

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAY 20 1980

date entered SEP 27 1980

## 1. Name

historic GEORGIAN REVIVAL BUILDINGS OF SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY *Thompson*  
*Resources*  
and/or common See Individual Data Sheets

## 2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Dallas, Texas \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 3  
state Texas code 048 county Dallas code 113

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Sports

## 4. Owner of Property

name Southern Methodist University

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Dallas \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas 75275

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dallas County Courthouse

street & number 600 Commerce Street

city, town Dallas \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 7/79 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the heart of Dallas, Southern Methodist University is a complex of buildings reflecting a strong and cohesive Georgian Revival influence. Although now occupying 150 acres, the campus began with one monumental building terminating a boulevard and a plan that would eventually line that boulevard with subsequent structures. The thematic nomination includes a group of ten structures built between the years 1915 and 1928, the earliest remaining ones on the campus.

Although constructed over a period of thirteen years with designs produced by a variety of architects, the structures are strongly related to one another in their placement around the inner campus quadrangle and boulevard and also their adherence to the physical characteristics of the Georgian Revival style. Designed to serve a spectrum of needs necessary for the operation of a university, the individual forms vary, yet all share characteristics which relate them to one another and allow them to be defined as a group. The scale of the buildings is uniform, none of them rising above four stories and, characteristically Georgian, all are well-proportioned to their respective heights. Excluding Patterson Hall (structure #10, photo #19) the individual structures are symmetrical compositions with moderately-pitched gabled roofs. All are constructed of red brick offset with white trim and feature multi-paned windows. The buildings are adorned with Georgian decorative elements applied in varying degrees in wood and cast stone. Decorative motifs employed include dentilled cornices, voussoirs and keystones, pilasters and columns, balustrades, and entrances emphasized with pediments and projecting porticoes.

Dallas Hall (structure #1, photo #2), the first structure to be erected on the SMU campus, is the focal point of the grounds due to its placement as a terminus for Bishop Boulevard and also its architectural merit, outstanding among the surrounding structures. In 1911 the plan outlined for the virtually undeveloped area of the city proposed, in addition to Dallas Hall, the erection of two dormitories, one for men and one for women, a science building, and a powerhouse to provide light and heat. Available funds restricted the plan to Dallas Hall, one dormitory, and a temporary powerhouse. Finally in 1915 the new university was ready to receive students. Dallas Hall, which housed all classrooms and offices, rose dramatically from the grassy plain at the end of a divided, unpaved road (photo #1). The remainder of the campus consisted of a women's dormitory, now Clements Hall (structure #2, photos #3 and #4), located southeast of Dallas Hall, and four temporary structures; three mens' housing units and physical plant, no longer extant. For nearly a decade these buildings met the needs of the young university, but as enrollment increased, the facilities became strained.

Free of debt in 1924, the university embarked on a building program which added 8 new buildings to the campus by 1929. Fred Florence Hall (structure #3, photos #5 and #6) was constructed that year to the northwest of Dallas Hall and now forms part of the Law School quadrangle. That same year Boston landscape architect Bremer W. Pond was called in to devise a master plan for future development of the campus. The Pond plan envisioned development of all land bounded by Hillcrest, Daniels, Mockingbird, and Airline with the establishment of a quadrangle system south of Dallas Hall to serve as an inner campus.

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DESCRIPTION

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Bishop Boulevard was stopped short of the inner campus and Asbury was eventually brought across as the east/west cross axis. The location of all present buildings in this main quadrangle was indicated on the plan except for the Student Center now located in the southwest corner of the quadrangle, opposite Clements Hall.

Four subsequent quadrangles were outlined for development as construction continued in different areas of the campus. Extensive planting was begun to create tree-lined passageways with landscaped and manicured lawns.

