

56-2437

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



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Taylor High School Campus  
Other name/site number: NA  
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 410 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
City or town: Taylor State: Texas County: Williamson  
Not for publication:  Vicinity: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 3/27/18  
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]  
Signature of the Keeper

5/17/2018  
Date of Action

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:** Private

**Category of Property:** Building

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	total

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** EDUCATION / secondary school

**Current Functions:** COMMERCE/TRADE / business; VACANT; SOCIAL

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS / Classical Revival;  
MODERN MOVEMENT / Art Deco, International Style

**Principal Exterior Materials:** CONCRETE, METAL, BRICK

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7-11)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A, C

**Criteria Considerations:** NA

**Areas of Significance:** Education, Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1923-1969

**Significant Dates:** 1923, 1936, 1956

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): NA

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): NA

**Architect/Builder:**

*Taylor High School & Gymnasium:* Giesecke & Harris

*Gymnasium:* Hugo Franz Kuehne

*Junior High:* Arnold Wittmann

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 12-20)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 21)

**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): NA

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** 7.335

### Coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 30.574083°N      Longitude: -97.414019°W

**Verbal Boundary Description:** AW0661 – Winsett J. Sur., TRACT AKA HIGH SCHOOL BLOCK 2-3 (DEL18 TO S11469), Taylor, Williamson County, Texas.

**Boundary Justification:** The nomination includes the property historically associated with the Taylor High School Campus.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Haley Wilcox  
Organization: Ogee LLC  
Street & number: 2506 Little John Lane  
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Date: 5/23/2017

## Additional Documentation

- Maps**      (see continuation sheets 22-26)
- Additional items**      (see continuation sheets 27-38)
- Photographs**      (see continuation sheets 5-6, 39-61)

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Taylor High School Campus  
City or Vicinity: Taylor, Texas  
Photographer: Ellis Mumford-Russell; Haley Wilcox  
Date: November 2016; December 2017

Photo 1  
South elevation, looking east

Photo 2  
South elevation, looking east

Photo 3  
South and west elevation, looking northeast

Photo 4  
East elevation, looking west

Photo 5  
West elevation, looking east

Photo 6  
East and south elevations, looking northwest

Photo 7  
North elevation, looking south

Photo 8  
North elevation of auditorium, looking southwest

Photo 9  
North elevation of auditorium, looking south

Photo 10  
North elevation of auditorium, detail of entrance,  
looking south

Photo 11  
North and west elevation of auditorium, and partial  
north elevation of high school looking south

Photo 12  
Site, looking east

Photo 13  
Site, looking north

Photo 14  
Site, looking northwest

Photo 15  
First floor, looking southeast

Photo 16  
First floor, looking west

Photo 17  
Second floor, looking west

Photo 18  
Second floor, detail of door, looking north

Photo 19  
Second floor, looking at south classroom

Photo 20  
Second floor, detail of skylight, looking west

Photo 21  
Second floor, looking north at auditorium

Photo 22  
Second floor, looking south at auditorium

Photo 23  
North elevation of gymnasium, looking southwest

Photo 24  
West elevation of gymnasium, looking east

Photo 25  
North elevation of gymnasium, detail of entrance,  
looking south

Photo 26  
South elevation of gymnasium, looking northwest

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Photo 27  
East elevation of gymnasium, looking west

Photo 28  
Interior of gymnasium, looking south

Photo 29  
Interior of gymnasium, looking south at locker room

Photo 30  
North elevation of junior high, looking south

Photo 31  
North elevation of junior high, looking south

Photo 32  
East elevation of junior high, looking west

Photo 33  
South elevation of junior high, looking northeast

Photo 34  
Interior of junior high, looking northeast at music room

Photo 35  
Interior of junior high, looking north at entrance

Photo 36  
Interior of junior high, looking south at classroom

Photo 37  
Interior of junior high, looking east

Photo 38  
Exterior of non-contributing metal shed, looking south

**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

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## **Narrative Description**

Four buildings comprise the Taylor High School campus, located at 410 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, just west of downtown Taylor. The site consists of the two-story main high school building constructed in 1923, the gymnasium, constructed in 1936, the one-story junior high constructed in 1956, and a non-historic metal shed, constructed outside the period of significance. The high school building features Classically-inspired architectural elements typical of Progressive Era school design, while the gymnasium, constructed by the Public Works Administration, features Art Deco ornamentation. Reflecting Post-War architectural trends, the junior high displays design elements characteristic of the International style. The entire campus is connected by a network of concrete sidewalks, some of which are covered, and contains large expanses of lawn with mature trees. The three contributing buildings contain a high degree of integrity through the retention of their form, interior plan, architectural features, and setting.

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## **Location and Setting** (See Maps 1-5; Photos 13-14)

In 1921, Taylor purchased seven acres of land for \$24,000 to construct a new high school for white students. Currently, the main high school, gymnasium, junior high, and a non-historic metal shed are located on a 7.335 acre, irregularly shaped site. The buildings form the campus and are connected via a network of sidewalks, large expanses of lawn, and parking lots. Mature trees dot the landscape south of the main high school and to the west and south of the junior high. The southwest corner of the site features a small garden with raised beds, which was planted in recent years. There are no athletic facilities or fields other than the gymnasium. Outdoor athletic events were held at a field five blocks northwest of the campus, which was used by Taylor High School until 2017.<sup>1</sup>

The high school, which is the largest building on the site, is located at the southwest corner of the parcel, facing W. 7th Street. A large expanse of lawn lies south of the high school and is characterized by two arcing sidewalks, which connect to perimeter sidewalks along W. 7th Street. The gymnasium is directly to the north of the high school, with a parking lot and sidewalks connecting the two buildings. The junior high is slightly northeast of the gymnasium and is accessed by a covered sidewalk that extends from the east and south entrances to the gymnasium, and several connecting sidewalks that navigate through the expanses of lawn on the campus. A small, rectangular metal shop/storage building, which was built in the 1980s sits adjacent to the gymnasium to the east on a large concrete pad.

The campus is located within a primarily residential neighborhood containing modest late 19th and early 20th century one- and two-story houses, which comprised Dickson's 1st Addition, the Murphy Addition, and the Branch Addition on Sanborn maps. Several churches also occupy the area and mature trees and sidewalks line the streets. Main Street is three blocks to the east and the Taylor Commercial Historic District (NR 2005) is 0.2 miles to the southeast. The recently-constructed Taylor Public Library is adjacent to the junior high.

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<sup>1</sup> "Taylor High School crowns last homecoming queen on historic field," <http://kxan.com/2017/10/06/taylor-high-school-crowns-last-homecoming-queen-on-historic-field/>

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## Architectural Description

### *Taylor High School (Giesecke & Harris, 1923) (See Figures 1-3, 6-8, 11 and Photos 1-12)*

The high school is T-shaped, with the symmetrical primary elevation facing south. It is constructed of cast-in-place, reinforced concrete with red brick over a hollow clay tile backup. The exterior features cast stone decorative elements. The roof is flat with a concrete deck and high parapet walls at the perimeter. Overall, the fireproof building contains a simple parapet with cast stone classical decorative elements at the cornice. The primary (south) facade consists of a central bank of windows, demarcated by a central raised parapet. The central band is flanked by entry doors. Beyond these doors is a single bay of windows, which are symmetrically flanked by projecting wings. The entrance doors are replacement aluminum single-leaf doors and transoms. The doors are accented with cast stone door surround, and pediment with decorative brackets. Two cast stone cartouches are applied at the upper cast stone band moulding. Unfenestrated, projecting wings flank the primary façade. The cast stone cartouches seen on the primary facade are present at the upper moulding.

The north facade, which is connected to the auditorium/cafeteria at the center and flanked by wings on both ends, contains banks of windows and is topped with a corbeled brick and concrete coping. The auditorium/cafeteria wing's north elevation is dominated by a stepped parapet with a corbeled brick band extending beneath. The roof has a central north-south ridge pitched to short parapet walls on the east and west. The auditorium porch entry, which contains the original cantilevered reinforced concrete canopy with large, bracketed hood ornament, and glazed wood doors, is topped by a cast stone transom detail. Three windows flank the entry on each side. A straight stair leads to the entry porch for the auditorium, lined by brick walls with cast stone coping. The cafeteria entrance, beneath the stairs, contains double hollow metal entrance doors set within the original brick door surround. The transom has been infilled with a lighter colored brick, and a modern metal canopy has been installed. A window opening to the right of the entrance has also been infilled with lighter colored brick (Photos 8-11).

The west and east facades of the auditorium/cafeteria wing contain a corbeled brick band moulding accented with a cast stone cartouche set atop two rows of window banks. Each bank has three windows, and the upper row steps down in size, reflecting the slope of the auditorium floor. Steel fire escape assemblies are present at the central auditorium windows. On the east facade of the cafeteria, several windows have been infilled with brick, and a modern storefront entrance has been installed (Photo 11).

The east and west elevations of the wings, which contain tertiary entrances, are essentially identical. These elevations are symmetrically arranged and contain the same details as the primary facade. At the center is a protruding entrance with contemporary aluminum doors and transoms and a cast stone pediment. The entrance is topped by a raised parapet with cast stone coping. The second floor contains a modern aluminum fire exit door which leads to the flat roof of the protruding entrance. Above the exit is a cast stone band moulding with cast stone cartouches (Photos 4-5).

### Interior: (See Figures 1-3, 6-8 and Photos 15-22)

The building's original configuration remains intact. A double-loaded corridor running east and west organizes the interior on first and second floors, lined by classrooms and special-use spaces (library, laboratories, etc.). The corridors are wide with high ceilings hidden above non-historic dropped ceilings. Lockers are inset in the walls throughout. Walls are plaster and floors are concrete with VCT tile. The two-story auditorium is located on the north side of the main school block and contains the auditorium on the second floor and cafeteria on the first floor. The 900-seat auditorium features a sloped concrete floor topped by original wooden theater seats and classical



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fluted pilasters between the window openings. The raised stage faces north and is accessible from the corridors and from the auditorium seating area. The cafeteria beneath the auditorium is an open space with prep areas and offices partitioned on the interior. The cafeteria was remodeled in the 1980s and some original classroom walls were removed at that time.

***Gymnasium*** (*Hugo Franz Kuehne, 1936*) (See Figure 4 & 12 and Photos 23-27)

The gymnasium, constructed using funds provided by the Public Works Administration, features buff brick with cast stone Art Deco ornament and a wood-and-steel barrel truss roof.

