of hearing the jail door slam shut and locked. “Living” the jail experience – the sites, smells, and sounds of the jail, even as a visitor – will provide a glimpse of the devastating feeling of being locked up. Several jail cells will be dedicated to this experience.

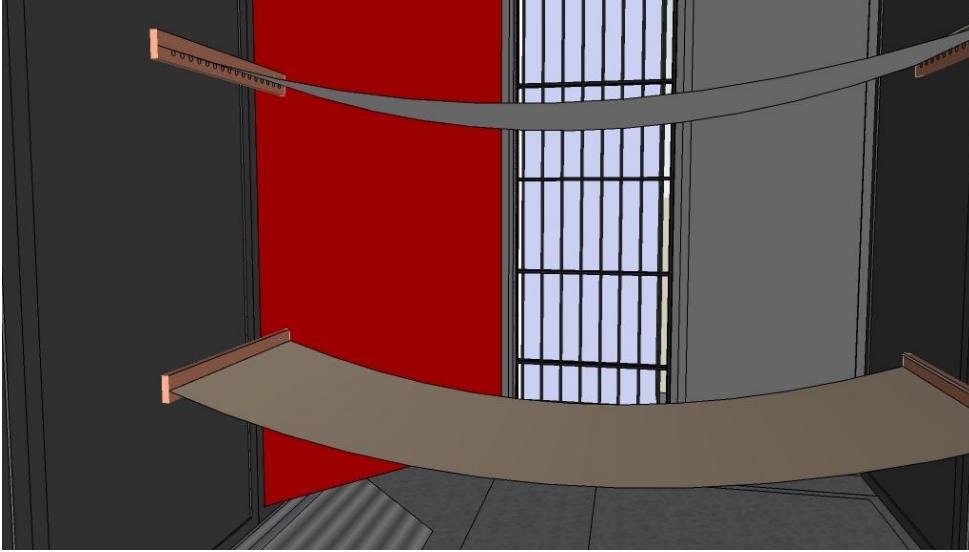


Photo: North cell block (with graffiti), "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"



Entering north cellblock from the central stairway

The north cellblock will be developed and interpreted as the early history of the jail. Here, following the original jail design, hammocks will be reproduced for inmate beds, and visitors will be allowed to sit or lie on them. An early hammock was recently found in the attic of the Red Top Jail with metal clips for attachment to the wall clips. The clips have "Patented 1882" stamped on them. A preliminary web search of other Pauly Jails across the United States shows the use of hammocks in jail cells as a common practice. Interpretation will discuss the early history of Llano and its succession of jails, the architecture of the building, reforms that were included in the design, the historical and theoretical context of these changes, and the lifestyle of early prisoners (parts of Topics 1, 2, and 3).



Hammocks reproduced in north cells

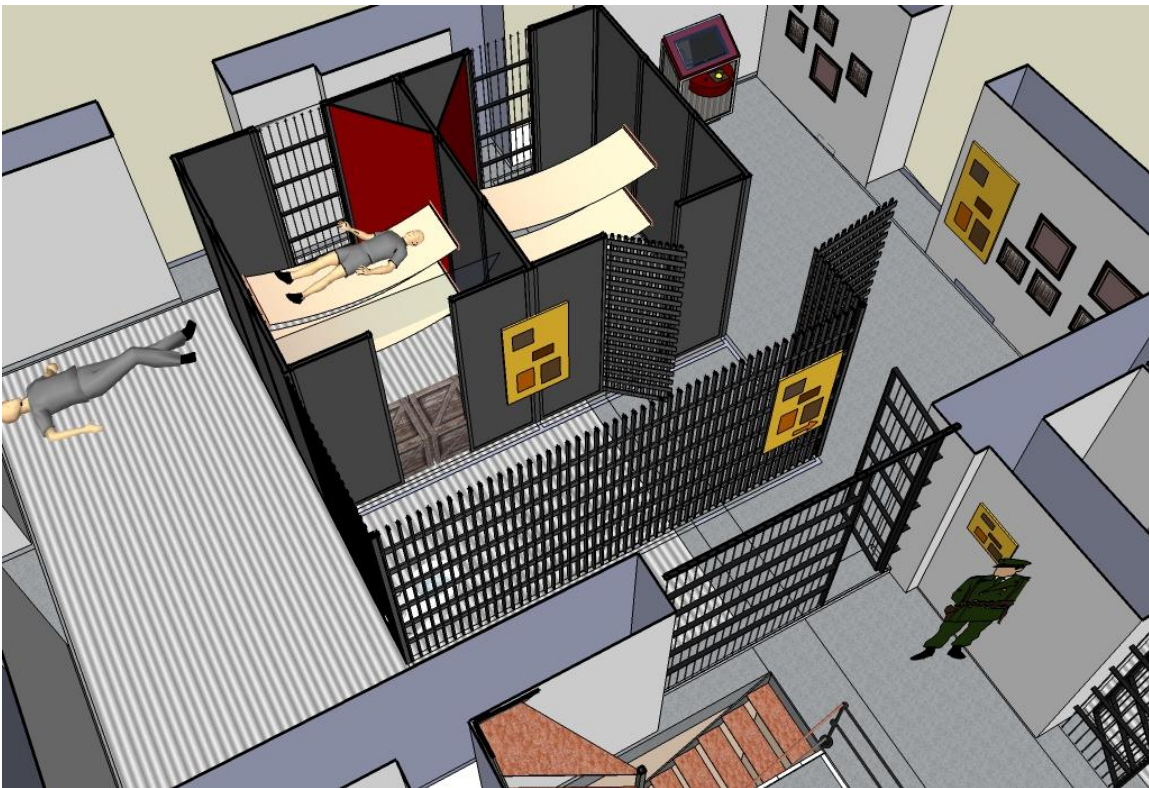
The south cellblock will be left in its most recent, “modernized” form with metal cots and crude plumbing. Interpretation here will address social changes and developments in the penal code that led to changes in prisoner treatment.



Metal cot in south cellblock

In both the north and south cellblocks, one side of the block will be

developed with interpretation, interactive kiosks, and historic photographs that document the Red Top Jail's history, Llano jail history, and Texas jail history. The other side of each cellblock will be left un-interpreted to provide visitors with the empty, lonely feeling of being in an unadorned jail. To illustrate this point, two mannequins, one on the north and two on the south will be stationed in idle poses. According to former inmate Kenny Hare who was incarcerated for 2 months at the Red Top Jail, idleness was a significant factor of jail life. Visitors will pose with mannequins for photos. Faces of the mannequins here and in the drunk tanks will be sculpted to look like haggard, bored prisoners, and they will be dressed in period clothing appropriate to the jail setting. An ambient soundtrack will be playing prisoner voices, guard voices, metal clanking, harmonica, shouts, card shuffling, humming and other jail sounds.



Overview of north cellblock showing Pepper's Ghost in left cell, walk-in right cell, interpreted east wall with computer interactive kiosk, and un-interpreted west wall with idle mannequin.

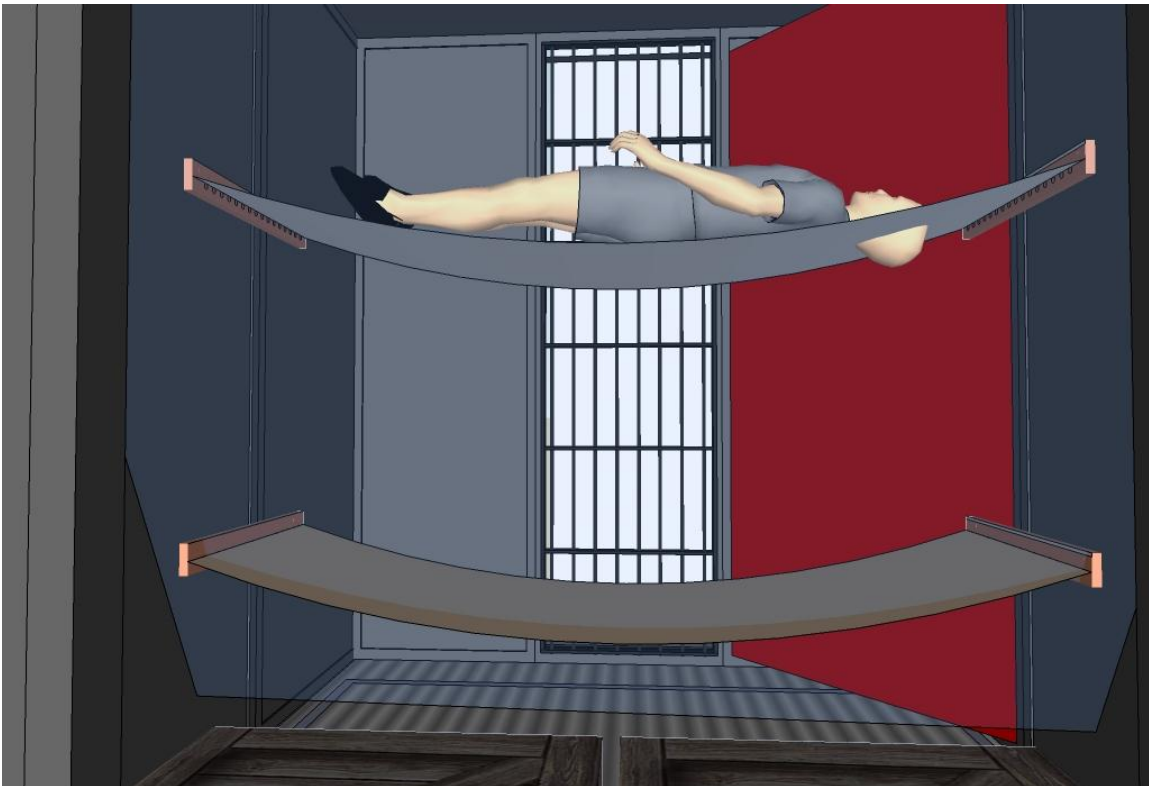


Interpreted wall of south cellblock showing computer interactive kiosk, historic photographs, and interpretive panel (yellow)



Uninterpreted side of south cellblock showing two idle mannequins

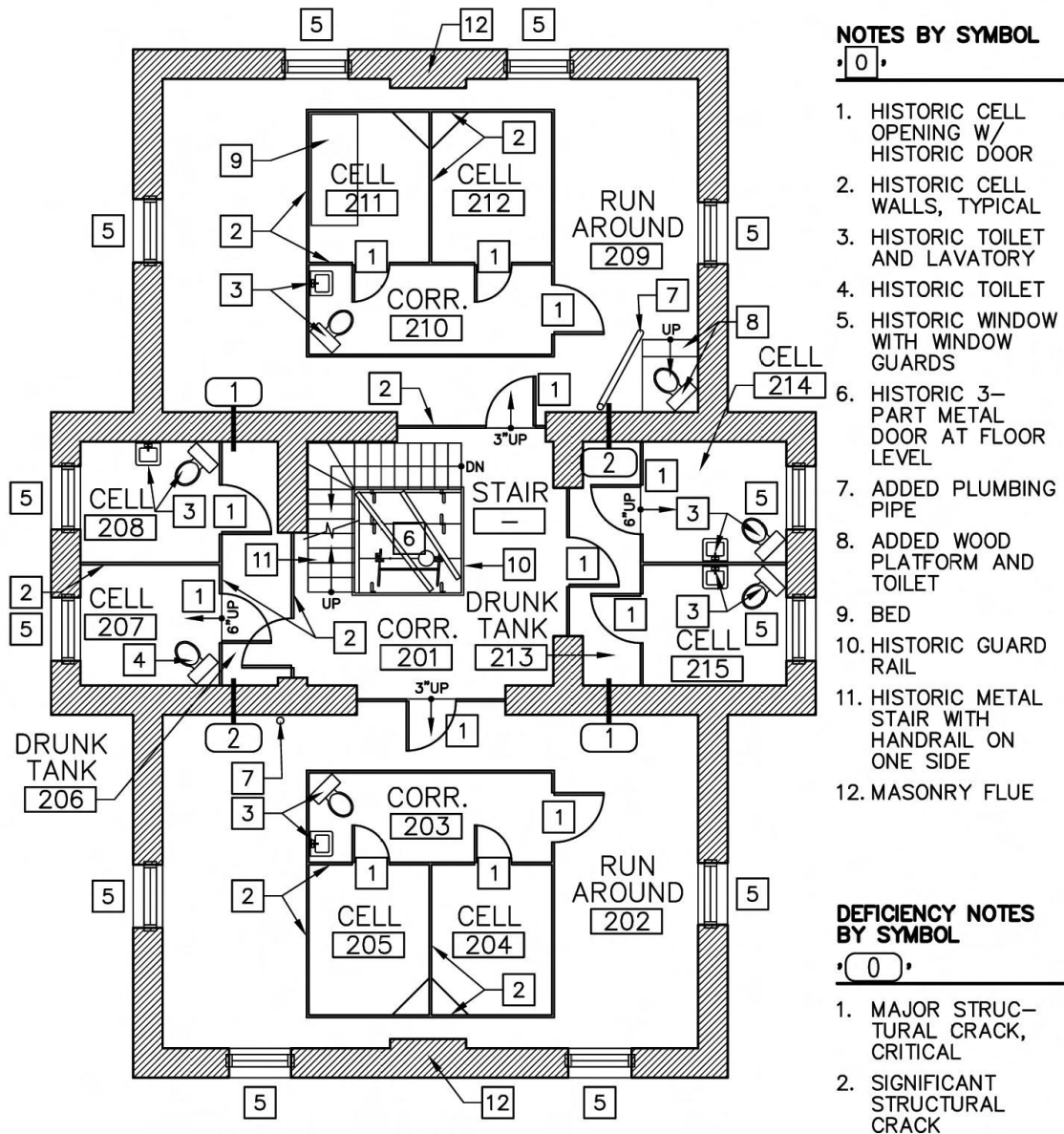
One cell in the north block and one in the south block will be embellished with the technique known as the Pepper's Ghost effect. This is a special effect similar to a hologram in which a life-sized ghostly image appears and performs a short drama. Here, the images will be former inmates portrayed by character actors telling their stories, describing life in the jail, or relating jail events, such as escapes (Topic 4: Jailers, Inmates, and Offenses: Life in the Red Top). Motion controllers will trigger the dramatic segments.



