Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FROM

STATE:	
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COUNTY:	
DeWitt	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
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	DeWitt County			REGISTE	R (0)
	DeWitt County	Courthouse		Ym.	
	CITY OR TOWN:	Courthouse	ST	ATE:	CODE
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The DeWitt County Courthouse is a three-story sandstone RECEIVE structure with a six-story clock tower. The sandstone is it is rusticated throughout; the main fabric is of a cream color, the trim of red sandstone. The building is Richardson an aballo Romanesque and the architect, A. O. Watson, was strongly in fluenced by the Allegheny County Courthouse im Pittlsbburgh Pennsylvania. The plan is central and basically square with 19 four corner pavilions. The roof is hipped and the main tower and the pavilions have pyramidal roofs. The main facade consists of a recessed triple bay section between flanking pavilions. Thee pavilions are united by a connecting arcaded one-story porch very similar to that of the Pittsburgh building. tower rises behind the central bay, and is also in the style of Richardson's building. The paired, single pane, first story windows of the front and sides of the DeWitt County courthouse are set in large arched openings with stone transoms and a grill in front of the glass in the arched opening above. The windows at the back, those in the areade, and the second story windows are one-over-one light double hung sash type with stone lintels and single pane transoms with grills above. scheme of window placement in the pavilions is that of one large arched opening at the first story, two trabeated windows at the second story, and two trabeated windows set behind a four-bay arcade at the third story. Balustrades define these arcades and are also used between the side arches and as a protective railing above the main porch. The clustered columns 8f the Barch are 8f the squat Richardsan type with Romanesque Revival capitals. The large arches spring low and have rusticated voussoirs finished with a drip-moid archivolt. Aali Brojecting corners of the building have decorative quoins of harrow stones = alternately placed on end (and extending three courses vertically) and on their sides. The pavilions have engaged columns at the corners at the third story. of the tower have rounded edges or rusticated engaged columns at its full height; The second; third and fourth story windows of the tower are vertically grouped under a colossal arch. The four clock faces are simply and effectively framed by radiating rusticated voussoirs in an inset square panel. The top story rusticated voussoirs in an inset square panel. The top story is open with a three bay arcade.

The 1956 the Guido Brothers Construction Company of San Antonio modernized the interior and central air-conditioning and automatic elevators were installed.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The DeWitt County Courthouse is a late nineteenth century
Texas building strongly influenced by H. H. Richardson's
Allegheny County Courthouse (1884-88) im Pittsburgh, Pennsylvan
The county is im south central Texas and was created im 1846
out of parts of Gonzales, Goliad, Victoria counties. The
area approximated that of the original 1825 Mexican grant to
Empresario Green DeWitt.

The courthouse is located at Cuero, the present county seat of DeWitt County. Cuero, named for nearby Cuero Creek, had been originally projected as a town im 1842, but itts establishmentt was unsuccessfull at that time. "Cuero" is thee Spanish translation of the Indian word for "hides". Cuero was finally established by John C. French and Gustav Schleicher who laid off a town im January, 1873, to serve as the terminus of the Gulf, Western, and Pacific Railroad. Thirty years of bitter feuding between towns had passed before Cuero was chosen as county seat im 1876. Between 1846 and 1876 the county records were moved at least four times. Three expectant towns built courthouses of varying permanency. Clinton held the county seat from 1840 until 1876, when the final move was made to cuero. The commissioners paid \$1,100 to move and repair the former frame Clinton courthouse to the site of the present courthouse in Euero.

This building burned April 8, 1894, and the D. W. Nash School was rented for temporary quarters. Bonds for \$70,000 were issued and a contract awarded to A, O, Watson of Austin to design and construct a new building and to include flurniture for offices and courtrooms. The building was completed by builder Eugene Heiner of Houston im 18896.

The city of Cuero was on an immigrant route. Germans constituted the majority of the population by 1860. Im 1940 75% of the white population was of German extraction.

Recorded Texas Hightonria-

Landmark - 1966.

Hitchcock, H, R, The Architecture of H, H, Richardson and His Times. Cambridge, 1961

Webb, Walter P., ed. Handbook of Texas. Austim, 1952

Coursey, Clark. Courthouses of Texas. Waco, 1954.

Texas State Historical Survey Committee - Marker Files.

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Title: De Witt County

Courthouse

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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Rear elevation from the south



MPS Number 71.5.48.0031	
Title: DEWitt County	
Courthouse	
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Title: De Witt County