The primary elevation faces north to W. 9th Street and contains paired, highly ornate entrances housed in a projecting entrance bay, which provided access for the public. Cast stone chevrons and fluting surround the openings, which are filled with paired, modern aluminum-frame storefront assemblies. The remainder of the north elevation lacks windows. The main form of the gymnasium behind the entrance bay is comprised of east and west blocks and the larger, central block, all of which contain cast stone coping in a geometric pattern. The east and west blocks have a simple, cast stone band beneath the coping (Photos 23, 25).

The south elevation, which faces the high school, contains separate entrances for boys and girls, which access the locker rooms and bathrooms. Modern aluminum doors fill these entrances. The building features a cast stone band of moulding and is topped with a cast stone coping (Photo 26).

The east and west elevations are identical, abutting the utilitarian locker room bay to the south. The elevations have non-historic hung windows with tinted glass. Historically, multi-light steel-frame windows filled these window openings. Each elevation has a large corner block on the north and south ends that slightly projects. The southernmost block contains an entrance with a cast stone surround at either side. Above the entrances are a simple cast stone band and cast stone coping with a geometric pattern. Each window bay is divided by a stepped brick pilaster with cast stone capitals in a chevron pattern (Photos 24, 27).

Interior: (See Figure 4 and Photos 28-29)

The gymnasium has undergone minimal changes since construction and retains the original wood floors, fixed metal bleachers, and exposed metal barrel roof system. The gymnasium is a primarily open, tall space with locker rooms and bathrooms partitioned in the one-story south block. Ticket booths are partitioned within the north vestibule. The floors in the gymnasium area are wood and the walls are painted concrete block.

***Junior High*** (*Arnold Wittmann, 1956*) (See Figures 5, 9, and 10 and Photos 30-33)

The junior high is utilitarian with a rectangular form and a larger square block with a sloping roof at the west end, which contains the music room. Overall, the appearance of the school is International Style, due to the wide bands of windows, horizontality, and minimal ornamentation.

The primary (north) elevation faces W. 9th Street. The west end contains the larger block housing the music room and main entrance with five bays of classrooms extending to the east. The music room block has a sloped metal roof with metal eaves and large bands of multi-light steel windows. The main entrance and the entrance to the music room are shaded by a cantilevered porch, with paired, multi-light steel windows present. The five classroom bays were originally fenestrated by multi-light steel windows, but the window openings have been largely infilled with wood paneling with smaller, non-historic one-over-one hung windows partially filling masonry openings in the classroom bays on this elevation.

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The south elevation contains a secondary entrance to the music room at the west end, which has been infilled with wood. To the east are six bays of classrooms, which, like the north elevation, have been largely infilled with wood and contain modern windows. The exception is the third bay from the west, which maintains its original configuration with small steel windows surrounded by brick, which light the bathrooms within.

The east elevation is unfenestrated and contains a modern aluminum-frame storefront system shaded by a metal canopy that is partially supported by a projecting brick wall.

The west elevation is dominated by the large music block, with a smaller block to the south. Originally fenestrated by large, multi-light steel windows, this elevation is now mostly infilled with wood, with the exception of a single modern one-over-one window in the small block south of the music room. The sloping roof has a large metal eave.

Interior: (Figure 5 and Photos 34-37)

The interior configuration of the junior high remains intact. A double-loaded corridor organizes the interior of the middle school, running east-west along the length of the building with offices at the west end and a large, open music room marking the west end of the building. Classrooms are open with interior walls running at various angles, creating rooms that are not perfect squares. Floors are VCT tile, and walls are gypsum board. Ceilings are suspended acoustic tile, attached to the exposed metal truss system.

**Metal Shed Building (Photo 38):** A utilitarian shed is located to the east of the gymnasium. It was added to the site to accommodate welding classes starting in the 1980s. The rectangular shed, with a shallow gable roof and canted corner entrance faces W. 9th Street. It sits on a concrete slab. Walls and roof are of corrugated steel. There is a rolling door on the east elevation. Each elevation contains small, punched windows, which are either infilled or covered with metal bars. The interior is utilitarian and contains a classroom space with plywood walls, dropped acoustical tile ceilings, and VCT tile floors. To the east of the classroom space is the shop space, which has concrete floors, exposed structure ceiling with steel beams, and plywood walls.

**Alterations:**

*Taylor High School*

The exterior of the high school remains largely intact, with the exception of the modern aluminum-framed windows were added in 1984. Original steel window assemblies and transoms were removed. The replacement windows modified the fenestration pattern by the infill of transoms with opaque panels, necessitated by the installation of lay-in acoustical ceilings on the interior. New aluminum-framed storefront or hollow metal door systems replaced the original exterior doors throughout the building, except for exterior entry doors to the auditorium. On the north elevation, a wood-framed shower room was added.

On the interior, acoustical ceilings were added in the corridor and classrooms in 1970, as well as asbestos and vinyl tile throughout the building. The south-central portion of the first floor has been reconfigured with modern partitions to create small offices and administrative space. Additionally, the cafeteria, which currently functions as a senior center, was enlarged and renovated in 1984, which included the addition of the present modern partitions. Previously, the wing with the cafeteria contained several small classrooms as well. Two classrooms at the west end of the second-floor corridor were converted to create a larger library. The original library seen in the historic floor plans was reconfigured for office space.

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*Gymnasium*

Minor changes such as painting and plumbing/fixture updates have occurred over time. Aluminum-frame windows, much like those on the high school, replaced the original steel windows within the existing masonry openings.

*Junior High*

The most notable change to the exterior is the removal of the original, multi-light steel windows (which occurred in the 1980s), though the original masonry openings remain. Smaller, aluminum-framed windows were inserted in the original openings and the surrounding opening was infilled with synthetic paneling. The interior has seen minor alterations including paint and repair or replacement of VCT flooring.

**Integrity:**

The Taylor High School Campus is located in its original location, which was also the site for the Taylor schools preceding it. The setting containing historic houses, sidewalks, large expanses of lawn, and mature trees further characterizes the site as a place of education for the city of Taylor, and the surrounding area has seen minimal changes over time. The design of the campus reflects three dominant trends in educational architecture: Progressive Era design (High School) which embraced Classically-inspired elements, the Art Deco design seen in many PWA projects (gymnasium), and the International Style (Junior High). The essential design features of each building, such as construction materials, roof trusses (in the gymnasium and junior high), and masonry ornament are all present. Overall, the structures have seen minimal changes over time. Though the buildings were constructed in three distinct styles, the use of the buff brick on each building creates cohesion. Thus, the campus retains integrity and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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## Statement of Significance

The property is nominated to National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Education for serving as Taylor's high school campus for white students from 1923 until the late 1960s when the school district was integrated. The high school building was constructed in 1923 near the 1885 high school, which was subsequently demolished. A gymnasium was added in 1936, followed by the junior high in 1956. The campus is also architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It displays intact examples of a Progressive-Era school designed with Classical ornamentation, a Public Works Administration-funded gymnasium with Art Deco design features, and junior high school designed in the International Style. Individually, these buildings represent the work of prominent Austin architects Giesecke & Harris (High School), Hugo Franz Kuehne (Gymnasium), and Arnold Wittmann (Junior High). The three distinct styles demonstrate the evolution of public school design and from the 1920s to the 1950s both in Taylor and nationally. The Period of Significance for the Taylor High School Campus spans from 1923, the high school build date, to 1969, when the new high school was constructed. Claiming Criteria Consideration G for exceptional significance is not necessary since 1969 represents a definite transition in the property history and is so close to the 50 year cutoff.

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## History of Taylor<sup>2</sup>

Prior to 1876, the area that includes present-day Taylor was sparsely populated by settlers along Brushy Creek, Turkey Creek, at Wilson Springs and Flag Springs. The arrival of the International and Great Northern Railroad in 1876 resulted in the purchase of the town site in June of the same year by the Texas Land Company. Lots were advertised for sale, and the town of Taylorsville, named after Edward Moses Taylor, part owner of the I & GN Railroad, emerged. Initial settlers came from Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Austria. By 1877, the population reached five hundred, and the town had a range of homes and businesses, such as general mercantile stores, a lumber yard, livery stables, drug stores, hotels, saloons, and barber shops. A cotton gin and grain elevator were built by 1878 and the town became a busy shipping point for cattle, grain, and cotton. By that point, the population reached 1000 and had thirty-two businesses. A massive fire in February 1879 destroyed nearly all of the commercial buildings in the downtown business district; consequently, most downtown buildings were rebuilt in brick masonry. Despite the destruction brought by the fire, Taylor continued to grow rapidly. In 1882, the Taylor, Bastrop and Houston Railway reached the town and both rail lines served new industry. Taylor's importance as a rail shipping center greatly increased. The same year, a city government was enacted, and a year later, in 1883, a bond was issued to construct the town's first school (on the subject site). That same year, the First National Bank of Taylor was founded, which was also the first national bank in Williamson County. Taylor Savings and Loan Association arrived in 1885. By 1891, the population of Taylor reached nearly 2,600, and the town boasted a water line from the San Gabriel River, a volunteer fire department, an electric company, entertainment, and a yearly livestock fair.

Cotton played a vital role in Taylor's economy through the twentieth century. Taylor's first gin was constructed in 1877 and the Taylor Compress was organized in 1892. At the end of the 19th century, Williamson County was the leading cotton producer in Texas, and Taylor claimed to be the "largest inland cotton market in the world," according to a sign erected on the City Hall lawn. By the early 1900s, new industries arrived: the Diamond Rolling Mill produced 250 barrels of flour each day, and the Taylor Bedding Company was formed, which later became Texas' largest bedding manufacturer. Taylor continued to grow through the early twentieth century, and saw the

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from "Our Town, Taylor" by Ruth Mantor, self-published by the author in 1983.

