

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



102

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School
Other name/site number: Texarkana College, Texas Avenue Jr. High, Pine Street Middle School
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: W. 16th and Pine Streets
City or town: Texarkana State: Texas County: Bowie
Not for publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 2/4/14
Signature of certifying official / Title Date
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register
 other, explain: _____

[Signature] 3/31/2014
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public - Federal |

Category of Property

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 6 | 1 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 6 | 1 | total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: EDUCATION/School=secondary school; EDUCATION/college=junior college

Current Functions: VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification: LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival; MODERN MOVEMENT

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-7 through 7-13)

Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. |
| | B | Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | C | Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. |
| | D | Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. |

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Areas of Significance: Education, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1927–1963

Significant Dates: 1927, 1929, 1930, 1956 and 1961

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked):

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked):

Architect/Builder: Witt, Seibert & Halsey; Reinheimer & Cox

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-14 through 8-22)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-23 through 9-25)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: 3.711 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 33.434910 Longitude: -94.051398

Verbal Boundary Description: The 3.711-acre nominated property is legally described in the Bowie Central Appraisal District records as follows:

Pine Street Addition Lot 1, 4763/338, 11/08/05, 3.711 Acres.

Furthermore, the appraisal district identifies the property with the following Account Number:
18215000200 (82827-1/24654)

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses approximately the eastern third of the large block bound by W. 16th Street, Pine Street, W. 20th Street, and Texas Boulevard.

Boundary Justification: This boundary encompasses nearly all of the remaining historic resources associated with the property and is under private ownership. The campus' historic-age cafeteria and open acreage that was once associated with the campus sit directly west of the nominated property and are under public ownership. Their exclusion from the nomination does not significantly diminish the significance of the remaining resources.

11. Form Prepared By

with assistance from Carlyn Hammons, THC Historian

Name/title: John M. Stone, CCIM, CPM, CIPS, President-Stone Equities Corporation, Managing Partner
Organization: Old School Lofts Joint Venture
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Date: November 2013

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheet Map-26 through Map-30)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-31 through Figure-33)

Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Photographs

Name of Property: Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School
City or Vicinity: Texarkana
County, State: Bowie County, TX
Photographer: Mark N. Patterson (unless otherwise noted)
Date Photographed: November 14, 2013 (unless otherwise noted)
Number of Photos: 13

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0001.tif

The campus as seen from the northeast corner of Pine Street and W. 20th. Visible on the far left is the Texarkana Jr. College (Resource 1, contributing); middle is Texas High School (Resource 2, contributing); and far right is the Rehearsal Hall (Resource 4, contributing). Camera facing approximately southwest.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0002.tif

East (primary) elevation, Texas High School (Resource 2, contributing). Camera facing approximately southwest.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0003.tif

East (primary) elevation, Texas High School (Resource 2, contributing). Camera facing approximately northwest.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0004.tif

Northeast oblique, Rehearsal Hall (Resource 4, contributing). Camera facing approximately southwest.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0005.tif

East (primary) elevation, Auditorium (Resource 3). Camera facing approximately west.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0006.tif

East elevation, Band Hall (Resource 5, contributing). The Auditorium (Resource 3, contributing) is partially visible on right. Camera facing approximately west.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0007.tif

Northwest oblique, Band Hall (Resource 5, contributing). Camera facing southeast. Photo by Jay Woosley A.I.A. on September 7, 2011.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0008.tif

East elevation, Texarkana Jr. College (Resource 1, contributing). Camera facing approximately northwest.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0009.tif

South (primary) elevation, Texarkana Jr. College (Resource 1, contributing). Camera facing approximately northeast.

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TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0010.tif

Detail above primary entry, Texarkana Jr. College (Resource 1, contributing). Camera facing approximately north. Photo by Michael Jordan on September 27, 2011.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0011.tif

North elevation, Chemistry and Biology Building (Resource 6, contributing). Camera facing south.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0012.tif

View looking southwesterly at front entrance Chemistry and Biology Building (Resource 6, contributing). Photo by Jay Woosley A.I.A. on September 7, 2011.

TX_Bowie County_Texarkana Jr College and Texas High School_0013.tif

East elevation of the Office (Resource 7, noncontributing).

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Section 7: Narrative Description

The Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School historic district consists of six contributing buildings and one noncontributing building clustered along the long block of Pine Street between W. 16th and W. 20th streets in Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas. Though now vacant, these buildings served the educational needs of the community as part of the junior college, high school, and junior high systems. Three of the contributing buildings (Texarkana Junior College, Texas High School, and the Auditorium) were designed in the distinguished Classical Revival style by the prominent local architectural firm of Witt, Seibert & Halsey in the late 1920s. The band hall and the chemistry/biology building (both contributing) date from the late 1950s and early 1960s and their modernist designs illustrate the evolution of educational facilities architecture. Other resources include a 1920s residential-scale cottage (contributing) that served a variety of rehearsal-type activities and a 1970s metal office building (noncontributing). Collectively, the buildings comprise a district with a good degree of integrity and convey both historical and architectural significance. The district represents the largest collection of historic school buildings in Texarkana.

Overall Property

The seven nominated school buildings sit on what had been an 11.68-acre campus situated near the geographic center of Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas. The buildings are closely grouped along the east side of the property on approximately 3.7 acres. The remaining acreage of the historic school property are vacant and grassy, except for a cafeteria building, a small outbuilding, and outdoor storage space—all of which are under different ownership than the nominated property. The historic campus overall is bordered by an arterial roadway on the west (Texas Blvd.) and residential streets on the north (W. 20th St.), east (Pine St.) and south (W. 16th St.). Beyond the perimeter, commercial development lies to the north, south and west, and residential areas to the east. This was an active school campus from 1909 to 2002. The nominated buildings now sit vacant.

Resource 1: Texarkana Jr. College Building, 1927, Contributing

The Texarkana Jr. College Building is located on the southeast corner of the campus and faces West 16th Street. Designed to house 200 students, this was Texarkana's first institution of higher learning. The rectangular, two-story, Classical Revival brick building sits on a raised basement. It was designed by the local architectural firm Witt, Seibert & Halsey and constructed in 1927 by J.H. Reddick & Company at a cost of \$14,574.91.¹ The design included an attached gymnasium with seating for 500 persons.

The Texarkana Jr. College Building (later known as the later known as the Texas High School Library-Science Building) represents the campus' most extensive use of the Classical architectural vocabulary. Two monumental Ionic columns stand at the main entrance of the building and accurately replicate their ancient archetype. Fluted shafts with proper entasis and constructed in segments fill their height. These are terminated by Ionic capitals with authentic volutes and corresponding Ionic bases. Supported by these columns is an Ionic entablature with an acroterion in the form of a cartouche featuring an open book. The scale and detail of these components is

¹ Janet Brantley, Ph.D., and Beverly Rowe, Ph.D. *Texarkana College-The First 75 Years 1927-2002*, Self-Published, 17.

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most impressive. Further detailing in this area includes a denticulated pediment and a particularly interesting sculptured lintel depicting ancient knowledge (scroll) and contemporary learning (book and globe) above the entry doors. Additional Classical Revival aspects are evident in two other minor entrances, located on the ends of the rectangular building on the east and west elevations. These also follow the Ionic order, but in proportions that reflect their smaller size. Each is framed by a composition which includes low-relief columns and an entablature crowned with urns presumed to symbolize vessels of knowledge.

Exterior walls are clad in buff-colored brick (laid in Flemish bond) with cast stone window sills, parapet caps, wall bases, and belt course dividing the basement and first level. Completing the exterior of the classroom portion of this building is an Ionic frieze which extends across the front and side elevations, and brick veneer patterns providing finer detail. Interior walls and ceilings have a plaster finish, and pine flooring was used in the classrooms. Suspended acoustical tile ceilings and aluminum windows were later installed in the 1970s as part of a reconditioning effort.

The 23,878 square foot structure rests on a raised basement which housed the building's heating and electrical equipment. A low pressure gas-fired boiler supplied heat to radiators on the floors above and electrical wiring was installed in conduit, a safety improvement over the knob-and-tube method still in use at the time. A steel-reinforced concrete structural system was utilized with floor and roof assemblies of cast-in-place concrete.

The gymnasium facility attaches to the rear classroom section and is accessed from it. Designed to accommodate a basketball court, this is a sizeable space. Its main features are an attractive webbing of arched steel trusses high above the floor which support a cast concrete, steel-reinforced roofing deck, with walls on all sides composed of glazed orange brick. Ample light enters from large window openings along its northern, exterior wall. Tiered bleacher systems are located on the east, south, and west sides of the gymnasium floor with a straight window wall on the north side of the gymnasium wall. This gives each spectator an unobstructed view of the sport activity. Proportion is paramount in Classical design and is evident even in such a non-traditional space as this. The overall effect is expansive, but with a human scale. The integrity of the structural system and condition of the exterior appear to be very good.

Overall, the Texarkana Jr. College Building retains a good degree of integrity. Aluminum frame windows and doors replace the originals, but they fill the original openings, thus retaining the scale and pattern of the originals. Otherwise, the building has seen no major alterations.

Resource 2: Texas High School, 1929, Contributing

The Texas High School building occupies the northeast corner of the campus and faces east towards Pine Street. Also designed by Witt, Seibert & Halsey, the main cornerstone was laid in 1929.² Built by the Oats Building and Construction Company, this 29,442 square foot building consists of two levels and a partial basement. As products of the same architectural firm, both the Texas High School and Texarkana Jr. College have a number of aspects in common, i.e., similar structural systems, wall assemblies, interior finishes and raised basements

² Molly McAlpin and Anna Cain, *Pages from the Past: A History of Texas High School 1889-1989*, (Texarkana, Arkansas: Southwest Printers and Publishers, Inc., 1989), 22.

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containing heating and electrical equipment. Other features repeated on the high school include a buff-colored brick exterior, cast stone window sills, parapet caps, etc., and, in later years, the addition of suspended acoustical tile ceilings and aluminum windows.

