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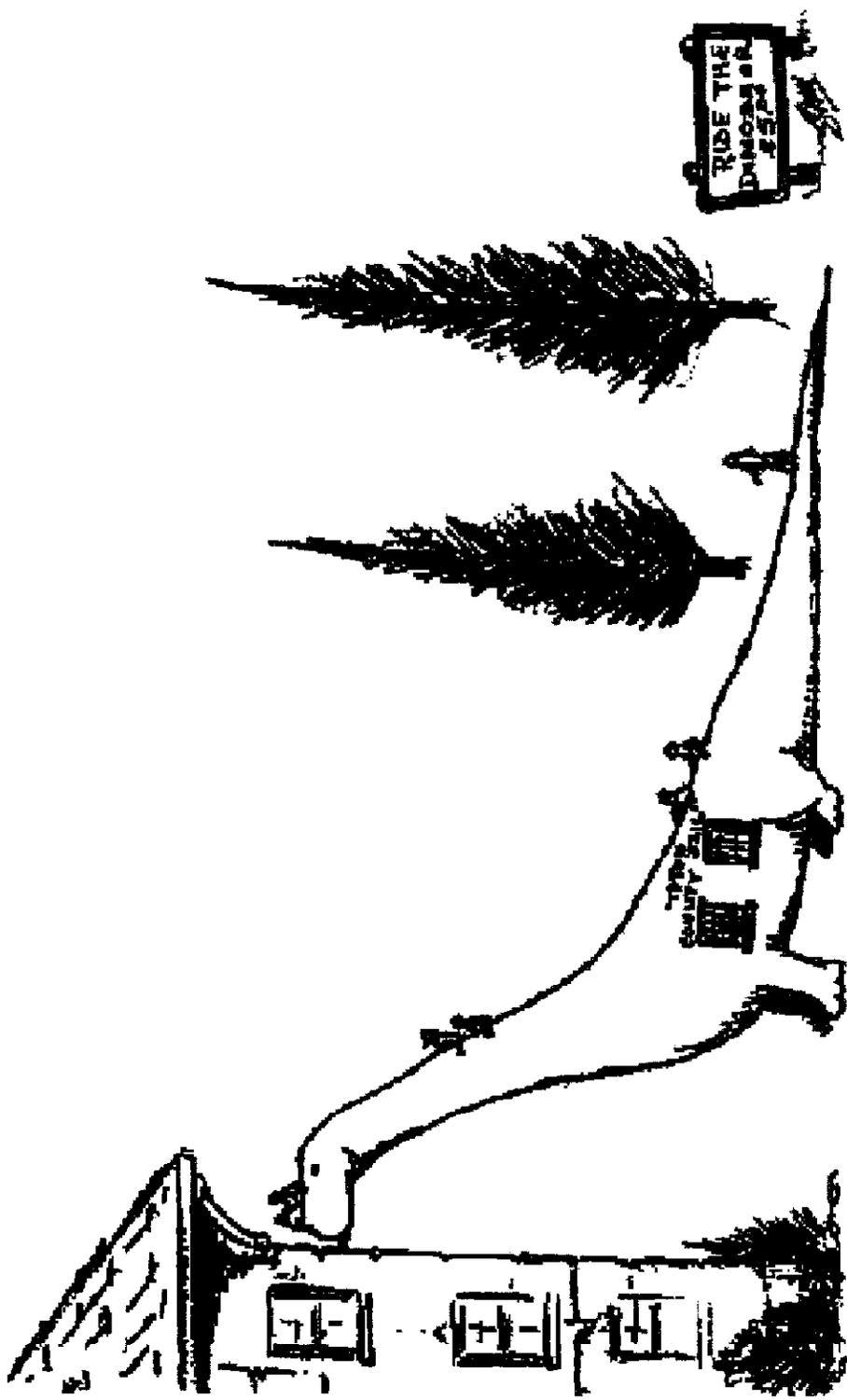
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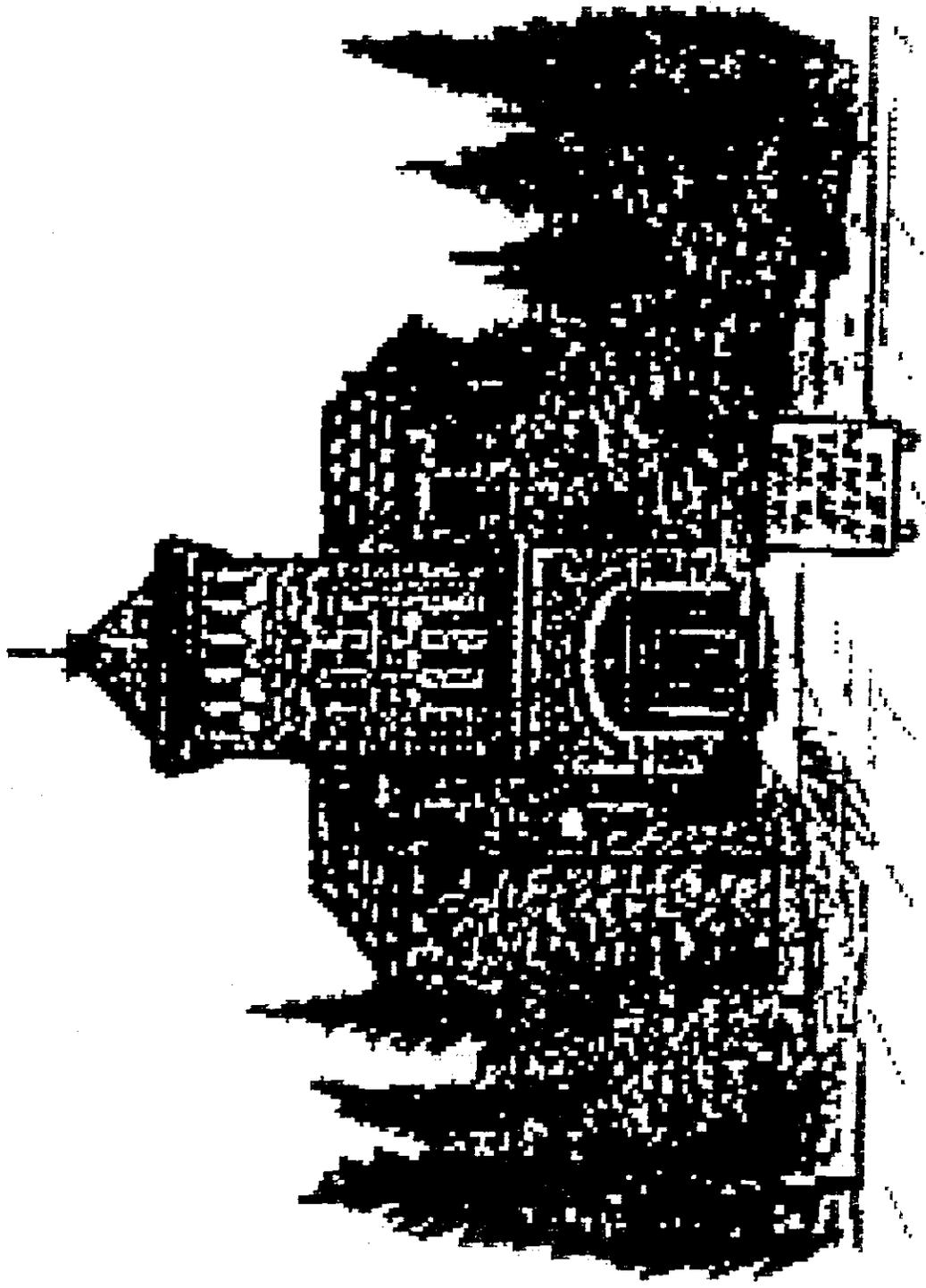
Montana County Courthouse Restoration Act