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arrival of its first hospital, paved streets, and the telephone. Industries increasingly diversified into the 1920s, with the arrival of auto-related businesses, cotton-seed oil houses, and two ice plants. Two daily newspapers, as well as weekly German and Czech papers, were published. Taylor saw the arrival of oil in 1930, by way of the Thrall oil field, which was discovered in 1915 about ten miles east of Taylor, and by the Chapman-Abbott Field (Abbott Well), discovered in 1930. Oil executives came from all major oil companies to sign leases and Taylor's local economy prospered. A direct result of the new Williamson County Pipeline, 6000 barrels of oil were being exported from Taylor. Additionally, a refinery was constructed one mile south of town, which eventually built a statewide distribution network. The presence of oil in Taylor, however, did not have the boom effect it had on other oil towns, and the oil market began to decline in 1931. Cotton would remain crucial to Taylor's economy into the mid-twentieth century.<sup>3</sup>

Taylor managed to stave off grave effects of the Great Depression, mostly due to the economic boon brought on by oil, until 1931. Bank resources fell and several retail stores failed. Taylor's first unemployment survey was conducted in December of 1931 and Speegle Grocery opened a free soup kitchen. Despite the onset of the Depression, Taylor held its position as an important center in Williamson County in 1931 and cotton remained the primary crop. By 1940, the town had 7,875 residents and 225 businesses. Cotton remained the town's leading product, despite the addition of various new industries, throughout the twentieth century. However, steadily falling cotton prices reduced the crop's importance in Taylor's economy leading up to World War II and after ranching and poultry began to take its place. After WWII, Taylor saw a drastic reduction in the number of farms, resulting in a change in land use, and the livestock trade emerged as a significant part of Taylor's economy. New manufacturing operations also emerged, such as a Dr. Pepper plant, the Delta Manufacturing plant, and Taylor Iron-Machine Works, among others. By the early 1980s, twenty-two industries were located in Taylor, and crops expanded from cotton to maize, wheat, and cattle.<sup>4</sup>

### **Overview of Campus History:**

The site of the Taylor High School Campus includes the original tract of land that housed Taylor's first public school. The three-room frame building was constructed in 1884 on land purchased by the City of Taylor for the purpose of building a school. In 1890 a new school was built on the site for the cost of \$35,000, which housed all grades and served as the Taylor school until 1923, when the subject high school building was completed, for a sum of \$182,000. Groundbreaking for the school was announced in August of 1922. A bond issue for \$150,000 as voted through to construct the school, with an additional \$32,000 bond passed in 1923 to complete the auditorium. The 1890 school was demolished in 1925. In 1936, the gymnasium was added to the site as a Public Works Administration project for \$45,000. A bond was issued in 1955 for the construction of a new junior high, which was completed in 1956 for \$103,000.

### **CRITERION A: EDUCATION**

Taylor High School is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Education for its central role in the public education of Taylor's youth. The campus construction symbolized the community's and school district's desire to modernize and improve its public education system. Built by the Taylor School District in 1923, the school served

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<sup>3</sup> Monica Penick, Consultant, "Taylor Downtown Historic District, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, section 8 page 33-37.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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as a High School until 1969, when the school district was integrated a new high school facility was constructed. The school then went on to serve as a middle school until the 1980s, when it became offices and a senior center after the construction of a new middle school.

### **History of the Taylor Public School System<sup>5</sup>**

In July of 1883, Taylor's eighty property holders voted on a tax to maintain public schools. A superintendent was hired and the town established the Stock Company School, housed in an existing school building that had been operated by a Great Northern Railroad station agent, and an African American school. The Stock Company School was constructed in 1880 and consisted of three rooms on Block 4 of the Dickson Addition (the school is present on the 1923 Sanborn map and was located northeast of the subject high school). The school housed an average of 105 pupils and three teachers, with the primary school in one room, the grammar school in the second, and the high school in the third. The curriculum included civics, economics, algebra, geometry, physics, chemistry, Latin, and bookkeeping in addition to the core subjects. The curriculum at the African American school consisted of reading writing, arithmetic, and spelling, taught to roughly forty students by a single teacher.

Augustus E. Hill, an Alabama native who previously oversaw Bastrop Academy, became superintendent of the Taylor Schools, as well as a high school teacher, in the late 1880s. His tenure lasted until 1899. Under his leadership, a new school building was constructed in 1890. The new school building was three stories, with an auditorium, and was described in Lewis Publishing Co.'s History of Texas of 1893 as "one of the finest schools in the state." The school was located on the site of the present-day junior high and was constructed for the cost of \$35,000. The school featured a manual training room, a chemistry laboratory, separate lunchrooms for boys and girls, and, originally, outdoor restrooms. By 1893, the enrollment at the white schools reached 700 with eighteen teachers.

W.M. Williams became superintendent in 1900 and served until 1909. During his tenure, he beautified the school grounds by planting trees and expanded the curriculum to include German and ancient and modern history. John F. O'Shea was superintendent from 1909 to 1918. Under his supervision, the eleventh grade was added to the high school in 1910, and a bond issued was passed to construct Twelfth Street Elementary School in 1911, which was used by white students in the first, second, and third grades. A new facility for kindergarten and home economics classrooms was constructed at 712 Fowzer Street (occupying the southeast corner of the subject site) in 1916. The building was later used for first and second graders, and was torn down in 1946. Also under O'Shea's leadership, the curriculum expanded to include music, domestic arts, physiology, German, physical geography, bookkeeping and manual training, and a school for Mexican-American students was constructed.

J.E. Watts was superintendent from 1918 to 1922. Although his tenure was brief, he laid the groundwork for what would become the newly-constructed Taylor High School. He introduced a bond issue which provided \$84,000 to build West End School and to acquire the site on which Taylor High School would eventually be constructed. Before the end of Watts' term, a fifth bond issue was passed in the amount of \$150,000.

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<sup>5</sup> Adapted from "History of the Taylor Public Schools," by Elizabeth Dlugos and Mary Jean Livingood. Williamson County Historical Commission.

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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R.H. Brister, former principal of Taylor High School, succeeded Watts and served until 1935. Under his tenure, Taylor High School was constructed, which opened in 1923 for white students. The auditorium at Taylor High School was constructed with an additional \$32,000 bond issue. During his long tenure, Brister focused on improving the quality of education in Taylor, including adding more classes to the curriculum that offered practical training for careers after graduation, such as vocational agriculture and a commercial department.<sup>6</sup> Brister also worked to add new units of affiliation with the University of Texas, raised the salary of all teachers, instituted off-campus tutoring for the physically handicapped, and brought health professionals into the schools to screen students for ailments. Lastly, under Brister's leadership, a seventeen-room brick African American school was constructed to replace the Blackshear School, which was destroyed by fire in 1931. Brister left the Taylor school system in 1935 after being appointed the superintendent of Waco Public Schools.<sup>7</sup>

E.T. Robbins became superintendent in 1935 and continued until 1947. Under his supervision, in 1936, the high school gymnasium was constructed with the help of a \$10,000 federal grant from the Public Works Administration, and a twelfth grade was added at Taylor High School and Blackshear in 1941.

Under T.H. Johnson, who served as superintendent for nineteen years (1947-1966), Taylor Schools continued to grow and undergo modernization and expansion, and see the first efforts at integration. By 1950, twelve common school districts were annexed to the Taylor School District, increasing the size of the district from 3.8 square miles to 78 square miles. The Taylor Independent School District was then created, removing the schools from municipal control. The construction of Northside Elementary, a junior high (one of three subject buildings), and a gymnasium at O.L. Price School (the African American school formerly named Blackshear) were enabled by large bond issues in 1955. Also in the 1950s, the summer school program was expanded to include remedial reading, driver education, and additional academic courses. A program for preschool children and special education teachers was also created. The Taylor High School curriculum was expanded to include sociology, advanced math, power mechanics, distributive education, and art. The O.L. Price curriculum expanded to include vocational agriculture, physical education, typing, shorthand, bookkeeping, chemistry, physics, and music.

The 1964-65 school year saw the "Freedom of Choice Plan", which was adopted as the first step toward integration of Taylor schools. In this plan, students in grades 1-6 could choose to attend any school in the district, though the majority of them remained at schools in their neighborhood. The second phase of integration became board policy in the 1965-1966 school year, when Taylor High School was integrated. Four African American teachers transferred to the high school faculty from the O. L. Price School.

In 1969, under the supervision of F. Townley (superintendent from 1966 to 1969), the fourth phase of integration went into effect. At that time, there were 2,238 students in the Taylor School District, 53.3 percent of which were white, 22.3 percent were Mexican-American, and 24.4 percent were African-American. The Freedom of Choice Plan had resulted in the elementary schools remaining largely segregated. In 1968 the school board received notice that they were not in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A Title IV committee, after visiting the schools, recommended that Southside School, the Mexican-American elementary school constructed in 1952, be closed and Taylor Junior High School (part of the subject campus) be converted to a central elementary school. This plan

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<sup>6</sup> "R.H. Brister Addresses Kiwanis," *Taylor Daily Press*, March 11, 1925. Page 1.

<sup>7</sup> "Robert Hanks Brister Papers: A Guide," University of Texas at Arlington Special Collections Libraries.  
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utarl/00196/arl-00196.html>

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involved moving the boundary lines of the five existing elementary schools. For fear of students transferring out of the district as a result, the board submitted an alternative plan, which involved converting the junior high school into a central middle school for all fifth and sixth graders.

A new high school was set to open in 1969, and the existing high school would then be converted to a junior high school. The Board submitted an integration plan in May of 1969, stating that all students in grades 9-12 were to be housed in the new senior high, all students in grades 5-8 in the old high school and junior high (both part of the subject campus), all students in grades 3-4 in the Twelfth Street School, and grades 1-2 in either the Northside or West End Elementary Schools.<sup>8</sup> The new, fully-integrated high school was completed in 1969, after a \$1.8 million bond issue was passed. The old high school underwent extensive repairs and housed the Middle School. Joe Scrivner, the superintendent appointed in 1969, oversaw the repairs to the old high school. Also under his tenure, the curriculum was expanded, and teaching techniques were improved.

### **Taylor High School<sup>9</sup>**

In June of 1922, a call for bids from the School Board was published in the *Taylor Daily Press*, stating that plans and specifications could be obtained from architects Giesecke & Harris of Austin. In July, the newspaper announced that Fairchild Lumber Company had closed a contract with the School Board to furnish all lumber, cement, and wall plaster for the construction of the new high school. The contract was said to be “one of the largest of its kind ever placed in Taylor” with the total amount being 100,000 feet of lumber, 3,000 barrels of cement, and “many car loads” of plaster and plaster blocks.