Pepper's Ghost effect in north cellblock



Pepper's Ghost effect in south cellblock (with interpretive panel in yellow)

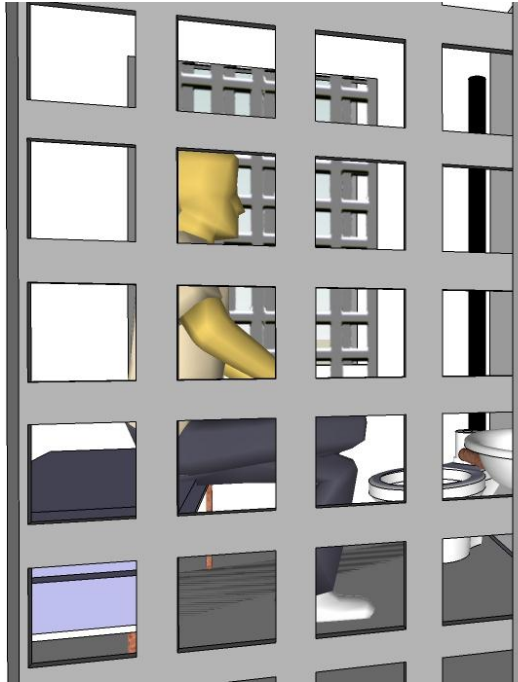


Second floor plan, "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan."

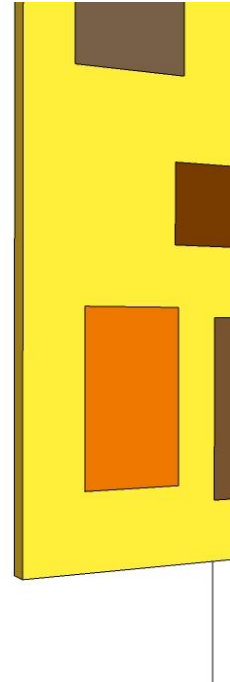
The two drunk tanks (east and west) will remain in their current conditions. The west drunk tank, used for female inmates, will be left with its shower curtain for visual privacy. On both the men's and women's sides, one cell will be occupied by a mannequin. A stereo soundtrack will play humming and talking of one or both characters. An interpretive panel will discuss social reformers and resulting changes in jail design that separated women from men, youth from adults, misdemeanants from criminals, and so forth (parts of Topic 1: Llano Penal History).



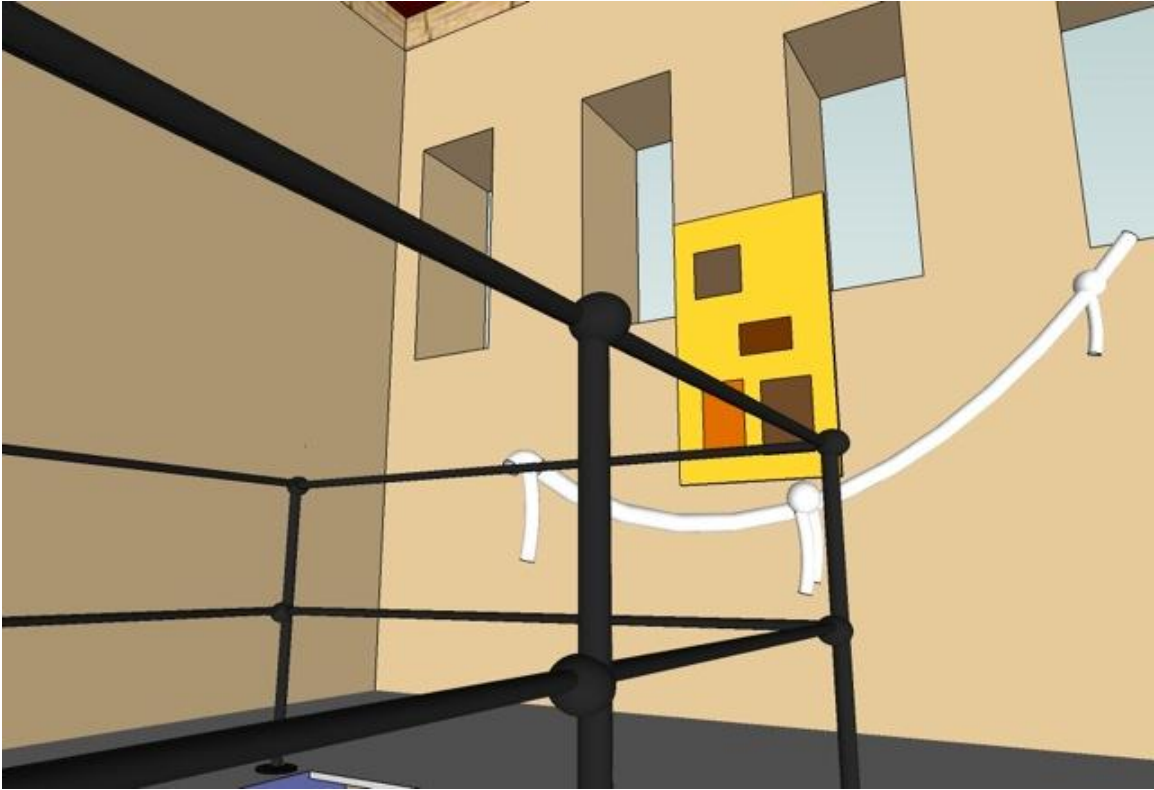
Overview of east drunk tank; walk-in right cell; mannequin in left cell with soundtrack



Detail of east drunk tank with mannequin



Another thrilling, yet ominous, experience will be ascending the top of the gallows tower (provided that the fire marshal will allow public access to the tower). The ceiling of the gallows tower will contain a U-shaped metal structure that was taken down by the last jailor, Ken Rhoades (Appendix G, Oral History Compilation). The exact location of this structure is marked by two holes in the ceiling. The metal hardware was installed, presumably during construction of the building, for the express purpose of hanging a noose. Ken Rhoades reports that he took the structure down to use it as a headboard for his son. It has since been lost. Interpretation in this area will cover jail escapes and Llano's nonexistent execution history.



Top of gallows tower and exhibits interpreting Red Top Jail's history of convict escapes



Photo: Central shaft of gallows tower and stairwell, "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

- 0
1. HISTORIC OPENING
HISTORIC DOOR
HAS BEEN REMOVED
 2. POSSIBLY ORIGINAL
WALL REMOVED HERE

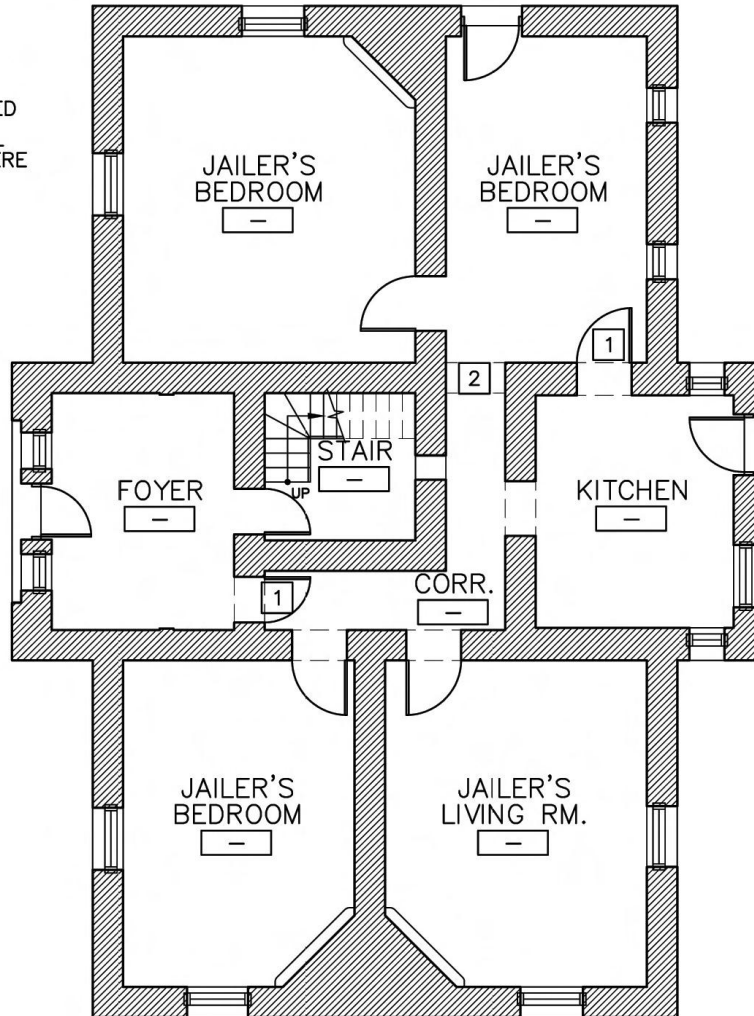


Photo: First floor plan, "Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan"

As visitors depart the gallows tower they will descend the same stairs that brought them upstairs and circulate through the booking room. Drawing visitors through the iron door separating the jail from the jailor's quarters will be the sounds of laughter, children playing, piano lessons, police radio, and kitchen noises.

Visitors will first enter the southwest room, which will be furnished and interpreted as the jailer's bedroom. This and the other rooms will

be comfortably though not lavishly furnished with a strong homey feeling: home-spun embellishments such as quilted bed covers and other examples of handwork (crochet, needlepoint, knitting, etc.), turned furniture, caning, simply framed pictures, kerosene lanterns, and other symbols of middle-class rural life.



Jailer's bedroom, southwest corner of building



Overview of jailer's bedroom (and later bathroom), southwest corner of building

The second room that visitors enter is the southeast jailer's office and dispatch room (noted on plan above as jailer's living room). This is where one of the town's three police radios was located during the 1940s-50s. The office/radio room will have a more utilitarian feeling than the bedroom with period office furniture (wooden or mid-century gray metal), a map of the region mounted to the wall, portraits of former jailers and sheriffs hung on the wall, and antique radio, telephone, and dispatch equipment. The radio will be broadcasting recorded police-radio chatter in a loop. Children will be allowed to role-play with the dispatch equipment, answer the old-fashioned telephone, and speak into the receiver.