SPAIN'S SOLUTION TO COURTHOUSE ACCESS AND SPACE PROBLEMS.





LET AUGUSTINE APPROACH TO
FRANCIS AUGUSTINE



COUNTY COURTHOUSES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

- Big Horn County Courthouse (listed within the Hardin Historic District)
- Carbon County Courthouse (listed within the Red Lodge Commercial Historic District)
- Cascade County Courthouse
- Choteau County Courthouse
- Custer County Courthouse (listed within the Miles City Main Street Historic District)
- Daniels County Courthouse
- Dawson County Courthouse (listed within the Merrill Avenue Historic District)
- Deer Lodge County Courthouse
- Fergus County Courthouse (listed within the Lewistown Courthouse Historic District)
- Flathead County Courthouse (listed within the Kalispell Courthouse Historic District)
- Gallatin County Courthouse
- Hill County Post Office and Courthouse
- Jefferson County Courthouse
- Lewis and Clark County Courthouse (listed within the Courthouse Square Neighborhood of the Helena Historic District)
- Madison County Courthouse (listed within the Virginia City Historic District)
- Missoula County Courthouse
- Ravalli County Courthouse
- Rosebud County Courthouse
- Silver Bow County Courthouse (listed within the Butte National Historic Landmark)

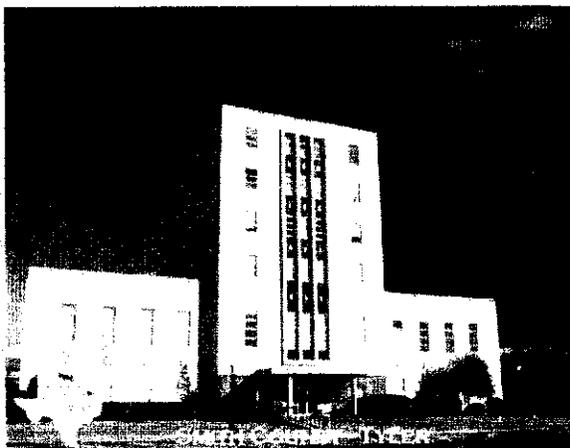


America's County Courthouses

<http://www.plannersweb.com/publicbldgs/CH-Countycthses.html>



The Smith County Courthouse in Tyler, Texas, was typical of the hundreds of county courthouses located in the central town square. Unfortunately, this landmark Courthouse was demolished in 1955. Broadway Avenue, the major North/South Corridor, now runs through what was the middle of the old Courthouse. To the West is the "new" square with a fountain, sitting areas, and memorials. To the East is the new Courthouse and a road separating it from the other buildings visible in the picture. [From information provided by William V. Morales, Director of Planning, City of Tyler].



One of the most important, but least remarked upon, of America's architectural legacies can be found in thousands of county seats across the country -- it is the county courthouse. They were designed and built with pride, and often became the community's landmark structure. In fact, in doing background research I was struck by the number of counties that incorporate an image of the courthouse building in their county logo.

