

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

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Baylor University Male Department
Other name/site number: Baylor University (1866-1886), Guardian Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys (1889-c.1920), Baylor at Windmill Hill (current)
Name of related multiple property listing: Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial

2. Location

Street & number: 10060 Sam Houston Rd.
City or town: Independence State: Texas County: Washington
Not for publication: [] Vicinity: []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 [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet) the National Register criteria.

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: [X] A [] B [] C [X] D

[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title Date 1/5/24
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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	2	structures
1	0	objects
2	2	total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Education: college

Current Functions: Recreation and Culture: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification: NA

Principal Exterior Materials: NA

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-17)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations: A (Religious Properties); F (Commemorative Properties)

Areas of Significance: Education; Social History; Historic/Non-Aboriginal (*state level of significance*)

Period of Significance: 1851-c.1920; 1936

Significant Dates: 1851, 1886, 1889, 1936

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

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): Anglo American, African American

Architect/Builder: NA

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-18 through 8-43)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 9-44 through 9-48)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. Part 1 approved on (date)
- 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: Baylor University, Texas Collection
- Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 3.35 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 30.316063°N -96.345793°W

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated area is the current legal parcel (Property ID: R57070) as described by the Washington CAD: A0097 Saul, Thomas S. TRACT 138, Acres 3.35, (0.776 + 2.574 AC) The boundary is sketched on Map 6.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes all property historically associated with Baylor Male Department and currently owned by Baylor University. It excludes 36 acres of the known site held as private property and whose owners currently object to National Register listing.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Carol Macaulay-Jameson, Senior Lecturer with students Brady Dean, Libby Feray, Sarah Jones, Trey Lyon, and Mark Cole Sutton; and Bonnie Tipton (THC Staff)

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Date: February 27, 2023 (resubmittal)

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets MAP-49 through MAP-57)

Additional items (see continuation sheets FIGURE-58 through FIGURE-63)

Photographs (see continuation sheets PHOTO-64 through PHOTO-67)

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Photograph Log

Name of Property: Baylor University Male Department

Location: Independence, Washington County, Texas

Name of Photographer: Carol Macaulay-Jameson

Date of Photography: February 1, 2019

Photo 1: 2019 photograph of the archaeological footprint, covered with crushed granite, of Tryon Hall (Contributing Resource 1A), looking east.

Photo 2: 2019 photograph of the archaeological footprint, covered with crushed granite, of Houston Hall (Contributing Resource 1B), looking southeast.

Photo 3: 2019 photograph of the college well (Contributing Resource 1C), facing north, with the footprint of Tryon Hall in the background.

Photo 4: Photograph of the exposed limestone platform of the bell pole, constructed in 1882 (Contributing Resource 1F).

Photo 5: 2019 photograph of the 1936 Texas Centennial Marker (Contributing Resource 2), facing east, with the footprint of Tryon Hall in the background.

Photo 6: 2019 photograph of the pavilion (Non-contributing Resource 3), constructed in 2002, looking south.

Photo 7: 2019 photograph of the bell tower (Non-contributing Resource 4), erected in 2002, facing north.

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

Baylor University Male Department is a 19th-century archaeological site in Independence, Washington County, Texas. The 3.35-acre nominated boundary consists of subsurface foundations of two academic buildings, footprints of additional architectural and cultural structures, and intact archaeological deposits associated with Baylor University (1851-1886) and used by William Carey Crane Male and Female Colleges (1886-1889). The remains of these are collectively counted as one contributing site. A five-foot-tall grey granite 1936 Texas Centennial historical marker erected to commemorate the university meets registration requirements outlined in the MPS *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial* and is a contributing object. Two non-contributing structures—a pavilion and bell tower—are modern improvements. In 1849, Baylor University trustees acquired several parcels of land south of Independence to serve as a second campus for its male pupils. The Male Department opened for instruction in 1851 and by 1868, the campus grew to 37 acres (**Map 11**). Located 0.5 miles southeast from the Female Department (nominated separately), the Male Department operated in Independence until 1886 when it relocated to Waco, McLennan County. Upon its closure, the approximately 37-acre campus briefly operated as the home of the William Carey Crane Male and Female Colleges. Extant data also documents later eras of the property's use as the Holy Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys (1889-c.1920) and the Klatté Tenant Farm (1920-ca. 1950). Previous archeological investigations show the extent of the site is approximately 37 acres. At this time, however, only the 3.35-acre portion owned by Baylor University is being nominated; archeological investigations established this discreet area retains sufficient integrity to meet National Register criteria.

Environment

Baylor University Male Department is bounded by Sam Houston Rd. on the west, Lueckemeyer Rd. on the north and private property on the east and the south. The property is located on a high ridge (known as Windmill Hill) south of the intersection of County Road 50 and County Road 390 in Independence, Washington County (**Maps 3-6**). The site is 3.35 acres of relatively flat land that gently slopes toward the south. Live oak trees, ornamental shrubbery, and flowers have been planted on the property. The property has two entrances, one with a parking lot, located in the northeastern portion of the property on Luekemeyer Rd. Upon entering, the visitor immediately comes to an open-air pavilion with interpretive signs, erected in 2002. Crushed granite walkways circle through the property. The second entrance, located in the southwest corner of the property on Sam Houston Rd., is marked with a trellis-like gate, and its path connects to the crushed granite walkway (**Map 10**).

Time Period of Occupation/Use

Following its charter in 1845, Baylor University trustees established a coeducational college and preparatory school in Independence, Washington County. The first campus occupied property and buildings of what was originally Independence Academy, located approximately 0.5 miles west of Independence (**Map 3**) on the La Bahia Road. In 1849, Baylor University trustees opened a second campus in Independence for its male pupils. They initially purchased approximately 13 acres out of the T.S. Saul League, 0.5 miles southeast of Baylor's original campus from William W. and Elutia Allen, Henry and Ann Koontz, and John McKnight.¹ By 1868, Baylor had acquired six total parcels that constituted the 37-acre Male Department, called the "college tract" in deed records.² The nominated boundary is a

¹ Washington County Deed Book II: 200-202.

² The six parcels were purchased by Baylor from Koontz (1849, 1.67 acres, Washington County Deed Book II:200 and in 1855, 10 acres, Washington County Deed Book Q:351); Allen (1849; 6.3 acres, Washington County Deed Book IJ:201); McKnight (1849, 5 acres "more or less", Washington County Deed Book IJ:202); J.M. Norris (1850, 8 acres "more or less;" Washington County Deed Book O:302 and in 1851, 10.5 acres, Washington County Deed Book O:301.) In 1868, Baylor Trustees sold 3.9 acres of the "college tract" to Catherine Crane (Washington County Deed Book V:242). When Baylor sold the Male Department property to

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3.35-acre subset of the original 37-acre campus (**Map 11**). This portion is part of the original 13 acres that Baylor trustees bought in 1849 and on which most of its buildings were constructed.³

From 1850 to 1886, Baylor University Male Department made significant improvements to its campus, which artist Henry McArdle recorded in an 1883 sketch (**Figure 7**). Graves Hall, on property south of the nomination boundary, was the first building completed. By the late 1850s, the university had built six more buildings: Houston Hall, the octagonal Burseson Domicile, three dormitories, and Creath Hall. Only Houston Hall and Tryon Hall (completed in the early 1880s) are within the nominated boundary. Previous archaeological investigations, which surveyed roughly 37 acres of the former campus site, also found archaeological and documentary evidence of agricultural outbuildings, foot paths, fencing, landscaping, and crop cultivation on the campus property.

Baylor University Male Department and Female Department relocated from Independence to Central Texas in 1886. The Union Association acquired the property and opened William Carey Crane Male and Female Colleges on the former Baylor properties in Independence. Enrollment remained low and the separate schools could not be maintained so trustees consolidated the institution on the site of the former women's college and renamed it Binford University, which folded a year later. In 1889, the former Male Department campus was sold to T.C. Clay, who then sold the property to Father Francis Martin Huhn, a Catholic priest.⁴

Huhn established Guardian Angels Orphanage/Industrial School for Negro Boys in 1889. Despite its dubious school status, there is sufficient evidence that records up to 50 children living on the property through the 1890s. The children, whose main job was to cultivate and process cotton on the property, lived in squalid conditions. Under Huhn's ownership, the Baylor buildings quickly deteriorated; fires destroyed Houston Hall in 1893 and Graves Hall in 1901. Improvements to the property—fencing, cotton gin, and outbuildings—supported Huhn's agricultural endeavors. Guardian Angels Orphanage/Industrial School, plagued by allegations of abuse, gradually closed but there are no records to confirm a year. Therefore, the nomination recognizes 1928, the year when Huhn's heirs sold the property to Charles Klatte, as the end date for the orphanage.

In 1928, Charles Klatte purchased 101 acres from Huhn's estate for his family's farming operations. At that time, Tryon Hall was the only structure still standing. In 1934, the building was demolished and the stones were used to build a number of buildings in Independence. Tenant farmers lived on the property in an early 19th-century shotgun house, originally the office of Dr. T.C. Hairston, that Klatte relocated next to Tyron Hall. A Texas Centennial Marker (a contributing object) was erected in 1936, commemorating the location of Baylor University's Male Department, incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Texas.⁵ For most of the 20th century, the nominated property was primarily used for crop cultivation.

Thomas Clay in 1889, the deed recorded 36.69 as the total campus acreage (Washington County Deed Book 27:311-315).

³ Specifically, it was part of the 6.3 acres that the Allen Family sold to Baylor University for one dollar, and the deed noted the site included a high ridge known as Windmill (or Allen) Hill. Washington County Deed Book IJ20.

⁴ Washington County Deed Book Vol. 27:452, July 7, 1889.