Dispatch room, southeast corner of building



Dispatch room, southeast corner of building

From here and on the way to the kitchen, visitors pass a Pepper's Ghost effect (in the blind hallway behind the stairwell) of the matron passing food to prisoners via the slot in the wall at the base of the stair tower. While talking to the prisoner receiving the food, she is also shouting various instructions to her children in other rooms and addressing the cat or dog that runs by.



Pepper's Ghost effect of matron delivering food to prisoners (central hall)

The kitchen will reflect accounts of excellent cooking by jailer Betty Graham and other women who lived here and cared for prisoners. It will be well equipped with period appliances and utensils, looking like a homey country kitchen.



Kitchen (south and east walls)



Kitchen (overview of south and east walls)



Kitchen (overview of north and west walls)

Visitors will exit the kitchen directly into the dining room in the northeast corner of the building. The dining room table will be set with many places – either to accommodate the jailer’s family or to welcome a few lucky inmates (who, according to some oral histories, were sometimes allowed to eat with the jailer’s family). Checked tablecloth, caned chairs, and memorabilia on the walls accentuate the warm feeling of this room.



Dining room (northeast corner of building)



Dining room overview (northeast corner of building)

From the dining room, visitors enter the jailer's living room in the northwest corner of the building (noted on plan above as jailer's bedroom). This multi-purpose room will also include children's beds, as do many farmhouse living rooms. It is richly adorned with family photos, trunks, rocking chairs by the hearth, a sewing basket, samples of needlework, a phonograph, toys, books, candlesticks, kerosene lanterns, and other symbols of rustic domesticity.

As with the other rooms on this floor and the cell floor, visitors will be allowed to interact with the scene, to use the rocking chairs, to role-play, and to go back in time.



Overview of living room (northwest corner of building)



Living room (and children's bedroom), northwest corner of building

From the jailer's living room, visitors return to the dining room and exit the building through its north door. Please see below for description of an adjoining building that could receive visitors before and after their jail experience to provide restrooms, a gift shop, and other visitor amenities.

Sound recordings will augment the walk-through diorama experience. Small interpretive panels distributed throughout the jailer's quarters will expand visitor learning with descriptions of events that took place in the rooms (according to oral histories and recorded recollections) and will continue to develop storylines, including the topics described in this plan.

Artifacts

Wherever possible, museum artifacts will be displayed in context (as opposed to being displayed in glass cases), contributing to the authenticity of the walk-through diorama. Most of the museum's current collection of artifacts will be displayed in the booking room.

The museum's collection of artifacts at present contains:

- Red Top Jail building
- Logbook 1947–1970 (digitized), original owned by Ernest Ligon, retired state trooper and son of the last sheriff of the Red Top Jail, Gale Ligon
- Original brass jail keys
- Thumb cuffs with key, used by jailer Dan McDonald
- Booking desk
- Stonemason's chisel for granite façade of jail (found under first floor joists during recent renovation)
- Carved wooden spoon (found under first floor joists)
- Original and copies of photographs of the jail and jailers

Possible additional community donations include:

- Old 38 Smith & Wesson pistol carried by the first chief of police, Chilly Childers (from Rod Decker)
- Set of brass knuckles (taken off a prisoner, from Rod Decker)
- Boot knife dagger (taken off a prisoner, from Rod Decker)
- Night stick carried by Chilly Childers (from Rod Decker)
- Original booking desk chair (from Larry Stovall)

Exhibit Summary and Final Recommendations

Exhibit content will take the form of interpretive panels, interactive

exhibits, dioramas, special effects, and sound recordings. For example, in the jailer's home, sound recordings may include recorded oral histories, period music, sounds of children playing, laughter, sizzling cooking, police radio dispatch, etc.

The cell floor, however, presents a less cheery scene with sounds of clanking metal, locks slamming, a solitary whistler, angry voices, garrulous or slurred speech, drunken singing, and inmates being hosed down with cold water to keep them in line. Lighting effects will augment the mood and ambiance of the two settings.

In this plan the jail building itself – which is the museum's largest artifact – is used entirely for museum exhibition space. To function well, however, museums need as much or more spaces for non-gallery functions: restrooms, offices, artifact and archival storage, general storage, image archives, library (research/resource rooms), equipment rooms, meeting rooms, classrooms, artifact prep room and/or exhibit shop, maintenance rooms, and supply rooms. They also frequently need orientation galleries/theater, docent rooms, and income-generating spaces such as gift shop and cafe. We strongly recommend that the City of Llano seek to acquire an adjoining lot or building on which or in which to develop these supporting functions. Appendix F lists several sources of funds for this purpose, as well as for the building restoration and museum installment.

Wheelchair-accessible public restrooms are currently available directly across the street from the Red Top Jail within 100 feet of the property. In the future, additional restrooms may be added as an "outhouse" with an outdoor kitchen (washtub, smokehouse, etc.) in the back of the jail. A heritage garden with old varieties of vegetables may be planted and maintained by the Llano Master Gardeners, a very active group. A concrete wheelchair ramp is on the north side of the building and will remain in place.

A final recommendation is that the power lines that cross in front of the building be buried or otherwise moved.

Once the museum is functioning, it will be able to host many events in addition to regular museum attendance. A few examples include old western reenactments, paranormal tours and local festivals. Many fun jail-themed advertising and/or money-generating activities can also be organized by the museum, such as selling mug-shot postcards of visitors and tee shirts saying “I escaped from the Red Top Jail”.



Photo: Jail break reenactment, “Llano County Red Top Jail of 1895, Llano, Texas, Preservation Master Plan”

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Appendix A

Options for Vertical Accessibility of Jail Interior via Central Tower

Existing space information:

- At ground floor, central (gallows) tower available floor space for lift is 5' -7" x 5' -9" located next to staircase.
- Narrow staircase wrapping this space features a 2' -4.5" width tread with a 42.5 degree angle of incline.

The use of a **chair lift** was explored, as this would be the least intrusive option to the current space. However, due to the staircase's narrow width, no products on the market are designed to fit such a small area.

A search was conducted for **vertical lifts** to fit within the aforementioned space. Two options were sought: one to rise only to the second floor and one to rise 40–50' to the top of the gallows tower. Most vertical lift products found on the market are made specifically for home wheelchair use and rise from a few feet to one- to two-stories. For carrying people higher than this, our research shows that enclosed **elevators** will be required.

***Stair Lifts:**

Ideal for: someone with limited mobility issues

Helps you: traverse stairs; reach 1–2 floors

Controls: Joystick

Wheelchair Lifts:

Ideal for: someone restricted to a wheelchair

Helps you: avoid stairs/ramps; reach 1–3 floors

Controls: Keypad

Elevators:

Ideal for: all mobility issues or for home convenience

Helps you: avoid stairs; reach multiple floors

Controls: Keypad

*Above excerpt from: http://www.tkaccess.com/product-advisor/product_comparison.aspx)

Vertical Lift options for reaching the second floor of the jail

Option #1:

Savaria

Contact info: 1.800.661.5112 or info@savaria.com

V-1504 Vertical Platform Lift

- Enclosed drive system so machine room not necessary
- Fully enclosed elevator space, but comes with customizable options of materials to fit design needs (i.e. enclosure can be made of tempered glass)
- Uses a hydraulic lift on the side that eliminates need for machine room; also offered is a remote machine room to eliminate the need for the side lift

More product information:

<http://www.savaria.com/products/wheelchair-lifts/v-1504-lift/index.php>
http://www.savaria.com/_files/file.php?fileid=fileyiMldBaIEn&filename=file_Savaria_V1504_brochure_03_12.pdf

Option #2:

ThyssenKrupp Access

- provides a few options, both using a hydraulic lift on one side that attaches to an existing wall

Local dealer/rep: Steele Elevators: Larry (larry@steeleelevators.com)

TK PL-S

- Fully customizable
- Indoor/outdoor uses

OR

BC/HBC

- Comes without enclosure (thus proposed existing space should provide the required amount of enclosure for safety issues)

More product information:

http://www.tkaccess.com/wheelchair-lifts/assets/TKA_Wheelchair_Brochure.pdf

<http://www.tkaccess.com/wheelchair-lifts/assets/Unenclosed%20Lifts%20Summary%20Brochure.pdf>

Elevator options for reaching the second floor and top of gallows tower of the jail

Our initial research indicates that in order to reach the top floor of the gallows tower, one of the following lifts will be necessary:

- A customized elevator
Examples of customized glass elevators can be found at <http://artisanelevators.com/gallery.html>
- A custom-designed vertical lift by a industrial lift company; use for human transportation to be determined.
(See <http://www.pflow.com/customVerticalLifts.html> for further info)

Appendix B. Excerpts from Llano County Red Top Jail Preservation Master Plan

Karl Komatsu Architecture, 2009.

Funded by the National Trust and the City of Llano

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Red Top Jail Background

The Llano Red Top Jail has served the community well since its construction in 1895 by the county. The building served as the primary jail facility from that time to 1982, when the county built a new building for that purpose. The City of Llano purchased the building from the county in 2005 and became committed to restoring the jail to fulfill a community need. The city immediately hired Structural Engineer Pat Sparks in 2006 to begin plans for the building stabilization. Locals rallied around the jail project, and a group of passionate folks formed a non-profit organization, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, on July 12, 2008. The aim of the city and Friends is to work in partnership with funding agencies by pledging matching funds in order to restore this former beauty to all of its old jail glory. The jail was designated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1979.

Master Plan Development

To date, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail have done a remarkable job of taking initial steps to stabilize the building, while at the same time searching for funding sources for the restoration. Friends has been officially formed as a non-profit for only one year, and they should be so proud of all they have accomplished during that short time. To begin, a jail visit and tour was made by THC staffers Sharon Fleming and Chase Robertson in 2002. At that time, it was recommended that the first and primary step would be to hire an engineer or architect for structural stabilization assistance in order to work toward a watertight building to prevent further deterioration, especially water infiltration at the roof. THC also suggested Friends hire a



Red Top roof repairs June 2009

preservation consultant to conduct a building feasibility study to determine new uses and phased restoration goals. The group was cautioned that restoration efforts should be coordinated with the City of Llano, the downtown revitalization study and Main Street Program.

The City of Llano and Friends began working with Sparks Engineering, Inc., in 2006, at which time a preliminary structural evaluation was conducted. Immediate stabilization needs were outlined which included roof repairs and structural stabilization measures. The group continued efforts to raise money for stabilization, and was awarded a \$24,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority for roof repairs to the jail on June 1, 2008. The city matched \$11,000, and roof repairs were completed on June 30, 2009. Both the city and Friends have done an excellent job of coordinating planning and construction efforts with Llano and Main Street programs as well as required reviews by the Texas Historical Commission. Progress was such that Sparks recommended an architect become involved in the process to guide in the area of historic preservation and architectural issues. Stabilization can be conducted to a certain point; and then very often, repairs are made on projects which are then required to be eventually reversed based on historic preservation, architectural, and code-driven requirements outside of the engineer's purview. The impetus to hire an architect was to avoid this type of situation. Additional grants were pursued, and the jail was awarded a \$5,000 Preservation Fund Grant from the

National Trust for Historic Preservation in November of 2008 for development of a preservation master plan. By December 2008, the city and Friends began working with Komatsu Architecture to develop this preservation master plan.

The main purpose of this document is to provide a thorough evaluation of the current state of the jail structure and identify a prioritization of recommended rehabilitation and restoration measures utilizing the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation guidelines (reference guidelines provided in the Appendix section of this document). In addition, the document serves as an informational tool which provides known historical information on the building to date, a compilation of historical photos and drawings, and a building chronology which documents the jail construction and later modifications. Finally, the master plan provides a preliminary opinion of probable cost for proposed work and a proposed plan to allow for project scope phasing if necessitated by City/Friends fiscal constraints.

Jail Restoration and Renovation Philosophy

The project team's philosophy toward historic preservation issues is one of historical continuity. If circumstances permit, rather than assuming the potential of pristine restoration and "taking back" a structure to its earliest date in all respects, the preference is to embrace the normal occurrence and often necessity of modifications in a structure's life. The philosophy embraces providing a building which retains as much historic fabric as possible while also developing a very relevant community use which will ensure the structure's value and continued maintenance for years to come. The proposed project shall incorporate restoration of as many interior spaces as is possible, particularly as the cultural value of the jail exists in the structure itself and the education and historical value it provides as a possible jail museum. Primary restoration emphasis will be given to publicly visited spaces on the first floor and the jail cell areas and gallows spaces on the upper floors. Secondary spaces, such as restrooms and kitchen found on the rear/east portion of the first floor are recommended to be treated for renovation utilizing

historically compatible floor plan layouts and materials which will incorporate a modern usage need. Due to the almost pristinely preserved original historic fabric on both the jail interior and exterior, a target restoration date of 1895 is identified for the purpose of established recommendations.