As Herbert Johnson & Ralph Andrist explain in their book, *Historic Courthouses of New York State*, "Because American local governing bodies have traditionally held their legislative and executive sessions in the county courthouse, and the activities of officials such as sheriffs, tax assessors, county clerks, and registrars of wills and deeds have also centered in the courthouse or its neighborhood, the county courthouse has been the focal point of local political and governmental life."

The authors go on to observe that "**Courthouse architecture reflected the esteem in which law and local government were held.** ... Courtrooms were graced with large windows and lofty ceilings, and those on the second floor were often reached by long and impressive staircases."

The county courthouse often centered the community, not just figuratively, but literally by either occupying the main square or fronting on it (see, for example, the Mifflin County and Tioga County Courthouses). As Richard V. Francaviglia notes in *Main Street Revisited: Time, Space, and Image Building in Small-Town America*, "In central county seats, roads often converged from at least four directions on the county courthouse. Very often a town speculator would donate a central block of property for the courthouse, and, in many centrally located towns, the business district grew around the courthouse. .. Just as zoning today can affect town morphology, so too could speculation. In many county seats, commercial properties were deliberately located facing the courthouse square, a recognition that the courthouse could serve as a magnet to commercial enterprises."

Similarly, the Texas Historical Commission observes that "Historic courthouses are more than architecturally grand buildings and old government offices. **They're physical, tangible links to community and state heritage.**

Courthouses were the first permanent structures in many Texas communities, and main streets and business districts grew and prospered in their shadows. Marriages, trials, elections, parades, festivals, campaign rallies and community celebrations are just some of the events linked to courthouse squares."

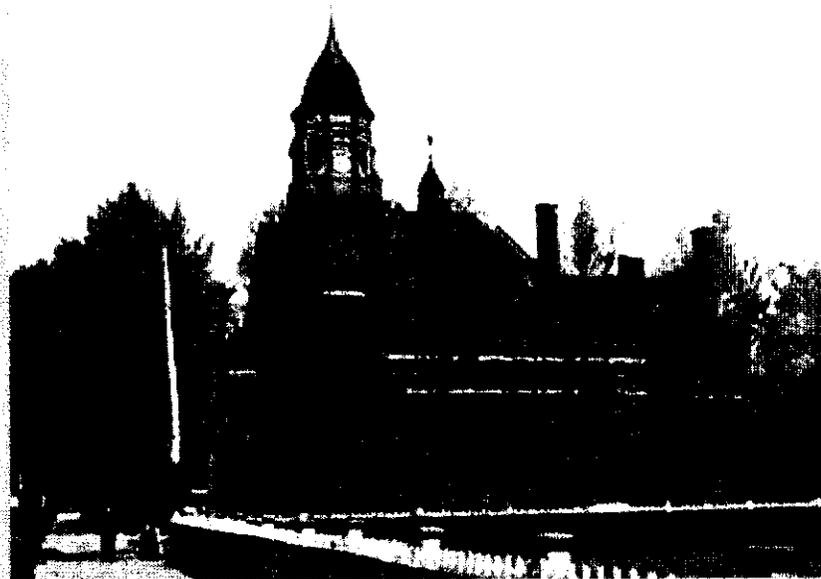
One demonstration of the power historic courthouses still hold over us can be found in the surprising number of amateur photographers who spend years touring their

state -- and on occasion, even the country -- to photograph county courthouses.

Of course, the fact is that a number of historic courthouses remain threatened -- by neglect and, sometimes, by the need to build a more elaborate "judicial complex." As John and Margaret T. Peters comment in their beautiful book, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*, "Many modern courthouses look more like mammoth office buildings, with little symbolic or traditional significance and even less regard for what we used to call 'the majesty of the Law.' ... **As much as ever, our courthouses are a reflection of society, and it is not an altogether pretty picture.**"



The new versus the old Escambia County Courthouses in Pensacola, Florida

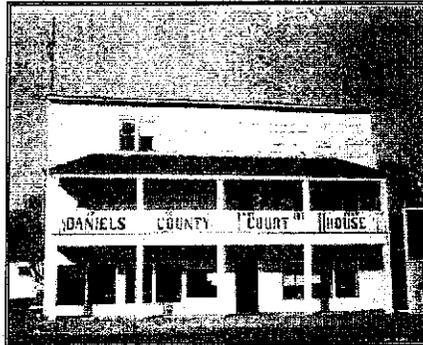


PRESERVING MONTANA'S HISTORIC COURTHOUSES

During the late 19th and early 20th century, Montana was organized into 56 counties, each with its own county seat and courthouse. The buildings span a spectrum, from the simple, wooden false-fronted Daniels County courthouse to grand multi-story granite and sandstone Revival style buildings. These courthouses have served for decades as important landmarks and the center of local governance. Through time, county needs and functions of counties have shifted, and technology has changed dramatically. At the start of the 21st century, many counties now are challenged to step into a new century, with upgrading telecommunications capabilities, providing ADA accessibility and maintenance of historic structures among the most common concerns. Many counties recognize that retaining their architectural legacy and the link to their heritage is important to the health of the community and are finding creative ways to adapt and finance projects that give these stately courthouses a new life.

PRESERVATION TOOLKIT

Since 1980, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (MTSHPO) has offered technical assistance and information on preserving Montana's historic buildings. We recommend reliable methods of adapting buildings to new uses, and tools for preservation that can make the difference between saving and losing historic courthouses.