⁵ Michael A. White, *History of Baylor University 1845-1861* (Waco: Texian Press, 1968), 12, 14-15, 24, 52, 55-56, 58; Louis Smith Murray, *Baylor at Independence* (Waco: Blor University Press, 1972), 26, 67, 88, 100-104, 142, 168, 210, 222, 284, 289; "Deed to Wind Mill Hill" in Murray, pp. 357-3ay58; Thomas W. Crumpton III, "The Oaks of Independence: A Landscape History of the Original Site of Baylor University and the Potential Surrounding Historic District" (M.A. Thesis, Baylor University, 2011), 102, 112; The Texas Collection Blogs, "Guardian Angels Industrial School," published October 9, 2013, <https://blogs.baylor.edu/texascollection/category/guardian-angels-industrial-school/>; R.C. Crane, "William Carey Crane College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbw18> (accessed June 3, 2019).

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Associated Persons, Ethnic Groups, or Archaeological Cultures

The nominated property is associated with the first Anglo-American settlers of south-central Texas, the founding members of the Baptist denomination in Texas (Union Association, established in 1843, Baptist State Convention, established 1848, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, established in 1885), all persons and descendants associated with Baylor University, and those persons enslaved by white Texans. Although the nomination argues for the sites significance in the area of Higher Education, data present on the site is also associated with and may yield important information about all persons and descendants of Guardian Angels Orphanage/Industrial School for Negro Boys, the Catholic community of Washington County, and the Klatte Family of Independence, Texas.

Likely Appearance during Its Time of Occupation

The first structure on Baylor University Male Department was a two-story limestone building, 40'x60' in size, erected in 1849-1851 on property south of the nominated property boundary line, named in honor of Baylor's first president, Henry Lee Graves. Its exterior walls were heavily plastered and painted yellow with four symmetrically formed pediments forming a cruciform plan (**Figure 4**). The main entrance faced east onto what would become the college quadrangle. Two chimneys were located on the north and south elevations of the building. The first floor consisted of four classrooms and the second floor auditorium served as a chapel during most of Baylor's time in Independence. From 1850 through 1861, Graves Hall was the only academic building on the campus. In 1859, construction began on Houston Hall, initially called the "wing building," located to the northeast of Graves Hall. It was a two-story 36'x56' masonry structure with 3' thick exterior walls, a hipped roof, four chimneys, four rooms and a hallway on each floor (**Figure 2**). Its main entrance faced north, toward Independence. It housed science classrooms, laboratories, natural history collections, a lecture hall, a reading room, a printing press, and a library. Construction began on the "main building," later named Tryon Hall, in 1860, but work was halted during the Civil War. In 1879, funds were raised to complete it and in 1882, the majority of the construction was completed. The external walls were 3' thick, sufficient to support two masonry stories and a wood-frame third floor with a mansard roof. The west elevation of Tryon Hall included a portico supported by paired Corinthian columns. The unusually large spacing between the two column sets represents a break from classical Greek Revival, and the structure shows a combination of antebellum Greek Revival and post-Reconstruction Texas Victorian architectural styles (**Figures 5-6**). The interior space of Tryon Hall consisted of four rooms and two hallways on the first and second floors, which were never completely finished (**Figure 1**). These rooms were used as administrative offices and lecture halls. An auditorium, Garrett Chapel, was on the third floor and used for Board of Trustees' meetings and commencements. The placement of Tyron, Houston, and Graves Halls created what was called the "College Square," or quadrangle. Houston Hall was built on the north, Tryon Hall on the northwest, and Graves Hall on the southwest. In 1882, President Crane erected a bell pole between Houston and Tryon Halls. On the eastern edge of the quadrangle, Judge Baylor was buried in 1873, and his grave was enclosed with a wrought-iron fence.

The nominated boundary is a 3.35-acre subset of the original 37-acre campus. Archaeological research conducted by Jay Belew between 1978-1982 is the basis of information about the extent of the known site. (See pg. 13) Historically, the Baylor University Male Department campus extended south of the nomination boundary (**Map 7a and Map 11**). Records and archaeological surveys found there were five additional structures, all built in the mid-1850s to provide living quarters for the male students. Burleson Domicile, a three-story limestone and wood-frame octagonal building, 50' in diameter, served as the president's home and male dormitory. It was surrounded by a porch on the first and second floors and topped with a copula. A large stone chimney was located in the center, giving a fireplace in each room (**Figure 8**). Creath Hall, a two-story wood-frame structure was used primarily for ministry students, and three 16'x32' one-story wood-frame structures served as dormitories. The appearance of the Windmill Hill campus in the early 1880s is documented in an 1883 lithograph by Henry A. McArdle (**Figure 7**). William Carey Crane College (1886-1889) used these buildings during its tenure. Sometime in the late 1880s, the Burleson Domicile fell into ruin. It

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is unknown if Guardian Angels Orphanage used any of these buildings to the south. The director of the orphanage, Father Francis Martin Huhn, resided in Graves Hall, as did some of the children, while others resided in Houston Hall. In 1893, Houston Hall burned down and its shell was used as a barn by the orphanage. In 1895, Tryon Hall was consecrated Guardian Angels Catholic Church. In 1901, Graves Hall was destroyed in a fire, leaving only Tryon Hall standing. Along the north elevation of the building, a long shed and a livestock pen were built and possibly a 60' limestone walkway. Father Huhn died in 1915 and his sisters sold the property to the Charles Klatte family in 1927. The Klatte family incorporated the property into their farming operations. They purchased a shot-gun style building which had been used as a doctor's office in Independence and moved it to the property and placed it to the south of Tryon Hall to be used as a residence for tenants. Later, additional structures, such as a barn and shed, a chicken house, animal pens, and possibly a new wind/grist mill were built.⁶

Physical Characteristics of the Nominated Boundary

The nominated property is located on Windmill Hill, a colloquial name for a windmill that was once atop the hill and which was used to pump water or to grind grain. Today, the windmill is gone, having been replaced with a water pump, centrally located within the property. Archaeological investigations were conducted in 1978-1982, 2001-2002, and 2005-2006 by James S. Belew of Blue Jay Archaeological Services. The subsurface foundation stones of Tryon and Houston Halls were identified, studied, and covered with sand, geotextile, and crushed granite. Other subsurface archaeological features and cultural deposits associated with Baylor University, Guardian Angels Orphanage, and the Klatte family farm were identified. These archaeological features are described below and their locations are marked on the site map, **Map 8**. In 2002, Windmill Hill was developed into Baylor Park which included a number of improvements. These, listed after "Archaeological Features," and the contributing object, are also marked on the site map.

⁶ Dimensions of Graves Hall are given as 40'x60' on p. 194 and original plans are given as 53'x35' on p. 88 in Murray, whereas in White, they are given as 36'x50' on p. 56. White also notes that the lower story was used as the chapel and the second floor had two classrooms; In William Seale's *Sam Houston's Wife, A Biography of Margaret Lea Houston* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970), the Baylor campus of 1853 is described on p. 162 as "regularly planned arrangements of yellow limestone and wooden buildings in the Greek Revival fashion" noting the yellow exterior plaster of Graves Hall, confirmed by Belew's 1978-1982 excavations; Murray, 142, 168, 195, 240, 291-292; White, 56, 58, 59; *Catalogue of Officers and Students of Baylor University 1866-1867 (Male Department)* (Digital Collections, The Texas Collection, Baylor University), 15-16; Belew, 1989, 136-156, 168, 184, 192-193, 256, 261, 274; James S. Belew, "Notes on the Centennial of Baylor University Exhibit at Waco for the Strecker Museum" (Mayborn Museum, Baylor University, 1986); Belew, 2001; James S. Belew, "Text for Interpretive Signs" (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 4, Folders 7-10, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 2002b).

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Inventory

(See associated site map of resources and archaeological features on **Maps 8a-8b.**)

Resource	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status	Photo Nos.
1	Site (with Features A-G)		Contributing	
1A	<i>Tryon Hall Subsurface Foundation</i>	1860		1
1B	<i>Houston Hall Subsurface Foundation</i>	1859		2
1C	<i>Well</i>	ca. 1840s		3
1D	<i>Connective Wall Subsurface Foundation</i>	ca. 1880s		
1E	<i>Walkway Subsurface Foundation</i>	ca. 1890s-1920		
1F	<i>Bell Pole Subsurface Foundation</i>	1882		4
1G	<i>Tenant House Footprint</i>	c. 1920		
2	Object – Texas Centennial Marker	1936	Contributing	5
3	Pavilion	2002	Non-Contributing	6
4	Bell Tower	2002	Non-Contributing	7

Contributing Resource 1: Archaeological Features of Baylor University Male Department Site⁷

A. Tryon Hall subsurface foundation (began 1860, completed 1882):

Located on the apex of Windmill Hill, west of the footprint of Houston Hall and north of the college well, the perimeter of the building’s stone foundation is approximately 106’x56’ (**Photo 1 and Figure 1**). Archaeological excavations revealed distinct contrasts between the building of the perimeter walls prior to the Civil War and the completion of the building in the early 1880s. The external perimeter walls were 3’ thick, made with large, well-cut faceted limestone rock and locally-made mortar, whereas the interior and portico walls, averaged between 1’ and 2’ thick, and were built with smaller stone and Portland cement. The foundations are covered with crushed granite.

B. Houston Hall subsurface foundation (1859):

Located in line with and east of Tryon Hall, Houston Hall supposedly had dimensions of 56’ x36’ but was found to be slightly smaller at 53’ x 32’ (**Photo 2 and Figure 2**). Foundation stones of the building are buried beneath a layer of crushed pink granite. A few of the foundation stones in the northeast corner are currently exposed.