Construction on the \$150,000 school began in August of 1922 with the *Taylor Daily Press* reporting that final survey was taking place toward breaking ground for the foundation. “Taylor will soon have the opportunity,” it reported, “to view with pride the hustle and bustle of activity which will put Taylor in envy of this section of the State.” In March of 1923, an additional bond was passed in the amount of \$32,000, to fund the construction of the school auditorium. In April the cornerstone was laid, which was accompanied by a well-attended ceremony led by the local Masons and Mike H. Thomas, the Grand Master of Texas.

Construction was completed in time for the first day of school in September of 1923. After its completion, the *Austin-American Statesman*, published a feature on the school, claiming that it was “among the best built in Texas.”<sup>10</sup> T.H. Shelby, director of extension at the University of Texas, is quoted in the article, saying “Taylor is certainly to be complimented on the good work that is being done. A reputation for a first-class school is an enviable one because it not only adds to the commercial and population growth of the community but it makes it easier for them to secure the services of good teachers and administrators when vacancies occur. Taylor is making such a reputation.”<sup>11</sup>

The school also received national attention when photographs and an article were published in the *American School Board Journal*. The article described the school’s fireproof construction and the floor plan, and stated that the

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<sup>8</sup> Dlugos, 7

<sup>9</sup> *Taylor Daily Press* Articles, 1920-1956

<sup>10</sup> “New Taylor High School Among Best Built in Texas,” *Austin-American Statesman*, January 27, 1924.

<sup>11</sup> “New Taylor High School Among Best Built in Texas,” *Austin-American Statesman*, January 27, 1924.



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school is “almost unique among the small community of the state[...]in which the best materials have been used throughout the structure, and every effort has been made to provide a flexible educational and civic building.”<sup>12</sup>

Two hundred and sixty students were registered to attend the high school. An account of the first day of school was published in the *Taylor Daily Press*. During the opening assembly held in the high school, Principal E.B. Howard said that “new high school building should be considered by the school children of Taylor as a gift from its citizens, and they should treat it as such,” before introducing the teachers.<sup>13</sup> Additional speeches were made by the teachers, the superintendent, and the president of the school board, each of whom urged students to take pride in the new school and take advantage of their educational opportunity. The curriculum consisted of fundamental courses in math, science, and literature, and also included three laboratories, home economics courses held in a “model house” that included a dining room, bedroom, and kitchen, a communications course, and foreign languages.

### **Construction of the Gymnasium**

Beginning in the 1930s, the school board began discussing the need for Taylor High School to have a gymnasium for recreation. In 1934, a bond issue was passed to construct a gymnasium adjacent to the high school building. Hugo Franz Kuehne was hired as the architect. The building would partially be funded by a New Deal grant from the Public Works Administration. The gymnasium was completed in 1936 at a total cost of \$45,000. Throughout the 1930s, the Public Works Administration constructed projects such as streets, highways, roads, bridges, hospitals, airports, and schools. Under the Public Works Administration, over 7,000 schools alone were constructed all over the country.<sup>14</sup>

In the 1940s, the curriculum was expanded to include classes in Texas history and trigonometry. Enrollment in the school continued to grow, prompting the need for additional classrooms. In 1949, the school added two portable, metal buildings (no longer extant) to the grounds. Also in 1949, the high school created the Distributive Education Department, which allowed students to work part-time jobs around town.

### **Taylor Junior High**

In 1955, a bond of \$250,000 was passed to construct a new elementary school, house a music department, improve existing facilities, and construct a junior high next to the high school. Planning for the new junior high was underway by May. Architectural plans for the new school, drawn by architect Arnold Wittmann, were published in the *Taylor Daily Press*, and an article explained that the building would contain eight classrooms, a music department and music library, a choral room, library, various storage and offices, and a first aid room. Building contracts were awarded in August of 1955 and construction began in September. It was completed in the Spring of 1956 and housed 7th and 8th graders in the fall of the same year.

When a new high school was constructed in 1969, the existing high school was remodeled to function as a middle school, which was the case until the 1980s. Currently, part of the high school is now a senior center and offices, while the rest remains vacant. The junior high is currently vacant.

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<sup>12</sup> “The New High School, Taylor, Texas,” *American School Board Journal*, March 1924, 63.

<sup>13</sup> “School Gong Assembles Students and Teachers at Taylor High School,” *Taylor Daily Press*, September 19, 1923, 1.

<sup>14</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_Works\\_Administration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Works_Administration)

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### **CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE**

The Taylor High School Campus is significant at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture. The intact collection of buildings display three distinct architectural influences representing the evolution of school design: the Classically-inspired elements used during the Progressive Era, the Art Deco stylistic ornament present in many Public Works Administration (PWA) projects of the 1930s, and the International Style of the mid-twentieth century. The campus is also significant in that it reflects the work of prominent Austin architects Giesecke & Harris, who designed the main school building, Hugo Franz Kuehne, who designed the gymnasium, and Arnold Wittmann, who designed the junior high.

The Progressive Era (from the mid-1890's to the 1920s) was a reaction against the politics and economics of the previous thirty years, and sought to reform the body politic in the public interest. On the interior, the schools were designed with efficient floor plans, reflecting a higher volume of students and an expanded curriculum; large classrooms, some of which dedicated to specific purposes (such as laboratories or home economics), expansive windows, and spacious corridors.<sup>15</sup> Taylor High School's large, horizontal form, masonry construction, and classical ornament are characteristic of high schools. Hallmarks of the style include bracketed entrance door hoods, cartouches, and badges, all of concrete.

The 1936 gymnasium, features buff brick and limited architectural detail but contains some Art Deco elements, which were commonly employed in Public Works Administration (PWA) projects (see Figure 12). Cast concrete door surrounds, pilaster capitals, and cornice contain chevrons and other geometric patterns characterize this building.

The smaller junior high, constructed in 1956, is a modest, utilitarian structure. A nationwide increase in the student population after World War II and the subsequent boom in school construction led to a shift in the design of a typical public school, of which the junior high building is an excellent example. Primary characteristics of the junior high include large bands of windows, modular massing, a low, flat roof (with the exception of the sloping roof over the music room), and a streamlined façade. Low, horizontal elevations allowed for greater mechanical heating and cooling efficiency, while streamlined facades eliminated unnecessary ornament and took advantage of new building materials, lowering the overall cost of construction. The boxy form of the larger music room section of the building gives the school a modular appearance. The Junior High plan consists of one long corridor with classrooms on either side. This plan is typical of modern-era schools; a slightly L-shaped plan that systematically places classrooms on either side of a long corridor and other functions such as lunch rooms or gymnasiums at the end of the building was first implemented by William Lescaze in his 1937 Ansonia High School building and popularized after World War II as a way to provide students with a more efficient educational environment. Overall, the junior high embodies the characteristics typical of modern-era schools.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas: 1895-1945*. University of Texas Press, 1993. 59.

<sup>16</sup> Amy S. Weisser, "Little Red School House, What Now? Two Centuries of American Public School Architecture," *Journal of Planning History* 5, issue 3, 205-206.

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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### **Giesecke & Harris<sup>17</sup>**

The firm of Giesecke & Harris, based in Austin, designed several school buildings around Texas. The firm was also responsible for a number of notable buildings in Austin, including Norwood Tower (NRHP 2011) and the Confederate House Mothers Building. The firm dissolved in 1941 when Harris began service in the US Army in World War II.

Bertram Ernst Giesecke (1892-1950) was born in New Braunfels, Texas, and earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from Texas A&M in 1911 and a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from the University of Texas in 1913. Afterward, he was employed by several local architects in Austin. Bertram's father, Frederick Ernst, was also an architect and was chairman of the University of Texas School of Architecture from 1912-1928. After the firm's dissolution, Giesecke formed the firm of Giesecke, Kuehne, and Brooks in 1942. Projects included single-family homes around Austin, institutional buildings, and the Commodore Perry Hotel in downtown Austin. Giesecke served as president of the Texas Society of Architects in 1946.

August Watkins Harris, Sr. (1893-1968) was born in Austin and enrolled in the University of Texas School of Architecture in 1910. In his early career, Harris worked in the office of Dennis Walsh. From 1915 to 1917 he served as the draftsman on the construction of the John T. Allan Junior High School. Harris served as an officer in World War I and was discharged in 1917, after which he worked for two years in Tampico, Mexico, as an Associate to David R. Williams, architect. After serving in World War II, Harris began a private practice designing single-family homes, before forming a partnership with his son. Together, Harris and son William M. Harris designed the State Bar of Texas building and Govalle Fire Station No. 15. Harris was appointed to the Austin Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee in 1951. In 1958, Harris published *Minor and Major Mansions in Early Austin*, an examination of historically-significant homes in Austin. In 1963 he published *The Elgin-Butler Brick Company, 1873-1963*, a history of a prominent local construction company.

### **Hugo Franz Kuehne<sup>18</sup>**

Hugo Franz Kuehne (1884-1963) was born in Austin, Texas. He received a degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas in 1906, and a bachelor of architecture degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1908. Subsequently, he became a draftsman for G. Henri Desmond, Boston architect who designed the Maine state capitol. After returning to Austin in 1910, Kuehne organized the architecture department for the University of Texas, and served as adjunct professor from 1910 to 1915. In 1915 he entered architectural practice with the firms of: Kuehne, Chasey and Giesecke (1915-1917); Kuehne and Chasey (1917-1919); H.F. Kuehne (1919-1942); Giesecke, Kuehne and Brooks (1942); and Kuehne, Brooks and Barr (1942-1960). Major works include the Austin Public Library (now the Austin History Center) (NRHP 1993), the International Life Building, the American National Bank Building, and the Texas Department of Public Safety Building. During the construction of the Taylor High School gymnasium, Kuehne held supervisory positions with the United States Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. The construction of the gymnasium was overseen by Associates J. Roy White and David C. Baer. Kuehne was president of the Central Texas chapter of the AIA twice, and a director of the Texas Society of Architects. He was elected a fellow of the AIA in 1944. In 1954 he was named "Austin's Most Worthy Citizen" for his dedication and service in various city planning, zoning and parks commissions.

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<sup>17</sup> August Watkins Harris Records and Drawings Collection, Austin History Center.

<sup>18</sup> Hank Todd Smith, ed., *Austin, Its Architects and Architecture* (Austin Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1986). Who Was Who in America, Vol. 4.