DANIELS COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
SCOOBY

Preservation Briefs from the National Park Service. This technical series is an excellent source for rehabilitation techniques. Of particular interest for building rehabilitation are the briefs on window repair; masonry repointing; heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and making historic properties accessible. Available on-line at www2.cr.nps.gov/tps.briefs or at MTSHPO.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. A guide for sensitive rehabilitation and long-term preservation of historic buildings. Offering a common sense preservation philosophy, the guidelines emphasize repair of historic fabric rather than replacement, along with preservation of historic character-defining features. Available at MTSHPO or from the National Park Service: www2.cr.nps.gov/e-rehab.

CASE STUDIES & SUCCESS STORIES: PRESERVING AND REUSING HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSES

In recent years many Montana counties have refurbished their historic courthouses to serve the needs of a new century. The following projects offer just a few examples:

Teton County Courthouse

Constructed in 1906, the Teton County Courthouse was designed by Montana architects A.J. Gibson and George Shanley to replace an earlier building that had burned in 1897. The Italianate courthouse was constructed of sandstone quarried at nearby Rattlesnake Butte. In the 1920s, a south end addition was made, a jail was attached at the rear, and over the years some limited interior modifications were made.

Teton County was mandated after a lawsuit to bring the building into ADA compliance in 1995. Following that court order, the commission began a planning process to address those concerns and update the law enforcement capacity. After two failed bond issues, the County Commission sought alternative funding solutions to complete the required work. In the year 2000, the Teton County Courthouse was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; county officials are proud of having preserved their heritage through rejuvenation of their most important local government building.

PRESERVING MONTANA'S HISTORIC COURTHOUSES

Lewis & Clark County Courthouse, Helena

In 1889, the state of Montana was created, and until 1902, Helena's newly completed Lewis & Clark County Courthouse served as the state house. Hodgson, Wallingford and Stem of St. Paul, designed the imposing Romanesque building using both Montana granite and Wisconsin brownstone.

For over a hundred years the courthouse has stood its sturdy ground above the downtown gulch, even withstanding the devastating earthquake of 1935. Over time, county administrators have done a good job of maintaining the historic building, and during the past decade, have phased a series of improvements to keep the facility current and in good repair, and to spread their costs over a period of time.

In 1983, the masonry was maintained and historic windows were repaired. To provide better public access within the building, the county also installed a new elevator, and handicap restrooms. A law enforcement center was added next door at that time and connected to the historic courthouse via a sky bridge. In 1992 and 1999, courtrooms were refurbished. Most recently, the county used a CTEP grant of \$350,000 to clean and repoint the granite, add exterior lighting, replace aging sidewalks and steps, and put a new 14000 square foot hypolon roof on the top.

Jefferson County Courthouse, Boulder

A masterful example of Late Victorian Revival architecture, the Jefferson County Courthouse was built in 1883. Designed by preeminent late 19th century Montana architects John G. Paulsen and Nicholas McConnell, it is one of the surviving buildings by this team in the area.

Jefferson County has enjoyed use of this building for more than a century, and as the facilities began to need upkeep, they phased a variety of maintenance and updating projects to keep the budget affordable. Funds for the work came out of the annual county operating budget.

An annex was added in the 1970s to provide additional room for growing programs. In 1994, ADA accessibility was addressed by adding an internal elevator in an existing stair tower, along with an entry ramp down to a ground level entrance. Windows were repaired in 1997-98. In 1999-2000, the county completed a roofing project, sensitively designed with modern materials that simulate the historic shingle patterning.

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR REFURBISHING HISTORIC COURTHOUSES

CTEP Funds

Montana Dept of Transportation Federal Community Transportation Enhancement

Program funding is administered by the state highways department and allocated by each county.

A number of counties have taken advantage of these funds for courthouse renovation and repairs. County planners are usually the point of contact for these funds. Contact: Your county planner or Mike Davis, MDoT (406) 444-4383

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Rural Utility Services Funds are federal funds that are distributed on a national level to communities throughout the country. These rural development funds are available in the form of grants or loans to counties that have rural utility cooperatives, such as rural telephone or electrical coops.

Community & Government Facilities Loans

Available to communities through Montana's Rural Development program, these funds may be accessed by counties for a variety of projects.

For information on rural development funding sources and more, contact:

Bill Barr
Rural Development and Coop
Development Specialist
USDA, Bozeman
(406) 585-2545

Intercap Loans

Available through the Montana Board of Investments, these funds are drawn from coal tax moneys and available to counties in the form of low interest loans.

Contact:
Montana Board of Investments
(406) 449-6813

PRESERVING MONTANA'S HISTORIC COURTHOUSES

RECOMMENDED CONTACTS:

National Trust for Historic Preservation
 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW
 Washington, DC 20036
 (202) 588-6000
<http://www.nthp.org>

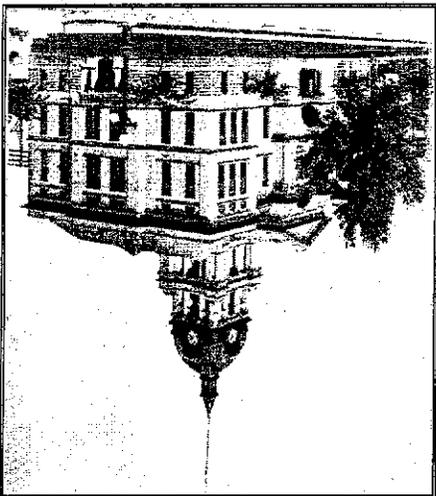
Mountain-Plains Office National Trust for Historic Preservation
 910 16th Street, Suite 1100
 Denver, CO 80202
 303-623-1504

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a nationwide non-profit preservation organization. The Trust offers technical support and funding in the form of grants and loans to preservation projects across the country. Contact the Trust for more information.