C. College well (ca. 1840s):

Approximately 50’ south of the Tryon Hall footprint, is a limestone-lined well, approximately 1½’ tall, its outer diameter is 7’ with 1’ thick walls, made from various sized rock (**Photo 3**). Presently, there is a simple wooden frame structure built over the well, mimicking the one that once was used for retrieving water, as depicted in this close-up photograph (**Figure 3**) from the 1930s. During the 2001-2002 excavations, the well was re-excavated and lights installed in order to lighten the limestone substrate through which the well was dug. A steel grate was placed inside the well to keep visitors and the well safe. A new well was drilled to provide water for an irrigation system that was installed to maintain the grass, shrubs, and trees planted on the property. Records state that the well was over 50’ deep.

⁷ James S. Belew, *Windmill Hill: An Archaeological Study of the Main Campus of Baylor University, Independence, Texas* (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 3, Folders 5-29, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 1989); James S. Belew, “Text for Interpretive Signs at Baylor University Male Campus on Windmill Hill” (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 4, Folders 7-10, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 2001).

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D. Connective wall subsurface foundation (ca. 1880s):

Running 22' east-west, this 2' wide linear alignment of limestone rock abuts the west wall of Houston Hall and ends three feet east of Tryon Hall. It is sufficiently thick to support two stories of masonry (**Figure 1**). No mortar was found in this wall. Additional archaeological investigations are necessary in order to learn more about this feature.

E. Walkway subsurface foundation (unknown date of construction, possibly late 19th or early 20th century):

Running east-west for a distance of 60', this 6' wide, multi-course foundation of mortared flat-lying limestone rock runs parallel, approximately 12' from the north wall of Tryon Hall. Belew suggested that it may be associated with the orphanage-era shed that was attached to the north wall of Tryon Hall (**Figure 1**). Additional archaeological investigations are necessary in order to learn more about this feature.

F. Bell pole subsurface foundation (1882):

Located south of the connective wall and west of the northwest corner of Houston Hall is a pavement approximately 10'x10' in size and may have served as a gathering place for the bell tower erected by President Crane (**Photo 4**).

G. Tenant farmhouse footprint (ca. 1920):

Located 70' directly south-southwest of the south wall of Tryon Hall sat a shot-gun style building, formerly the office of Dr. Thomas Hairston of Independence that the Klatte family had moved to the property after they acquired the land in 1927. The structure was approximately 20'x30' in size. It is depicted in **Figures 3 and 6**.

Contributing Resource #2 (Object)

2. 1936 Texas Centennial marker (#8301):

This gray granite slab is approximately 5' tall, 2½' wide and 10" thick. The front is finished smooth while all other sides are rough cut. A bronze star and cluster applique centrally located near the top (**Photo 5**). It stands just east of the footprint of Tryon Hall. Its marker text states:

ON THIS SITE
STOOD ONE OF THE EARLY BUILDINGS
OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
ERECTED FOR BOYS IN 1851 AND
TORN DOWN IN 1834
THE INSTITUTION WAS INCORPORATED
FEBRUARY 1, 1845
UNDER THE LAWS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
NAMED FOR
ROBERT EMMETT BLEDSOE BAYLOR
WHO WITH REVEREND WILLIAM M, TRYON
SECURED THE CHARTER
HENRY L. GRAVES
WAS ELECTED FIRST PRESIDENT
JANUARY 12, 1846
CONSOLIDATED WITH WACO UNIVERSITY
IN 1886 AND MOVED TO WACO
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
THE OLDEST EXISTING EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION IN TEXAS CONTINUES IN
UNSELFISH SERVICE
"PRO ECCLESIA, PRO TEXANA"

Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Non-Contributing Resources #3-4 (Structures)

3. Pavilion (2002):

A rectangular structure, measuring 10' long north-south by 26' east-west (**Photo 6**). It is an open-air structure built in 2002 and composed of 12 metal bracketed cedar pillars resting on a low limestone shelf approximately 2' thick that outlines the corners of the structure. The metal roofline mimics that of a central-Texas vernacular barn and is approximately 16' high. Centrally located within the pavilion are eight 18"x24" interpretive panels, four on each side, attached to a limestone platform. The pavilion is surrounded on all sides by beds containing various shrubs and flowering plants. The pavilion is in very good condition, but the interpretive panels are showing signs of weathering. It is positioned next to the parking lot on the northeast corner of the property and sits approximately 35' from the road.

4. Bell tower (2002):

A square bell tower (without a bell) is located approximately 102' northeast from the 1936 Texas Centennial marker. The bell tower sits on a 14'x14' limestone masonry slab that mimics the original building techniques used during Baylor's tenure on Windmill Hill. The structure is constructed of 8"x8" milled cedar lumber and galvanized metal and is approximately 21' tall (**Photo 7**).

Other Objects

The following objects are not enumerated in the resource count due to small scale, diminished significance, and lack of contributing significance to the site.

R.E.B. Baylor grave site (1873 interment, 1917 removal):

The site of R.E.B. Baylor's grave is a 12'x5' fenced area located approximately 2' from the fence located along the eastern property line. It is at the end of a gravel pathway and is oriented at 40°. The grave site is enclosed with an iron fence with a front gate. It was installed in 2002 and is reminiscent of the original wrought iron fence that once surrounded the grave. Upon Baylor's death, he was buried at the namesake institution in 1873 but his remains were reinterred in Belton at the campus of Mary Hardin-Baylor University in 1917.

Historical Marker (#13680) - Baylor University on Windmill Hill (2006):

Located outside the southwest entrance to Baylor Park on Sam Houston Road.

Historical Marker (#13679) - Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor 1793-1873 (2006):

Located approximately 12' from Judge Baylor's grave site.

Southwest entrance gate (2002):

A trellis-like gate, approximately 10' from Sam Houston Rd., in the southwest corner of the property, consists of a cast-iron arch approximately 4½' across and 10' tall resting on four cedar posts set atop limestone bases. Inside the property, the limestone bases stretch out about 16' in a low stair step wall. Planting beds containing various flowering plants and native shrubs surround this low wall in the front and back as well as extending eastward down the path for a few feet.

Current and Past Impacts and Integrity

In 1978, Esther Klatte leased the Windmill Hill portion of her land to Baylor University for the purpose of conducting a four-year archaeological investigation by James S. Belew of Blue Jay Archaeological Services. In 2001, Karen Klatte, Herbert Klatte, Jr., and David and Mary Wolff, donated a combined 3.35 acres of land to be developed into an historical park (**Map 10**). Archaeological work was conducted in 2001-2002 to define the archaeological features in

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the park. A pavilion and bell tower (**Photos 6-7**) were built, electrical poles and lines were installed, and a new water well was drilled to provide water for an irrigation system that was installed to maintain the grass, shrubs, and trees planted on the neighboring property by Mike Shoup, owner of the Antique Rose Emporium. In 2005-2006, additional archaeological work was conducted in order to protect the foundations of Tryon and Houston Halls. Eight underground conduits were installed to prevent damage of standing water to the foundations of the two buildings. The footprints of the buildings were covered with crushed granite.

In 2010, the Independence Visitor Center was opened and staffed and Baylor freshman began their annual visit to the site each year. An archaeological report was written in 1989, but it has not been published. Belew's archaeological investigations have demonstrated that the foundations of Tryon and Houston Halls, as well as the additional archaeological features were intact. He also noted that *in situ* cultural deposits associated with each feature exhibited high levels of integrity. He recommended that additional archaeological research be conducted on the property and that the artifacts that he had recovered be analyzed further.⁸

Previous Archaeological Research⁹

1978-1982 Excavations

A 100% pedestrian survey was conducted to find the extent of the known original 37-acre Baylor campus, which includes the area nominated in this application. Eleven shovel tests were conducted, and 94, 1x1 meter excavation units were opened in order to locate structures, features, and middens associated with the university. Excavations revealed a number of features that date to the time periods when Baylor University and William Carey Crane College occupied the property. These included the foundations of Tryon, Houston, and Graves Halls, three 16'x32' single story dormitories/halls, the two-story Creath Hall, the Burluson Domicile, including its kitchen and storage rooms and an associated midden, a connective wall between Tryon and Houston Halls, a stone platform possibly serving as a gathering place in front of the bell pole, the well, the location of the campus street, the location of a possible cistern, the area where quarried rock was deposited in 1861 for the building of Tryon Hall, and a number of Baylor-era fence post molds. Belew also identified the location of archaeological features associated with the Guardian Angels

⁸ Belew, 1989, 168-169, 214-220; James S. Belew, *Baylor Male Campus Site and the National Register, A Report Identifying the Steps Required to List This Property, Assessing Eligibility, Multiple Property Ownership, and Disturbance of Archaeological Integrity* (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 4, Folder 1, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 2002a), 16, 48, 51; "Strategic Planning Proposal, Baylor at Independence Advisory Committee Report, December 10, 2000" (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 5, Folders 29-30, The Texas Collection, Baylor University); James S. Belew, *Baylor Independence Report, Phase 1: A Proposal of Services for Removing Floodwaters and Re-Expanding Stabilized Ruins for Public Exhibition at Baylor Park on Windmill Hill, Independence, Texas* (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 4, Folder 4, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 2006), 13, 20, 25-26.

⁹ The narrative presented in the 'Previous Archaeological Research' section was compiled from James S. Belew's reports: James S. Belew, *Windmill Hill: An Archaeological Study of the Main Campus of Baylor University, Independence, Texas* (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 3, Folders 5-29, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 1989); James S. Belew, *Baylor Male Campus Site and the National Register, A Report Identifying the Steps Required to List This Property, Assessing Eligibility, Multiple Property Ownership, and Disturbance of Archaeological Integrity* (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 4, Folder 1, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 2002a); James S. Belew, *Baylor Independence Report, Phase 1: A Proposal of Services for Removing Floodwaters and Re-Expanding Stabilized Ruins for Public Exhibition at Baylor Park on Windmill Hill, Independence, Texas* (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 4, Folder 4, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 2006); James S. Belew, "Text for Interpretive Signs at Baylor University Male Campus on Windmill Hill" (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 4, Folders 7-10, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 2001); James S. Belew. "Text for Interpretive Signs" (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 4, Folders 7-10, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 2002b).