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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### **Arnold Wittmann**

Very little is known about Austin-based architect Arnold Wittmann. Prior to designing several schools around Texas, Wittmann was the Director of the Division of School Plant and Structural Safety at the Texas Department of Education.<sup>19</sup> Other than the Taylor Junior High (1956), he designed San Saba Elementary (1949, demolished), Northside Elementary in Taylor (1955), and an auditorium/gymnasium for O.L. Price High School in Taylor (1957, demolished). Northside Elementary and Taylor Junior High are similar in design. For each school, Wittmann used a larger mass with large bands of windows, flanked by a long, double-loaded corridor of classrooms, also containing large bands of windows. The Price gymnasium/auditorium was also designed as an example of Modern architecture, employing an arched roof (similar to a Quonset hut) and large bands of windows.<sup>20</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The Taylor High School Campus is an important local landmark for its association with several decades of change and modernization in the Taylor public school system. It is also significant architecturally, as an intact collection of three distinct styles, each of which demonstrate the preferred aesthetic for school buildings at the time of construction. The Classically-inspired high school, built during the Progressive Era, symbolized the community's high regard for education. The gymnasium, built using PWA funds, embraced Art Deco stylistic elements seen in other PWA projects across the country, many of which were school-related buildings. Lastly, the more modest junior high was designed in the International Style, showing the transition in design and building materials after World War II. In addition, the high school designed by Giesecke & Harris, the gymnasium designed by Hugo Franz Kuehne, and the junior high designed by Arnold Wittman, serve as excellent local examples of each architect's work. The campus is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Education and Criterion C for Architecture at the local level of significance. The Period of Significance is 1923-1969.

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<sup>19</sup> "Inspection of the W.M. White Elementary School, Mexia Independent School District," *The Mexia Daily News*, December 15, 1948, 2.

<sup>20</sup> "Proposed Price Auditorium-Gymnasium," *Taylor Daily Press*, February 12, 1957, 1.

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"New Taylor High School Among Best Built in Texas," *Austin-American Statesman*, January 27, 1924.

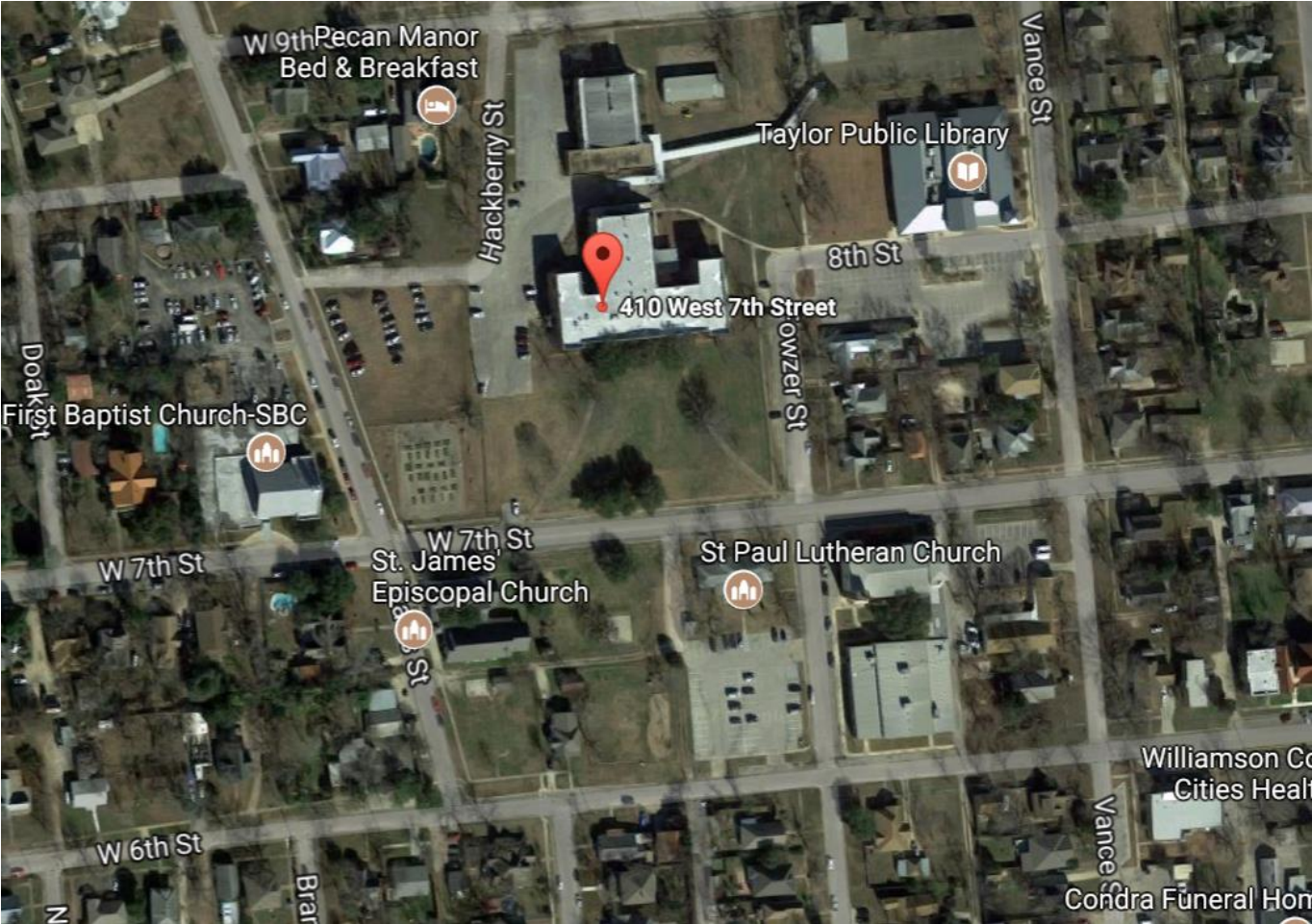
"The New High School, Taylor, Texas," *American School Board Journal*, March 1924, 63.

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**MAPS**

Map 1: Google Maps, 2017



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

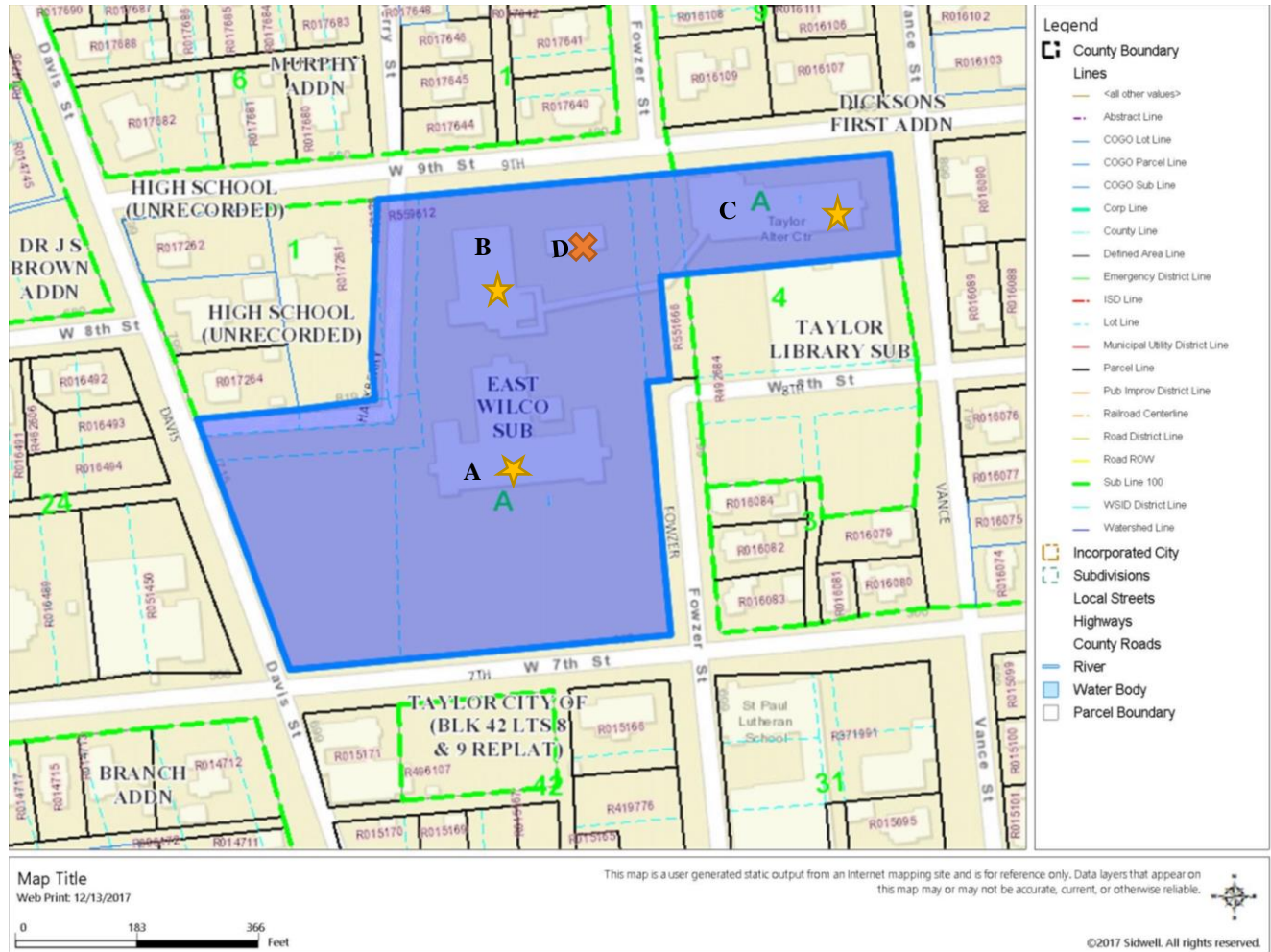
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Map 2: Google Earth, Accessed March 26, 2018.