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
 PO Box 201202
 1410 8th Avenue
 Helena, MT 59620
 (406) 444-7715

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (MTHPO) is a part of the Montana Historical Society, and is the official historic preservation agency of the State of Montana. Staff members nominate properties to the National Register of Historic Places, review federally-assisted projects for effects on historic and archaeological properties, review applications for the federal historic preservation tax credit for income-producing properties, advise on the physical conservation of buildings, administer grants for preservation projects in communities which have been designated as Certified

Local Governments, and offer educational programs and publications. Contact the Montana Historic Preservation Office for information about preserving historic courthouses and other community buildings.



DEER LODGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MONTANA

Montana Preservation Alliance
 PO Box 1872
 Bozeman, MT 59771
 (406) 585-9551

Founded in 1989, the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) "champions the preservation of Montana's unique historic legacy." MPA is Montana's only statewide non-profit preservation organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating Montana's historic environment. MPA works to promote historic and cultural preservation, the redevelopment and improvement of historic properties, and renovation and maintenance of sites and structures in Montana. Each year they identify the Montana's Most Endangered Properties and work to secure their future. In addition,

COURTHOUSE REFERENCES:

MPA's outreach program, the Montana Preservation Team, is a collaborative project that pulls together the state's most talented professionals to address pressing community issues. Workshops are tailored to the specific community and relate to preservation of heritage and cultural resources. For more information on MPA programs and membership, please contact them or check their website: www.preservemontana.org

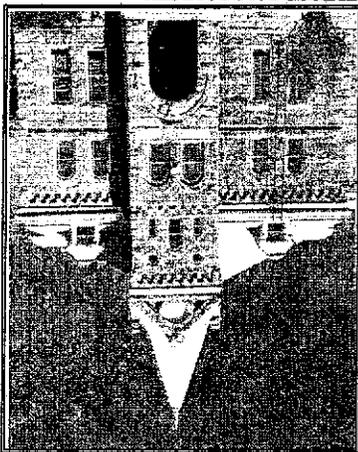
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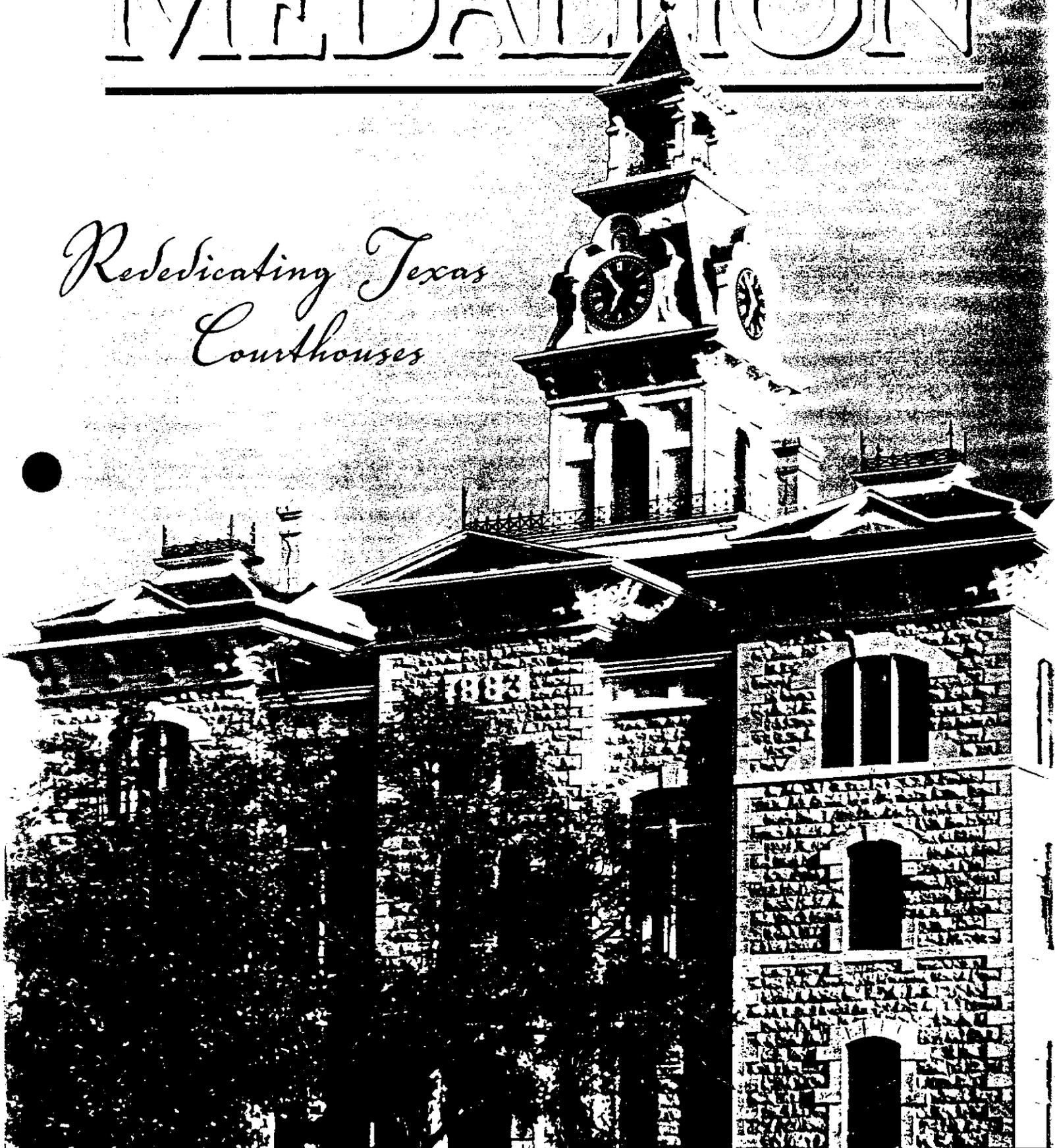
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1993.