The Texas High School Building followed the Texarkana Jr. College building two years later in construction and, though also in the Classical Revival architectural style, it possesses some different characteristics. Whether these variations were intended to contrast it from the previous structure or to represent a change in the architect's sensibilities is not known. Exhibiting a linear, symmetrical plan similar to the classroom portion of the Texarkana College Building, the wings at each end of the Texas High School Building read more as solid mass when viewed from the street; however, inside the "framing" of the solid mass there is a solid brick geometrical design built into the facing of each solid mass so as to present a break in the monotony. Lack of windows here shield the building from the morning eastern sun glare and heat load. Window punctuations across the front of the college structure are repeated on the wings of this building, giving them less contrast with the main body of this building.

At the center, massive engaged masonry columns rise two full stories in height to an entablature above. These columns and entablature, together with an articulated cast stone arch and bas-relief ornamentation define the main entrance. Though less elaborate than previously applied to the College building, this entry facing Pine Street is equally dramatic and formidable. Additional Classical Revival detail is seen in the columns' capitals and bases, and in the Ionic Order of the entablature. Elements of the tripartite entablature, with its denticulated cornice, form a frieze which extends across the front and sides of the building. Patterns in the masonry veneer give further detail to the exterior.

Interior spaces are organized along a corridor that extends the length of the building in an arrangement that reflects the symmetry of the exterior. Vertical circulation is provided by grand open staircases at each end of this corridor on both levels of this two-story building. Treatment of the interior is more utilitarian, having little architectural emphasis.

Aside from the aluminum replacement windows and doors (all of which fill original openings), the exterior appearance is essentially unchanged from its original state and is in good condition, despite some vandalism. The elements contributing to its architectural significance display a high level of artistry and craftsmanship and are well-preserved.

Resource 3: Auditorium, 1930, Contributing

The Auditorium, also referred to as the Texas Public Schools Auditorium, is situated between the Texas High School building (Resource 2) and the Band Hall (Resource 5) and faces east towards Pine Street. This 10,540 square foot building was constructed in 1930 by J.H. Reddick & Company. The Auditorium represents the final building designed by Witt, Seibert & Halsey for the campus and is a fine complement to the collection. Continuing the Classical Revival style and clad in the same buff-colored brick previously used in the Texarkana Jr. College and the Texas High School buildings, it is the main entrance that received the most detail and which also reflects the most diversity. In this instance, the adoption of the Doric Order and the introduction of other

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materials is prevalent and obvious. Otherwise, the auditorium bears much less masonry and cast stone ornamental detail than the college and high school buildings.

The Auditorium is the only one of the three to have a fully-developed portico. The rationale used to justify it includes several factors. First, it represents the building's primary design statement and defines its point of entry. It also reduces the volume and scale inherent in such a structure to human proportions at its most conspicuous location. Finally, it provides protection from the elements to people more likely to congregate in front of this type of facility outdoors during breaks from performances or presentations indoors. A series of stately Doric columns greet visitors as they approach the portico. The decision to deviate from the Ionic Order established by the Texarkana Jr. College and the Texas High School buildings and to adopt a Doric system reveals the architects' awareness of the dictates of Classicism. Historically, the height of a Doric column is proportionately less than the Ionic column, and the dimensions of the portico necessitate the use of shorter columns. A further departure from precedence set by the previous two structures is the use of mortar-filled hollow metal column shapes and a Doric entablature fabricated primarily of wood.

Owing to the concentration of occupant traffic typical of an auditorium, three adjacent entrances are provided. These open to a vestibule with a stairway at each side leading to a balcony above. Three pairs of doors connect the vestibule to a floor-level seating section which slopes downward towards the orchestra pit and stage. It is beyond that floor-level seating section where there is a proscenium stage with wings and an orchestra pit in front of the stage. Tall windows along the sides of the auditorium fill the space with natural light. Like in the other buildings, windows are aluminum frame replacements in the original openings.

The basement only occupies a small area under the stage and proscenium and contains no heating and electrical equipment as in other buildings. Heating was supplied by individual gas-fueled space heaters throughout the building and electrical equipment is located in a wing adjacent to the stage. Wall, ceiling and roof framing are of wood and steel archway joist construction, as are the stage, proscenium arch, balcony, stairs and floors.

As on the college and high school buildings, the original exterior doors and windows were replaced with aluminum framing, again in the original openings. All seating has been removed. Otherwise, the auditorium is fairly intact. Portions of the roof decking have deteriorated, however, exposing the interior to the outside elements. There is a good degree of damage to the interior finishes, but the rest of the building envelope is in good condition and structurally sound. Despite its interior deteriorated condition, the building retains a sufficient degree of integrity.

Resource 4: Rehearsal Hall, constructed 1924, moved to campus in 1925, Contributing

The Rehearsal Hall is located behind and north of the Texas High School (Resource 2) and east of the B.B. Lawson Biology and Chemistry Building (Resource 6), on the north end of the campus. This 2,033 square foot structure was originally constructed as the Walnut Street Church of Christ in 1924. The following year, it was purchased by the Texarkana Independent School District for \$5,000 plus moving expenses³ and relocated from Walnut Street and West 10th Street to Pine Street, midway between the Auditorium site and the Texarkana Jr.

³ McAlpin and Cain, 20.

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College (in front of the current location of the Band Hall). To expedite the move and to facilitate its conversion from a religious to an academic structure, a church-inspired narthex was removed prior to transport and later replaced with a wooden entablature and columns in keeping with other campus buildings at the time. It served as a “chapel” for the Texarkana Jr. College at first, and as a place for religious gatherings such as baccalaureate services and patriotic observances and assemblies. Later it was used by the high school and named the Sousa Damrosch Band Hall. The remodel introduced a sloping floor and two individual practice rooms, storage facilities for uniforms and instruments, an office for the band director, and a larger practice hall. The hall was moved in 1952 to its current location on the campus to make way for the construction of a new, modern Band Hall (Resource 5). It was repurposed as a choir and debate rehearsal hall from 1956 through the late 1960s, and was eventually reconfigured on the inside to serve as the school district’s print shop.

The building is residential in scale and style. Clad in light red brick, the main volume of the house is sheltered by a clipped gable roof. An intersecting gable roof wing (extending east) is also clad in brick, as is a small, shed-roof addition (to the west). The south elevation holds the primary entry—a single wood door sheltered by a bracket-supported porch roof. At some point, its original sloped floor was leveled, resulting in a tiered structured interior. Currently, the floors are surfaced with vinyl composition tile and the walls are finished with drywall. Ceilings are suspended acoustical tile with lay-in fixtures. As with the previous three buildings described, the windows were later replaced with aluminum units.

Though this is the most residential building in overall character and appearance, it does fit into the same historical period as the structures previously described. Its overall appearance identifies it most closely with the Cottage Style architectural genre popular at the time of its construction. Though it features replacement windows and has been moved several times, it shares a close association with history of the school campus and reflects the evolution of educational curriculum at the school. Therefore, it contributes to the overall significance of the property. Additionally, because it was moved to campus prior to the nominated Period of Significance, and because it is part of a complex in which other buildings are more significant, it does not have to meet Criteria Consideration B for moved properties.

Resource 5: Band Hall, 1956, Contributing

The Band Hall was constructed in 1956 and is located between the Auditorium (Resource 3) and the Office Building (Resource 7) with its main entrance facing west towards the campus’ interior, away from Pine Street. It was designed by local architects Reinheimer & Cox and constructed by Dixie Builders, Inc., also of Texarkana, Texas. This single-story building houses a large rehearsal space, small individual practice rooms, faculty offices and a music library. Sliding panel doors allowed a variation of the size in the large room which increased its versatility in use. Its structural system consists of a slab foundation with wood stud walls and steel bar joist roof framing. Heating was provided by gas-fueled space heaters and cooling units on a roof-supplied air-to-rooms via ceiling grilles. The exterior is clad in tan-colored brick with a wood frieze and soffit above, and the original steel doors and windows remain intact. The Band Hall represents the campus’ earliest modernist resource and retains a high level of integrity.

The Band Hall reveals the shift in school planning and construction that took place after World War II. The influence of Modernist architects, which had already gained acceptance in other areas, had begun to work its

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way into school design. This style of architecture was well-suited to public education's new focus then on economy and efficiency. Shedding the ornamentation, grand scale, and rigid symmetrical order of the earlier campus buildings, the Band Hall's unadorned exterior is defined by an irregular floor plan in the Modernist tradition of form following function. Rectangular volumes with uniform rows of windows and low, flat roofs with extended overhangs give the structure a horizontal emphasis. This is an attractive example of 1950s architecture and retains a high degree of integrity.

Resource 6: Biology and Chemistry Building, 1961, Contributing

The B.B. Lawson Biology and Chemistry Building is located at the north end of the campus adjacent to the west end of the Rehearsal Hall (Resource 4) and, in similar siting, south of and parallel to West 20th Street. Constructed in 1961, this 8,512 square foot building housed thoroughly modern laboratories and classrooms for biology, chemistry, and physics instruction and practicum exercises.⁴ Like the 1956 Band Hall, it was designed by local architects Reinheimer & Cox and constructed by Dixie Builders, Inc., also of Texarkana, Texas. The approximate cost was about \$195,000, with science equipment furnished by American Desk Company costing an additional \$20,130 and a total cost for tables and chairs in the building of \$1,910 by American Seating Company.⁵ Its classrooms and service areas are organized around a hub of staff and student spaces. Interior walls are a mix of painted concrete, masonry cinder blocks and wood paneling over wood stud framing. Floor covering is primarily vinyl composition tile, and ceilings consist of suspended acoustical tile with surface-mounted fluorescent fixtures and translucent fiberglass skylights. Heating was furnished by wall-mounted radiant units and operable windows provided cooling by natural ventilation. The exterior is comprised of a blended brick veneer with large expanses of glass and stuccoed roof projections.