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Orphanage which included a shed attached to Tryon Hall, an east-west running limestone walkway north of Tryon Hall, a livestock pen, an outdoor kitchen area, fence post molds, and a midden. Features associated with the tenant farm include a shot-gun style house, barn and shed, a chicken house, animal pens, and possibly the locations of a new wind/grist mill. Additional features include a pipeline connecting the well to the area used as a slaughter house, a four-post platform to support an iron tank, and fence post molds. Belew's map included a large depression, which may have once been a stock tank.

Belew also noted differences in 1) the building methods (limestone block faceting, mortar, and wood framing), 2) the use of exterior and interior plaster, and 3) the stratigraphic deposits of the three academic buildings and the domicile. For example, Houston Hall's foundation stones were well-fitted and faceted and the deposits produced cultural material associated with Baylor University's tenure at the site, and capped with a burned masonry layer from the 1893 fire. Graves Hall's foundation stones were unique in that those at the corners of the building were much larger in height and in overall mass than those along the middle portions and all of the exterior stones were larger than the interior foundation stones. The deposits associated with Graves Hall contained the cultural material associated with both Baylor and the Guardian Angels Orphanage, which was destroyed in a 1901 fire. The foundation stones and associated mortar of Tryon Hall reflect two distinct building periods. The exterior walls, completed before the Civil War, reflect higher quality stonework than those of the portico and interior walls erected in the early 1880s. Tryon Hall's intact deposits produced artifacts dating primarily to the orphanage and tenant occupations. The octagon-shaped Burleson Domicile was built upon a two-course limestone foundation made of irregularly shaped rock and framed with cedar. Its artifact assemblage represented 30 years of occupation, and consisted of kitchen, personal, and school-related artifacts.

2001-2002 and 2005-2006 Excavations

Archaeological work was conducted in 2001-2002 by Belew in order to delineate and expose the foundations of Tryon and Houston Halls and to clear cultural material from the areas where new park features were to be built. Three inches of topsoil were scraped to prepare the site for a gravel path and an interpretive pavilion, keeping the archaeological footprints of Houston and Tryon Halls intact. In 2005-2006, additional archaeological work was conducted in order to protect the foundations of Tryon and Houston Halls. Eight underground conduits were installed to prevent damage of standing water to the foundations of the two buildings.

Material Culture

The following list represents the artifacts accessioned into the Mayborn Museum collection that were on display at the Strecker Museum in 1986, categorized by South's (1977) functional types.¹⁰ This scheme employs nine main groups, and within each group, artifacts are further classified into specific artifact types. As with any classification system, there are strengths and weaknesses, its main strength is that it has been used widely and therefore, this collection can be easily compared to others using this classification system.

I. Architectural Group:

Plaster fragments: The interior walls of Houston Hall were covered with well-finished white-gray plaster (further excavations on the exterior side of Houston Hall are required to identify the type of plaster used on the exterior walls). The exterior walls of Graves Hall were covered with a thick layer of yellow-painted plaster, while white plaster covered the walls of the interior, with concentrations of black plaster in the northwest quadrant, pink plaster in the southeast quadrant, and red and pink plaster in the south-central extent.

¹⁰ Stanley South, *Methods and Theory in Historical Archaeology* (New York: Academic Press, 1977).

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Cut nails, all pennyweight sizes represented: Houston Hall's cut nail assemblage consists primarily of medium-sized nails (6d to 8d pennyweight) probably used to bind medium-sized boards, perhaps shelves for apparatus and library books. More than half of the inventory of cut nails recovered from Graves Hall consisted of small-sized nails (4d pennyweight), possibly used to bind slightly larger boards than perhaps they were intended for, because very few 6d to 8d pennyweight nails were found.¹¹ Unique to Graves Hall are large-sized nails (12d pennyweight) that possessed a rectangular form of the cross-section, instead of the trapezoidal form, suggesting an 1840s manufacturing date. The cut nail assemblage recovered from the Burleson Domicile is dominated by medium-sized nails (6 to 8d pennyweight) used for binding floor boards and wall siding.

Window glass in various colors and thicknesses: Panes of window glass grew in size and thickness as manufacturing technologies improved over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. Windowpane glass shards can be dated using Moir's (1982) Texas window glass thickness index which provides information as to when window panes were originally installed, as well as when they were replaced after breakage. Windowpane glass shards from Houston Hall represent primarily 6-over-6 window sashes, while Graves Hall had 6-over-6 and 4-over-4 sashes, the latter representing replacement of the windowpanes following Reconstruction, and Tryon Hall had 4-over-4 window sashes, depicted in **Figure 5**. Windowpane glass shards from the Burleson Domicile exhibited a thinner mean value than those found in any of the structures, with its lower range similar in value with Graves and Houston Halls.

Door hinges

Door lock

Carpet tacks

Cornice stone: from a Tryon Hall pillar

Burned wood

II. Kitchen Artifact Group:

The majority of kitchen-related artifacts recovered from the excavations at Windmill Hill were recovered at the Burleson Domicile, which was occupied by the families of Presidents Burleson and Crane, male students, and possibly servants for over 30 years. Several restored plates, saucers, teacups, and other vessels were found within the vicinity of the location of a kitchen pantry. Aqua, green, and amber colored glass shards representing bottles used for beverages, medicines, and perfumes were also recovered.

A. Ceramics Class:

The ceramics recovered span the 19th and 20th centuries. Examples include molded, feather-edge and transfer-printed pearlwares (first half of 19th century) and plain whitewares (mid-19th century to present). Stoneware examples include salt-glazed, alkaline-slipped and Albany glazed (mid- to late 19th century).

Utilitarian stonewares: salt-glazed crock, jar, and bowl sherds, Albany-slipped jar, crock, and bowl sherds

English refined earthenwares: undecorated plate, saucer, teacup, bowl, and platter sherds, molded-decorated plate sherds

Porcelain bowl sherds

B. Glassware Class:

Shards of molded glass tablewares consisting of tumblers, small and large bowls

¹¹ Belew, 1986.

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C. Bottle Class:

Glass bottles are represented by shards of different colors, which provide clues as to when these bottles were manufactured. Most of these shards are morphologically distinct and can be identified to vessel type. They also provide information into the extent of consumerism in which the residents of Windmill Hill were involved.

Shards of 19th- and 20th-century bottle glass shards: Aqua, olive, green, amber, black, brown, milk, solarized, and clear bottle glass shards representing bases, bodies, shoulders, necks and finishes of wine, ale, medicine, condiments, and soda bottles as well as canning jars. Some of these shards were heat-altered, which were associated with the accidental burning of Houston Hall in 1893 and Graves Hall in 1901.

D. Tableware Class:

Silver-plated spoon
Three-pronged fork

E. Other:

Metal can fragments: Mid-20th-century trash deposits

III. Bone Group:

Large and medium-sized animal bone: Vertebra, longbone element with cut marks, skull fragments
Oyster shells

IV. Clothing Group:

Buttons: Ceramic, wooden, and metal
Brass pin or button (possible Confederate insignia)
Thimble

V. Personal Group:

Catholic medals and rosary segments (1889-1927)

VI. Arms Group:

Shotgun shell cartridges: 12 and 10 gauges, 22 short

VII. Activities Group:

A. Education Class:

Printing press type sets: English (1866 Lowe printing press installed in Houston Hall) and German (Guardian Angels Orphanage printing press installed in Tryon Hall – Father Huhn published *Das heimathlose Negerkind*)
Cast iron desk decorative fragment
Slate
Pencil lead
Metal spring (possibly for a mantel clock)
Lamp chimney glass

B. Toys Class:

Ceramic marble

C. Farm and Stable and Barn Classes:

Horse gear

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Barbed wire

Bolts

Iron plates and rods

Chain links

D. Other Class:

Chert fragments

Polygyra and olygyra species land snail shells

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Statement of Significance

The Baylor Male Department archaeological site in Independence, Washington County documents the earliest developmental period of higher education in Texas. Religious organizations and private interests led the 19th- century college founding movement in Texas, and the first generation of institutions opened in the period between independence from Mexico (1836) and statehood (1845). By 1860, there were 25 denominational and private colleges in Texas. The Union Association of the Baptist Church established Baylor University, a preparatory school and college, at Independence in 1845. In 1851, a second campus for male instruction opened for instruction 0.5 miles southeast of, what became, the Baylor Female Department site (nominated separately). Baylor University Male Department offered students from across the South advanced courses of study in theological training, classical instruction, law, and medicine. Its graduates were among the state's first native-born professional class of politicians, attorneys, physicians, clergy, and businessmen. When railroad construction shifted Anglo settlement to areas further west and north in the late 19th century, Baylor University and then-named Baylor Female College relocated in 1886 to Waco and Belton in Central Texas. From 1887-1889, William Carey Crane Male and Female College operated briefly at the former Baylor sites. Following its closure, the nominated property operated as the Guardian Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys until c. 1920, before it became a tenant farm. Today, both Baylor sites are preserved as parks that commemorate the university's founding.

As the only known archaeological sites of its type in Texas, the Baylor University Male Department can yield important information about 19th-century collegiate education and the cultural history of the men and women who lived, studied, and worked there. *In situ* deposits from the Holy Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys (1889-c.1920) also survive and possess significance as both a stand-alone component and as a comparative foil for features and deposits associated with preceding institutions on the site as well as in comparison to datasets amassed from similar institutions or work farms encountered elsewhere. The Baylor University Male Department site is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History and Criterion D in the areas of Archaeology: Historic/Non-aboriginal. The period of significance 1851-c.1920 represents the year the campus opened for instruction and ends c. 1920, the approximate closure date for Holy Angels Orphanage. Established by the Union Association of the Baptist Church and currently owned by Baylor University, the nominated property meets Criteria Consideration A (Religious Properties) because it is evaluated for its historical and archaeological significance.