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
Telephone (406) 444-7715
Fax (406) 444-6575



THE
MEDALLION

*Rededicating Texas
Courthouses*



Rededicated TO PRESERVATION

Across Texas, in towns large and small, historic county courthouses are architectural gems built by past generations. Through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, administered by the Texas

Historical Commission (THC), many of these buildings are being restored to their original luster. As more and more courthouses are rededicated, Texans will have new reasons to visit courthouse squares across the state.

"In most counties these highly visible historic restoration projects are reviving a strong sense of community pride and uniting diverse county groups into a truly positive civic force," said Larry Oaks, THC executive director. "These restored courthouses are once again anchors — community centers."

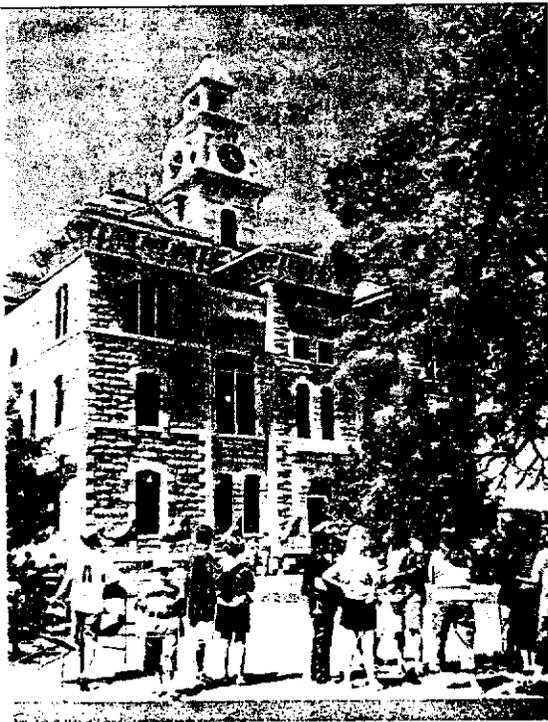
The first three counties to complete courthouse restorations through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program are located around the state. Last June, **Shackelford County** became the first in the state to rededicate its courthouse under the direction of the program. Shackelford County's 1883 courthouse in **Albany** is a grand edifice that replaced a modest two-room cedar picker courthouse. The county hired J.E. Flanders, a noted Dallas architect, to design their new temple of justice. Its style is termed Italianate for its cornice brackets and low roof similar to country villas of the Mediterranean. The building is made from limestone quarried near the courthouse square. Scottish masons carried out the stone-cutting and construction.

The recent restoration included visually reclaiming the first floor south corridor, which had been closed off for office space since the 1930s. The county also replaced 1940s metal windows with wood windows to match the original design and restored interior details.

In addition to its courthouse, Albany has plenty to offer visitors, from the high-caliber **Old Jail Art Center**, with its European and eastern

art collections, to historic **Fort Griffin State Park and Historic Site**, one of the forts in the Texas Forts Trail Region. For more information on area attractions, contact the Albany Chamber of Commerce at 915/762-2525 or visit www.albanytexas.com.

Marfa, in far West Texas, was established as a railroad water stop and freight station in 1883. Two years later Marfa replaced Fort Davis as county seat of **Presidio County**. Its 1886-87 courthouse is an example of Second Empire style, with projecting surfaces and Mansard-style roofs in fashion in Europe in the mid-19th century. J.H. Britton of Sherman designed this imposing building in brick and stone. Soon after the courthouse was completed, the state Legislature carved Presidio into five counties. Presidio sued the new counties to recover their share of Presidio's large debt (incurred mostly



Jim Bonar





2002 Rededications

Visitors to a newly restored historic county courthouse. Several historic courthouses are scheduled for 2002. The dates of completion and the location of the rededication ceremony will take place in the near future.

because of their expensive new courthouse) and eventually won the case before the Texas Supreme Court.

During the recent restoration, the involved parties agreed to maintain a 1920s appearance for the exterior, since the brick had been covered with stucco, which had achieved its own visual

and historical significance. The interior was restored to a 1910s appearance to incorporate light fixtures from that date.

In addition to its majestic courthouse, Marfa is also famous for a special phenomenon, the Marfa Lights. First reported in the 1880s, these mysterious flickers and flares still defy explanation.

— continued page 10

"These restored courthouses are once again anchors — community centers."

Far left and cover: Shackelford County hosted the first courthouse rededication last summer.

Above: The Presidio County Courthouse at its rededication in January 2002.

Left: Grimes County Courthouse, circa 1908.