Building Evaluation and Recommendations

The architectural and engineering team conducted numerous site visits upon which building information was gathered and assessments were made. Site plan, floor plans, roof plans, and elevation photographs were generated which provide a graphic assessment of the as-found conditions. The building is in relatively fair condition overall, and numerous building deficiencies have been identified which will require correction in the near future to provide a safe structure for building employees and public visitors. Such deficiencies are discussed in a detailed deficiency correction measures report.

Restoration Phasing Plan

Due to the estimated project cost, a phasing scenario is recommended to complete the relatively large scope of work. The likelihood is greater that the building would receive grant amounts, pledged grant matches, and donations which would achieve completion of partial scopes of work versus a grant to complete the entire project in one phase only. The phases seek to correct the structure's deficiencies according to prioritization of the severity of the elements. In such order, the plan delineates correction of major structural deficiencies first, restoration of the exterior building envelope, restoration of the site, and restoration of the interior. It is recommended that funding strategies and grant requests seek to cover architectural and engineering professional services for development of plans and specs, bidding and construction administration, as well as actual restoration construction monies.

Nine restoration phases have been identified:

1. Stabilization of Building Structure and Roof Repairs (Complete

2009)

2. Lower Grade Around Building Structure
3. Existing Conditions Survey/Planning for Development of Restoration/Renovation Plans and Specifications
4. Building Structure Stabilization and Restoration
5. Building Exterior Materials Restoration – Masonry and New Electrical Service
6. Building Exterior Materials Restoration – Windows and Doors
7. Building Exterior Site Restoration
8. Building Interior 1st Floor and New MEP Systems
9. Building Interior Restoration Upper Floors

HISTORY OF LLANO, LLANO COUNTY, TEXAS

The following is a brief description of Llano County and Llano history. Numerous excellent historical texts and reports, which have served as resources for this study, are also included for further reading in the appendices of this document.

Llano is a Central Texas Hill Country community 72 miles northwest of Austin, situated on rocky and rugged terrain on the eastern portion of the Edwards Plateau in the Llano Uplift Region. The town is the county seat, economic center, and approximate geographical center of Llano County. Llano is also the county's largest town, with an approximate population of 3,300 people. Soils in the county can be described as sandy and sandy loam, with numerous granite outcroppings. Granite is especially prominent at the Enchanted Rock area and various local granite quarries. The area was originally occupied by the Tonkawa Indians, and by 1845/1846 European immigrants began settling in the nearby towns of New Braunfels and then Fredericksburg. The Texas Legislature established Llano County in 1856, formed from lands within Bexar District and Gillespie County. The county seat of Llano, Texas, was founded on 250 acres at that time which were donated by John Oatman, Sr., Amariah Wilson, and the Chester B. Starks estate. The location was determined by local election. At the time, the southern portion of the county was dominated by ranching and the northern portion by farming. The

earliest settlers were primarily German in the western parts of the county and Anglos throughout remaining areas. From establishment on through the Civil War, Llano remained nothing more than a frontier trading post.



Current 1893 Llano County Courthouse viewed from the roof of the Llano Red Top Jail

By 1885, the county had outgrown its single story stone public office building, and a proper brick masonry courthouse was built that year on the present courthouse square. The building served the county until it was destroyed by fire in 1892. The present recently restored Romanesque Revival courthouse was then built in 1893 and serves as the county's most significant historic building. The Llano Red Top Jail was built following in 1895 and is considered second-most in

significance in Llano's historic building stock.

In the 1890's, Llano's heyday saw rise to a booming 8,000 residents. Farming and ranching continued to flourish, with corn as the dominant crop and cotton following. Population growth was most attributed to the establishment of the Austin and North-western Railroad within the north side of town in 1892 in combination with a rise in iron mining and granite production. That same year, Llano became incorporated, and a bridge was built to provide crossing of the Llano River. Business interests were attracted to the area from Dallas and the Northern United States. N.J. Badu, a French mineralogist, settled in Llano and was a force in the area's mining production. He is attributed to the discovery of the mineral "Llanite", a rare brown-colored granite with blue crystals and pink feldspar known only to exist in Llano County. This industrial infusion fostered high hopes in the community of Llano being recognized as the "Pittsburg of the West". Tales of the economic boom included descriptions of a tent city north of the Llano River which housed job and fortune seekers who could not find accommodation elsewhere. There were more bars and saloons than churches in Llano, keeping the Llano Red Top Jail a very busy place of "accommodation".

The 1890s saw a halt to Llano's prosperity, and population declined on through 1920 due to failed iron mining profits and a weakened cotton production. During 1893, many fires destroyed a large quantity of historic downtown buildings, presumably due to unsuccessful business owners wanting to recuperate their investments through collection of insurance monies. Granite production was maintained, however, and in 1901, local German immigrant Frank Teich established quarry and plant, Teich Monument Works, and was responsible for supervision of the state capital construction. Additional gains were made in ranching and cedar post production. The 1908 concrete dam at the river north of the historic district, which retains river water for a reservoir (still in use), replaced an early log structure. The depression and droughts of the 1930s brought on additional decline as could be seen throughout Texas. Ranching survived during this time, but farming (particularly

cotton) came to a standstill. A 1935 flood overcame the 1892 Llano Bridge, and the current Roy Inks Bridge, named after a former mayor, was built. The 1934 completion of the Colorado River Hamilton Dam and establishment of the Lower Colorado River Authority, the 1938 completion of the Buchanan and Inks Dams, and government funded projects throughout helped the county to weather the devastation of the Depression era. Population through the 1930's slowly grew, declined in the period of 1940 through the 1950s, and then has steadily grown to the present time. The recent growth is primarily due to the attraction of scenic properties along the fifty five miles of lakes throughout the area, a thriving economy in general, and sound cattle, hog, and goat producing industries. Wine producers in addition to plants for feed processing, insecticides, and commercial talc have also contributed economically. Llano County is also known within hunting circles as the "Deer Capital of Texas" due to the area's deer density being the highest in the nation. The county is an excellent outlet for quail, dove, and wild turkey hunting as well.

LLANO'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic District

The city and main central business district are divided in half by the picturesque Llano River, however the primary concentration of government and business offices are in the south portion of Llano. This area is designated as an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places. The district includes the historic courthouse, restored under the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP), as well as the Red Top Jail. The district is comprised of 9 city blocks and is bounded by the Llano River, Ford Street, Sandstone Street, and Berry Street and includes 55 contributing buildings and 3 contributing structures.

Historically Designated Buildings

- Acme Dry Goods Building 1892 by John Goodman

- builder/stone mason, RTHL 1987
- Badu Building/House 1890/1891 by Austin's Larramour and Watson architects, NRHP 1980, RTHL 1981
 - Enchanted Rock Archeological District, NRHP 1984
 - Ford Street Commercial Row 1904 by John Goodman builder/stone mason, RTHL 1992
 - Grace Episcopal Church 1889, RTHL 1965
 - Lappe House, RTHL 1964
 - Llano County Courthouse Historic District, NRHP 1989
 - Llano County Courthouse and Jail, 1893 and 1895 respectively by Austin's Larramour and Watson Architects and St. Louis' Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company respectively, NRHP courthouse and jail 1977, RTHL court house 1980, RTHL jail 1979, SAL court house 1981
 - Seaholm House 1892, RTHL 1998
 - Southern Hotel 1880 by J.K. Finlay and John Goodman builders/ stonemasons, NRHP 1979, RTHL 1980
 - Watkins House circa 1916 presumably by builder J.R. Blackmore, RTHL 1994



1935 Roy Inks Bridge and Dam, photo courtesy www.texasescapes.com

LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The citizenry in Llano strongly supports heritage tourism and tourism in general. The industry not only provides economic benefits to the area, but it also provides an excellent opportunity to ensure the history of the town and county is maintained for current and future generations. The community can be described as close-knit, and the people are extremely proud of Llano's history and surviving historic building examples.

The City actively participates in the Texas Main Street Program and has benefited from numerous sponsored downtown streetscape enhancements as well as the program's pledge to provide support for the restoration of the Red Top Jail.

LOCAL HERITAGE TOURISM AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- Texas Main Street Program
- Placement of benches and decorative planters downtown by Llano Main Street
- April, Bluebonnet Trail Art and Craft Show
- April, Llano Crawfish Open
- Memorial Day Weekend, Texas Proud Festival
- June, Llano County Rodeo
- June, Great Castell Kayak Race
- July 4, Rocking Riverfest
- October, Haunted House Red Top Jail (2008, 592 visitors)
- October, Heritage Day Festival and Chuck Wagon Cook-off complete with staged mock battles
- October/November, Confederate Re-Union and Cotillion
November, Traders Rendezvous
- November/December, Starry Starry Nights Christmas Lighting Season
- December, Red Top Jail Anniversary Celebration
- Free volunteer-guided Tours of the Red Top Jail during community festivals and events
- 1999, TEA-21 grant for construction of a depot transportation museum and visitor center in combination with a renovation of various city railroad tracks
- 2004, Restoration of the Llano County Courthouse by THC's THCPP, Llano was one of 19 original grant program recipients.
- 2004 Llano Main Street and Llano Master Gardeners development of the Pioneer Park, a pocket park within the city rail yard which includes lighting, benches, and landscaping
- 2004 and 2007 Llano Main Street's Texas Capital Fund grant for restoration around the city rail yard with sidewalks and

- lighting to link both sides of the Llano River across the 1935 Roy Inks Bridge 2008, December 5, Texas Research in Paranormal Séance at Red Top Jail
- 2009, February 20 and 21, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail Gran Torino Movie Fundraiser at the LanTex
 - 2009, March 7, Llano Nonprofit Cook-Off at Badu Park (including Friends of the Red Top Jail)
 - 2009, May 25, Brazos Bottom Cowographers reenactment and Celtaire Concert at the jail sponsored by Friends of the Red Top Jail at the Texas Proud Festival
 - 2009, June, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail X-Men Movie Fundraiser at the LanTex

History of Llano Red Top Jail

Llano County Commissioners Court voted to construct the third and present Llano Red Top Jail in 1895 paid for by the sale of bonds. The total construction cost was \$11,500.00. The structure is truly a Llano landmark due to its historical association with the present 1892 courthouse, ties to local lore, and its inclusion as one of Llano's collection of historically designated buildings within a National Register of Historic Places historic district. Locals and jailbirds alike have more or less affectionately referred to the building as the "Red Top" for years, due to its red painted metal roof. While the predominant historically significant building in Llano is the Llano County Courthouse, the jail would be considered right beneath that distinction as the second-most significant structure and was designated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1979.

The courthouse fire of October 17, 1880 destroyed most of the county records of details of the prior Llano county jails. County Jailhouse, Llano County, Texas by Pamela Fowler (reference appendices) details commissioners court minutes regarding the county's efforts to build a suitable jail between the period of 1880 and 1895 as referenced within

this paragraph. The first jail was built in the 1870s, however the earliest documentation of the county jail was found in Commissioners Court records of 1881 (construction and physical description undocumented). Fowler details the basement of a two-story stone building built in 1875 or 1880 by G. W. Miller and J. M. Bourland in downtown Llano one block north of the courthouse square being used temporarily as a jail. Fowler also describes Commissioners Court ordering County Judge John C. Oatman to travel to Lampasas County to discuss specifics of that particular jail design in 1881. Following the visit, J. S. Johnston, a representative of Martin Byrne and Johnston, presented plans for construction of a jail to the Llano County Commissioners Court on January 2, 1881. The submitted price was \$7,600.00 which included a two-story building constructed of stone with a sub-grade level which contained iron cells and an upper level for the jailer's quarters. The Court accepted the terms of the proposal and chose a jail site on the southeast corner of the courthouse square. Commissioners Court occupation of the new building took place on August 23, 1882. The building was to be later named the "Calaboose" by locals. The jail did not have access to sanitary facilities until the county installed sewer pipe from the building to a Llano river ravine in 1890. The City of Llano sued the County in District Court in January of 1894 to close the jailhouse, as the building was seen as unfit for the county square. The City won the suit, and the County appealed the decision to the Court of Civil Appeals for the Third Supreme Judicial District of Texas. The earlier ruling was upheld, and the Commissioners Court voted to move the jail and construct a new facility, with one descending vote, on February of 1895.