In the late-1930s, the State of Texas placed a large grey granite commemorative marker on the campus as part of the statewide 1936 Centennial celebration. This nomination recognizes its significance as a contributing object that meets registration requirements outlined in *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial MPS*, which the National Park Service previously approved. The State of Texas honored the male campus with its largest historical marker, a 5-foot-tall granite slab, while the former female campus was awarded the smallest Centennial marker—a bronze plaque. The centennial marker is significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History with a second period of significance of 1936 because it represents an effort by the state to recognize Baylor University's founding and its significance to the development of higher education in Texas. It thus meets Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties). The period of significance is 1851-c. 1920 and 1936, which represents the period the nominated property served as an educational institution and year the State of Texas erected the commemorative marker.

Historical Context

When Baylor's founders chartered the institution in 1845, the Republic of Texas was months away from U.S. annexation. Instability characterized the decade between independence from Mexico (1836) and statehood (1845). Political turmoil, public debt, diplomatic uncertainty, and ongoing disputes with Mexico plagued the Republic's leadership. Annexation ushered in an era of security, stability, and growth for the State of Texas. The U.S.-Mexico War set the international border at the Rio Grande, and U.S. military forces established forts and built roads that

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enabled the state's frontier boundary to move further west. Antebellum Anglo settlement, however, concentrated in East Texas (east of modern-day Interstate 35) where rivers, like the Colorado and Brazos, were vital arteries of communication and transportation.¹² Baylor University, founded in Washington County, reflected the socioeconomic character of East Texas that developed between statehood and the Civil War.

Education, early Texan leaders believed, was paramount to the Republic's future success. President Mirabeau B. Lamar—sometimes called “Father of Texas education”—promoted funding public universities as part of his vision for an empire, writing, “The cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy.” Lamar's legislative counterparts shared the view that tied education with moral fitness, democratic principles, and economic success:

Nothing is so essential in a free government as the general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence of every kind. Education confers private happiness; gives political strength and importance; it exalts the mind, refines the passions, polishes the manners, and promotes virtue; it is the foundation of civil and religious liberty, and constitutes national strength and glory.¹³

Funding public education, however, proved to be the financially strapped Republic's largest hurdle to the establishment of state universities until after the Civil War. Thus, Protestant and Catholic settlers who opened private denominational institutions led the early development of higher education in Texas.

The Republic of Texas did have one source of wealth: its vast public lands that the state retained after its annexation by the United States in 1845. A generous land grant policy, which started in 1836 to reward Texas Revolution participants and induce settlement, continued throughout the late-19th century. Cheap land lured thousands of immigrants—European and Anglo American—to antebellum Texas. At the same time, enslaved men, women, and children involuntarily arrived with their Anglo owners or through the domestic slave trade. In 1836 there were approximately 38,470 people (Anglo, enslaved Black, and Mexican American) living in Texas. According to historian Randolph B. Campbell, the total population (excluding Native Americans) grew from approximately 142,000 in 1847 to 212,295 in 1850, and the U.S. Census enumerated 604,215 Texans in 1860. During that thirty-year period, the state's population increased 325 percent.¹⁴

Anglo American southerners and southern interests dominated the state in the pre-Civil War era.¹⁵ Most immigrants to East Texas were natives of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In Washington County, for example, between 40-50 percent of the immigrant population were from the above listed states.¹⁶ They immigrated to Texas at a time when the South experienced a cotton boom, market revolution, evangelical revival, and growing sense of sectional identity.¹⁷ From that context, settlers imported their social structure, religion, and political ideology; and they made a predominantly agricultural, slave-holding economy in the region that came to resemble the larger South.¹⁸ This is not to say that the area was culturally homogenous—German, Czech, Irish, Polish immigrants and Tejanos were

¹² Campbell further specifies this as the “eastern two-fifths” of Texas bounded roughly by the Lamar County at the Red River (north), Louisiana (east), Calhoun County on the Gulf Coast (south), and the 98th meridian (west). Here lived 93-percent of the state's free population and 99 percent of the slave population. Richard Lowe and Randolph B. Campbell, “Wealth-holding and Political Power in Antebellum Texas,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 79, no.1 (July 1975): 23.

¹³ E.W. Cullen, Chairman of the Committee on Education, “A Report to the Third Congress of the Republic of Texas,” *Telegraph and Texas Register*, January 12, 1839.

¹⁴ Randolph B. Campbell, *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003): 207.

¹⁵ Campbell, 209.

¹⁶ Terry G. Jordan, “The Imprint of the Upper and Lower South on Mid-Nineteenth-Century Texas,” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 57, No. 4 (December 1967): 673.

¹⁷ Sean Michael Kelley, “Plantation Frontiers: Race, Ethnicity, and Family Along the Brazos River of Texas, 1821-1886,” PhD diss., University of Texas at Austin, 2000, 23.

¹⁸ Campbell, 207.

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among the groups well represented in East and Southeast Texas.¹⁹ Native southerners, however, headed three-quarters of Texas families in 1850 and were overwhelmingly farmers, Democrats, and Protestant; 25 percent of this group also owned at least one enslaved person.²⁰

Affluent Texans represented less than a quarter of the total population but held a disproportionately large share of the state's wealth and power. Professionally, the economic elite were mostly large-scale planters who cultivated labor-intensive cash crops, like sugar and cotton.²¹ Families in Texas' planter class were two-to-four times wealthier than the general population with property valued at least \$10,000 (in 1860); held more than 1,000 acres and owned 10 or more bondsmen. Slaveholding Texans (farmers and non-farmers) dominated politics, too. For example, Campbell found in 1860 slaveholders held almost 69 percent of all elected federal, state, and county offices but only represented 27 percent of the total population.²² These wealthy families were concentrated in the middle Gulf Coast region, which includes Washington County, between the Brazos and Colorado rivers where rich soils supported cotton and sugar cultivation.²³

The planter class enjoyed privileges, like access to higher education that the average Texan could not afford. Before the Civil War, there was not a public education system—primary, secondary, or collegiate-level. Thus, private schools with requisite expenses were the only options in this period. In her examination of Sallie McNeil, granddaughter of a wealthy Brazoria County plantation owner, historian Rebecca Sharpless noted that “only the financially elite enrolled their daughters at Baylor.”²⁴ Campbell's research confirmed Sharpless' statement was universally applicable to students of both sexes and for all antebellum Texas colleges:

A five-month session typically cost from \$15 per student in the primary department up to \$30 for senior-level instruction. “Ornamental” courses such as instrumental music bore an additional cost. Books and supplies were an additional expense, and students who boarded had to pay for a room and food. Considering in most parts of antebellum Texas an acre of land cost less than \$10 and a bale of cotton brought less than \$50, it is clear that relatively few families could afford education for their children.²⁵

After the Civil War, railroad development, streams of incoming European and southern immigrants, economic turmoil, urbanization, and Reconstruction-era politics re-shaped late 19th century Texas. The success of antebellum-era institutions, culture, and individuals in postbellum Texas required adaptation. In the 1880s, more than 6,000 miles of railroads were constructed with major lines that connected Texas markets with that of the nation. New communities emerged alongside new rail lines while once-prominent towns (like Independence) that were bypassed declined in its wake. Although Texas remained a primarily rural state, inland cities grew in size and importance. Economic diversification remained limited as cotton continued to be one of the state's most lucrative exports. Railroads opened inland regions, like Central Texas, for cotton cultivation and processing, which boomed in the 1870s and 1880s. Cheap land continued to lure European immigrants to Texas, which diversified East Texas counties like Washington. African Americans, free from bondage, gained autonomy over and access to their own communities, churches, and schools. As

¹⁹ For more information on the unique diversity of the middle Gulf coast region, see Sean Michael Kelley, “Plantation Frontiers: Race, Ethnicity, and Family Along the Brazos River of Texas, 1821-1886,” PhD diss., University of Texas at Austin, 2000.

²⁰ Campbell, 207.

²¹ Other professions of Texas' wealthy included attorneys, physicians, merchant capitalists, and railroad developers. See Ralph A. Wooster, “Wealthy Texans, 1860,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 71, no.2 (October 1967).

²² Richard Lowe and Randolph Campbell, “Wealthholding and Political Power in Antebellum Texas,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 79, no. 1 (July 1975): 25; Campbell, 214.

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²⁴ Rebecca Sharpless, “Sallie McNeil: A Woman's Higher Education in Antebellum Texas,” in *Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2015):86-87.

²⁵ Campbell, 230.

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citizens, they took part in Texas politics and, for a time, served in positions of power. In the late 19th century, Baylor University struggled to compete against other colleges in the context of these geographical, cultural, economic and political shifts. Its future success depended on the institutions' move away from the declining town of Independence to Central Texas—both Belton and Waco—where strong economies, railroad infrastructure, and political power promised decades of progress for Baylor University and Mary Hardin-Baylor University.