BRASS CO. COURTHOUSE, **BRASS COUNTY Courthouse,** **BRASS COUNTY**

BRASS CO. COURTHOUSE, **BRASS COUNTY Courthouse,** **BRASS COUNTY**

SUMNER **BRASS COUNTY Courthouse,** **BRASS COUNTY**

BRASS COUNTY Courthouse, **BRASS COUNTY**

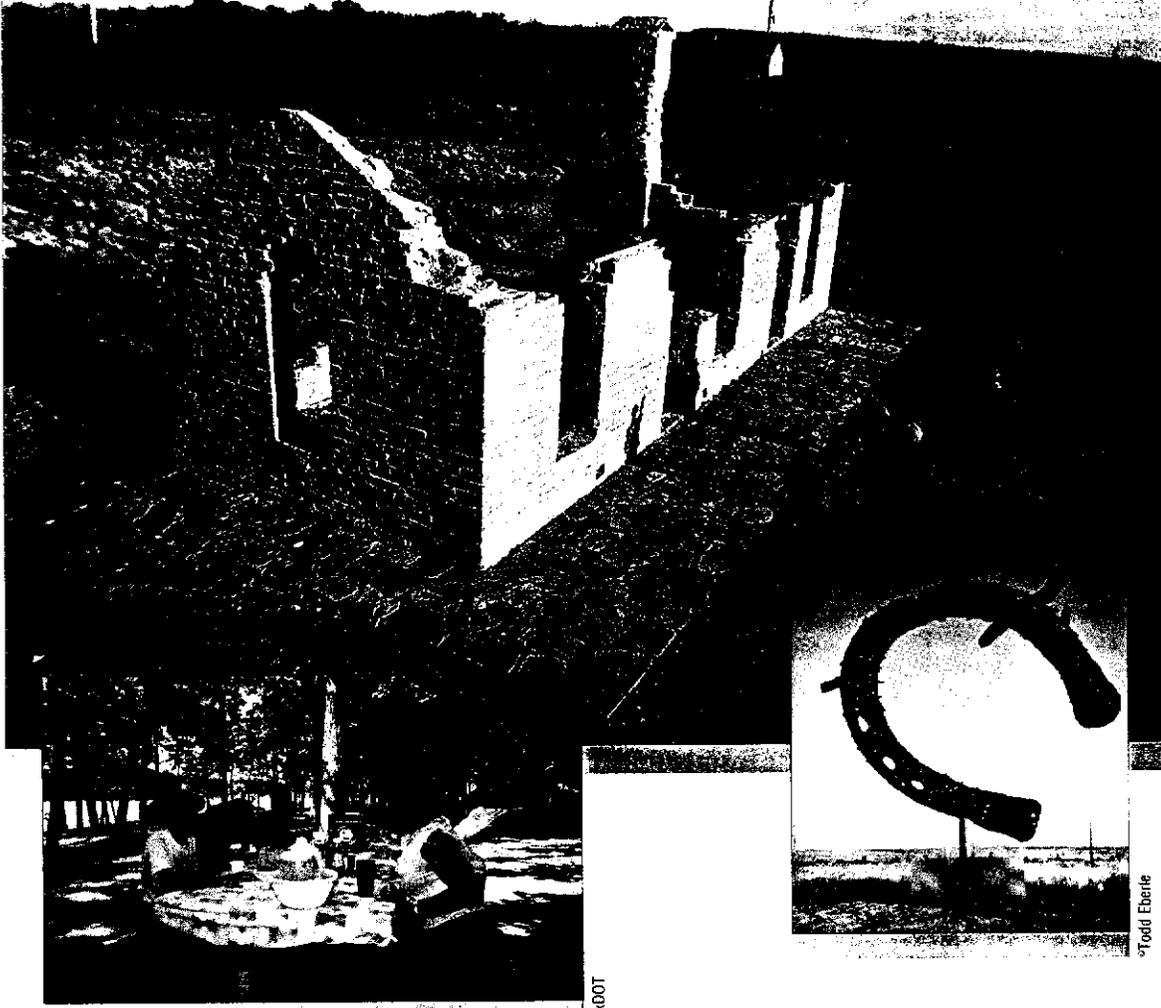
TO BE DETERMINED **BRASS COUNTY Courthouse,** **BRASS COUNTY**

BRASS COUNTY Courthouse, **BRASS COUNTY**



Photo courtesy Marcus H. Mallard

R.W. Parviri



Clockwise:
Onlookers marvel at
the ruins of Fort Griffin
near Albany.

The Claes Oldenburg
and Coosje van Bruggen,
*Monument to the Last
Horse*, is part of the
permanent collection
of the Chinati Foundation
in Marfa.

Picnickers enjoy the
serenity of Sam Houston
National Forest near
Anderson.



TADOT



Todd Eberle

Marfa's Chinati Foundation, a permanent installation by artist Donald Judd, and the historic Paisano Hotel, where the cast of *Giant* stayed while filming the movie in town, are also popular sites. Contact the Marfa Chamber of Commerce at 915/729-2942 or 800/650-9696 or visit www.christophers.net/mcoc for more area information.

Grimes County lost three of its first four courthouses to fire. Following the burning of the fourth courthouse in 1893, only the foundation and fireproof vaults remained. F.S. Glover of Houston designed the present structure, which was completed in May 1894. The hand-molded red brick contrasts with the rusticated stone trim to give this Italianate courthouse a distinctive appearance. Most memorable, though, are the building's exterior frame stairs. Records indicate they were added in 1910. The courthouse, situated at a rise in the middle of two intersecting streets, is prominent in the town of Anderson.