McFarlin Auditorium, (Structure #4, Photos #7 and 8) was completed in March, 1926, on the eastern side of the main quadrangle. The gift of a wealthy San Antonio oil producer, the 3500 capacity auditorium was made available to local groups as well as the university. Concurrently, Hyer Hall (Structure #5, Photos #9 and 10) and the first floor of what eventually became Perkins Hall of Administration (Structure #6, Photos #11, #12, #13) were being constructed. Hyer Hall, devoted to the sciences, contained lecture halls and laboratories for the departments of physics, biology, and geology with each department occupying a floor. Flanking Dallas Hall, these two buildings balanced one another and enclosed part of the quadrangle. A \$75,000 gift from a board member allowed the addition of a second and third story to Perkins Hall in 1938. With sufficient space available the offices of the president and vice president, dean of Arts and Sciences and registrar and business department were moved from Dallas Hall to Perkins Hall.

Also constructed in 1926 was Jordan C. Ownby Stadium (Structure #7, Photo #14) located at the southeast corner of the campus. It features an enclosed structure reflecting three interior levels in its fenestration, providing open seating on the western side of the field. Though not fully utilized originally, the interior space has been recently adapted to serve the needs of the school's athletic department.

In February, 1926 fire destroyed the three dormitories that had been temporarily constructed to allow the university to open. The need for additional housing became urgent and in 1927 two new dormitories were opened, Snider and Virginia Halls (Structure #8, Photos #15 #16 and Structure #9, Photos #17 and #18). Designed by locally prominent architect Wyatt C. Hedrick, these dormitories, constructed side by side, form the northern boundary of the womens' housing quadrangle.

The last of the buildings included in the thematic group is Patterson Hall (Structure #10, Photo #19), the university's heating and cooling plant. Located east of the main quadrangle, this utilitarian structure reflects the intent of maintaining a unifying theme throughout the campus.

See individual data cards for more specific information.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1915 - 1928

**Builder/Architect** See Individual Data Sheets

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

When planned in 1911, the campus for Southern Methodist University was intended to develop into a group of some 30 buildings designed in the Georgian Revival style and formally arranged along a major north/south axis, Bishop Boulevard. The Georgian Revival style was popular at the time, particularly on college campuses, and the selection of it for Southern Methodist University is not in itself unusual. Of significance, however, is the fact that the campus was extensively planned at the beginning and evolved from a single monumental structure isolated on a grassy knoll at the outer limits of the city into a major university campus within the heart of the city closely following the original plan. Each of the structures included in the nomination is a strong statement of the Georgian Revival style, reflected in the forms, materials, and details. Soundly constructed with high quality materials, the individual buildings are good examples of the early 20th century revival style. Collectively they reinforce the classical theme through repetition of common characteristics and formal arrangement on or around a major axis and quadrangle.

As the frontier areas of Texas became increasingly populated and civilized, a greater emphasis was placed on education. Thus, a growing need for institutions of higher learning was felt. In 1873, a Methodist school was established at Georgetown, originally called Texas University and chartered as Southwestern University in 1875. By the turn of the century however, there was talk of moving the school from Georgetown, viewed as being a poor location by many who felt that the "inaccessible rural area" was not conducive to the university's desired growth.

Controversial discussions were carried out for years before the issue became public. As early as 1906, Southwestern's president, Robert Hyer was convinced that the school should be moved to a more urban area. North Texas stood out as a likely choice where a new population center had developed around Dallas and Fort Worth that rivaled Texas' older established cities. A competition developed between the cities to attract the university, but Dallas, which was quickly developing into a manufacturing, distributing, financial, and cultural center was eventually selected for the founding of a new university in addition to Southwestern University, which has remained in Georgetown.