The Commissioners Court chose to erect the jail just two blocks east of the Llano courthouse square and south of the banks of the Llano River. The land was previously owned by Mr. John W. Simpson for \$475.00. Mrs. M.A. Phillips had previously owned the lot and had sold it to Simpson 10 years prior. The purchase of the land from Simpson took place in February 1895. The site can be described per plats of "Old Town Llano" as Lot #62 in Block #6.

Commissioners Court voted the design of the building to incorporate local Llano County gray granite on the exterior with steel jail cells and iron door and window guards. Contractor Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company based out of Saint Louis, Missouri, was the successful bidder who delivered the new jail on December 3, 1895, just eight months following selection. The company was well founded and had a track record of jail building for 39 years at the time of hire. The Pauly family had previously been associated with a steamboat blacksmith operation on the Mississippi River. The jail building company was most known for their development of steel cage portable jails that could be transported by flatbed wagons on the frontier as well as the eventual country-wide reputation as the jail standard for jail and prison construction, particularly in relation to their Patent Rotary Jail system. The Red Top was not constructed utilizing the rotary system but did display a typical Pauly circular plan configuration with central narrow stair to upper levels. The jail cells arrived to Llano by train from Pauly headquarters in St. Louis and were assembled at the jail site.



Image courtesy of paulyjail.com

APPENDIX C: ADA Recommendations from the Llano Red Top Jail Preservation Master Plan

Description of Deficiency	Scope/Description of Correction Measures
Interior Initial Code Review - ADA/TAS Elevator Requirements All Floors	1. The building currently does not have an elevator; access for the disabled for tours is not provided to the upper floors 2. Under ADA/TAS requirements, the historic jail project would be considered a building alteration versus new construction under TAS (4.1.6). The building also falls under TAS (4.1.7) Accessible Buildings Historic Preservation due to its NRHP and RTHL designation 3. (4.1.6.1.f) If a stair is installed where none existed previously and major structural modifications are necessary for such installation, then a means of accessible vertical access shall be provided (i.e. elevator or platform lift) 4. (4.1.6.1.k) An elevator is not required if the facility is less than 3 stories or has less than 3,000 sf per story as long as the use is not a shopping center, shopping mall, professional office of health care provider, terminal, depot, public transport station, or an airport terminal 5. (4.1.6.2) Alterations to an area containing a primary function are required to bring the following services to that primary function up to TAS standards: accessible route, parking, restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains *** Recommendations: 1. Design to follow the minimum TAS requirements for Building Alterations (4.1.6) and Historic Preservation (4.1.7) 2. Architect to work with local building code official to allow the one open stair on the interior with no additional exit stair; official will be more likely to accept this scenario if a sprinkler system is installed; avoidance of a second egress stair is crucial, as it will then trigger an elevator or platform lift to be installed per TAS 3. Per TAS (4.1.6.1.k) an elevator is not required for this building 4. Do not alter floor plan configuration, walls or ceilings in any way on the upper floors; this would be considered altering a primary function which would then trigger access requirements to that area of primary function as well as access via an elevator or platform lift

APPENDIX D: Llano Historic Ordinance Enactment

ORDINANCE NO. 1187

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE 735 OF THE CITY OF LLANO, TEXAS, BY AMENDING SECTION 7, ADDING A HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICT; ADDING SECTION 19B "HPD"-HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY OF FINE NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF TWO THOUSAND (\$2,000.00) DOLLARS FOR EACH OFFENSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Llano and the City Council of the City of Llano, in compliance with the laws of the State of Texas with reference to the granting of zoning classifications and changes, have given the requisite notices by publication and otherwise, and have held due hearings and afforded a full and fair hearing to all property owners generally, and the City Council of the City of Llano is of the opinion that the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance should be amended; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LLANO, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Llano, Texas, as heretofore amended, be, and the same is hereby, amended by adding the following use category to "Section 7 Zoning District Established and Definitions":

HPD – HISTORICAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT: The HPD – Historical District is established to provide protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of Historic Districts and Historic landmarks or historical and cultural significance in the City of Llano necessary to promote the economic, cultural and educational welfare of the public.

SECTION 2. That the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Llano, Texas, as heretofore amended, be, and the same is hereby, amended by adding Section 19B as follows:

SECTION 19B "HPD – HISTORICAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT"
That the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Llano, Texas, as heretofore amended, be, and the same is hereby, amended by adding Section 19 B (Exhibit "A" attached).

SECTION 3. That all ordinances of the City of Llano in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance or the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, as amended hereby, be, and the same are hereby, repealed and all other provisions of the ordinances of the City of Llano not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance or the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, as amended hereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. That should any sentence, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase or section of this ordinance be adjudged or held to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any part of provision thereof other than the part decided to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, and the same shall not effect the validity of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance as a whole.

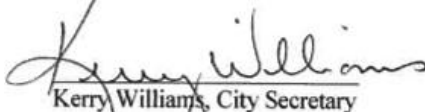
SECTION 5. That any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions or terms of this ordinance or the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, as amended hereby, shall be subject to the same penalty as provided for in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the City of Llano, Texas, as heretofore amended, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed the sum of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars

for each offense, and each and every day such a violation is continued shall be deemed to constitute a separate offense.

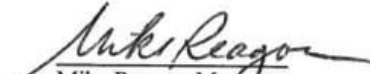
SECTION 7. That this ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and the publication of the caption as the law in such cases provide.

DULY PASSED by the City Council of the City of Llano, Texas, on the 25th day of July, 2011.

ATTEST:


Kerry Williams, City Secretary




Mike Reagor, Mayor

APPENDIX E. Visitor Profile Data from Llano County and Surrounding County Tourist Attractions.

1. Llano County Visitor Center Visitor Profile

TXDOT TRAVEL LITERATURE PROGRAM

Llano

(name of center/city)

TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER

VISITATION TOTALS

YEAR 2012	VISITOR TOTALS PER MONTH	IN-STATE AND OUT- OF-STATE MONTHLY VISITOR TOTALS	QUARTERLY TOTALS
JANUARY	496	# In-State 438 # Out-of-State 58	TOTALS: Jan/Feb/Mar
FEBRUARY	568	# In-State 474 # Out-of-State 94	# Visitors 2047 # In-State 1796
MARCH	983	# In-State 884 # Out-of-State 99	# Out-of-State 251
APRIL	922	# In-State 844 # Out-of-State 78	TOTALS: Apr/May/Jun
MAY	521	# In-State 483 # Out-of-State 38	# Visitors 1901 # In-State 1766
JUNE	458	# In-State 439 # Out-of-State 19	# Out-of-State 135
JULY	472	# In-State 461 # Out-of-State 11	TOTALS: Jul/Aug/Sep
AUGUST	455	# In-State 441 # Out-of-State 14	# Visitors 1353 # In-State 1302
SEPTEMBER	426	# In-State 400 # Out-of-State 26	# Out-of-State 51
OCTOBER	457	# In-State 417 # Out-of-State 40	TOTALS: Oct/Nov/Dec
NOVEMBER	641	# In-State 586 # Out-of-State 55	# Visitors 1407 # In-State 1283
DECEMBER	309	# In-State 280 # Out-of-State 29	# Out-of-State 124

Texas Department of Transportation D18-082194

MAIL TO: TRAVEL LITERATURE/FULFILLMENT BRANCH
 TXDOT, TRAVEL INFORMATION DIVISION
 PO BOX 149248
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9248

OR FAX TO: (512) 486-5944
 ATTN: RAQUEL SANCHEZ (512) 486-5925

2. Admiral Nimitz Museum and the National Museum of the Pacific War Visitor Profile.

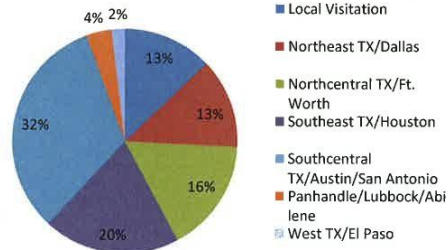
Note: Texas Historical Commission operates ticket sales of this museum and provides the demographics of visitors.

SITE VISITATION REPORT FY12

FY12 MONTHLY SUMMARY - NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR SEPTEMBER 11 - AUGUST 12

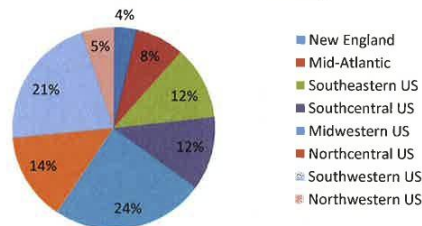
TEXAS	YTD	
Local Visitation	1951	13%
Northeast TX/Dallas	1970	13%
Northcentral TX/Ft. Worth	2493	16%
Southeast TX/Houston	2996	20%
Southcentral TX/Austin/San Antonio	4958	33%
Panhandle/Lubbock/Abilene	554	4%
West TX/El Paso	296	2%
Subtotal	15218	100%

TYD Visitation by Texas Region



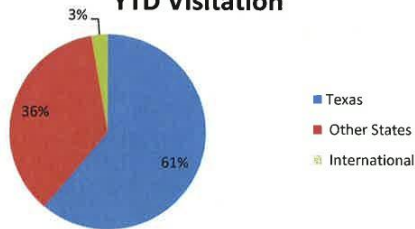
OTHER STATES	YTD	
New England	326	4%
Mid-Atlantic	706	8%
Southeastern US	1055	12%
Southcentral US	1060	12%
Midwestern US	2197	24%
Northcentral US	1267	14%
Southwestern US	1923	21%
Northwestern US	469	5%
Subtotal	9003	100%

YTD Visitation by US Region (outside of Texas)



INTERNATIONAL	YTD	
Africa	3	0%
Asia	31	5%
Australia & New Zealand	69	10%
Canada	241	36%
Ctrl/S Amer & Carib	22	3%
Europe, other	80	12%
France	20	3%
Germany	65	10%
Mexico	22	3%
UK & Ireland	119	18%
Subtotal	672	100%

YTD Visitation



GRAND TOTAL 24893 100%

APPENDIX F. Sources of Funding for the Llano Red Top Jail Restoration and Museum Installation

Below are some sources of funding with contact information:

LEDC – Llano Economic Development Corporation

Tom and Mary Phema Moore Trust – This is a trust left by some long time Llano residents which is used to fund numerous local projects.

Fuzzy Reagor
Arrowhead Bank
108 W. Sandstone
Llano, TX 78643

LCRA CDPP Matching Grant – The LCRA funded \$25,000 for the renovation of the roof of the Llano Red Top Jail in 2008. It is recommended that the applicants wait 3 years after the money is awarded to reapply.

Lori LeBlue Lower Colorado River Authority P.O. Box 220
Austin, Texas 78767-0220 1-800-776-5272, ext. 3393 Office: 512-473-3393 Cell/Pager: 512-663-6892 Fax: 512-473-3390
lleblue@lcra.org

Dian Graves Owen Foundation - Dian Stai is Chairman of the Board of her deceased husband's foundation. She loves historic structures and the history of the Hill Country.

Dian Graves Owen Foundation
Jane Varner Beard
Grants Administrator
400 N Pine Street Suite 1000
Abilene, Texas 79601-5142
Phone: (325) 677-1367

David Ross (works for Dian Stai) davidrossdesign@yahoo.com
1357 Cherry Spring Rd.
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
cell: (830)456-2665

Texas Historical Foundation Grant – The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail received \$5,000 from this foundation in 2011 for the restoration of the foundation of the jail. This money is available yearly.

Gene Krane
Texas Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 50314
Austin, TX 78763
512-441-1297 phone
512-499-3944 fax
gkrane@austin.rr.com
www.texashistoricalfoundation.org

Highland Lakes Exxon Annuitant Club, Inc. – Contact: Frances Fain, 325-388-6988.