The B.B. Lawson Biology and Chemistry Building expands upon the architectural direction of the Band Hall by exhibiting more expressive Modernist elements. Both share a minimalist building envelope, but the Lawson Building is given a more developed main entrance and additional detailing throughout. A bold cantilevered canopy hovers over the entry doors, appearing to rest weightlessly on a wall of glass. This technique is repeated more modestly along the sides and rear of the building. Strong horizontal lines define the exterior silhouette; however, these are visually eased by thin vertical brick accents. Another distinction is the utilization of natural light to a greater degree than any of the prior buildings. Broad openings in the north and south walls are filled with large window assemblies, and skylights further open the interior to the outdoors. Variations of this design prevailed in 1960s school construction and this building serves as a record of that period in history.

Resource 7: Office Building, c. 1970s, Noncontributing

The Office is a conventional metal building erected between the Texarkana Jr. College (Resource 1) and the Band Hall (Resource 5) sometime in the 1970s. Approximately square in plan, its interior spaces are defined by drywall-faced stud walls. Vinyl composition floor tile and suspended acoustical ceiling tile is present throughout. This facility was used for various purposes, including a maintenance office and a day-care center for school personnel. Its later role as a maintenance facility reflects the increasing needs of an expanding

⁴ McAlpin, and Cain, 25.

⁵ Minutes of the Texarkana, Texas Independent School District Board of Education, 1958.

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campus in the care of its older structures, but because it dates from outside the period of significance and does not share the architectural significance of the rest of the campus buildings, it is considered noncontributing.

Evolution of the Campus (Non-extant resources)

The large block of land which exists now (bounded by Texas Blvd., W. 16th, W. 20th, and Pine Street) was originally four separate city blocks. Main Street once bisected it from north to south, while W. 19th Street bisected it from east to west. Until at least the 1930s, portions of these streets (what’s now considered the heart of the “campus”) were lined with small, single family residences. Over time, the campus expanded and the school district purchased these lots. After the buildings were removed, the grassy area was used for marching band practice, sports team practice, and general recreation.

This parcel of land has been used for educational purposes since 1909. The first building erected was the Texas High School, which stood in the southwest quadrant of the current block (now the grassy, open space at the northeast corner of Texas Blvd. and W. 16th St). When the new high school was built in 1929, the former building was used as the Texas Avenue Junior High (later known as the F. Ben Pierce Junior High School). The building was razed in the 1970s. A home economics building was erected next to it in 1924; it was razed in 2010. A large gymnasium, known as Tiger Gymnasium, was constructed in 1952, directly across W. 16th Street, opposite the Junior College building. It was razed in 2010. Several small field houses/locker rooms were located near the practice fields; they were razed in between 2008 and 2011. None of these razed buildings lie within the nominated boundaries.

Table 1: Inventory of Extant Resources

| ID | Resource | Date | Architect | Description | Status | Address on Pine Street |
|----|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Texarkana Jr. College | 1927 | Fred Hancock Halsey | 2 story Classical Revival brick | Contributing | 1601 |
| 2 | Texas High School | 1929 | Fred Hancock Halsey | 2 story Classical Revival brick | Contributing | 1929 |
| 3 | Auditorium | 1930 | Witt, Seibert & Halsey | Classical Revival brick | Contributing | 1915 |
| 4 | Rehearsal Hall | moved to campus in 1925, current location in 1952 | unknown | Brick residential, Cottage style | Contributing | 1949 |
| 5 | Band Hall | 1956 | Reinheimer & Cox | Modernist | Contributing | 1901 |
| 6 | Biology and Chemistry Building | 1961 | Reinheimer & Cox | Modernist | Contributing | 1931 |
| 7 | Office | c. 1970s | unknown | Metal | Noncontributing | 1701 |

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

The Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School historic district is a landmark property one mile north of the Central Business District near the middle of the north-south configuration of Texarkana, Texas, but just seven blocks west of the state line of Texas and Arkansas on West 20th Street, and includes a total of seven buildings of varying architectural styles and functions. In addition to housing the region's premiere junior college for more than a quarter-century, it also served the as the city's primary high school from 1929 to 1968, with an all-white student body until the integration of the city's schools in 1968. It is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A, in the area of Education, for its central role in the public education of Texarkana's youth, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as an excellent example of Classical Revival and modernist institutional buildings which have stood the test of time and architectural appeal in the center of Texarkana. The completion of these buildings was a high point in the school district's plan to modernize its school system to keep apace of the city's rapid population growth and—by founding a junior college—to enlarge the scope of education offered to the community. The district contains the oldest extant public school buildings in Texarkana and represents the largest collection of historic public school buildings in the city, as well. Its period of significance spans the era from 1927, which corresponds to the date of construction of the junior college, to 1963, the fifty-year limit for National Register eligibility.

Overview of Texarkana, Texas, through the Period of Significance⁶

Texarkana straddles the Texas-Arkansas state line in extreme northeastern Texas, not far from the northernmost region of Louisiana. The Texas side of town sits in Bowie County, while the Arkansas side sits in Miller County. The town was established in 1873 at the site where two major rail lines met. The Cairo and Fulton Railroad built west from Arkansas, and the Texas and Pacific Railway built westward from within Texas. The T & P Railway Company laid out the Texas side of the town, and State Line Avenue, which bisected the city, was laid out directly along the state border. Other railway companies soon followed, eventually placing Texarkana at the juncture of multiple railroads with access to every part of the United States. The city thrived and became a major market center, industrial center, and shipping point serving the surrounding three-state area.

By 1900, the Texas side boasted a population of just over 5,000 residents, or nearly 20% of the county's entire population. By 1930, that number had more than tripled, with most of the population working for one of the numerous railroads or processing agricultural products. The economy suffered during the Great Depression, but was bolstered in the early 1940s when the Red River Army Depot and the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant were constructed just west of town, putting thousands to work. Downtown at Union Station, large numbers of troop trains passed through frequently, shipping materials and personnel in the war and stopping to refuel and restock supplies. The city's strategic location at the juncture of numerous railways made it one of the major rail centers in the greater Southwest, and by 1952, the Texas-side population neared 25,000. The economy became less dependent on agricultural products as the economy began to shift more towards industrial manufacturing. In

⁶ The following two paragraphs are adapted from the following: "TEXARKANA, TX," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdt02>), accessed October 29, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association; and Cecil Harper, Jr., "BOWIE COUNTY," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcb11>), accessed October 29, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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1970, the population was approximately 30,500 and the city served as a transportation, commercial, and industrial center for the region, as well as an educational, cultural, and medical hub. Commercially, Texarkana functions as one city, but politically consists of two separate municipalities.

Early Education in Texarkana

Like many newly established towns, the earliest educational efforts in Texarkana were likely carried out at home, or at private or church-affiliated schools. The 1885 Sanborn map, the first to be created for Texarkana, indicates a small brick school on City Block 9, near the intersection of Spruce and Forest streets, though there is no indication as to whether the institution was a public or private endeavor. In about 1890, Texarkana formally organized a municipal school district.⁷ It graduated only three seniors in its first graduating class of 1890 – Eugenie Reid, Nina Trigg and Jack Trigg. At that time, Texas High School's campus was located near downtown Texarkana, Texas, between West 6th and West 7th Streets on Spruce Street (City Block 45) and opened its doors to Grades 7-11. The wood frame building had a "dog-trot" central hallway, with classrooms on either side of it.⁸ This frame building is indicated several years later on the 1896 Sanborn map as the "School Annex" and sat directly behind the large two-story, brick Central Public School, which was likely erected in 1894.⁹

In the early 1900s, the growth of the city was so substantial and rapid that the school board realized that a newer and more modern high school was necessary and competition set in at three different sites to house the school. Those areas were the property of R.L. Henry on Rose Hill; the property of John S. Casey on Maple Street (later renamed Texas Avenue and now Texas Boulevard) at West 16th Street; and the Spruce Street property of J.J. and P.G. Henry. Before deciding on the final site, the school board awaited approval of the Texas State Attorney General for the bonds to build the new school campus; during this interim period, the school board elicited public opinion favoring one site above the others, which set in motion a fierce competition.

Finally, the school board sent out post card ballots to voters to decide the site's location. Casey's property won and on March 10, 1909, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Casey sold their site for the new school for \$7,000, followed on January 5, 1912, with five additional nearby lots sold to the district for \$1,500. The second building for Texas High was a magnificent building at the northeast corner of Texas Avenue (later known as Texas Boulevard) and West 16th Street. Over the years, additional purchases would eventually add up to four city blocks. The school plant here soon became the epicenter of educational activity in Texarkana, Texas, and was known for decades as the "School Quadrangle."¹⁰

Completed in 1909, the high school was considered "state-of-the-art" for a small town in Texas.¹¹ The impressively sized building was of masonry construction and stood two stories tall on a partially raised basement. With steam heating and electric lights to supplement ample natural light available through the windows, the school building was thoroughly modern. A gymnasium and auditorium were integrally contained

⁷ The municipal and school affairs were separated in 1926 when the Texarkana Independent School District was incorporated.

⁸ McAlpin and Cain, 18-19.

⁹ C. Clyde Mitchell, "An Administrative Survey of Texarkana, Texas, Public Schools" (master's thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1941), 49.

¹⁰ Mitchell, 47.

¹¹ McAlpin and Cain, 18-23. This building was razed in the 1970s.

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within the building, as was a large wood-working and industrial arts shop, reflecting educational trends of the time.

During World War I, Texas High held assemblies where students bade goodbye to all those going off to World War I. Students worked the Canteen at Union Station (the shortest railroad route across the United States for shipping military personnel was through Texarkana), they worked with the Red Cross, and they bought and sold War Bonds. The Tiger Yearbook of 1919 was dedicated to the Texas High students serving in the World War. After they came back from the war, the students who served were more independent, observers said.¹²

This 1909 building served the educational needs of Texarkana's high school students until 1924, when a second building was constructed just east of the building. The one-room, U-shaped, red brick building with a red tiled roof was built to house the home economics department, and was a gift to the school district from Mrs. Noah Sanderson. Just one year later, the former Walnut Street Church of Christ sanctuary (Resource #4) was purchased for \$5,000 plus moving costs and was set up on the eastern perimeter of the campus (near what is now the Band Hall, Resource #5), where it was known as the Sousa Damrosch Band Hall. It was used for many years as both a band hall and choir practice hall. This band/choir hall is the only resource from this early era of the campus that still stands, albeit in a different location. The original high school building was demolished in the 1970s, while the home economics cottage was razed in 2010; neither stood within the boundaries of the current nominated property.