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Map 3: Site Plan & Boundary, from Williamson County CAD



**Key**

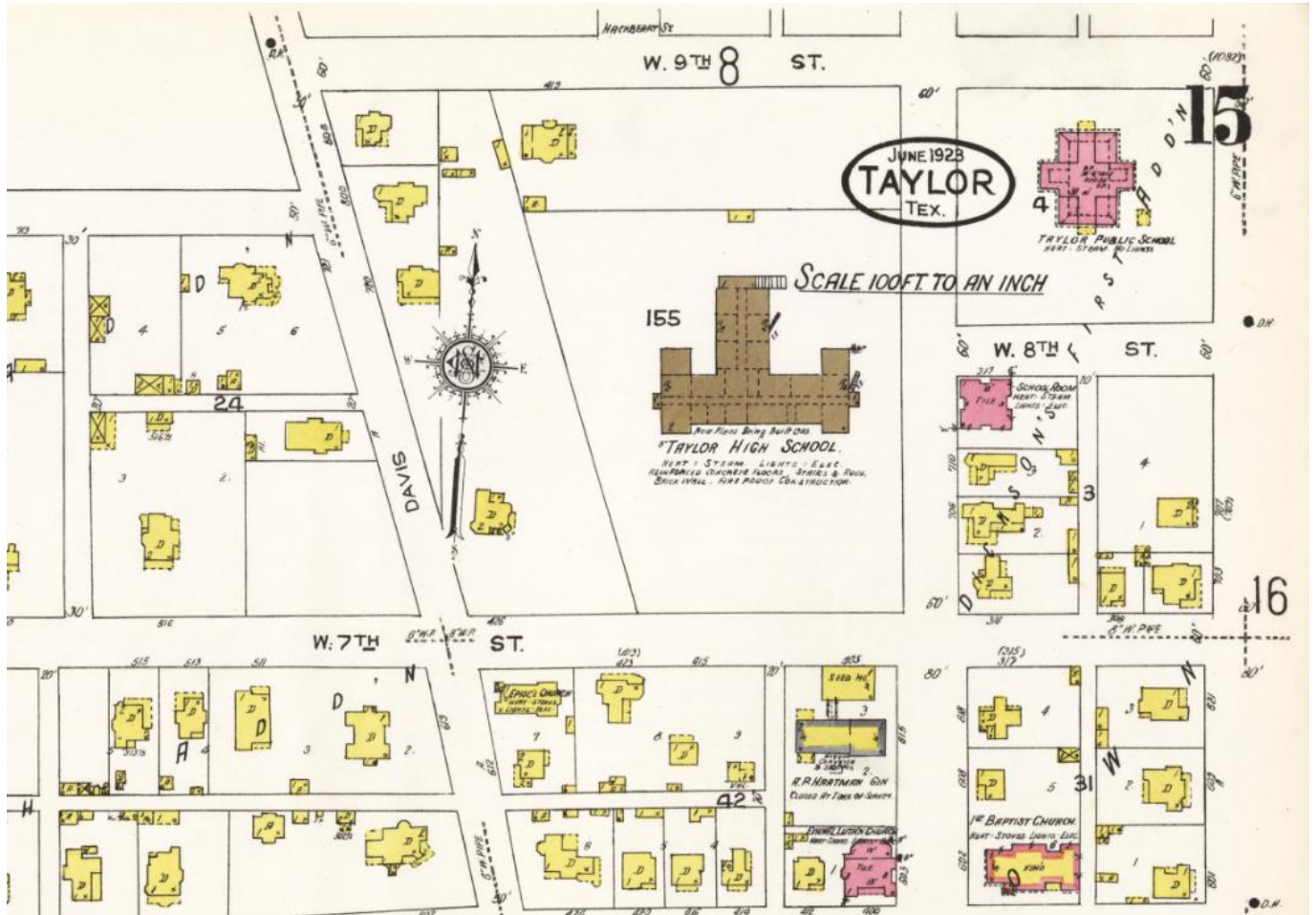
- Building A: High School
- Building B: Gymnasium
- Building C: Junior High
- Building D: Metal Shed

- ★ = contributing building
- ✘ = noncontributing building



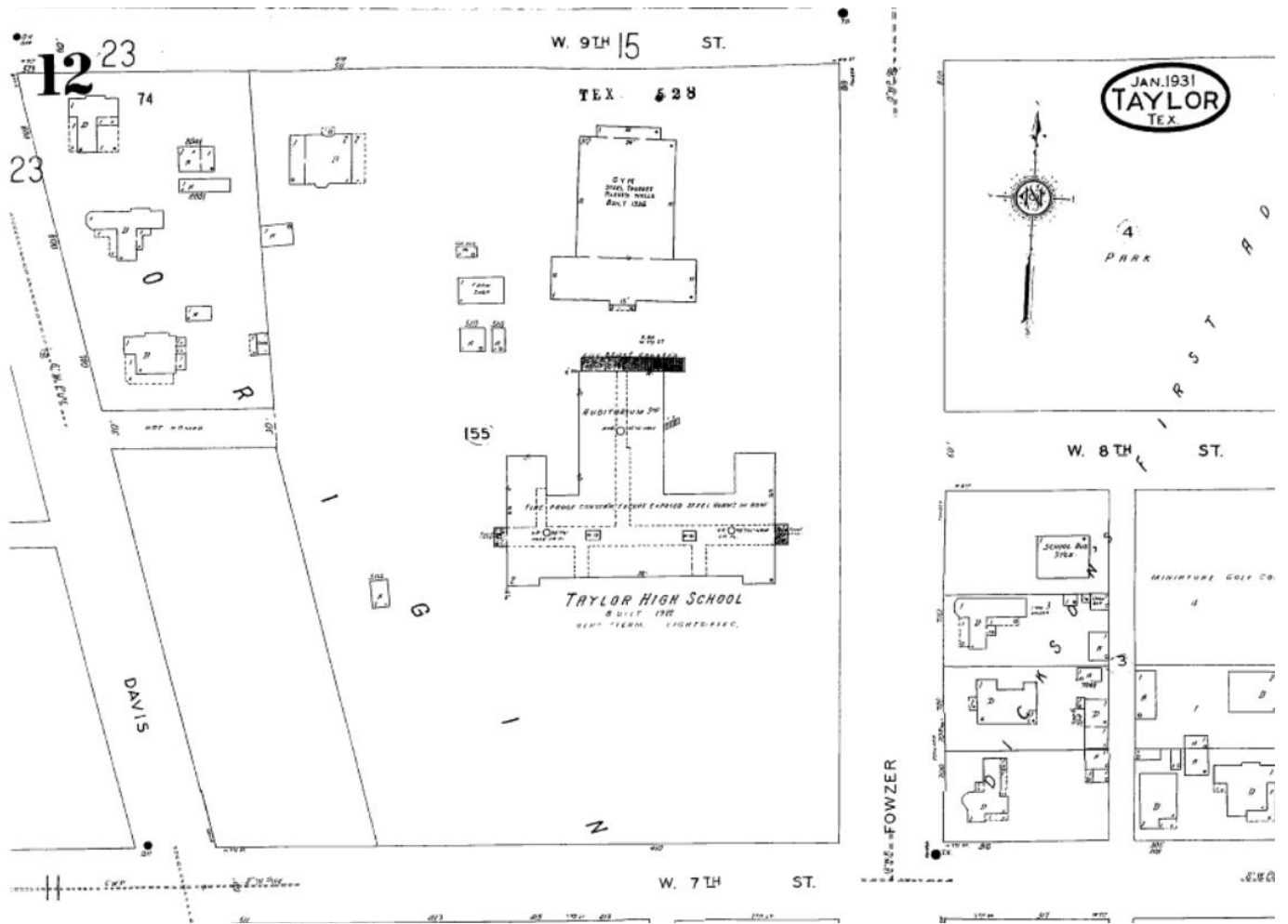
Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Map 4: Sanborn Map of Taylor, Texas, 1923, sheet 15. Courtesy Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

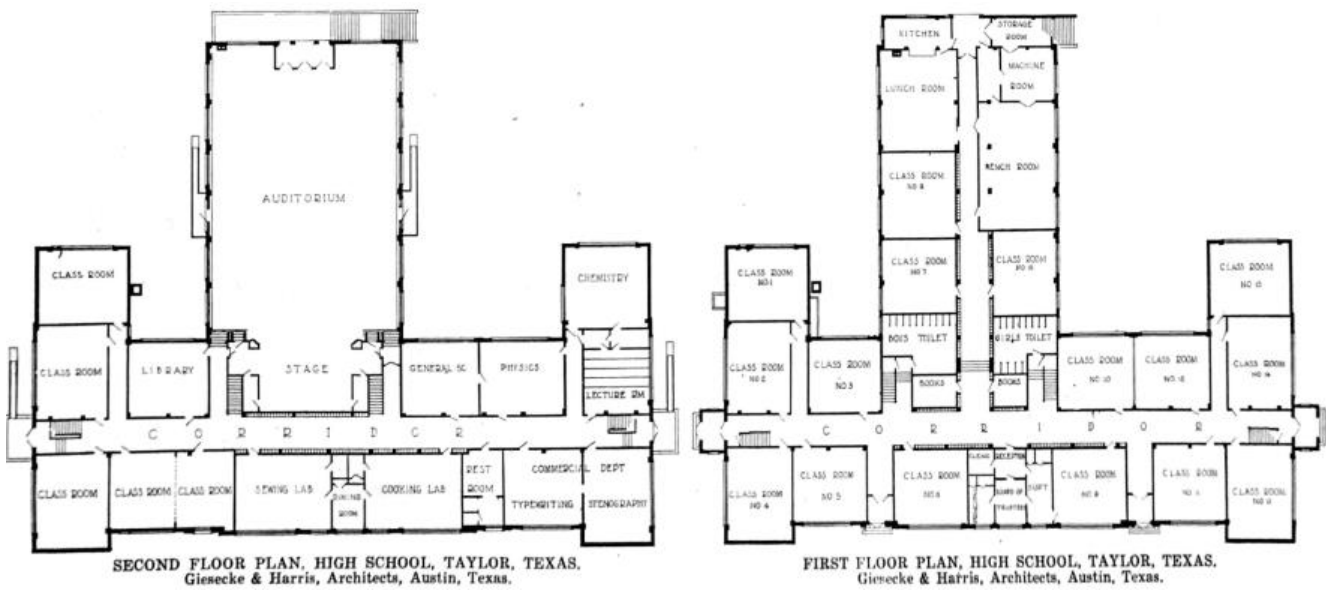
Map 5: Sanborn Map of Taylor, Texas, 1931-1947, sheet 12. Courtesy Proquest Digital Sanborn Maps.