Town of Independence, Washington County, Texas

Baylor University Male Department is south of Independence, a rural town in Washington County twelve miles northeast of Brenham, the county seat. During the Spanish era, the area was sparsely populated. However, its location along La Bahia Road meant that explorers and traders were familiar with the territory and eventually recognized its potential for settlement and agricultural production. One early visitor described the prairies as “large, with groves of timber interspersed, soil very fertile, and mostly of deep rich loam.”²⁶ European settlers began moving into the region in 1821, under the Mexican *empresario* system. Anglo-American colonizer Stephen F. Austin settled Texas' first American immigrants in a broad area that included Washington County. Mainly from the Trans-Appalachian South—Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri—the American immigrants imported their culture to what was the Mexican state of Coahuila and Texas (*Coahuila y Tejas*). As the population rose and tensions mounted between Anglo immigrants and the Mexican government in the 1830s, Washington area settlers petitioned for local autonomy. Although the government granted the request in 1835, within a year the area became Washington County following the Anglo-led seizure of Texas under the Republic of Texas.²⁷

The town of Independence originated as Coles' Settlement on land patented to John P. Coles in 1824 as part of *empresario* Stephen F. Austin's first colony. It was renamed Independence shortly after the signing Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836 and the capital of the Republic was established 15 miles east at Washington.²⁸ The town was selected as the site for Baylor University in 1845. Independence reached its peak during the 1850s when it was recognized as a cultural, economic, and religious center, as well as one of the wealthiest communities in Texas. Because the economy was based primarily on slave-based agriculture, Independence declined financially after the Civil War and Reconstruction. When university officials refused to allow the Santa Fe Railroad to come to the town, its decline became more rapid. Regional trade diverted to towns on the railway, and without train access, students and teachers found it increasingly difficult to get to and from Independence. In 1886, both campuses of Baylor University

²⁶ Richard S. Hunt and Jesse F. Randel, *A New Guide to Texas Consisting of a Brief Outline of the History of its Settlement, and the Colonization and Land Laws: A General View of the Surface of the Country; its Climate, Soil, Productions, & etc. with a Particular Description of the Counties, Cities, and Towns* (Austin: Jenkins Publishing Co., 1845, New York: Reprinted by Sherman and Smith, 1970), 51; La Bahia Road is one of the oldest roads in Texas. Originally an east-west Indian trail in southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas, French and Spanish explorers utilized it as early as the late 1650s. Its importance grew as it became a primary corridor for the movement of people and goods from the well-established Spanish (and later Mexican) settlements, missions and presidios of south and east Texas to Louisiana.

²⁷ James L. Hailey and John Leffler, “Washington County,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcw04> (accessed January 28, 2020); “Introduction to Washington County,” Baylor at Independence, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/independence/index.php?id=83294> (accessed January 28, 2020); Paul Fisher, Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, Seward Plantation, Independence, Washington County, Texas. National Park Service #12001250, 17-18; Eugene C. Barker, “Stephen Fuller Austin,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fau14> (accessed June 28, 2019); Carol E. Christian, “Washington-on-the-Brazos,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvw10> (accessed June 1, 2019).

²⁸ Noel Grisham and L. W. Kemp, “John P. Coles,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fco21> (accessed February 18, 2020); Byron Augustin and William L. Pitts, “Independence, Texas (Washington County),” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hli03> (accessed February 18, 2020); Washington was later renamed Washington-on-the-Brazos after the Civil War.

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left Independence, which began its transition to a quiet rural settlement.²⁹

Natural disasters also added to Independence's woes. An 1873 fire destroyed several businesses, to be followed by a tornado in 1882 and a hurricane in 1900. Despite these events, there was a brief building boom in Independence during the late-1930s, when the stone and other resources from the Baylor buildings on the male campus were used for new buildings and repairs across Independence. Despite this development, Independence continued to decline. In 1958, the post office closed and in 1966, the population of Independence had declined to 200. In 2000, Independence had 140 residents.³⁰ Although the Civil War, the lack of a railroad, and Baylor's relocation in 1886 altered the Independence economy, the surrounding farmland remained productive. Despite this, the area has never achieved the agricultural success of its early history. Today, livestock ranching has replaced cotton farming as the most prevalent activity in the county.³¹

19th Century Higher Education in Texas

The Baylor Male and Female Department archeological sites in Independence, Washington County are among the few extant properties that document the early development of higher education in Texas. Religious organizations and private interests led the 19th century college founding movement in Texas, and the first generation of institutions opened in the period between independence from Mexico (1836) and statehood (1845). By 1860, there were 25 denominational and private colleges. Antebellum-era colleges and universities were in East Texas, then the state's most-populated region, until late 19th century railroad construction shifted settlement patterns west and north. Early Texas colleges, reliant on parishioner funding, struggled constantly to remain solvent. Half of the state's colleges closed after the Civil War. Despite setbacks, college founding was prolific and, by the 20th century, public universities and dozens of private, denominational, and normal institutions opened across Texas. Generally speaking, higher education in the 19th century was a privilege of Texas' Anglo-American racial majority and, before the Civil War, students at colleges like Baylor represented the elite planter class. During Reconstruction, new institutions opened enrollment to African Americans, Hispanic Texans, and a broader cross-section of economic classes. Texas' early collegiate institutions reflected contemporary pedagogical methods and offered students advanced courses of study in theological training, classical instruction, law, and medicine. Graduates became the state's first native-born professional class of politicians, attorneys, physicians, and businessmen. In an era when many regarded higher education as a civilizing force and the bedrock of democratic society, the success of Texas universities and colleges was a direct reflection of the state's progress.

The Old Three Hundred, Stephen F. Austin's first colony, consisted of families who were financially better off than most pioneers. All but four heads of households from this group could read and write; an extremely larger percentage

²⁹White, 3-4, 14; Murray, 44-45, 302-303, 307, 314; "History of Baylor at Independence," Baylor at Independence, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/independence/index.php?id=83295> (accessed January 20, 2020); James L. Hailey and John Leffler, "Washington County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcw04> (accessed January 28, 2020); Byron Augustin and William Pitts, "Independence, Texas (Washington County)," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hli03> (accessed January 28, 2020); Fisher, 17-18.

³⁰Byron Augustin and William Pitts, "Independence, Texas (Washington County)," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hli03> (accessed January 28, 2020); Fisher, 17-18.

³¹Murray, 289; Byron Augustin and William L. Pitts, "Independence, Texas (Washington County)," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hli03> (accessed February 18, 2020); James L. Hailey and John Leffler, "Washington County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcw04> (accessed January 28, 2020); "History of Baylor at Independence," Baylor at Independence, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/independence/index.php?id=83295> (accessed January 20, 2020); Fisher, 17-18.

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at this time.³² Once settled, these families sought educational opportunities for their children. Frances Judith Trask's boarding school for girls, established in Coles' Settlement in 1834 is an example of this.

The first educational institutions, except for three, that were chartered by the Republic of Texas were organized by independent, non-denominational groups. These three include two sponsored by the Methodist Church (Ruterville College in southeast Texas and Wesleyan College in east Texas) and one by the Union Association of the Baptist Church (Baylor University in southeast Texas). Of the 19 institutions chartered, nine were never opened; seven closed in the 1840s-1860s, two were incorporated into the public school system, and one is still in existence, that being Baylor University.³³ During this time, the legislature passed a number of bills to establish two public universities and policies to fund education, but no further action was taken.

When Texas joined the Union in 1845, the new state constitution did not mention higher education. However, in 1854, Congress passed a bill to establish the University of Texas and allocated \$100,000 in U.S. bonds. In late 1859, Governor Houston asked that the university funds be used instead, for the protection of the frontier. Although no public university was established during the years of early statehood (1845-1861), a number of Christian denominations – Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans, did so. The first institution of higher learning established by the Catholic Church did not occur until 1868 with the founding of Our Lady of the Lake in Castroville. These schools operated with funds obtained primarily from donations and from tuition and are discussed below.³⁴

The Methodists, the most prolific religious group in founding colleges, established 21 by the end of the 19th century. Its first institution – Ruterville College, received its charter from the Republic in 1840, and opened in 1841 with 60 students in LaGrange, in Fayette County. By 1850, it had an enrollment of 800 students, most of which attended on a part-time basis. But enrollment declined and the college merged with a military institute in Bastrop and eventually closed in 1856. The Texas Conference of the Methodist Church replaced Ruterville College with the acquisition of the non-denominational Chappell Hill Male and Female Institute (also known as Chappell Hill College, located in Washington County, 15 miles southeast of Independence) in 1855. The Conference formed Soule University from the institute's male department and Chappell Hill Female College from the female department. Both received charters in 1856. Despite the Civil War, two fires, and yellow fever epidemics, Chappell Hill Female College remained open, constructed a new building in 1872 and added a dormitory and music hall in the 1880s. During the Civil War, Soule University closed and the Confederate Army used the university building as a hospital and the university's library and equipment were destroyed or lost. Although Soule University reopened in 1867, the yellow fever epidemics and the changing economy and demographics caused the university to close in 1887. Chappell Hill Female College used Soule's building until it closed in 1912.³⁵

The University of San Augustine, chartered by the Republic as a non-denominational college, fell under the leadership of the Presbyterian Church in 1845, but disputes between San Augustine Presbyterians and Methodists over who should control the college, led to the creation of a Methodist university – Wesleyan College. Both schools closed in 1847 and were consolidated into the University of Eastern Texas in 1848, but the attempt was unsuccessful and the school soon closed.³⁶

³² Charles R. Matthews, *Higher Education in Texas, Its Beginnings to 1970* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2018), 5.

³³ Murray, 4.

³⁴ Matthews, 14-60, 75-76, 86.

³⁵ Matthews, 77-78, 94-95, 287, 302, 305-306; Carole E. Christian, "Chappell Hill Female College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbc15> (accessed May 21, 2020); Carole E. Christian, "Soule University," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbs24> (accessed May 21, 2020), the development and growth of, the enrollment, and the socioeconomic problems of the two institutions established in Chappell Hill by the Methodists are very similar to those of Baylor University.

³⁶ Matthews, 78, 165-166, 312.