Texarkana Jr. College Joins the Campus

In 1927, another educational building was added to the campus, directly east of the Texas High School's Home Economics Cottage along W. 16th Street. This new college germinated from an idea of the Texarkana, Texas, Independent School District's Superintendent, Henry Wesley Stilwell, Ph.D. In January 1926, the Texarkana City Council formally endorsed the idea, with architectural renderings and bond issues afoot to bring the dream to reality. At first, it was pondered as a branch of the University of Texas at Austin, but eventually, it was resolved as a community-based junior college. The cornerstone was dedicated for Texarkana Jr. College and ground-breaking ceremonies were in May 1927 with construction completed to the extent that its first class day was September 20 that same year. Its cornerstone was dedicated by Border Lodge 572 of the Free Masons, with full Masonic rites, with several prominent people, including Dr. Stilwell, clad in their full Masonic attire for the ceremonies. In keeping with Masonic tradition, the cornerstone was laid at the northeast corner of the building. Plans and specifications were formulated by Fred H. Halsey, AIA, of the Texarkana architectural firm of Witt, Seibert & Halsey, with construction completed by the J.H. Reddick of Texarkana after the first contractor was unable to complete the job. The building cost \$14,574.91, with close scrutiny throughout the construction process. The building included classrooms, science laboratories, offices, and a gymnasium.¹³

Eighty students entered this new collegiate phase of their lives on Texarkana Jr. College's first day, September 20, 1927. The tuition was \$150 per year per student, with an additional \$50 per year from students living outside the Texarkana, Texas, Independent School District.¹⁴ By May 1928, its first graduates had left its

¹² "World War I and Its Effects on Texas High School," by Laura Homan, in Molly McAlpin and Anna Cain, *Pages from the Past: A History of Texas High School 1889-1989*, (Texarkana, Arkansas: Southwest Printers and Publishers, Inc., 1989).

¹³ Brantley and Rowe, 1-9.

¹⁴ Brantley and Rowe, 2-6.

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portals. The first eight graduates on May 31, 1928, included students who had transferred into Texarkana College from institutions such as the College of Industrial Arts (nka the University of North Texas) in Denton, Texas; the University of Texas in Austin, Texas; Baylor College (nka Baylor University) in Waco, Texas; Ouachita College (nka Ouachita Baptist University) in Arkadelphia, Arkansas; Carr Burdette College for Women of Sherman, Texas; East Texas State Teachers College (nka Texas A&M University in Commerce and in Texarkana); University of Colorado; and Simmons College of Boston, Massachusetts. Its commencement was held inside the Texas High School auditorium next door.¹⁵

During the depression of the 1930s, the school district allowed young men to pay for their college tuition by performing maintenance work on the campus' buildings during the summers. In exchange for tuition, these students repainted the college, high school, and junior high facilities and built a rock-lined covered passageway from the main high school building to the auditorium. The program allowed at least twenty-six young men to attend college who likely would not have been able to do so otherwise and also offered a tremendous cost-savings to the district during difficult times.¹⁶

Until the early 1950s, the college was owned and operated under the auspices of the school district rather than as a separate entity. Stilwell served simultaneously as the first Texarkana Jr. College president as well as the school district's superintendent. The high school and junior college shared facilities, as well, particularly the auditorium and the Sousa Damrosch Band Hall. In addition to use for band and choir practice, the hall served as a chapel for college for baccalaureate services for graduating classes and for vespers services for the college and high school students.

A New Texas High School and Auditorium

By the mid-1920s, the 1909 high school began to get too crowded and the building no longer served the educational needs of its students. In fact, by 1929, there were 756 students enrolled at the high school, an increase of nearly 92% from 1910. The three elementary schools faced similar overcrowded conditions. This congestion at the existing schools, coupled with nationwide educational reforms which advocated strongly for the creation of junior high schools to ease students' transitions from elementary school to high school, prompted the school district to explore not only building a new high school, but also a reorganization of the system to include a junior high.¹⁷

Land was assembled immediately north of the then current high school for the next "leap forward" for the Texarkana, Texas ISD. The campus' immediate area was still on the fringe of development of the city then in a northerly direction, so land was still reasonable in cost. The Trigg family of Texarkana came through with additional land making the expansion possible. In fact, Nina Trigg, one of the first three graduates of Texas High in 1890, sold some of the expansion land to the school district facing Texas Avenue, making it possible for the school district to embark on new building programs.

¹⁵ Brantley and Rowe, 2-6. The "auditorium" next door was, in fact, the Sousa Damrosch Building (Rehearsal Hall, Resource 4) which had been moved to campus several years earlier. The building doubled as an auditorium for both the college and the high school until the new auditorium (Resource 3) opened in 1930.

¹⁶ Mitchell, 43.

¹⁷ Pierce, Frank Benjamin, "A Critical Study of the Texarkana, Texas, Junior High School," Master's Thesis, University of Texas (Austin, 1932), 22-25.

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Construction began on the new high school in 1929, leaving the older buildings to be consolidated into the ever-expanding campus. In fact, the 1909 high school building was repurposed as a junior high school—the first ever for Texarkana, Texas. It operated first under the name of Texas Avenue Junior High School and later under the name of F. Ben Pierce Junior High, remaining in such usage until the 1970s, when it was demolished.

The construction of the new high school and the stand-alone auditorium along Pine Street expanded the campus all the way to the eastern periphery of The Quadrangle. Both buildings were designed by the local architectural firm of Witt, Siebert & Halsey. The high school was constructed by Oats Building and Construction Company, while the Auditorium was constructed by J.H. Reddick Construction Company. When complete, the campus served the entire junior high, senior high, and junior college student population of Texarkana, Texas. The 1930 graduating class from both Texas High and also Texarkana Jr. College were the first from each institution to use the new auditorium building for its class graduation ceremonies. It continued to serve this function for several decades, in addition to assemblies, drama productions, and various public events for the college, high school, junior high school and even other public school events, making it a hub of community activity.

The construction of the new facilities coincided, of course, with the Great Depression, during which Texas High School continued to serve as a dominant focal point of community life on the Texas-side of Texarkana. In those days, most students at Texas High were prohibited by the economic circumstances of the country from attending colleges or universities, so “this is it” was the realization of most students as to where their formal education would end. School supplies were tightly-rationed to the teachers, and building and grounds maintenance practices were curtailed to save money. Football and basketball uniforms were less than desirable because of a lack of funding revenues during the Depression, but high school sports and band tours were the dominant social activities and remained the source of memories for years by students in that era.¹⁸

During World War II, discussions about the war dominated civic and history classes and influenced dramatic productions, debate topics, and newspaper articles at Texas High. While in physical education classes, students were taught how to march and perform other military training activities to “acclimate them” to the upcoming war activities that all felt certain were about to envelope the world, and manual training and industrial arts classes were set up oriented towards teaching skills for craftsmen that would be helpful in the war effort. Rationing began, so most students walked or rode the bus to school, with some carpooling. Due to paper rationing no Tiger Yearbook was published during the 1942-1943 school year. Students led war bond and war stamp drives on campus and around town to raise money for the war effort.¹⁹

In the mid-1940s, various buildings were added to the overall campus, such as an ROTC Armory, with a building housing the ROTC functions and a single-story wood frame Veterans’ Building, housing offices and classrooms for returning veterans who had not yet graduated from high school before going off to war. None of these buildings still stand. The auditorium, band hall, home economics cottage, and the college gymnasium continued to be used by all three schools on the campus.

¹⁸ “The Great Depression or 1934-1935: A Year in the Life,” by Amy Reed in Molly McAlpin and Anna Cain, *Pages from the Past: A History of Texas High School 1889-1989*, (Texarkana, Arkansas: Southwest Printers and Publishers, Inc., 1989).

¹⁹ “Texas High School During World War II,” by Greg Shumake, in Molly McAlpin and Anna Cain, *Pages from the Past: A History of Texas High School 1889-1989*, (Texarkana, Arkansas: Southwest Printers and Publishers, Inc., 1989).

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The campus' expansion during this period was overseen by superintendent Dr. Henry Stillwell, a prominent figure in education. He served as president of the Texas State Teachers Association in 1932-1933 and later was the longtime chairman of the association's legislative committee. One of the committee's earliest accomplishments was the establishment of the Texas State Teachers Retirement Fund still in existence today. In the 1940s Stilwell was among 130 school superintendents appointed by Governor O'Daniel to the O'Daniel Committee on Reorganization of Schools and subsequently served on the Gilmer-Aiken Commission, where he worked for legislative approval of the 1949 Gilmer-Aiken Laws, which included the reorganization of school administration and financing and represented some of the most significant changes made in Texas schools in the 20th century.²⁰

Growth and Changes in the 1950s

The College grew slowly from its initial enrollment in 1927 until the end of World War II, when it became evident that returning veterans required an enlarged campus and building facilities. The GI Bill education benefits were spurring enrollment past the capacity of the college building to accommodate the returning veterans becoming college students. Acreage was purchased at the northeast corner of Tucker Street and North Robison Road. Construction there of new buildings began in 1950, and in 1953, Texarkana Jr. College relocated to the site with 589 enrolled students.²¹ In 1957, the school board divested itself completely of Texarkana Jr. College and created a separate Board of Trustees for it. From that point forward, the College was "on its own" and no longer part of the Texarkana, Texas Independent School District.²² Dr. Stilwell went on as president of Texarkana Jr. College, as post he held until his death in 1959, while the school system hired a new superintendent. The original college building on the Quadrangle remained owned by the school district, which used it as a Library-Science Building for both the junior and senior high school students.²³

The main campus of Texas High, then, during the 1950s and 1960s saw the layout as having the Main Building housing the offices, English and foreign languages, math, civics and history classes, while the Library-Science Building housed science, Latin, additional math classes, vocational education, and the high school's library. In 1953, the school district added a modern gymnasium to the campus, directly south of the former college building. Known as Tiger Gym, the two-story brick and glass building cost \$240,000 and featured one of the most functional designs in the State of Texas at that time, having almost 3,000 collapsible seats with beautiful maple flooring on the basketball court which was readily adaptable to many other sports. (The gym was razed in 2010; it was not located within the boundaries of the nominated property.)