H.E.B. in Kingsland, H.E.B. in Fredericksburg, Home Depot in Marble Falls, Lowes in Marble Falls, Wal-Mart in Fredericksburg, Wal-Mart in Marble Falls - from \$50 - \$500.

The **Texas Historical Commission** is currently not funded to give grants. The last grant given was to the Llano Red Top Jail in 2010 for the restoration of the foundation for \$25,000. This is a potential source for grants in the future.

Preserve America and **Save America's Treasures** in the National Park Service are currently not funded to give grants. Preserve America funded this work in 2010. These are potential sources in the future.

Institute of Museum and Library Services:

Conservation Assessment

Museum Assessment

Historic Assessment

Museums for America

Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries and Museums

National Trust for Historic Preservation

APPENDIX G. ORAL HISTORY PROJECT COMPILATION

In a unique collaboration between Llano High School Students and the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, a series of interviews were conducted with people who were associated with the old Llano County (Red Top) Jail. The high school students were members of Mrs. Deidre Henderson's community project classes over a two-year period (2010-2011). During this time, the students were trained in interview techniques and collected stories and artifacts from former jailors, jailor family relatives and former inmates. In addition, the students created a video pastiche of some of the stories that they collected. This video is included as a CD in the final report and is posted (Redtopjailthemovie.wav) on YouTube.

I. Preparation.

I. A. Interview Techniques. Suzanne Campbell and Shannon Sturm from the West Texas Collection at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas visited Llano High School each semester from September 2010 to May 2011 to teach the students in Mrs. Henderson's high school class about interview techniques. Ms. Sturm is the university archivist at Angelo State University. Ms. Campbell is assistant archivist. Both women talked to the class about the importance of archiving history related to the jail and early Llano. As reference, they brought pictures of San Angelo before and after buffalo roamed there and as that town developed into a sheep trade center. The point of these presentations was to teach the students how pictures and visual media documentation could tell a thousand words. They stressed the importance of journalistic questions: who, what, when, where and when. The students used these reference points to create written reports of interviews. Sample reports are included as an appendix to this final report.

Ms. Sturm and Ms. Campbell discussed archival techniques, including storage of historic documents in acid free boxes, video and photographic documentation of artifacts and proper methods to catalogue items. A Donor's Release Agreement and an Interview Agreement used at Angelo State University were brought as sample documents (see Appendices) that could be prepared by the students for use in this project. Ms. Sturm and Ms. Campbell also discussed how to research the Llano Red Top Jail history in local and state libraries. Dr. Sheri Zoch recruited and hosted these speakers during their visits. Mr. John Hallowell, editor of the Llano County Journal during one of the semester classes, also co-hosted speakers.

I. B. Tour of the Red Top Jail. Students from all four semesters were bussed to the Red Top Jail and given a tour by Mayor Mike Reagor. These tours became the basis for the later movie produced by the students. Because the class period was followed by lunch and the time required for travel to the site, boxed lunches for the students were provided by the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail.

I. C. Redtopjailthemovie. YouTube Movie Production.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZnQuT21mDs>.

Steven Roberts, M.Sc., currently professor of Business English at Liaoning University in China, Dr. Zoch and Marion Bishop worked with Mrs. Henderson's class to produce a movie about the Llano Red Top Jail based on interviews conducted by the students. This unique project was not part of the proposed scope of work funded by Preserve America but became a valuable side product of this funding.

Mr. Roberts taught the students to visualize how to recreate stories learned during interviews of former jailors and inmates and to weave these video vignettes into a final movie. The students produced the film, created the script, acted, videotaped, edited and annotated the movie. Local country-western legend W.C. Jameson wrote the lyrics and recorded the songs for the movie. The students chose to present the material as if the viewer was going on a tour of the old Red Top Jail, using a woman (Dr. Zoch) and a child (Isabella Revada) as tourists, with the current mayor of Llano (Mike Reagor) as tour guide. During Mr. Reagor's tour, scenes that he described were recreated in vignettes. The movie actors were students and teachers from Llano High School using costumes designed by the students and actual jail features (such as a pass-through hole for food from the jailor's wife to a prisoner). Llano High School students interviewed storytellers and then conceived and wrote the script for the video. Each member of the class had a specific film title and was responsible for his/her own duties. The result was a video documentation of a piece of Llano history that brought life to the jail. This short video will be a part of the proposed museum for the Red Top Jail.

II. Interviews.

II. A. Family of Berry Hickman Russell, first jailor of the Llano Red Top Jail.

Gary and David Morris, great great grandsons of Berry Hickman and Julia Russell, were interviewed by Llano High School students on February 4, 2010. A reproduction black and white photograph of Berry Hickman Russell from 1904 was given to the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail for archiving. In addition, a reproduced photograph of Berry Hickman Russell and children taken in 1904 in front of the newly constructed Llano County Jail was donated. The children are listed as "May, Laura, Dollie, Frank, Tom, Russell, Julia and Sweet". In addition, a reproduction photo of Julia Russell, wife of Berry Hickman Russell was given. According to family member Deidre Morris Motolsky, Berry Russell was also a sheriff. Gary and David Morris live in Brownwood, Texas.

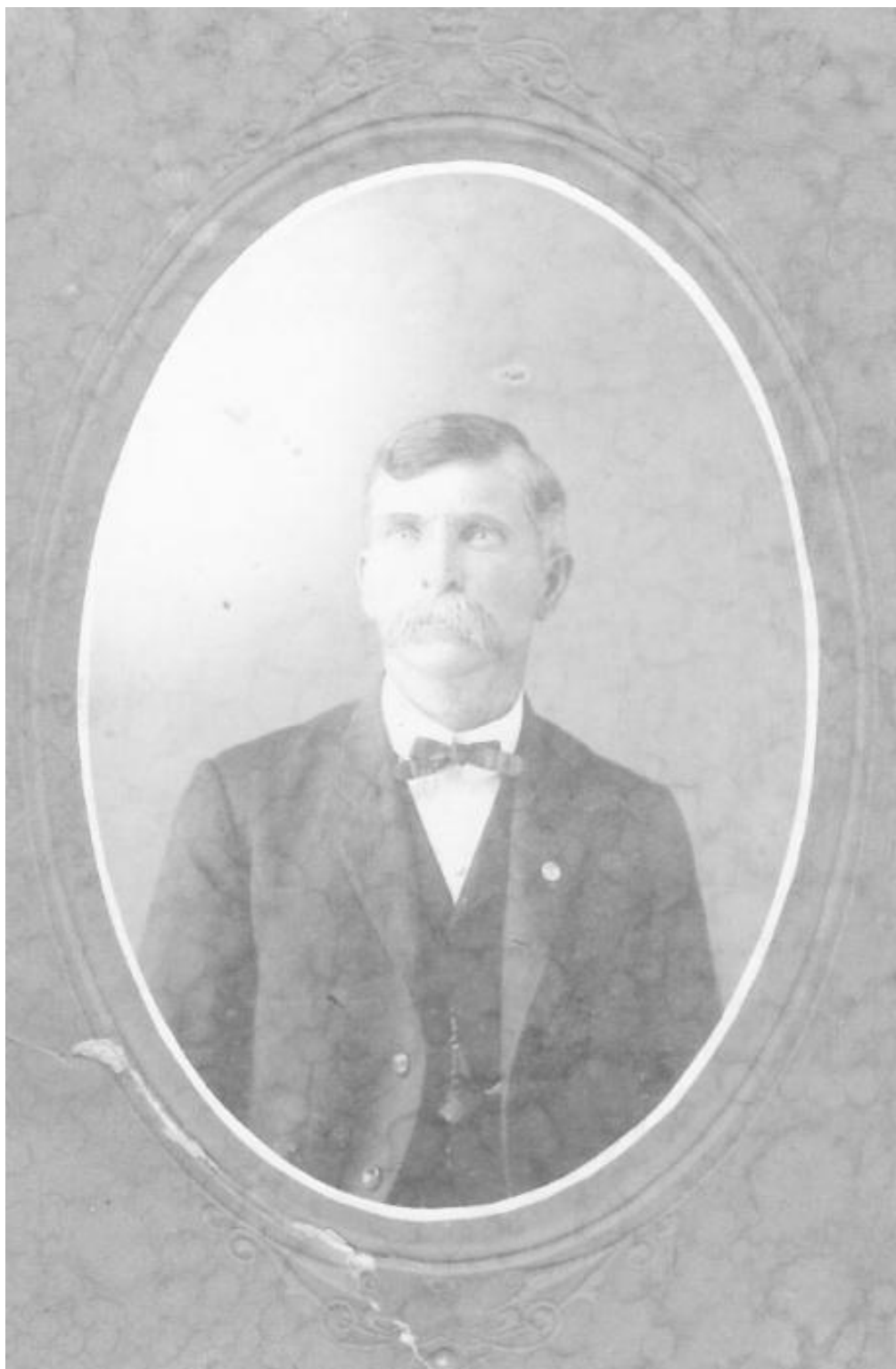


Photo: Berry Hickman Russell, 1904. Photo courtesy of family of Berry Russell.



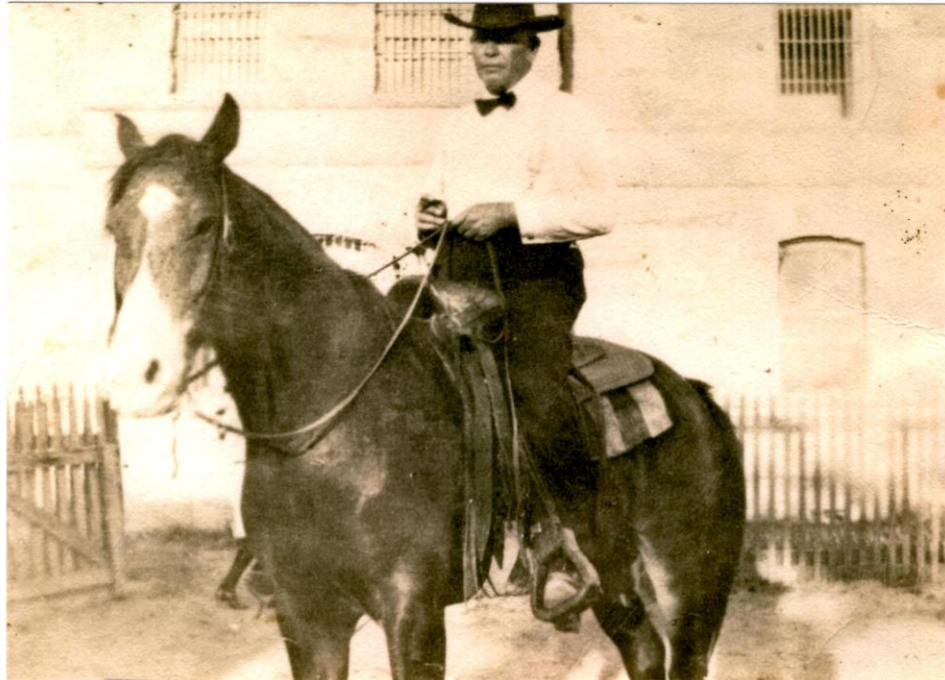
Photo: Julia Russell, wife of Berry Hickman Russell. Courtesy of family of Berry Russell.



Photo: Berry Hickman Russell and Children. Picture taken 1904 at the Llano County Jail. Family: May, Laura, Dollie, Frank, Tom, Russell, Julia, Sweet.

Berry Russell was jailor until about 1909.

II. B. Family of James Frank Kendrick, City Marshall and Jailer. Gene Hall is the great-granddaughter of James Frank and Anna Kendrick. According to Gene Hall, James Kendrick was jailor for 14 years and City Marshall for 20 years. The dates of James Kendrick's tenure as jailor are probably from at least 1904 to at least 1917. He died in 1938.



**Photos: James Frank Kendrick on horseback behind (east side of) Red Top Jail.
Provided by Gene Hall**



Photos: Anna Rogers McCuiston Kendrick and James Frank Kendrick. Provided by Gene Hall.

Gene Hall's grandmother and the Kendrick's daughter, Maude May Kendrick Moss, lived at the jail until she was married in 1917. She used to play cards with inmates of the jail. Gene Hall also told of how she visited the jail as a Brownie (Girl Scouts) and found one of her family's landscape workers behind bars. He acknowledged her by saying "Hello, Miss Genie". She was very embarrassed that she knew an inmate of the jail.