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The history of Texas Baptist colleges is rooted in the denomination's efforts in the larger South. Baptists joined other Protestant evangelicals in the college founding movement in the early 19th century to bring ministerial training and general education to southern states where no Baptist institutions of higher learning yet existed.³⁷ In 1813, some estimates counted 90,000 Baptists living in southern United States and at the first Southern Baptist Convention in 1845, leaders enumerated its membership was approximately 350,000. By 1891, there were approximately 1.3 million Southern Baptists.³⁸ Increasing access to higher education was the initial motivation for Baptists to establish new colleges in the 1820s-1850s. Previously, southerners traveled to northeastern states at great expense and time to attend Baptist colleges, which prevented many from attending. The first Baptist college in the South opened in South Carolina (Furman College) in 1826 followed by Kentucky (Georgetown College) in 1829. In the 1830s, more colleges opened in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Baylor University was among several colleges founded by Baptists in the 1840s.³⁹

Baptist schools in southern states were considered "local colleges" that served an in-state student population and drew many from area communities. Students of other denominations were welcome at Baptist colleges, and although church attendance was a requirement, individuals were free to attend services at the church of their faith. Between 1850 and 1880, more than 90% of Baylor's student body were from Texas; a pattern repeated in Baptists colleges of other southern states for the same period.⁴⁰

Baptist colleges helped expand the denomination's foothold in the South during a period of increasing sectionalism before the Civil War. In 1845, the year of Baylor's charter, the Southern Baptist Convention formed after years of intense disagreements with northern counterparts on the issue of slavery. As the abolition-slavery issue intensified, the bitter sectionalism it spurred intersected with higher education. Historian Leslie Beckham observed, "the idea that a Southerner could receive a Northern education that equipped him for Southern leadership became more and more implausible in the Southern mind."⁴¹ Texans, many of whom came from states in the lower South, agreed that the best schools to educate their children were those in their home state. Northern colleges, many believed, posed an intellectual threat to impressionable students. The 1857-58 Baylor University catalog articulated this belief:

It is a source of great regret to see Texans patronizing Northern or distant colleges where our youth will imbibe sentiments... antagonistic or alien to our own; when by giving Texas schools and colleges their patronage they would grow up and reflect glory and luster on our young and growing state. A young man, educated in Texas will have peculiar advantages... [as they would learn] the genius, character, and wants of the people with whom [they were] to live and act.⁴²

In 1841, the Union Association of the Baptist Church in Texas created the Education Society to lead the denomination's effort to establish the state's first Baptist college and preparatory school. Baylor University received its charter from the Republic of Texas in 1845. Other Baptist institutions opened in later decades. Waco Classical School,

³⁷ Johnson, 4.

³⁸ Robert A. Baker, "Southern Baptist Beginnings," [baptisthistory.org](http://www.baptisthistory.org/baptistorigins/southernbaptistbeginnings.html), <http://www.baptisthistory.org/baptistorigins/southernbaptistbeginnings.html>, accessed April 15, 2020.

³⁹ Two important studies on the history of Southern Baptist higher education are: Charles D. Johnson, *Higher Education of Southern Baptists: An Institutional History, 1826-1954* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 1955), HathiTrust.org, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uva.x001910915&view=2up&seq=34> and Leslie Christopher Beckham, "Making Good Sons, Useful Citizens, and Christian Scholars: Southern Baptists Higher Education in the Nineteenth Century," (PhD dissertation, University of Kentucky, 2002).

⁴⁰ Beckham, 68-73.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 83.

⁴² Baylor University, "Fifth Annual Catalog of the Trustees, Professors, and Students of Baylor University 1857 – Male Department," 19.

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the forerunner to the modern Baylor University, opened as a preparatory academy in the late 1850s. Baylor Female College, which received its own charter in 1866, eventually transferred from Independence to Belton, 40 miles south of Waco. Sabine Baptist College opened in 1858 in Milam (south-central Texas) under the auspices of the Central Baptist Association. The institution, closed during the Civil War, opened again in 1868, but because of financial difficulties, it was closed in 1870. Northwest Baptist College was founded as a junior college at Decatur (north-central Texas) in 1891. Financial problems led to the school's closure in 1896. The Baptist General Convention purchased the college and the name changed to Decatur Baptist College, eventually moving in 1965 to Dallas, becoming Dallas Baptist College. In 1985, it added graduate courses and became Dallas Baptist University. Two additional Baptist colleges were opened during the last decade of the 19th century. These were Abilene Baptist College in 1891, later becoming Hardin-Simmons College, and South Texas Baptist College in Waller (south Texas) in 1898.⁴³

In 1846, a group of Cumberland Presbyterians founded the town of Larissa in Cherokee County, located in east Texas and organized its first school. In 1850, a three-story frame academic hall and two dormitories were built, and the school became known as Larissa Academy. In 1855, the Brazos Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church assumed responsibility for the school, renamed it Larissa College, and established male and female departments and a preparatory school. The charter was approved by the state legislature in 1856. From the beginning, however, the school was plagued by financial problems. However, enrollment rebounded before the Civil War, but after the war began, the college was forced to close. It reopened after the war, but in 1866, the Brazos Synod withdrew its support after the decision was made to establish one large school, Trinity University, rather than finance several smaller colleges.⁴⁴

The Presbyterian Church established Austin College at Huntsville, located in east Texas in 1849 and Aranama College, at Goliad, in south-central Texas in 1852. Austin College was prosperous and well patronized until the Civil War. In 1876, the Texas Synod moved the college to Sherman which opened in 1878. Aranama College began as a preparatory school and by 1857 and began offering college courses. In 1860, the college had a preparatory program, a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree, and a scientific degree. Although financial problems burdened the college throughout most of its existence, it remained open until the Civil War. During the war, the school building was used by both Southern and Northern armies. After the war, the church was unable to keep the college in operation.⁴⁵

Colorado College, the first Lutheran College in Texas was founded in 1857 at Columbus, in south-central Texas. Enrollment reached as high as 300 and continued to operate until 1886.⁴⁶

The colleges and universities that were established during the Republic and early statehood had much in common. They struggled financially and had difficulty building endowments based primarily on private donations and tuition. They operated preparatory departments and emulated the college curriculums of eastern universities. Most of these institutions closed during the Civil War and the facilities at a number of these were occupied by military forces. Many did not reopen after the war. In 1860, an estimated 2,400 students were enrolled in Texas colleges and universities, but in 1870, that number had decreased to 800.⁴⁷ The institutions that did survive consolidated with other institutions or moved their locations to more populous centers in central and north-central Texas.

During the last quarter of the 19th century, approximately 84 institutions of higher learning were established. These

⁴³ Matthews, 80, 82-86, 164, 257, 313. Vivian Elizabeth Smyrl, "Waco University," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbw04> (accessed May 21, 2020).

⁴⁴ Matthews, 99-101, 296; Christopher Long, "Larissa College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbl07> (accessed May 21, 2020).

⁴⁵ Matthews, 98-99, 113, 281-282; Craig H. Roell, "Aranama College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kba13> (accessed May 21, 2020).

⁴⁶ Matthews, 91.

⁴⁷ V. R. Cardozier, "Higher Education," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/khhxr> (accessed June 1, 2019).

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included church-sponsored as well as state-funded colleges and universities.⁴⁸ A number of church-sponsored institutions were established for African Americans, these include Howard Payne University, Paul Quinn College, and Bishop College, sponsored by Baptist organizations, Tillotson College of the Congregational Church, and Wiley College of the Methodist Episcopal Church.⁴⁹

When Texas reentered the Union, it became eligible for the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, which provided public lands to establish colleges “to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.”⁵⁰ This act funded the creation of two colleges – the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University), which opened in 1876, and Alta Vista Agricultural College (now Prairie View A&M University) for African-American youth which opened in 1878. The 1876 State Constitution called for the establishment of the University of Texas (opened in 1883) and set aside one million acres to fund a Permanent University Fund.⁵¹

During this time, Texas had a serious teacher shortage, but with the support of the Peabody Education Fund, the state legislature passed a bill in 1879 establishing Sam Houston Normal Institute, the first state school that was established to train white teachers in the state. In 1887, Prairie View Normal School was established to train teachers for black schools. Others followed in 1899, including Southwest Texas Normal School in San Marcos and North Texas Normal College in Denton.⁵²

Baylor University at Independence (1845-1886)

Timeline of the Property’s Historic Names

Name	Period	Comments
Baylor University Male Department	1851-1866	The name change occurred when President Burleson separated the male and female students onto different campuses. The Male Department moved to a newly completed building on Windmill Hill. The female students remained on Academy Hill.
Baylor University	1866-1886	In 1866, Baylor University Female Department became a separate institution, Baylor Female College, and the nominated campus became Baylor University.
William Carey Crane College/Binford College	1886-1889	Following the relocation of Baylor University to Waco, the Union Association established a new college on the property.
Guardian Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys	1889-c.1920	The Union Association sold the property to T.C. Clay, who then sold it to Father Francis Martin Huhn, a Catholic Priest who established the orphanage.
Tenant Farm (Klatte Property)	c. 1920-1950s	Huhn’s sisters sold the property to Charles Klatte.

After the Texas Revolution, the citizens of Coles’ Settlement (Independence), petitioned the Texas Congress for a preparatory school. The school charter was granted in 1837, establishing Independence Academy. The following year, the Trustees of Independence Academy purchased a four-acre tract of land and a two-story 33’x35’ wood frame building from Ann Koontz. Contemporary advertisements indicate that by May 1839, Independence Academy had more than 50 students. In 1841, 75 students, boys and girls ranging in age from 6 to 25 were enrolled. It operated first

⁴⁸ Matthews, Chapter 13: Texas Colleges Past and Present, 255-319.

⁴⁹ Mathews, 193-194.

⁵⁰ Wikipedia, “Morrill Land-Grant Acts,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrill_Land-Grant_Acts (accessed May 20, 2020).

⁵¹ Matthews, 31-32, 59-60, 204-205; V. R. Cardozier, “Higher Education,” *Handbook of Texas Online*.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/khhxr> (accessed November 6, 2019).

⁵² Matthews, 110-118.