Around this time, the former Sousa Damrosch Band Hall (Resource 4) was relocated to its current location, just north and west of the 1929 Texas High School building along W. 20th Street. This made way for a brand new,

²⁰ Debbie Mauldin Cottrell, "Stilwell, Henry Wesley," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fstcp>), accessed November 04, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

²¹ Texarkana Jr. College served only white students until 1963. Local African Americans, with assistance from the NAACP, filed suit repeatedly against the college in the early 1950s to gain entry. Many protests and other demonstrations took place, but it appears that most of these, including a high profile demonstration in 1956, occurred after the college had vacated the nominated campus and relocated to the new campus across town. For a greater discussion of the integration of Texarkana Jr. College, see Amilcar Shabazz, *Advancing Democracy: African Americans and the Struggle for Access and Equity in Higher Education in Texas* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), pages 180-187.

²² From <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/about-texarkana-college/annexation/frequently-asked-questions>.

²³ McAlpin and Cain, 24-25.

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larger Band Hall (Resource 5) complete with individual practice rooms, a music library, and a large rehearsal hall. It was designed by local architects Reinheimer & Cox and constructed by Dixie Builders, Inc., also of Texarkana, Texas. Built contemporaneously with the band hall was a one-story, brick cafeteria building. (Though this building still stands, it is under different ownership than the remainder of the campus buildings and is not included within the boundaries of this nomination.) In 1961 a new B.B. Lawson Science Building was added as a one-story brick building for chemistry, physics and biology labs and classrooms and offices, at a cost of approximately \$190,000.²⁴ The construction of this building was a result of an unsatisfactory survey conducted by consultants from the Texas Education Agency in 1958, as well as consultants from the University of Texas in 1959, both of which found the high school to be lacking in adequate facilities for the instruction of physics, chemistry, and biology to modern standards.²⁵

With the expansive new campus, Texas High students had a lot of walking to do, most of which was accomplished through an elaborate system of covered sidewalks with sidewalls of rock and brick to shield against rain and with pitched roofs to remove water efficiently. These connectors resembled what they became to be known as to teachers, administrators and students—"the Tunnels"—even though they were all above-ground. None of the "tunnels" historic rockwork remains on the campus. Sidewalks (some, not all) are now covered by more modern canopies consisting of metal roofs set on slender metal posts.

By the mid- to late-1960s, enrollment rose to 1,343 students, far more than Texas High School was designed to accommodate. Much of this growth can be attributed to the Baby Boomer generation. In 1968, a new Texas High School was built in another part of town. Its buildings were converted to use as the Pine Street Middle School, and the old 1909 high school which had been used most recently as the junior high, was razed by the early 1970s. The campus operated as Pine Street Middle School until 2002, at which time the school district ceased using the campus buildings for education purposes entirely. The remaining buildings, save for the cafeteria, were purchased by the current property owner in 2005 and they have stood vacant ever since.

Public School Segregation during the Period of Significance

Throughout the Period of Significance, this campus served only the white students of the Texarkana, Texas, public school system; desegregation in the system did not take place until 1968. Educational efforts for the African American population began shortly before the turn of the century, however, at a school organized in the Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Fourth and Elm Streets with Professor Dilliard as principal. Mrs. Dilliard was the assistant. The population grew so fast that school authorities decided that it would be necessary to seek a permanent site for the location of the school. The site on West 7th and Elm Streets was purchased by school authorities and a school facing West Sixth Street was built with a Professor Williams as principal. During his tenure of office, the school was known as Central. Later, in approximately 1916, under the leadership of Professor B.A. Jackson, the school's name was changed to Dunbar to avoid confusion with the Central School that served the white students of Texarkana, Texas.²⁶ Then, a new school was constructed at the same location during 1920 to house a growing enrollment. Earnest Bell, a former teacher there, remembered that its primary

²⁴ Minutes of an Official Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Texarkana Independent School District, October 27, 1960.

²⁵ A full discussion of these investigations, and the resulting recommendations and solutions can be found in Dale Elmo Howard, "Design for a Long-Range Development of a Local School District," Doctoral Dissertation, University of Texas, Austin, 1962.

²⁶ www.dunbarfreshmanclass68.org/history/dfc_history-1.html

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problem ensued from its close location to Swampoodle Creek, prone to flooding in rainy weather. Often students would lose half a day of teaching from the interruption of their building being flooded.

In 1953, the Texarkana, Texas, Independent School District built an entirely new high school campus for Dunbar High School housing an indoor gymnasium, a cafeteria and many more classrooms on West Tenth Street and Apple Streets. Bell recalled that “It was literally a dream come true,” after he had taught at the older school. Dunbar High School, located in the heart of the black community on the Texas-side of Texarkana, was still a relatively new structure when the U.S. Supreme Court’s desegregation order came down. The 1950s and 1960s saw a lot of undercurrent change simultaneously in the Texarkana, Texas ISD. Desegregation and population growth were the two overwhelming social issues impacting the school system.

Dunbar served as a societal framework, along with the churches, of the black community in Texarkana during the years of segregation, just as Texas High served as a societal framework, along with the churches, for the white community in Texarkana during the years of segregation. These were two parallel universes for their inhabitants during those years because the separation of races was reinforced throughout the rest of society under the laws of segregation, which applied to more than just the schools. Desegregation began in the Texarkana, Texas, Independent School District in 1968, when the “new Texas High” was opened at the N.W. Corner of Summerhill Road and Kennedy Lane. As a result, Dunbar High School closed and its students were routed to the “new Texas High” to attend classes together with the white students. Later, the campus formerly housing both Texas High and Texarkana College became utilized as Pine Street Middle, and Dunbar High School was remodeled and reopened as an elementary school.

Summary of Significance

The nominated property chronicles architecture’s response on a local level to changing priorities in public education across the United States from the 1920s through the 1960s. The earliest structures in this group are monumental edifices symbolizing the reverence for education widely held at the time. Nationwide, cities constructed high-style civic and institutional buildings prior to World War II, and the design of monumental high school buildings was common.²⁷ As this notion gradually faded and the educational system became more focused on efficiency, later structures on the campus reflected this change.

The three earliest buildings constructed represent some of the city’s best surviving examples of Classical Revival design, as well as the commissioned work of the region’s most prominent architectural firm. These notable works by the early Texarkana architectural firm of Witt, Seibert & Halsey include the Texarkana Jr. College, built in 1927, the Texas High School, built in 1929, and the Auditorium, built in 1930. Witt, Seibert & Halsey was one of the most prominent architecture firms in Texarkana during the first few decades of the twentieth century. Bayard Witt and Eugene C. Seibert formed Witt & Seibert in 1908. In 1912, Fred H. Halsey joined the firm and it was renamed Witt, Seibert, & Halsey. The partners practiced together until 1937 when Eugene Seibert went into practice on his own, followed by Halsey who took a leave of absence, joining the Farm Security Administration during the ending days of the Great Depression before returning to Texarkana after the war. The firm designed residences for some of Texarkana’s most influential families, including several in the prominent Beech Street Historic District (NR, 2004) and Quality Hill neighborhood. The firm also worked on numerous public and commercial buildings in Texarkana, including the Texarkana, Arkansas,

²⁷ Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945*, (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993), 94-97.

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Municipal Building (NR, 2004), the U.S. Post Office and Court House (NR, 2000), parts of the Buhrman—Pharr Hardware Company complex (NR, 2004), the Mullins Court Apartments (NR, 2007), and the Jamison Building (RTHL, 1983). The firm also designed the impressive 1929 Ben and Jane Collins Home for Retired Women directly across Pine Street. The Witt, Seibert & Halsey firm worked throughout the greater Texarkana region and secured commissions throughout Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana for residences, churches, county courthouses, and commercial buildings. The fact that the school district contracted with such an esteemed architectural firm for the new campus buildings reflects the importance they placed on providing high-quality facilities for the students.

Several smaller and less ornate structures followed in the 1950s and 1960s. These are reflective of their eras and stand as significant buildings in response to the earlier Classical Revival design structures. Designed by Reinheimer & Cox in the decades that the property was purposed in response to evolving educational objectives and the economic wherewithal of the school district's taxpayers, they include the Band Hall Building, built in 1956 with a Modernist architectural theme; and the B.B. Lawson Biology and Chemistry Building, built in 1961 with a Modernist architectural theme. The Rehearsal Hall, built in 1924 originally as a church house, but converted continuously for education purposes also illustrates the trend in educational curriculum on campus.

The six historic school buildings along Pine Street are all that remain of the once-busy Quadrangle. At one time composed of four city blocks, this campus once dominated the entire city's school plant. While elementary students were served by various neighborhood schools, nearly all higher education took place here from 1909 through 1968. Located at the town's approximate population center, and of high-quality construction, these buildings represented the commitment of the people of Texarkana to a highly educated citizenry. From 1929 to 1953, a student could enroll at the campus as a junior high student and continue his studies until completing a two-year college degree. Because the junior high, high school, and college shared certain facilities as well as geographic location, transitions between grades were the least disruptive possible. The addition of new buildings is reflective of the school district's response to local demographic changes, as well as to trends in educational theory and reform.

The Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School historic district is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture at the local level of significance. The period of significance begins in 1927, which is when construction began at the junior college building, and ends in 1963, the fifty year limit for National Register eligibility.²⁸

²⁸ Though the original construction date for Resource 4 (Rehearsal Hall/Cottage) is likely 1924, and although it was moved to campus in approximately 1925, these dates were not selected as the beginning of the period of significance because the building is considered of secondary significance when compared to the others due to both its ancillary functions and its multiple relocations.