Gene Hall resides in Llano.

III. C. Family of Daniel Barnett McDonald, Sheriff and Jailer. Ira Glenn Smith was born at the Llano County Jail in 1932. Daniel McDonald was his grandfather and was the jailer until 1934. Mr. Smith's niece, Cynthia Darwin, was also interviewed. Her mother, Mary Maxine Smith, was also born at the jail. When Mary was born, she only weighed 4 pounds and her mother used a shoe box as a crib for her.

Ira Glenn Smith said that his grandfather was a peaceful sheriff and hardly ever carried a gun. Instead of using handcuffs, the sheriff used thumb cuffs, which were presented to the class for archiving. The thumb cuffs were easier for the sheriff to carry in his pocket, but they were uncomfortable for the prisoners.

A 1930 census lists Daniel B. McDonald as sheriff of Llano County and living at the jail with his wife Mary, sons G. Lee and Earl S. and daughter Lustella. The census also lists prisoners Irwin Gage, Oficio Herrare and Joseph Ellington as being incarcerated

at the jail at this time. Mr. Herrare was “charged for murder” and Mr. Ellington was in jail for vagrancy. Spelling of the names may be wrong because of the difficulty of reading the handwriting of the census.

Ira Glenn Smith donated several early original photographs of his family both at the jail and elsewhere. Also, several original class photos at Llano School, including some of the high school band and 14 majorettes were donated. Interestingly, all class members were identified on the back of these photos.

A family pedigree showing the lineage of the family of Daniel McDonald lists his birth date as March 27, 1876, death in June 1952, and marriage on June 3, 1900.

A list of Llano County Sheriffs from the Llano County Clerk’s office shows Dan McDonald was sheriff from 1928 to 1932.

Ira Glenn Smith resides in San Antonio. Cynthia Darwin resides in Galveston, Texas.



Photo: Dan McDonald. Photo provided by Glenn Smith.



Photo: Mary McDonald. Photo provided by Glenn Smith.



Photo: Maxine and Glenn Smith on front steps of Red Top Jail. Photo provided by Glenn Smith.



Photo: Maxine and Ila Smith in front of Red Top Jail. Photo provided by Glenn Smith.

II. D. Family of Sid Smith, Deputy Sheriff and Jailor.

A fairly extensive history of jailor Sid Smith was recreated from interviews with members of his family and friends:

1. Charles Baldwin: grandson of Sid Smith and son of Lois Baldwin. When Charles was 5 years old in 1943, Charles' mother divorced. They went to live with her father at the Llano County Jail and stayed for the next 8 years (until 1951). Charles Baldwin

provided a photograph of himself, his mother and Sid Smith in front of the jail. Charles also provided a picture of himself playing in front of the jail. He submitted an article about his experiences living in the jail to the Llano News that was published on May 5, 2010.

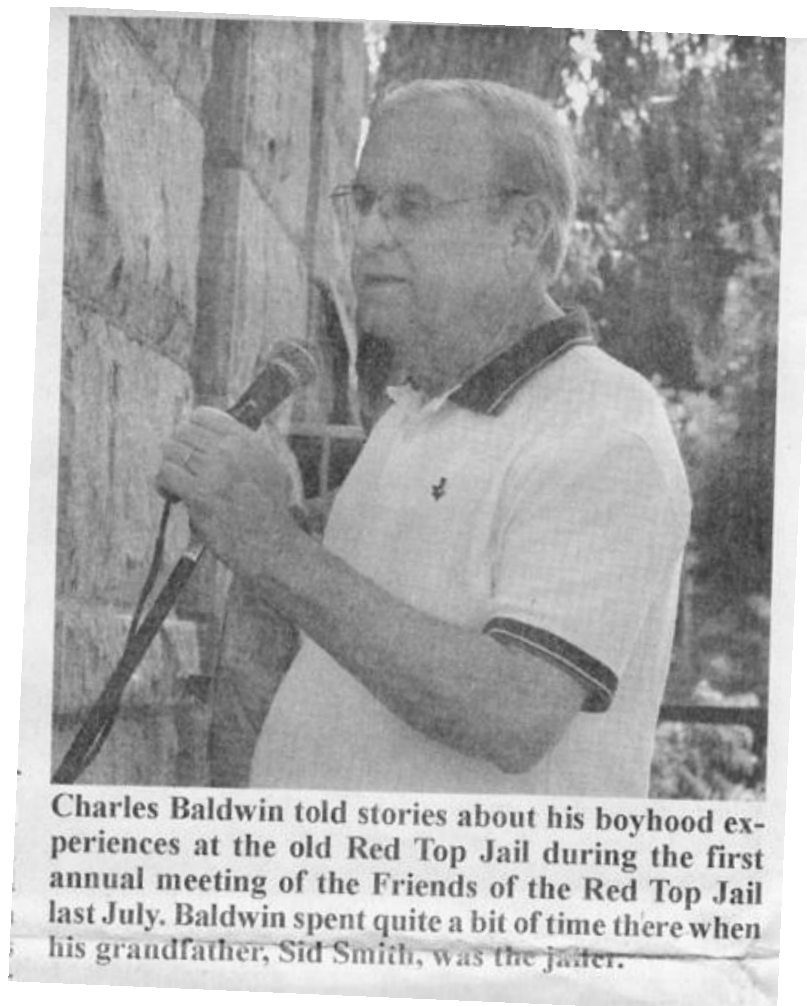


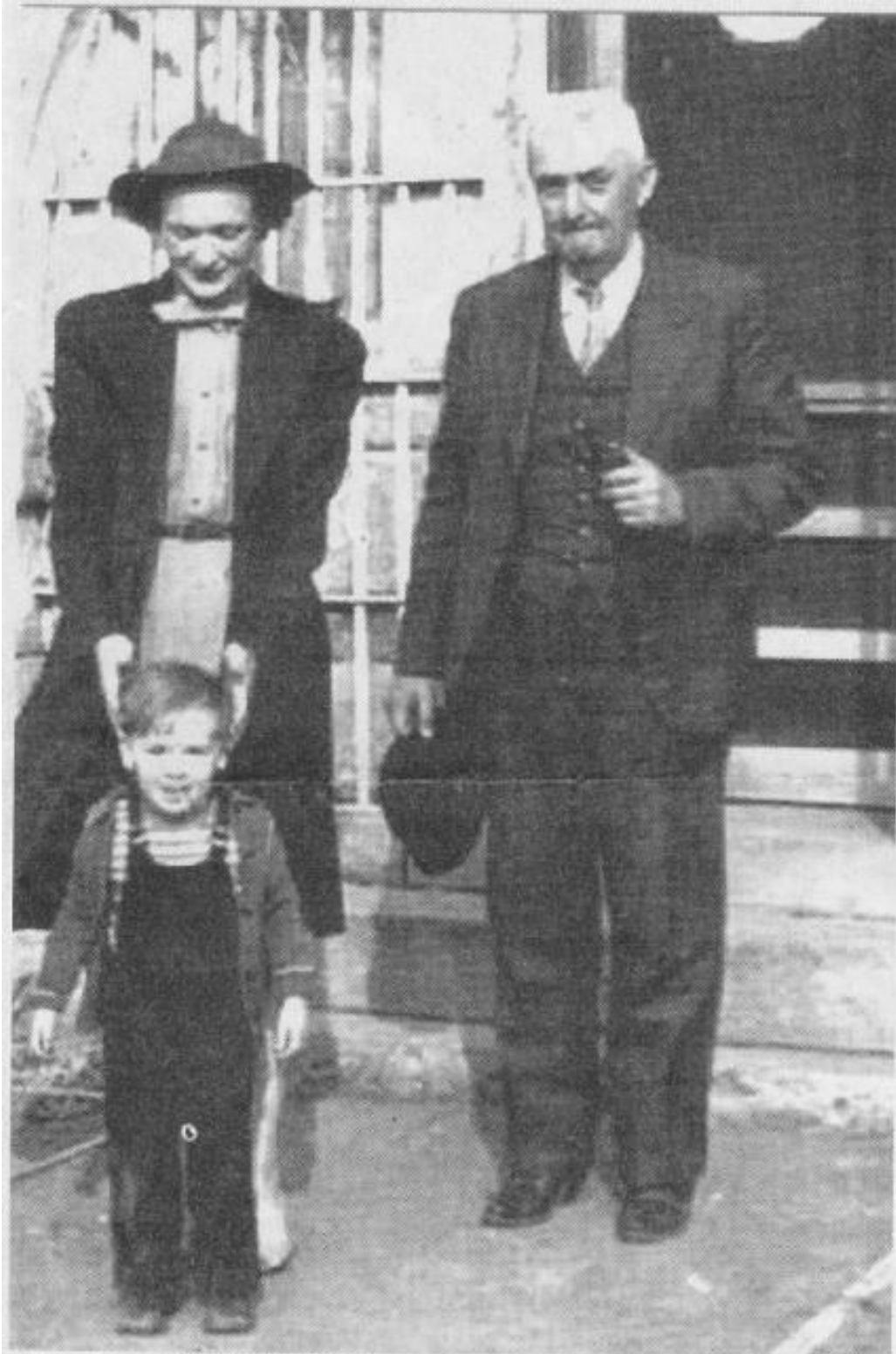
Photo: Charles Baldwin, Llano News April 21, 2010, Photo by John Hallowell

2. Mike Smith: cousin of Charles Baldwin, grandson of Sid Smith. Michael P. Smith is the son of Oscar Kenneth "Pete" Smith who was a brother of Lois "Bill" Smith Baldwin.
3. Hudson Long lived at the jail for 3 months starting in 1941 (November to January) when he was 8 years old and in 4th grade. Hudson's mother, Goldie Long, was expecting and was having a difficult pregnancy. The Llano Hospital at the time was one block away from the jail. The Long family lived 20 miles away, so they decided that she would be better off living with the Smiths at the Red Top Jail for easier access to the hospital. Hudson Long's aunt, Dokie Deats, who was City Treasurer, lived behind the jail and was a good friend of the Smiths. Goldie Long gave birth to her son Malcolm in February, 1942.

What follows is a compilation of stories from interviews of Charles Baldwin, Mike Smith and Hudson Long

.

Sidney (Sid) Slaughter Smith and his wife Lillie Edna Smith ran the jail from at least 1941 to at least 1951.



Charles Baldwin, his mother Lois Baldwin, and his grandfather, Sid Smith. Smith was the Llano jailer during the 1940s.



Charles playing in front of the jail.

Photos: Llano News May 5, 2010. Photos provided by Charles Baldwin

Charles' and Mike's grandmother, Lillie Edna Smith, used a wood stove for cooking and heating. Hudson and Mike said that Mrs. Smith, "Granny", was a good cook. Hudson remembers talking to prisoners through the windows while he played outside, although he was told not to do so. He also remembers how Mrs. Smith would

transfer food to a “trustee” from the kitchen to the inmates in the jail using the small slot built into the wall for this purpose. Mike Smith said that her culinary skills were so good that men were known to get drunk and belligerent on Saturday night just to be thrown in jail to have Sunday dinner.

To bathe in the winter, water was heated on the wood stove and poured into a number 10 washtub on the kitchen floor, according to Charles Baldwin. This was replaced later by a hot water heater that was a large wood stove with pipes curled through the inside, leading to a small tank. The granite walls of the jail and high ceilings kept the jail cooler than most houses, but Mrs. Smith had to cook over the hot wood stove for her family and the prisoners, even in 100 degree weather. They kept a chicken coop in the back of the jail. Mrs. Smith also had a modest garden in the backyard. A hogpen was kept at various times in the backyard, with the hogs fed from scraps from 2-3 cafes in town.

Hudson Long, his mother and cousin Jane Hill (16 years old) stayed in the southwest bedroom of the jailors quarters. Hudson slept on a cot and was warm during the winter months he lived at the jail. He remembers having Christmas celebrations at his Aunt Dokie Deats’ house, but not at the jail. He also remembers going to the LanTex Theater on Saturdays and watching movies for 9 cents.

