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Contact: John Troesser, [permission@texasescapes .com](mailto:permission@texasescapes.com)

Caldwell County Courthouse

County Seat – Lockhart, Texas
Date of completion - 1894
Architect - Henry E. M. Guidon
Architectural Firm: Giles and Guidon
Contractor: Martin, Byrne & Johnston
Style - Second Empire
Material - Muldoon blue sandstone, with Pecos red sandstone trim



The Texas Historical Commission description states: "Most attribute its design to San Antonio architect Alfred Giles. However, it is more likely that Henri E. M. Guindon [sic] is the architect."

Another entry on the THC website states: "plans were sold to Caldwell County during [a] brief period when Guidon did not work with Giles, same plans subsequently sold to Goliad shortly after Guidon rejoined Giles practice, Giles later ads claimed both Caldwell and Goliad as his."



L - Caldwell County Courthouse in Lockhart, Texas
R - Goliad County Courthouse in Goliad, Texas
1939 photos courtesy TXDOT



The Caldwell County Courthouse as it appeared 1905
Courtesy of Texas Historic Commission



The three story building is constructed mainly from "Muldoon Blue" sandstone quarried in Fayette County. The popular stone was used in many other courthouses and churches across Texas.

Until its recent total restoration the building only went through minor repairs and improvements. In 1969 the building received air conditioning and had an elevator installed. In 1977 the district courtroom was converted to office space, with the then-popular plastic paneling and a dropped ceiling. The following year downspouts were replaced, windows and doors were repaired and the stonework was repointed.

For many years the color scheme was "cream and green." The nearby H.E.B. grocery matched the colors at the request of Lockhart's City Council. The original colors were brought back during the recent restoration.



Metal capitals on the courthouse's east entrance.



South Entrance



Caldwell County Courthouse and courthouse square
Photo courtesy of Paul Turner