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- McQueen, Mary. Former employee at Texarkana Jr. College. Graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, Texarkana, Texarkana Jr. College. Personal Communications with John M. Stone, CCIM, CPM, CIPS, 2012-2013.
- Morris, Dr. Jane, Former Professor and Member of Bowie County Historical Commission, New Boston, Texas. Personal Communications with John M. Stone, CCIM, CPM, CIPS, 2011-2012.

Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Morriss, Donald N., CPCU, AAI. President, F.W. Offenhauser & Co., Inc., Insurance, Former President, Texarkana Chamber of Commerce and Texas Independent Insurance Agents Association and Texas Insurance Association. Personal Communications with John M. Stone, CCIM, CPM, CIPS, 2005-2011.

Powell, Jim, Former Reporter, *Texarkana Gazette* and Former Manager, Bi-State Justice Center of Texarkana, Texas, Personal Communications with John M. Stone, CCIM, CPM, CIPS, 2004-2011.

Powell, Larry R., Former Reporter, *Texarkana Gazette*, *Tyler Morning-Telegraph*, *Fort Worth Daily News* (now defunct), *Dallas Times Herald* (now defunct) and *Dallas Morning News* and Former Metro Section Editor and Columnist, *Dallas Morning News*, Current free-lance writer with clients such as *Urban Animal Magazine* and Hunt Oil Company, Dallas. Personal Communications with John M. Stone, CCIM, CPM, CIPS, 2010-2011.

George, Robert. Principal, ASC Roofing & Construction, Inc., Little Rock, Arkansas. Personal Communications with John M. Stone, CCIM, CPM, CIPS, 2009-2012.

Simmons, Jamie, Curator, Texarkana Museums System, Texarkana, Texas. Personal Communication with Jay D. Woosley, AIA, July 28, 2011.

Stone, John M., CCIM, CPM, CIPS, President, Stone Equities Corporation, Managing Partner of Old School Lofts Joint Venture. Personal Communications with Jay D. Woosley, AIA, October 7, 2011, and various other times.

Williams, Henry (Hank). Former Announcer of Disk Jockey at Radio Station KVET-AM and FM, Austin, Texas, and grandson of Henry W. Stilwell, Ph.D. Personal Communications with John M. Stone, CCIM, CPM, CIPS, 1958-2012.

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Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

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Maps:

MTG Engineers, Inc., Texarkana, Texas. Various dated Surveys. 2005 to date.

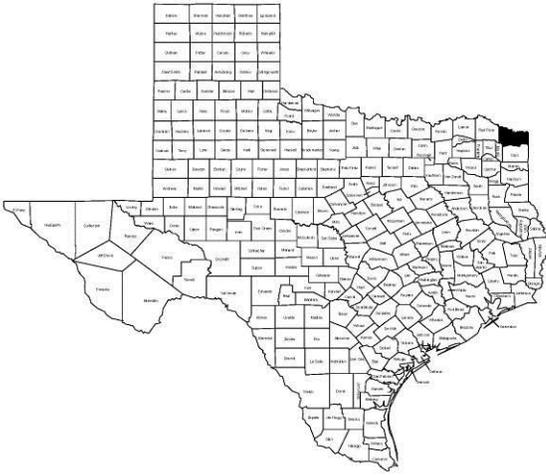
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

Site to Do Business, CCIM Institute, Chicago and Dallas. Circa 2010.

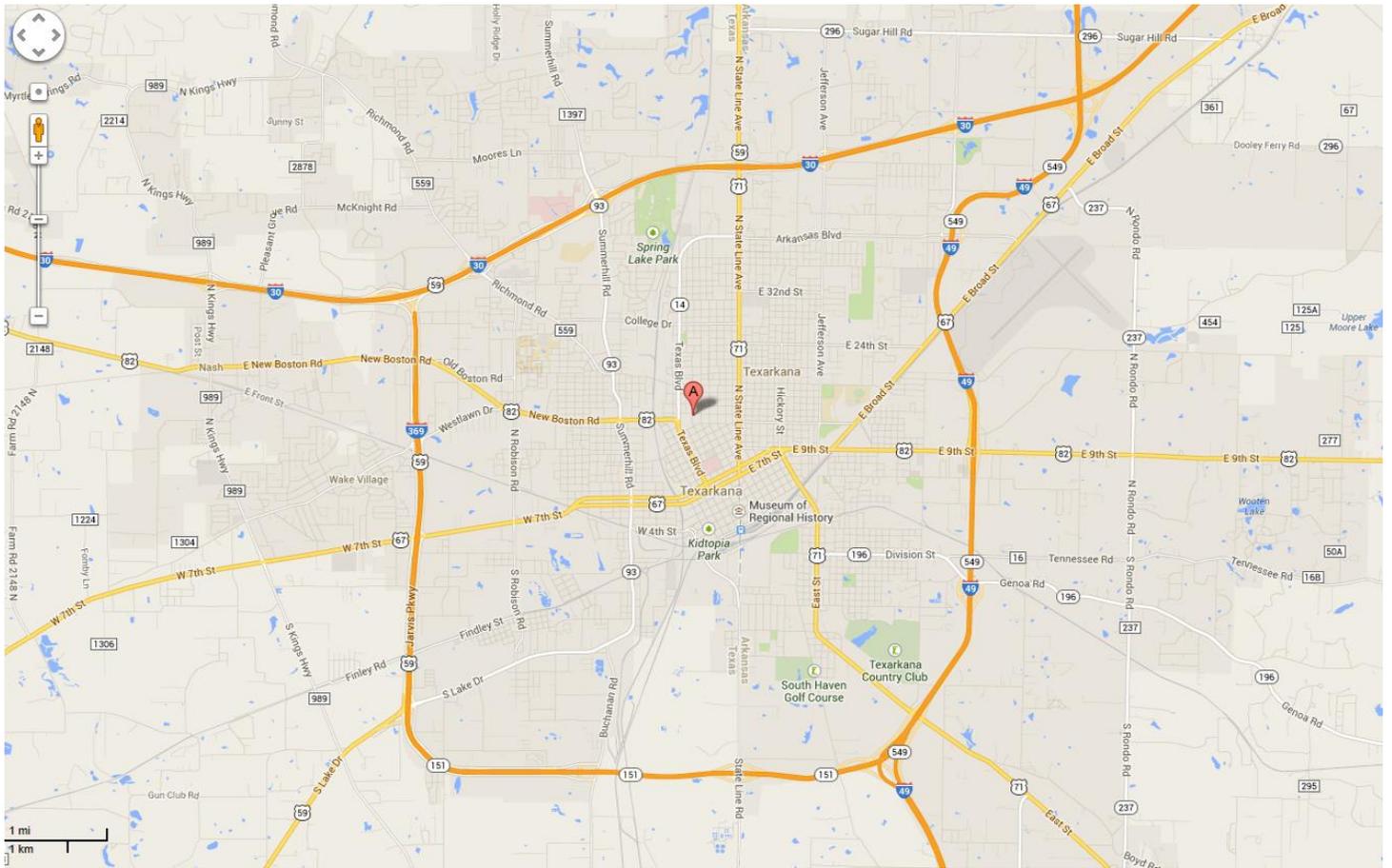
Various Neighborhood Maps, Texarkana Water Utilities Company, Satellite Imagery Mapping of Structures and Utilities, circa 2004-2005.

Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Map 1: Bowie County (shaded) is located in extreme northeast Texas.

