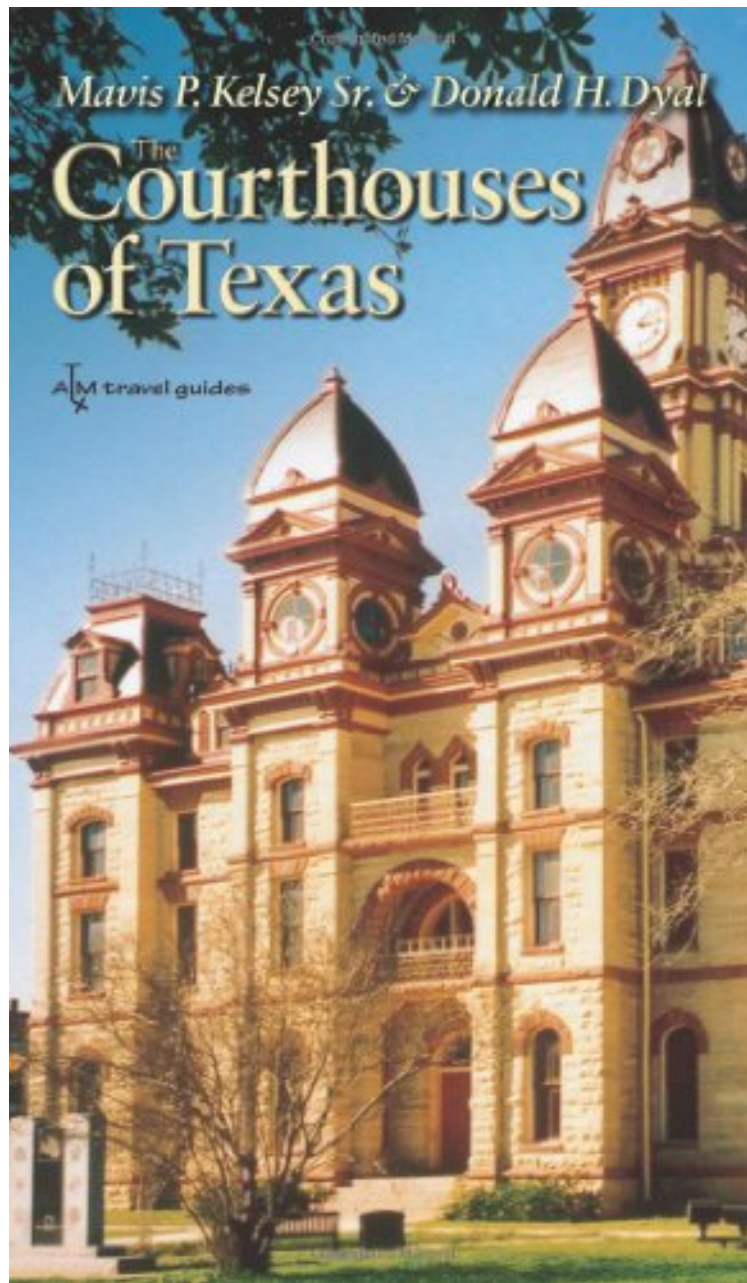


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The Courthouses of Texas

Dr. Mavis P. Kelsey Sr. M.D., Donald H. Dyal
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Dr. Mavis P. Kelsey Sr. M.D., Donald H. Dyal : The Courthouses of Texas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Courthouses of Texas:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Lacking at bestBy Goose Creek PotteryMy wife purchased this for me since I love to photograph the older courthouses around the state and we wanted to plan day trips and weekends to visit as many as we could. The book does dedicate a page to each of the county courthouses and includes an acceptable photograph but that's about it. Most descriptions are very short (year built, architectural style, location, and who it was named for) and lack terribly in detail and interest. The book reads more like a collection of part descriptions and while it does include an image of each they certainly don't capture their beauty from 100 - 300 yards away. These are the homes of our states justice system and in some cases are beautiful examples of true craftsmanship you can't find anymore today. I would hope for at least three shots, two exterior views and one inside to showcase the wood and tile work. Maybe they could have included some interesting facts of the courts years of service, the barristers, or an interesting case tried there. If you're looking for a check list this is the book for you but if you want more I think you will be disappointed. The seller did do a very good job in getting my purchase to me and this has no reflection on them. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Field Guide to Texas CourthousesBy RLThis book stays in my car so I can check off each of the 254 as I visit them. Having the address or intersection listed has been very helpful because some of the courthouses are not on the town square and are not easy to find. I only gave 4 stars because many of the pictures are outdated. So many of the great Texas courthouses have gone through extensive restoration and look so much better than the pictures included in this book. Some are not recognizable from the photos provided because non-historic wings have been demolished and damaged towers have been built back. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's Texas, It's GoodBy Reasonable GuyOther states have some attractive, nice, even "stately" courthouses. Can't believe that any other state could have more "keepers" than does The Great State of Texas....classics--and most are still standing. This book honors them, the architects, the workers, whoever make the courthouses possible. Look who assembled the book. That's a story in itself.

A county courthouse stands not only as the center of government, but also as the center of civic pride. Some with stately towers and arched doors or windows, some with high brick chimneys and mansard roofs, some in modern concrete and glass, the 254 courthouses of Texas provide an invitation to public life, a testament to the ideal of justice, and an introduction to period architecture. It is no wonder, then, that many tourists each year visit these edifices. This new edition of a classic, indispensable, full-color guide a true collectors item for Texas history fans will help travelers choose which courthouses they want to add to their trips and view them knowledgeably. For each county a color photograph pictures the courthouse and an account sketches the sequence of the seats of government, the location and style of the current building, and tidbits of fascinating lore about county and county seat names and history. Courthouses and the squares around many of them offer a bonanza for history buffs, antique collectors, genealogists, architecture enthusiasts, and photographers. Many of them house or are near local history museums, and many display historical markers that introduce the area to visitors. Especially in many smaller county seats, the courthouse square offers a genre scene of a special moment in Texas life. Included in this updated edition are the latest views of some of Texas most historic and architecturally significant courthouses, including those restored under the Texas Historical Commissions Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. For all those who plan their travels to see courthouses, and all those who in their travels for other reasons enjoy detours into the heritage and pride of a people, this beautiful and informative book opens the way.

" . . . a book everyone should keep in the family automobile for handy reference." -- East Texas Historical Journal, Fall 2007
About the Author
DR. MAVIS P. KELSEY SR. is founder and former chief of the renowned Kelsey-Seybold Clinic in Houston. A graduate and distinguished alumnus of both Texas AM University and the University of Texas Medical School at Galveston, he is an avid photographer and local history collector. His 2005 book Engraved Prints of Texas, 1554-1900 has received the Philosophical Society of Texas Award of Merit for 2006. He lives in Houston.
DONALD H. DYAL is Dean of Libraries at Texas Tech University. He holds a Ph.D. in history from Texas AM and is a certified archivist.