In 1911, the city proposed a donation of 300 acres of land on its northern outskirts along with \$300,000 in cash for the development of the university. The job of planning the layout was given to Robert Hyer whose goal as president was to build a "great university" and not just another small college. He studied campus plats and building arrangements from several universities and consulted with officials from Stanford University and University of Chicago, two relatively new schools founded by generous benefactors with large sums of money. While Southern Methodist University lacked a single outstanding donor and funds for the establishment of the school were limited, a farsighted vision of its potential growth and development was considered when plans were begun. Hyer engaged the prestigious Chicago architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge who, in the summer of 1911, produced a plan that provided for some 30 buildings to be spread over a 133 acre campus.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Thomas, Mary M., Southern Methodist University, Founding and Early Years, 1924, Historical and Architectural monographs excerpted from above reference; supplied by SMU and on file at THC

White, James F., Architecture at SMU, SMU Press, Dallas, 1966, p. 3-11

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property individually, less than one

Quadrangle name Dallas, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

See individual data sheets

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual data sheets.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda C. Flory, Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission date May 11, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 12276 telephone 512-475-3095

city or town Austin, state Texas

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5-14-80

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*[Signature]* date 9/27/80  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest *[Signature]* date 9/22/80  
Chief of Registration

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SIGNIFICANCE

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Financial constraints dictated a slow development, yet Hyer was determined that as the physical presence of the university took form, it would do so in a manner contributing to the overall grand-scale monumentality that was being sought.

His selection of the Georgian Revival style as the overall theme is not unusual as the style enjoyed prominence throughout the country during the early part of the 20th century. One of several classic revivals to follow the World's Columbian Exhibition held in Chicago in 1893, the style was particularly popular for collegiate architecture being erected at that time.

Dallas Hall, the first building constructed on the campus, was individually recognized for its architectural integrity by listing in the National Register on 11/17/78. The remainder of the thematic group consists of a set of buildings individually elegant in proportion and handsomely detailed, while strongly related to one another not only in placement on or near the major north/south axis, but also through the unifying elements of the Georgian Revival theme.

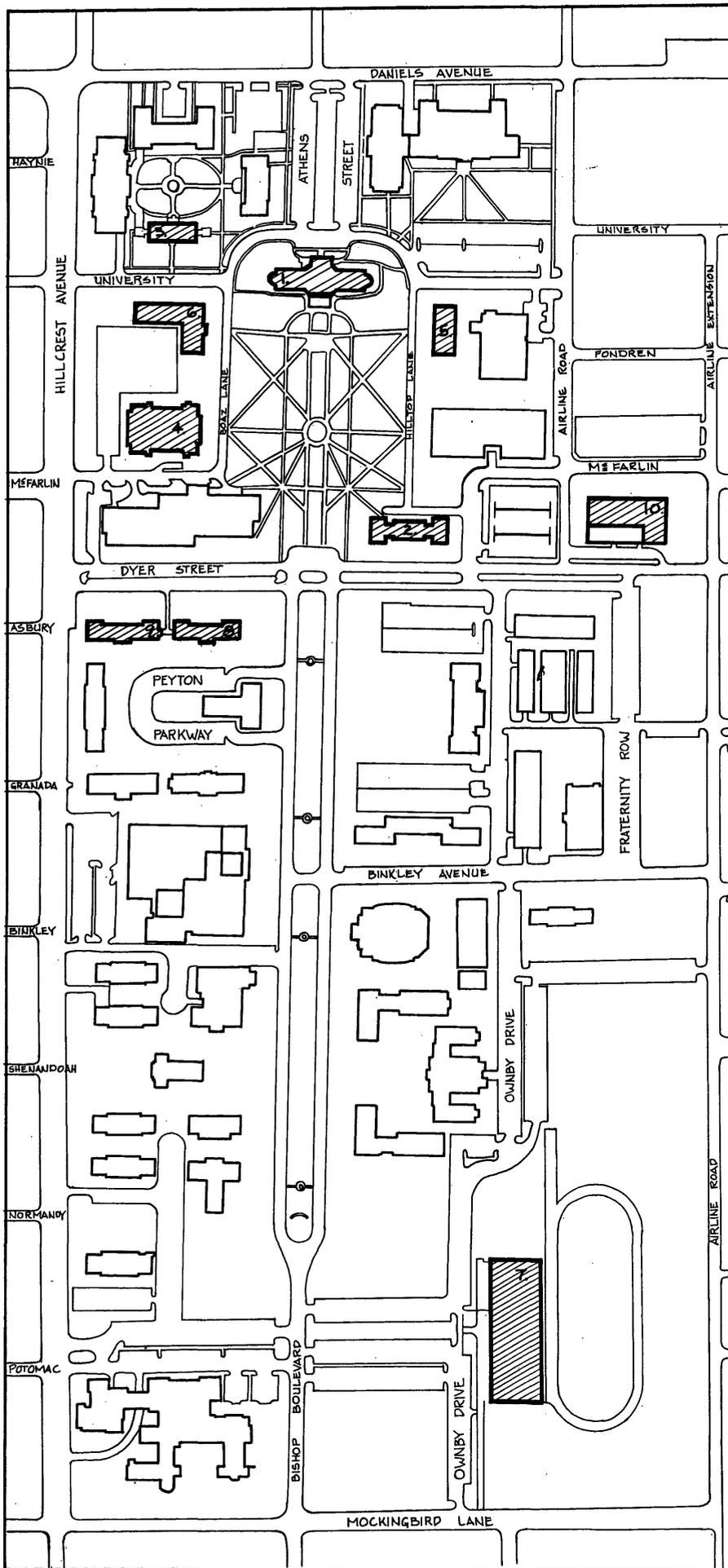
Built at the same time is Clements Hall (structure #2) which reflects a Palladian influence in the central block recessed between two flanking wings. Decorative details executed in wood and stone and abundantly applied, particularly to the central block, associate the structure with the Georgian Revival development. Following the established precedent, Florence Hall (structure #3), Hyer Hall (structure #5), Perkins Hall (structure #6), and Snider and Virginia Halls (structures #8 and #9) all reflect the style, though each structure varies in form and detailing.