Courthouse

Loc. DeWitt Co. Texas

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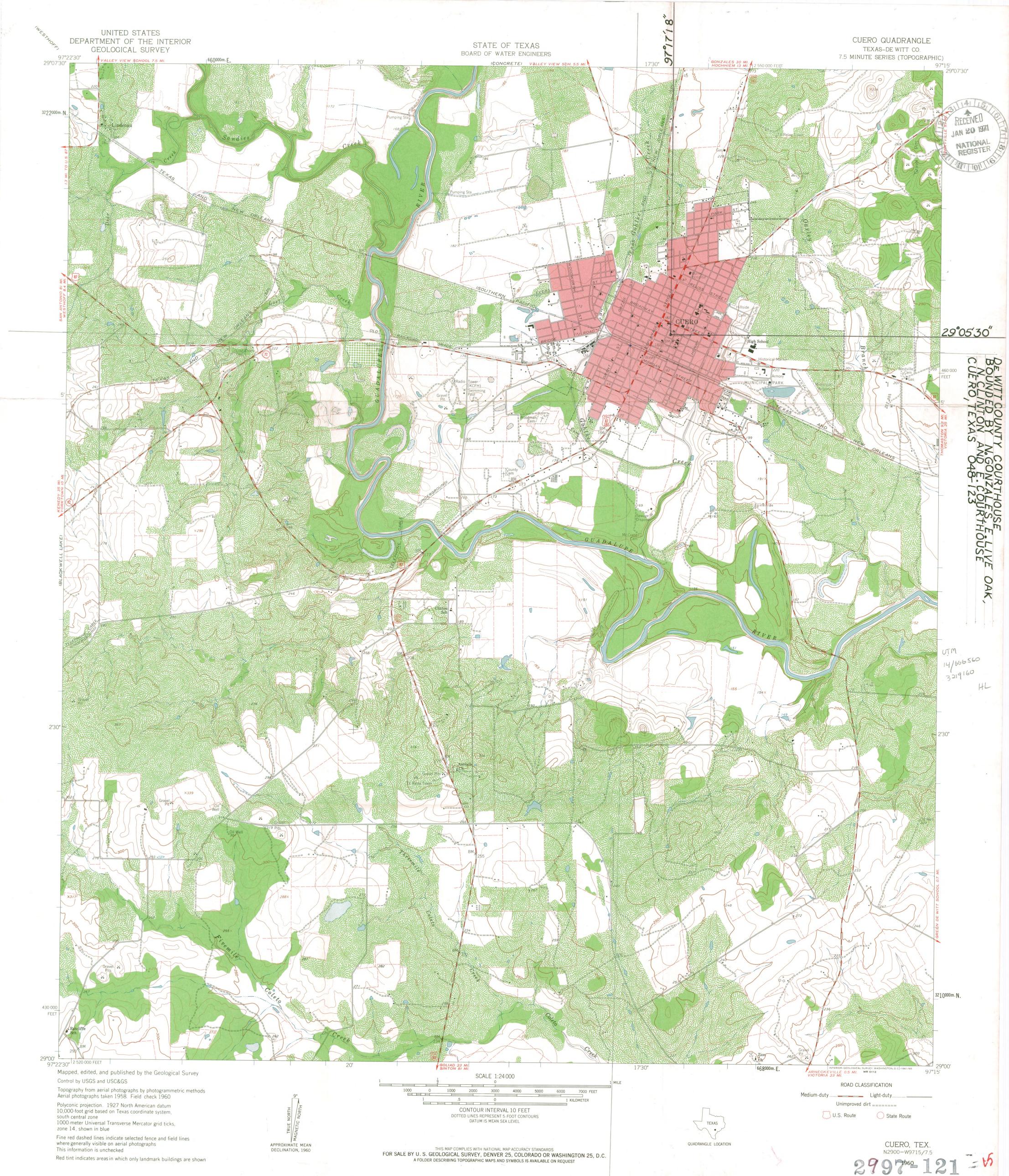
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Form 10-301 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE			TEXAS		
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HR

Director, Southeast Region

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Dear Senator Eentsen:

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of Historic Places. Senator John G. Tower and the appropriate Seiaator John C. Tcv«r anU tlie «i,prorri*t« of Historic Placos. Representatives have also been provided with this information. Rfti. 'rciMintativea hava also ht^aa rrovldo<3 vith thio inConsation. copy of this letter, the State Limison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, copy of thia letter tha Ctata Liaisoa Cfficor, Kr. Yxuctt Latia rrr Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Excoutive Dirtfctor, Taaaa Stat* historical Surv«y Ooaaitteo, J'ost Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, has likewise been Uox X2276, Capitol Statioa, Auetia, Texas 7&711, has likewise fc*en notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed. notified. A leaflet explaining the Hatlonal Ra9ist6r is eacloeed. Sircerely yevura.

(Signed)

Director

Poclosures

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MAY 6 1971

ect Kr. Truett l'Atlaor, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Carelittee, PDS Office liox 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

Also notified: Hon, John R. Tower Ken, Ray Roberts

Hon. John R. Tower Ken. Ray Roberts
United States Senate Non. Algana and Jr.

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Hon, too CAeey

Properties added to the Katlonall Esgieter of Historic Places

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JCr. Truett L-atltaer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Survey CoHimittea
Post Office Hox 12276
Capitol StatiOM
Austin, Tejias 77G711

Dear Mr. hutSnert -

We are pleased to dinfor you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Pagister of Historic Places. Senators Lloyd Bentsen and To)mG. Tower and the appropriate Representatives are being informed. Alleaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for each of the property owners. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

(Sbigaed),

Director

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