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

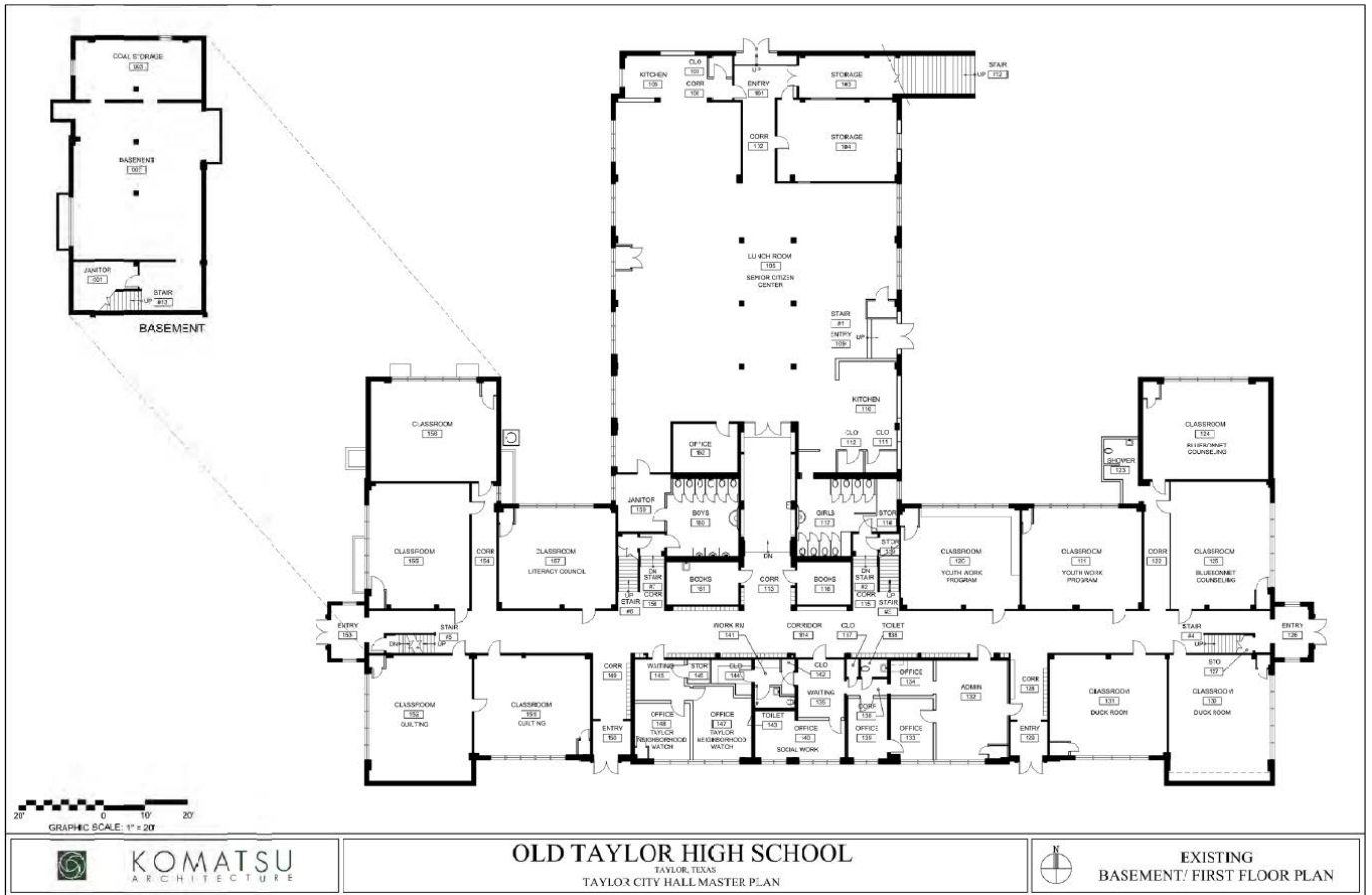
**FIGURES**

Figure 1: High School Floor Plans, Courtesy American School Board Journal, March 1924



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Figure 2: Basement / First Floor Plans for high school, 2013. Courtesy Komatsu Architecture



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

Figure 3: Second Floor Plans for high school, 2013. Courtesy Komatsu Architecture

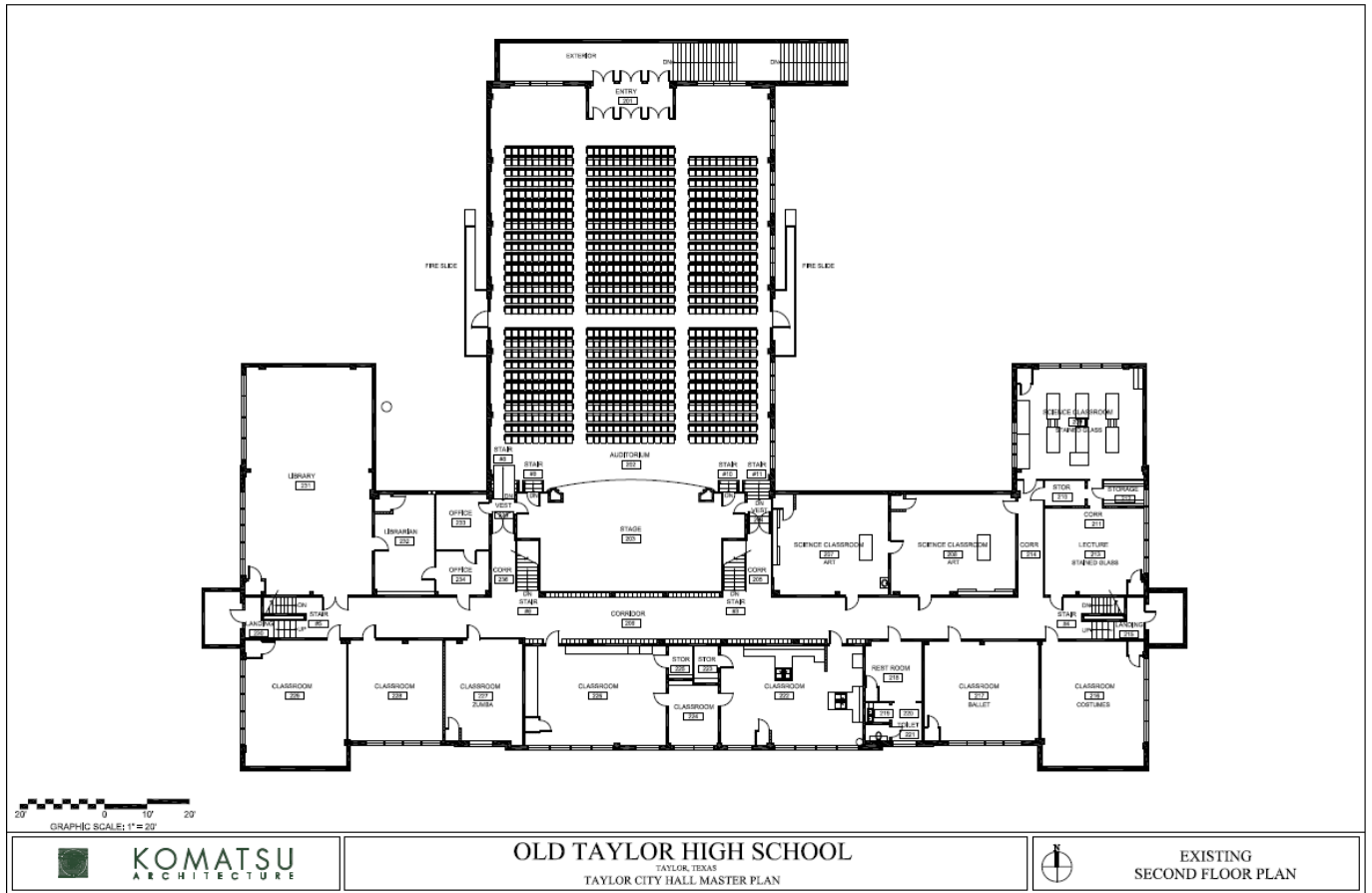
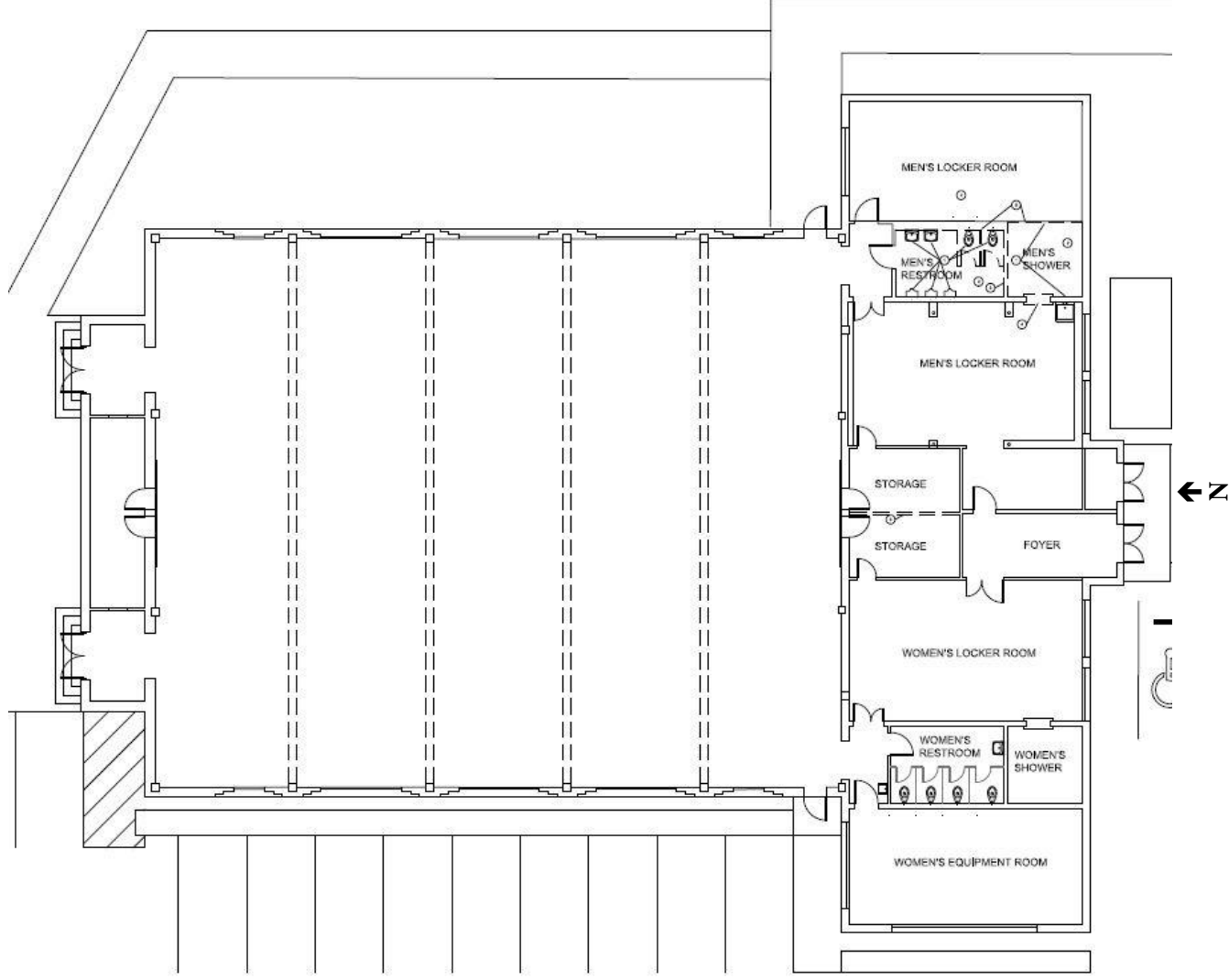
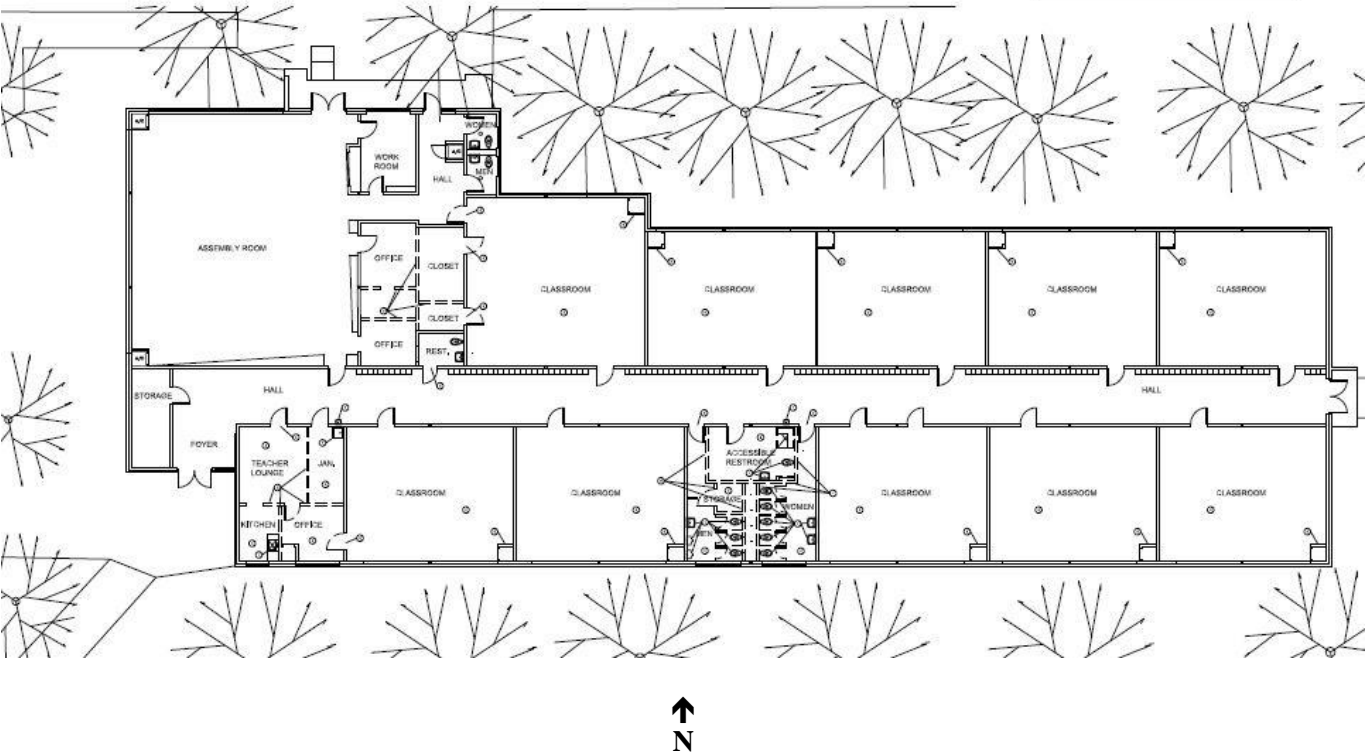