The three story rectangular masses of Florence and Hyer Halls, located near Dallas Hall, reflect the decorative elements of Dallas Hall on their main facades such as a prominent pedimented entrance, Corinthian pilasters and columns, turned balusters and similar window forms. In Perkins Hall of Administration, elaborate detailing executed in cast stone is concentrated at the entrance while windows are simply treated with voussoirs and keystones. The cornice is accentuated with a prominent dentilled treatment.

Snider and Virginia Halls, both student housing structures, reflect three-part Palladian schemes, though with less prominence than Clements Hall. On the whole these buildings were given a less vigorous decorative treatment than the classroom and administration buildings, but the use of Georgian motifs selectively applied, particularly at the entrances, brings the three story forms to comparable level with the other structures.

The forms of McFarlin Auditorium and Ownby Stadium, (structure #4 and structure #7), which differ noticeably from those previously discussed, reflect their capacity to handle large groups of people. Though not Georgian in form, the two structures carry the stylistic theme in materials and details. Facing the inner campus, the auditorium's symmetrical entrance facade displays columns, pilasters and a prominent dentilled cornice. Strongly reflecting its use in form, the stadium repeats the Georgian Revival theme with arched openings, voussoirs and keystones, and swag and medallion decorative applications.

While the campus has continued to evolve through the years, particularly in the area east of Bishop Boulevard, care has been taken to maintain the original theme. Today, Southern Methodist University stands out as a fine example of the revival style, carefully executed and maintained on a grand scale.



**GEORGIAN REVIVAL BUILDINGS OF  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

SMU CAMPUS  
DALLAS, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

**NOMINATED STRUCTURES:**

1. DALLAS HALL
2. CLEMENTS HALL
3. FLORENCE HALL
4. MEFARLIN AUDITORIUM
5. HYER HALL
6. PERKINS HALL
7. OWNBY STADIUM
8. SNIDER HALL
9. VIRGINIA HALL
10. PATTERSON HALL