While in Anderson, visit the 1834 Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site, where Sam Houston and other notables are said to have stayed. Nearby Sam Houston National Forest is home to the 128-mile Lone Star Hiking Trail, Lake Livingston and Lake Conroe. Contact the Grimes County Chamber of Commerce at 936/825-6600 or 800/252-6642 or visit www.navasotatex.com for more information on the area.

Texas courthouses are one of the most visible links to the state's history. They show the highlights of the state's architecture and the citizens' initiative.

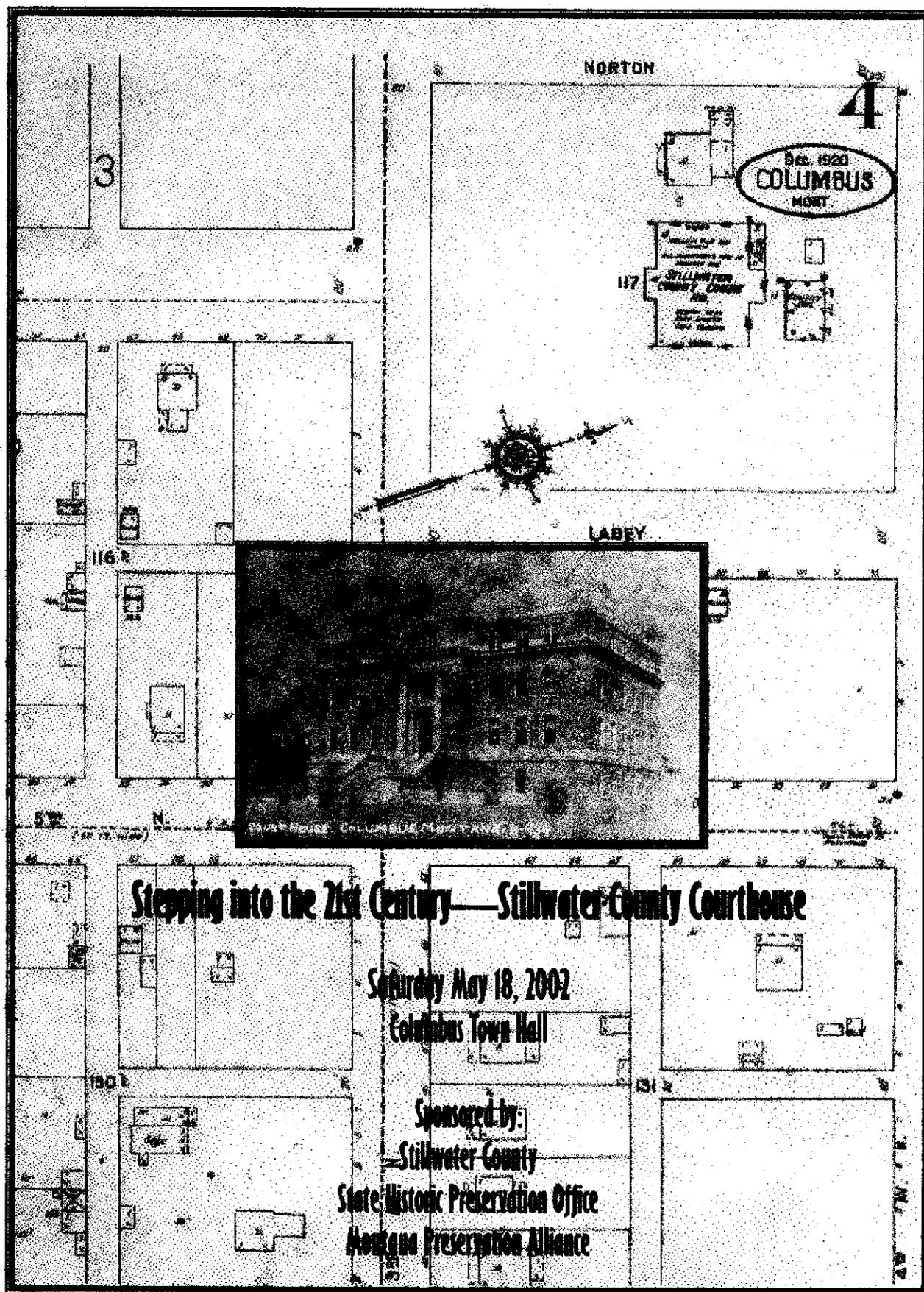
"For the courthouse program to be truly successful, we need the support of all Texans," Oaks said. "Travel to these communities, see the wonderful restorations for yourself and take the spirit of their achievement back to your own community to encourage similar projects."

This article was written by Bob Brinkman, a historian in the THC's History Programs Division.



BUILT IN 1834 BY HENRY FANTHORP AS A HOME FOR HIS BRIDE, RACHEL KENNARD. ENLARGED FOR HOTEL PURPOSES. SERVED AS FIRST MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT AND FIRST POSTOFFICE (1835) IN THE REGION. HEBE KENNETH LEWIS ANDERSON, M.D. - PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, DIED JULY 3, 1845 - STAGE LINES FROM HOUSTON TO OLD SPRINGFIELD AND NACOGDOCHES TO AUSTIN CROSSED HERE.

Erected by the State of Texas



NORTON

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Dec. 1920
COLUMBUS
MORT.

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LABEY

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Stepping into the 21st Century—Stillwater County Courthouse

Saturday May 18, 2002

Columbus Town Hall

Sponsored by:

Stillwater County

State Historic Preservation Office

Montana Preservation Alliance

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