Figure 4: Floor plan for gymnasium, Courtesy of Stewardship Strategies, 2017



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Figure 5: Floor plan for junior high school, Courtesy of Stewardship Strategies, 2017



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Figure 6: Taylor High School, 1957. Image courtesy of Taylor Public Library





Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Figure 7: Taylor High School, unknown date. Image courtesy of Taylor Public Library



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Figure 8: Taylor High School, undated post card. Image courtesy of Taylor Public Library



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Figure 9: Junior High Building, 1959. Image from the Taylor High School yearbook, housed at the Taylor Public Library



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Figure 10: Junior High Building, 1962. Image from the Taylor High School yearbook, housed at the Taylor Public Library





Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Figure 12: Dedication Plaque inside gymnasium (note PWA project number), 2017



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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**PHOTOS**



Photo 1: South elevation, looking east



Photo 2: South elevation, looking east

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 3: South and west elevation, looking northeast



Photo 4: East elevation, looking west



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 5: West elevation, looking east



Photo 6: East and south elevations, looking northwest

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 7: North elevation, looking south

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 8: North elevation of auditorium, looking southwest

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 9: North elevation of auditorium, looking south



Photo 10: North elevation of auditorium, detail of entrance, looking south

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 11: North and west elevation of auditorium, and partial north elevation of high school looking south



Photo 12: Site, looking east

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 13: Site, looking north



Photo 14: Site, looking northwest

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 15: First floor, looking southeast

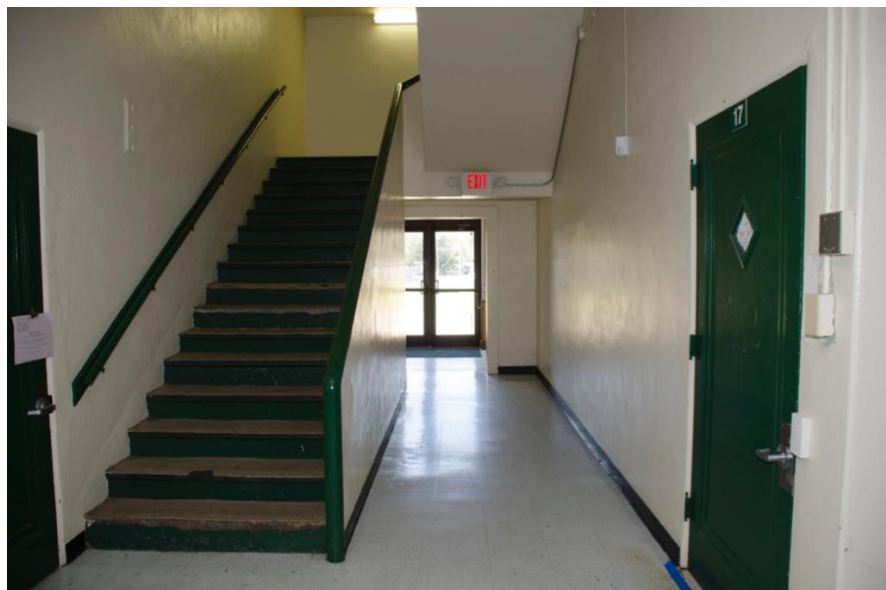


Photo 16: First floor, looking west

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 17: Second floor, looking west



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 18: Second floor, detail of door, looking north

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 19: Second floor, looking at south classroom

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 20: Second floor, detail of skylight, looking west

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 21: Second floor, looking north at auditorium



Photo 22: Second floor, looking south at auditorium

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 23: North elevation of gymnasium, looking southwest



Photo 24: West elevation of gymnasium, looking east

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 25: North elevation of gymnasium, detail of entrance, looking south

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 26: South elevation of gymnasium, looking northwest



Photo 27: East elevation of gymnasium, looking west

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 28: Interior of gymnasium, looking south



Photo 29: Interior of gymnasium, looking south toward locker room



Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 30: North elevation of junior high, looking south



Photo 31: North elevation of junior high, looking south

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 32: East elevation of junior high, looking west



Photo 33: South elevation of junior high, looking northeast

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 34: Interior of junior high, looking northeast at music room



Photo 35: Interior of junior high, looking north at entrance

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 36: Interior of junior high, looking south at classroom



Photo 37: Interior of junior high, looking east

Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

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Photo 38: Exterior of non-contributing metal shed, looking south





















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RESERVED  
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410 W 7th

NOTICE













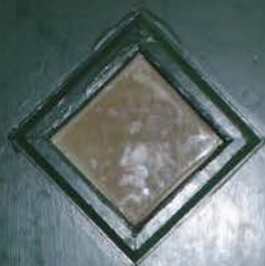
EXIT

17

A bulletin board is mounted on the left wall. At the top, a white sign with the word "WELCOME" in red, block letters is pinned. Below it, a banner reads "Folklore in Lunch & Collaboration" in a decorative, red and white font. The board is decorated with several small photographs and a map of Florida on the left side.



19



























TAYLOR VISITOR

City National Bank

TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL



LADY DUCKS



















WOMEN





Room 13  
April 24





401

B

A

B

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Taylor High School Campus

Multiple Name:

State & County: TEXAS, Williamson

Date Received: 4/2/2018      Date of Pending List: 4/26/2018      Date of 16th Day: 5/11/2018      Date of 45th Day: 5/17/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100002437

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      5/17/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Taylor High School Campus is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture. Comprised of a 1923 Classical Revival-styled high school building, a PWA-funded, Art Deco gymnasium (1936), and a modest International style (1956) junior high facility, the campus represents the historic center of Taylor's twentieth century public education programs.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criteria A and C.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229      Date 5/17/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

*real places telling real stories*



**TO:** Paul Lusignan  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**From:** Mark Wolfe, SHPO  
Texas Historical Commission

**RE:** Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas

**DATE:** March 29, 2018

The following materials are submitted:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Taylor High School Campus, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas
	Resubmitted nomination.
X	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.
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	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:

