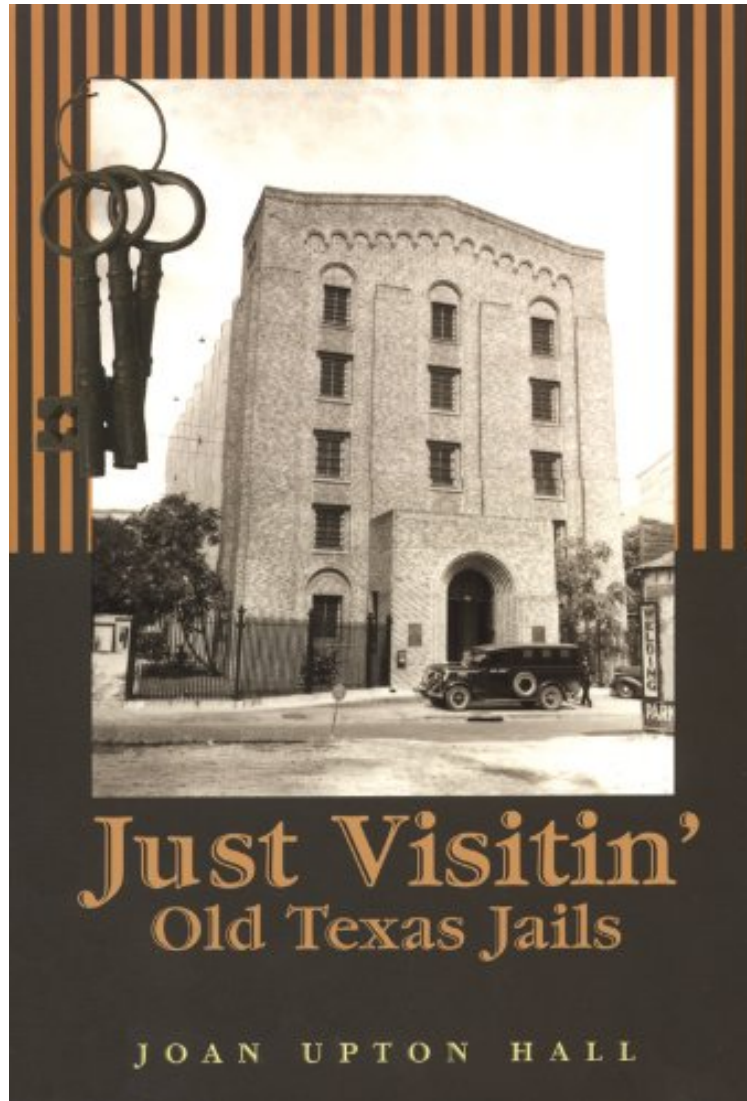


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Just Visitin': Old Texas Jails

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Joan Upton Hall : Just Visitin': Old Texas Jails before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Just Visitin': Old Texas Jails:

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marches through time are churches, forts, houses of ill-repute, and jails! In this book, Joan focuses on old jails in Texas. Just thumb through the book and you take a walk back through a time machine. Smell the sweat and blood, maybe even sometimes the beer breath of the jail's inhabitants, or maybe even of the jailer's, himself. Learn other uses folks have found for such buildings, and then, after you've closed the cover, pick up your Texas map and plan your next family vacation. For Hall's book offers a perfect map. Plot the location of the jails on your road map, pack the kids, and head out to Carthage, and Panola County Jail, or to Hico City Jail, and next to Kirbyville, with other stops along the way. Step back in time and smell the southwest, alive and well--and locked up! But not all jails from our past have held prisoners. Learn those jails who never held even one. Who knew we could learn so much just from studying jails. Only Hall could make these old buildings come alive!

The classic board game, Monopoly, doesn't include a jail in its town for nothing. Jails hold a certain awe for most of us, and in the game or in reality, everyone would rather be "just visiting." Whether you call it "hoosegow," "calaboose," "slammer," or "correctional facility," each jail is a backdrop for the personalities and events of its time and place. Sometimes rustic, often beautiful, the architecture symbolizes each society's brand of justice. Unfortunately, today many stand neglected to the point of ruin, or become relegated to mere storage facilities. Some have even been demolished. But thanks to innovative minds with an appreciation for history, the more than fifty jails featured in this book have realized their potential as town attractions and are ready to show off what they possess. Who isn't curious about the stories a prison's formidable walls could tell? And hearing the stories, don't we also want to see what it's like inside those walls? The buildings that once kept us safe from outlaws now serve us as museums, libraries, restaurants, hotels, and even a home or two. "Just visiting," as the old Monopoly game called it, takes on a more enjoyable meaning as you indulge in a physical or imaginary excursion to the places that interest you most. Located all across Texas and dating back as far as 1850, each has its own style.

"a good book to read . . . a fun book, get a copy and you will enjoy it." -- Mexia Daily News "lively reading." -- BookBeat
About the Author Former English teacher JOAN UPTON HALL is now a freelance author, editor, and speaker. She is a columnist for her county's newspaper and has published articles in magazines as diverse as Texas Highways, American Jails, and The Elegant Texan. Think that's a split personality? Her books run from urban fantasy to her first book of historical non-fiction, Grand Old Texas: Theaters That Won't Quit.