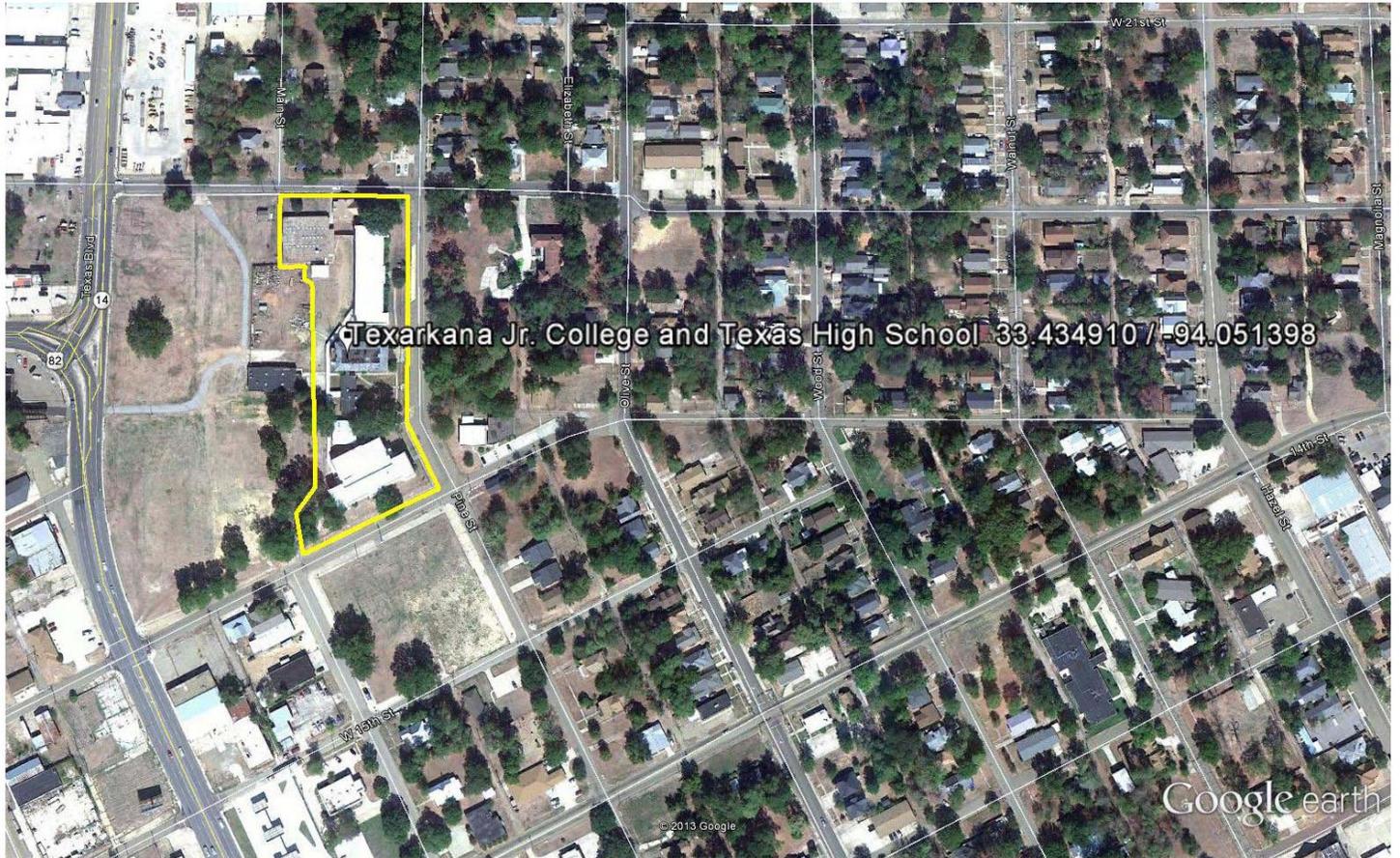


Map 2: The Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School historic district (Pin A) is located near downtown Texarkana, Texas, just west of the state line. Google Maps. Top edge is north.



Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Map 3: Scaled Google Earth map depicts location and boundary of the Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School historic district.

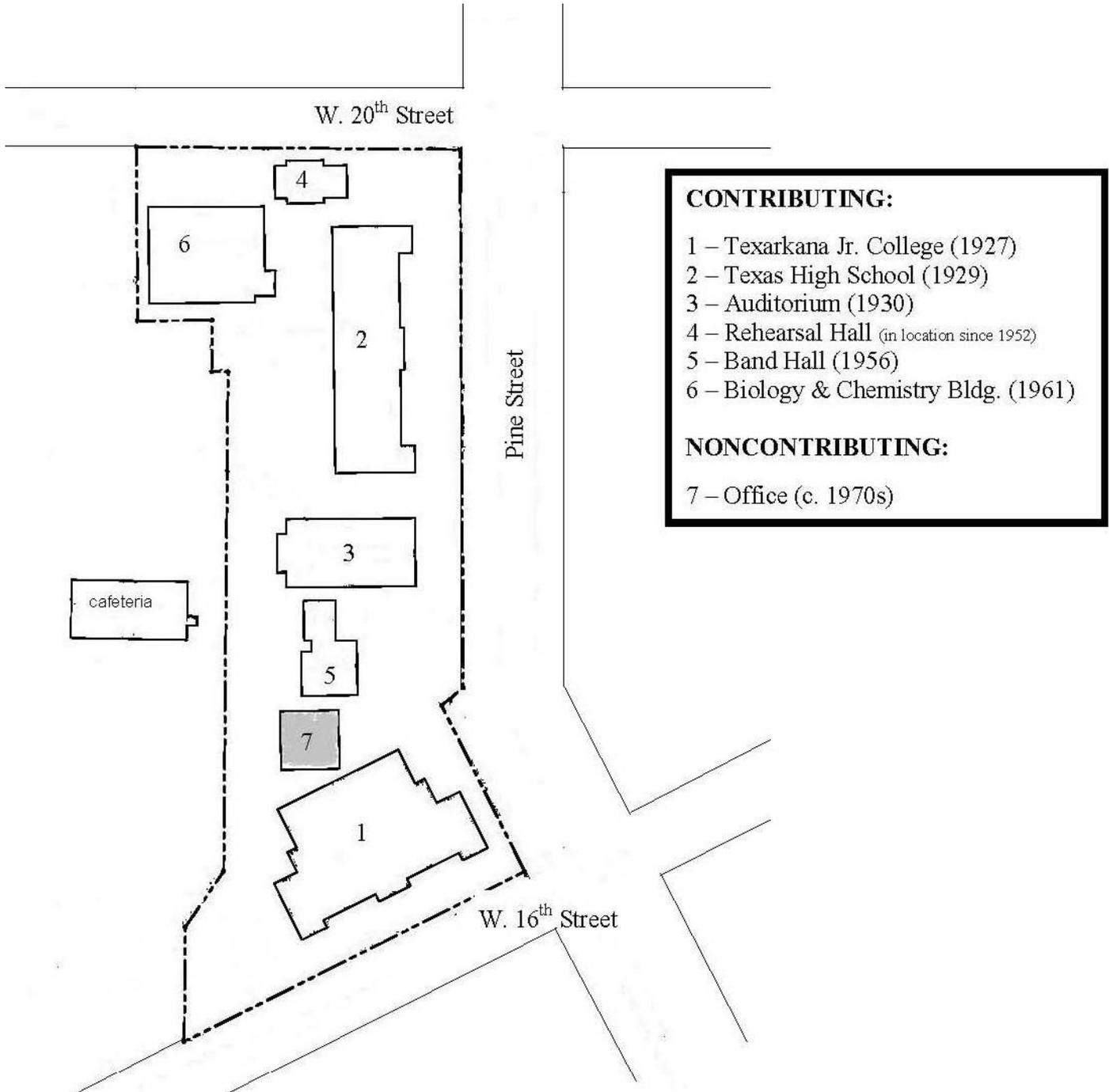


Google earth



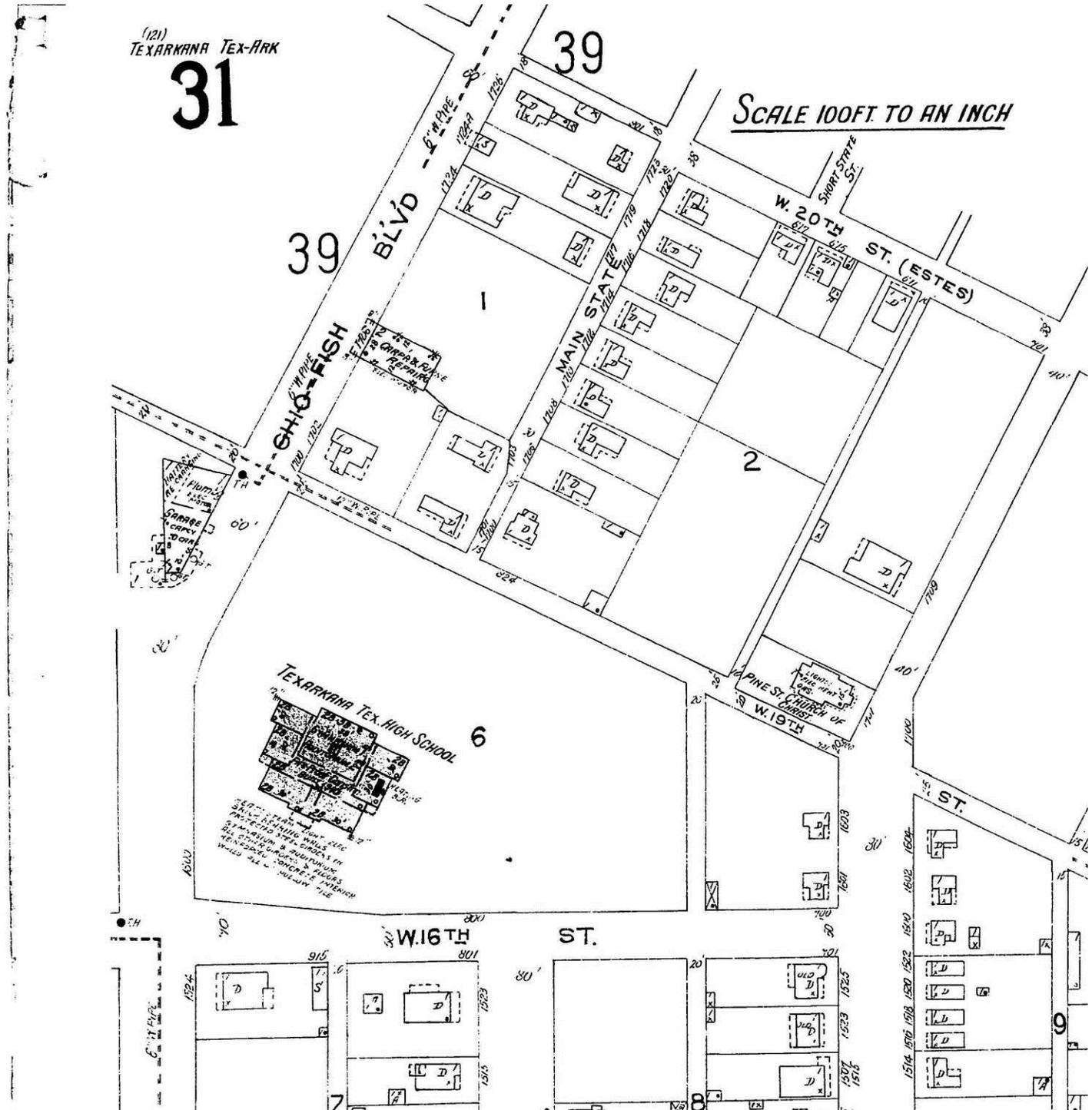
Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Map 4: Sketch map depicts approximate boundary (dashed line) and contributing and noncontributing resources. Top edge of map is north. No scale. Note: the campus' historic-age cafeteria is not included within the boundaries of the nomination.