The booking room on the first floor of the jail had an iron door separating the jailor’s quarters from the rest of the jail. This was kept locked when a prisoner was brought to jail. Hudson Long recalls that when a prisoner was admitted to the booking room, Mrs. Smith would take him back to the kitchen and give him cookies. At this time, the door from the booking room was kept open to the jail cells on the second floor. Therefore, the metal door separating the jailor’s family and guests from the booking room was locked when prisoners were present. A screen of blankets provided a little privacy when there was a woman prisoner. Hudson Long told of how men were allowed to stay at the jail when they came to town looking for work, because the war had started and times were hard. [Note: the Llano County Jail Log from 1942-1970 showed how people sometimes "stayed the night" without committing crimes. Apparently, Sid Smith and other jailors occasionally allowed the jail to be used to house the homeless.

Charles tells a story of an escaping prisoner who dropped down from the second floor in front of him. The prisoner’s wife had baked a hacksaw blade inside a cake and he had sawed through the iron bars on the window. Sid Smith caught up with the escapee along the nearby Llano River. From then on, prisoners were annoyed because they were not allowed to have food brought to them from outside.

In 1948 the chimney over the wood stove in the kitchen was leaning and a crack in the east wall forced the family to vacate the building for repairs. The repairs took six months and cost \$23,000, twice the original construction cost of the jail in 1895. At this point, gas heat was brought in to replace the old wood stoves.

At times, prisoners’ friends showed up demanding the prisoner’s release and Mrs. Smith had to call the sheriff. Charles tells the story of how once a prisoner refused to go up the stairs and the sheriff pistol-whipped him with the butt end of his gun. The gun went off and the bullet hit the door jamb, inches from where Sid Smith was standing holding the steel door.

Charles Baldwin lives in Austin, Texas. Hudson Long lives in Llano County. Mike Smith resides in Waxahachie.

II. E. Family of Joseph Clyde Shirley, Jailor. Clyde Shirley is the son of Joseph Clyde and stepson of Verna Hamilton Everrit Shirley. Joseph Clyde Shirley was jailor from 1957-1958, City Constable (Precinct 1) from 1949-1958 and Nightwatchman from 1949-1958.

Clyde Shirley, son of the jailor, describes how his father was paid \$300 per month as constable, and an extra \$50 a month for being a nightwatchman. He replaced Mr. Casper, the previous nightwatchman. Mr. Casper was found dead with a gunshot wound as he was sitting on a bench at the northeast side of the courthouse. This mystery (homicide or self-inflicted) was never solved.

Clyde Shirley described his stepmother, Verna Shirley as a good cook. However, she served mainly beans and cornbread to the inmates because the county did not provide sufficient funds to feed meat to the prisoners. However, she did have a large chicken coup by the river and eggs were plenty.

According to son Clyde, one drunk man kicked some teeth out of Jailor Clyde Shirley on the way up the steps to the second floor of the jail. Jailor Shirley knew this man from a young age, but nevertheless had to shoot him in the leg to end the altercation. The prisoner was taken to the nearby hospital.

II. F. Family of Clive Stovall, Jailor. Larry Stovall visited the class on May 11, 2011. Clive “Butch” Stovall was interviewed by phone. Their father, Clive Stovall, was jailor from 1953 to 1958 or 1959, when Larry was in third grade. Although the county clerk records do not list Clive Stovall as sheriff, Larry said that his father was also sheriff. [Note: there is a gap in the county records from 1954, the end of Travis Bawcon’s term, to the beginning of L.B. Turbiville’s term in 1956 (see Appendix). Clive Stovall may have been acting sheriff during this time.] Larry’s mother, Alberta Poke Stovall, cooked for the inmates and family. Typical meals included chicken fried steak, squirrel, deer, rabbit, chicken and mashed potatoes. Larry said that there were never more than 2-3 inmates in the jail at a time. Most of the inmates were incarcerated for minor violations, such as public intoxication, fights and vagrancy.

Larry mentioned that once he accidentally locked the sheriff into the jail with the inmates, creating a ruckus. Since the river was next to the jail, Larry and his brother Clive would often play there. He told of how they would shoot out streetlights with B.B. guns. He also mentioned how he and his brother would do chores around the jail. In order to travel to the next town, he would often catch the mail car and ride for 50 cents.

Larry Stovall lives in Llano County. Clive “Butch” Stovall lives in Llano.

II. G. Family of Ruby and Grant McPherson, Jailors. Sandra McPherson Overstreet visited the class on May 2, 2011. Sandra is the daughter of Ruby and Grant McPherson, who were jailors in 1966 and 1967. Sandra actually lived at the jail at age 21 while her husband went to the war in Vietnam. The Sheriff of Llano (Gail Ligon), talked Grant Overstreet into becoming the jailor, but Ruby did most of the jailor's work. Sandra lived in the southeast bedroom of the house. She often had friends stay there as if it was a normal house. Her parents painted their bedroom on the southwest side of the jail yellow. Her father put in a bathroom in this bedroom. Sandra remembers that there was a heavy metal door separating the jailor’s quarters from the booking room. Once when

Ruby and Grant went on vacation, Sandra took over as jailor for a week. She made sandwiches and bought hamburgers for the prisoners. She recalled that people were most often put in the Llano jail for fighting, public drunkenness and affray. Sandra remembers a black cat that lived at the jail called Plato. This cat would often visit the prisoners. One woman who was often arrested for drunkenness was superstitious and would get hysterical when she saw this black cat. Sandra McPherson is currently the County Treasurer and resides in Llano.

II. H. Family of Herman and Loleeta Rhoades, Jailors.

Stories about the last series of jailors were told by:

1. Ken Rhoades, son of Herman and Loleeta Rhoades
2. Janie Prew, former wife of Ken Rhoades.

In 1968, Herman and Loleeta Rhoades were jailors. Herman was the official jailor, but Loleeta did all of the work at the jail. Their children were Betty and Ken, along with two older brothers. Betty became the jailor after her parents. Her brother Ken succeeded her as jailor, after a serving in the military in Viet Nam until 1976. Betty's husband, Ben Graham, owned the gas station across from the Dairy Queen on the north side of Llano. Ken Rhoades and Janie West married at the Red Top Jail with ceremonies performed in the southeast bedroom of the jail. Janie Rhoades later became Janie Prew.

Betty Graham was a portly, 5 ft. woman who carried a pool cue around as protection as jailor. When law enforcement incarcerated a prisoner, she would escort the inmate to his or her cell on the second floor. One male prisoner was reluctant to go upstairs to his cell, so Betty beat him with a pool cue to make him comply. The next time he was taken to the Red Top, he begged the sheriff to take him to Burnet instead, in order to escape the wrath of Betty Graham.

In the jailor's quarters, a Motorola dispatch radio was situated in the southeast bedroom during this time. The jailors were also 911 dispatchers for the sheriff and police.

Janie remembers that there were bats in the fireplace. These sounded like rattlesnakes.

When prisoners were brought to the Red Top, their shoelaces, belts and belongings were confiscated. The nightwatchman at the time was uncomfortable taking these belongings, so he would instruct the jailor to do so.

Inmates ate what the family had for meals. A trustee, such as a homeless man staying at the jail, took food upstairs to the prisoners. Meals were dependent on how many people were in the building. Most prisoners came in the evening and would see the judge the next afternoon. Breakfast and lunch were small but decent meals (cereal, eggs, toast for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch). Since many of the prisoners were gone by evening, there was more money for an elaborate meal for dinner.

Janie never went upstairs by herself. However, when there were no prisoners, Janie would clean upstairs. It was very dirty. Ken described how a hose was attached to the

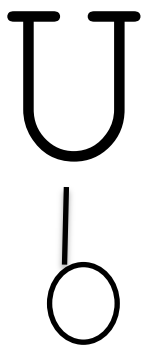
single showerhead and was used to clean the floors. He also told how the same hose was used to threaten drunks to settle down. Since the jailor and family lived below, loud singing and yelling from drunken inmates upstairs would disturb their peace. Ken would threaten to spray them with the hose if they did not calm down. Since inmates did not like sleeping wet, they complied. No one wanted wet clothes or a wet bed.

Privacy was minimal. Men and women were in separate jail cells on the opposite side of the same room. A curtain separated men from women in the jail. They were able to hear each other, but no visual contact was made because of this sheet. Beds for inmates were mattresses on the floor. Visitors would often park in front of the jail and talk to inmates through the windows on the second floor.

Most offenses were minor. However, one inmate, Mark Najar, was accused of murdering another man over a woman. Most other inmates were in jail for drunkenness.

One escape was noted during this time. A slender inmate was able to wiggle through the bars of the window on the southeast side of the second floor. The escape site was the most eastern window on the south side of the second floor of the jail. He tied sheets together to lower himself to the ground. The inmate escaped by running along the river. He stopped at "Rabbit" Hare's house about 3 miles down the river. Mr. Hare allowed him to shower and fed him, then later testified against the suspect in court regarding this incident. The inmate returned to the Red Top Jail to finish his sentence.

Ken Rhoades drew a picture of the metal contraption that was bolted to the gallows ceiling to hang a noose. This was an inverted U-shaped metal piece with an eyelet for the rope:



Interestingly, Janie Rhoades mentioned that this piece of metal was taken down and used as a headboard for her son's bed. She said that she did not know what happened to it after her family moved away.

Ken Rhoades resides in Llano. Janie Prew resides in Kingsland.

"Rabbit" Hare lives in Llano County.

Appendix I. List of elected Sheriffs of Llano County during the Llano County Red Top Jail use (Llano County Clerk).

1894-1898	N.R. Porter
1900-1906	W.C. Wallace
1908-1914	W.H. Kuykendall
1916-1918	W.J. Everett
1920-1922	A.S. Johnson
1924-1926	W.T. Rogers
1928-1932	Dan McDonald
1934-1940	Elmon D. Stewart
1942-1944	R.P. McWilliams
1946-1950	L.B. Turbiville
1952-1954	Travis Bawcon
1956-1960	L.B. Turbiville
1964-1988	Gale Ligon

Appendix II. Llano County (Red Top) Jailors and approximate tenures.

1895-c.1904	Berry Hickman Russell
1917 (14 y.)	James Kendrick
(c.1928-1934)	Daniel McDonald
(c. 1941-c.1951)	Sid Smith
(1953-c.1959)	Clive Stovall
(1966-1967)	Grant and Ruby McPherson
(1970-1982)	Betty Graham, Ken Rhoades, Janie Prew (formerly Rhoades)

Appendix III. Sample Interview Agreement

INTERVIEW AGREEMENT

West Texas Collection
Angelo State University

The purpose of the project is to gather and preserve historical evidence _____

_____ These
interviews will be audio/video-recorded interviews. The tape recordings and transcripts
resulting from such interviews will become part of the archives at the Dr. Ralph R. Chase
West Texas Collection at Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX. This material will
be made available for historical and other academic research

We, the undersigned, have read the above and voluntarily offer the West Texas
Collection full use of the information contained on the recordings and in transcripts of
these oral history interviews. In view of the historical value of this research material, we
hereby assign rights, title and interest pertaining to it to the West Texas Collection.

Interviewee (signature) Interviewer (signature)

Name of interviewee (print) Name of interviewer (print)

Date Date

Address of interviewee

City State Zip

Telephone of interviewee

Appendix IV. Sample Donor Agreement

WEST TEXAS COLLECTION
PORTER HENDERSON LIBRARY
ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

DONOR'S RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, _____, the sole and absolute owner of the materials listed below, or acting as the authorized representative of the owner, do hereby give and grant to the Porter Henderson Library and West Texas Collection, Angelo State University the right to select materials for inclusion into the Collection and/or Library. The following terms will apply:

- Angelo State University has the sole authority regarding the acceptance and disposition of all materials donated to the Collection.
- For materials added to the Collection, literary rights (subject to restrictions agreed to by the donor and the Porter Henderson Library and West Texas Collection) including the right to grant researchers permission to publish are hereby transferred to the West Texas Collection of the Porter Henderson Library, Angelo State University.
- The said materials will be made available to researchers subject to standard archival procedures and the policies governing the use of materials in the Porter Henderson Library.
- Monographs, serials, maps and/or any other item(s) not added to the West Texas Collection or general collection of the Porter Henderson Library will be given to the Friends of the Porter Henderson Library and West Texas Collection, Angelo State University.

Description of materials:

Signature of Donor or
Authorized Representative of Owner(s)

Date _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Need copy of Release Agreement

☐ Need acknowledge letter

The above described materials have been received by the Porter Henderson Library

Library Director
Porter Henderson Library

Date _____