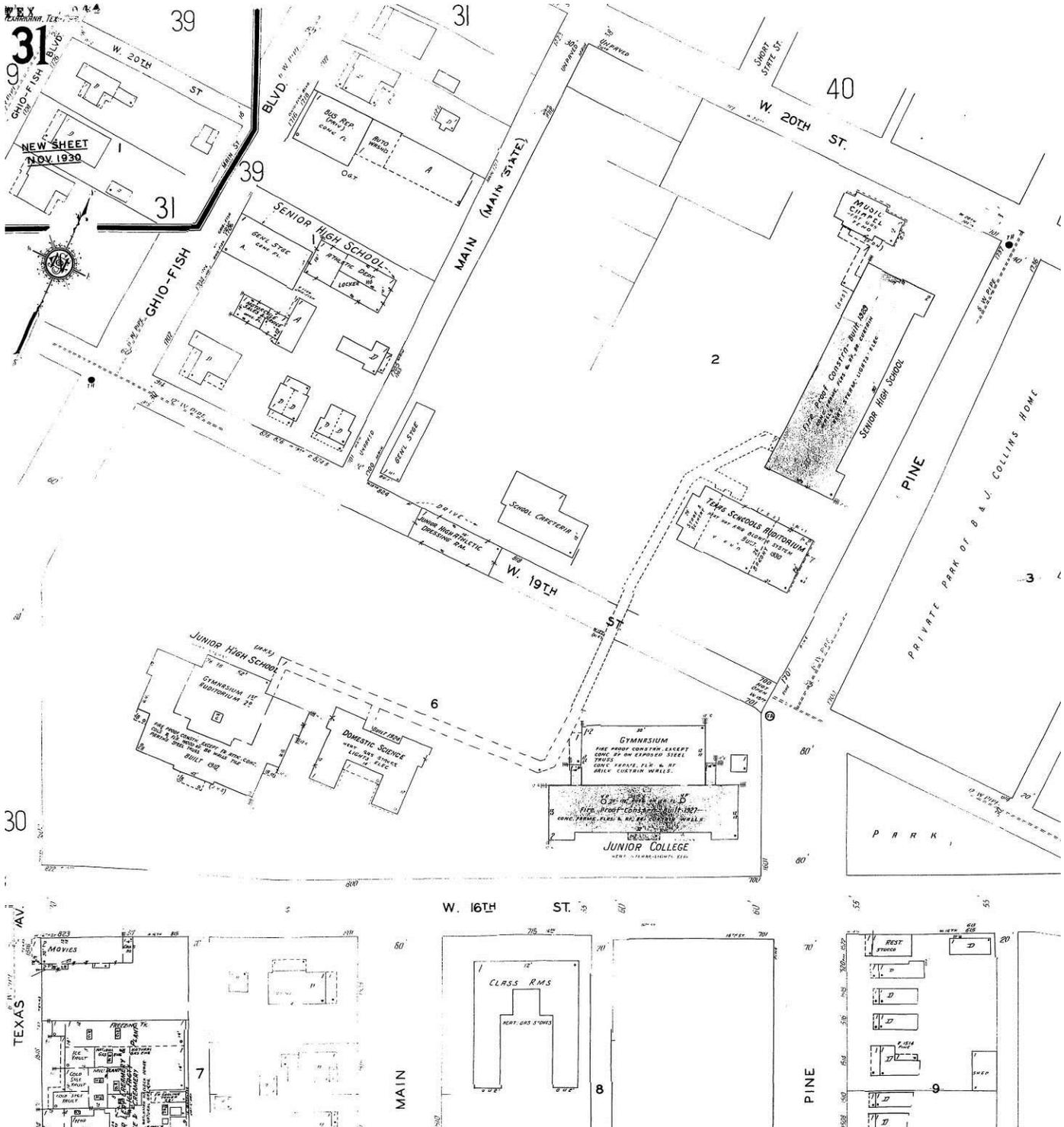
Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Map 5: Detail of 1924 Sanborn map. This map pre-dates the construction of any of the nominated buildings. The high school building shown here was demolished in the 1970s.



Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Map 6: Detail of 1951 Sanborn map.



Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Figure 1: Undated photo of Henry Wesley Stilwell, Ph.D.

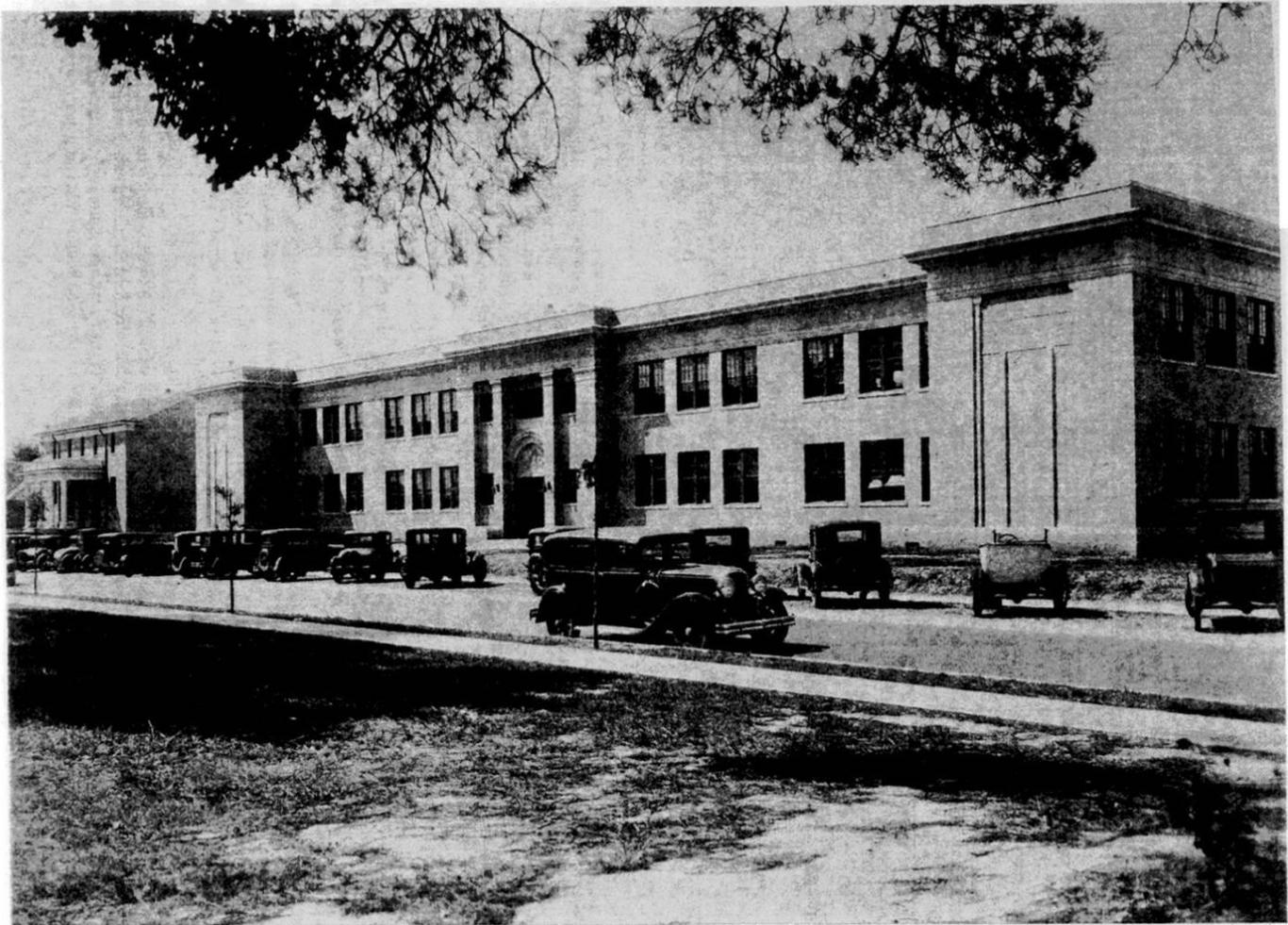


Figure 2: Undated photo of Fred H. Halsey, AIA, of Witt, Seibert & Halsey.



Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Figure 3: Historic photo (c.1930s). View southwesterly to the Texas High School (foreground) and the Auditorium. Courtesy: *Pages from the Past: The First 100 Years of the Texarkana ISD, 1889-1999*.



Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas

Figure 4: Historic postcard of Texas High School, c. 1940.



Figure 5: Historic postcard of Texarkana Jr. College, c. 1932.







WIDE STREET

NO PARKING
IN FRONT OF
BUS STOP

Handicap Accessible























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Texarkana Junior College and Texas High School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bowie

DATE RECEIVED: 2/12/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/12/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/27/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/31/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000102

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Texarkana Junior College and Texas High School is locally significant under National Register Criterion A, in the area of education, for its central role in the public education of Texarkana's youth, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as an excellent example of Classical Revival and modernist institutional design. The completion of these buildings in two major phases, by two prominent local architecture firms (1927-1930 Witt, Seibert, & Halsey; 1956-1961 Reinheimer & Cox), was a high point in the school district's plans to modernize its school system to keep pace of the city's rapid population growth and provide opportunities for advanced education at the Junior college level. The complex contains the city's oldest extant public school buildings and its largest concentration of educational facilities.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

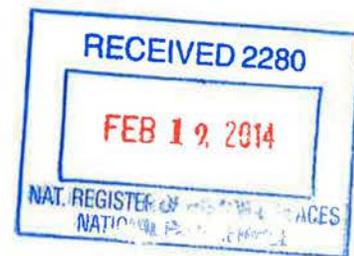
REVIEWER PAUL R. LUSIGNAN DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 3/31/14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y (N)

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Edson Beall
 National Park Service
 National Register of Historic Places
 1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
 Washington, DC 20005

FROM:  Carlyn Hammons
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: New Submission, National Register Nomination
 Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School, Bowie County, TX

DATE: February 5, 2014

The following materials are submitted:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Original National Register of Historic Places form and electronic locational data (in .kmz format) on CD.  The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the <u>Texarkana Jr. College and Texas High School</u> to the National Register of Historic Places. |
| | Resubmitted nomination. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO. |
| | Multiple Property Documentation form on disk. |
| | Resubmitted form. |
| | Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | CD with thirteen (13) TIFF photograph files. |
| | Correspondence |

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do) (do not) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