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under Colonel J.C. Giddings and finally under Henry Gillette, until it closed in 1845. Edward W. Taylor purchased the property, known as Academy Hill, at a sheriff's auction.⁵³

Meanwhile, the Union Association of the Baptist Church organized an Education Society in 1841 with the purpose of establishing a Baptist university in Texas. Robert Emmett Bledsoe (R.E.B.) Baylor (1793-1873), William M. Tryon (1809-1847), a Baptist missionary, and J.G. Thomas wrote the petition for its charter, which the Republic of Texas issued on February 1, 1845. The university was named in honor of R.E.B. Baylor.⁵⁴

In 1845, four communities placed bids for the location of the university. The Independence bid was selected by ballot because Independence had become a prominent community in terms of wealth and population, and because Taylor offered the Independence Academy property (valued at \$7,925) to the bid proposal.⁵⁵ Nineteenth-century school catalogs also credited the cultural affluence and beauty of Independence as part of the inducement for its selection, adding "No spot in Texas presents lovelier landscapes than do the hills, the valleys, and the live-oak groves around Independence." Importantly, it was a suitable environment for impressionable students who would find in Independence, "a refined community, undisturbed by the vices incident in large towns."⁵⁶

Eager to begin instruction, Baylor University opened as a preparatory school in 1846 with 24 students under the temporary supervision of Henry F. Gillette in the former Independence Academy building on Academy Hill. By the end of the first semester, enrollment increased to 70 students. In January 1847, Baylor University's first president, Henry Lee Graves (1813-1881), assumed his responsibilities and developed a college-level curriculum. That spring, the university began its first coeducational collegiate program alongside its preparatory program. In 1848, the trustees began making plans to build a stone structure on Windmill Hill (Allen Hill, later called Windmill Hill), a 6.3 acre tract of land donated to the university by W.W. Allen, located south of the Independence town square.⁵⁷

The administration of Rufus C. Burleson (1823-1901), who accepted the presidency in 1851, when Graves resigned due to health issues, ushered in a decade of growth and prestige for the university. Within the first year of his tenure, he separated the male and female students onto different campuses. The Female Department remained on Academy Hill and the Male Department moved to Graves Hall (**Figure 4**), the newly constructed building on Windmill Hill. He saw that an endowment was established, laboratory equipment and books purchased, and the university's first catalog issued. Burleson also established a code of honor and coined the university's motto, *Pro Ecclesia, Pro Texanna*. He liberalized and broadened the curriculum to include ancient and modern literature, philosophy, political economy, civil engineering, biology, natural history, and Evidence of Christianity (**Figure 9, 1852-53 Catalog**). He added Spanish and German to the modern language curriculum and initiated professional programs including a law department and a theology school. Baylor University's graduates filled Baptist pulpits and entered legal, medical, business, and other professions. Baylor University's first degrees were awarded to Stephen D. Rowe in 1854 and Mary G. Kavanaugh in 1855.⁵⁸

As enrollment grew in the 1850s so did the need for more faculty and buildings, which placed a strain on the university's finances. University agents raised what money and donations they could from private citizens and Baptist

⁵³ Murray, 5-7, 52.

⁵⁴ White, 1-4, 9; Murray, 15-26; Also see "Charter of Baylor University" in Murray pp. 353-356 and the "List of the Trustees of Baylor University in Independence" in Murray on pp. 361-363; Carroll, 132-134, 150.

⁵⁵ White, 13-14; Murray, 41, 44-45, 52; See other bids for the location of the university in Murray, p. 44.

⁵⁶ Crumpton III, 66-67.

⁵⁷ Murray, 67-70, 77-78, 88; White 15-16; "Henry Lee Graves," Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89254> (accessed February 20, 2020).

⁵⁸ Murray, 102-109, 121, 128, 133, 379; First graduates, see Murray, p. 384; White 24; "Rufus C. Burleson," Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89255> (accessed February 20, 2020).

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churches across the United States. Despite these solicitations, the university continued having difficulties paying its bills. Burluson mortgaged land from his father's estate to finance the construction of a three-story, octagon-shaped building (**Figure 8**) which served as the president's residence and male dormitory on Windmill Hill. By the mid-1850s, the Windmill Hill campus consisted of Graves Hall, three dormitories, supporting structures, and plans to build a second academic building. In 1857, a temporary setback occurred when a devastating year-long drought caused major cotton and corn failures in Texas. Enrollment dropped from 355 to 275 because parents, who relied on those crops, were unable to afford tuition. However, by 1860, the university had a promising future. The Female Department had a new academic building, a large boarding house, a dining hall, and kitchen for its 166 students. The Male Department had two academic buildings, a large dormitory, four additional buildings, and 235 students. Baylor was well-known across the South and was catalogued by the *London Times* as a leading institution of higher learning in America.⁵⁹

Two major events changed the trajectory of Baylor at Independence's future in the spring of 1861. First, Texas joined the Confederacy in March. Second, Burluson's longtime feud with Principal Clark of the Female Department and the Board of Trustees came to a head. When the Waco Classical School (later remained Waco University), offered Burluson the opportunity to run it, he resigned from Baylor taking most of the male faculty and senior class with him to Waco. The Civil War had suspended operations at most of the universities of the South, but Baylor remained open even though over 150 students mustered into the Confederate Army. The enrollment at the Female Department was not as affected by the war; in fact, it remained steady with approximately 160-180 students throughout the war years. During the first three years of the war, all but one of the buildings located on the male campus were used as a Confederate training facility. The male students who remained on campus participated in military drills. Former trustee and professor, George Washington Baines (1809-1882), agreed to serve as president, which he did for two years, working to rebuild the male department and keeping the university open.⁶⁰

After Baines resigned due to poor health, William Carey Crane (1816-1885) became Baylor University's fourth president in 1863. He reclaimed the buildings occupied by the Confederate Army on Windmill Hill, which were severely damaged by the soldiers. Crane then turned his attention to increasing the size of the student body, which he did, due in part to accepting land, livestock, goods, and services to pay tuition and fees. He worked tirelessly to keep the university solvent during the years of Reconstruction and the economic depression of the 1870s, often using his own funds to settle debts that the university accrued. He personally bought laboratory equipment, repaired buildings, and paid the room and board of struggling students. He continuously solicited contributions from Texas Baptists for the university endowment and scholarships; grew the campus to 37 acres, served as the first president of the Texas State Teachers Association, and worked to improve the public-school system.⁶¹

To create financial security for the university, President Crane wrote a bill, modeled on a program that funded denominational universities in Louisiana, to appropriate state lands to successfully operating universities. His rationale was that if the Female Department was granted its own charter, the university could obtain twice as much land. In 1866, he drew up the act of incorporation for Baylor Female College, it was sanctioned by the Board of Trustees, and in September 1866, the Texas Legislature chartered Baylor Female College, with its own Board of Trustees. The land grant bill never materialized.⁶²

⁵⁹ Murray, 142-143, 154-155, 183, 195, 379; White, 34, 36-37, 40, 59.

⁶⁰ Murray, 192, 194, 204, 205, 208, 379; List of Baylor Confederate enlistees in Murray, pp. 387-390; White, 46-51; "George Washington Baines," Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89256> (accessed February 20, 2020).

⁶¹ Murray, 222, 228, 230, 288, 290, 300, 310.

⁶² Murray, 237-240; "William Carey Crane," Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89255> (accessed February 20, 2020).

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For the next 20 years, both institutions enjoyed healthy enrollments. Fine arts education at Baylor was particularly excellent. From approximately 1871 to 1886, noted artist Henry McArdle taught male and female students painting, sculpting, and engineering in the basement of the academic building on the Academy Hill campus. During his professorship, McArdle made a sketch of the Baylor University campus on Windmill Hill (**Figure 7**) and completed the first version of his famous painting *Dawn at the Alamo*.⁶³

Several factors led to the relocation of Baylor University from Independence. The economy of Independence declined after the Civil War, and new immigrants and freedmen diversified the once-Baptist community. Railway lines bypassed Independence in the 1880s and counties further west in central Texas became the state's new centers for political and cultural institutions. The shift of population and economic centers to central Texas, competition with other universities for enrollment, and discord among Texas Baptists about supporting two universities in Independence and Waco, all laid the groundwork for the closure of the schools. In 1886, the Baptist General Convention consolidated Baylor University (the male school) with Waco University in Waco, and Baylor Female College moved to Belton.⁶⁴

Baylor University Male Department (1851-1866) and Baylor University (1866-1886)

After Baylor University bought 13 acres south of the Independence town square in 1849, the trustees had stone brought to the property to begin the construction of a two-story building. The building was completed in the summer of 1851 and in September, Baylor University's second president, Rufus C. Burleson and the Male Department moved in. This building (Graves Hall) served as the academic building and chapel of the Male Department until the wing building (Houston Hall) was completed in 1860. During the 1850s, four frame structures and a large boarding house (Burleson's Domicile) were erected on the southern portion of the property and plans were made to erect the main building (Tryon Hall) on Windmill Hill. Enrollment increased during the 1850s, from 94 in 1852 to 235 in 1860. It was impacted by the Civil War but rebounded to 140 in 1865.⁶⁵

In 1879, funds were raised to complete Tryon Hall and it was near completion in 1882 but funds were diverted to repair other buildings on Windmill Hill that were damaged by a tornado. By 1884, the third floor was being used as a chapel and for Board of Trustees' meetings and commencements. Enrollment averaged 100 per year throughout the late 1860s through the 1880s, with 209 enrolled during its final year at Independence. Since the majority of the university's applicants were unable to pass the college admission exam, they enrolled into the preparatory department, where they took courses in English grammar, arithmetic, American history, geography, penmanship, Latin and Greek, and readings in Caesar and Virgil. Students were required to read the laws of the university and sign a declaration that they would obey them. They were not allowed to leave campus without the permission of the faculty and had to be in their rooms at 9:00 pm. Profane language, possessing weapons, drinking and gambling were not allowed. A set of demerits were used for disciplinary purposes and if a student reached 100 demerits in one semester, or 150 in one year, he would be expelled. The finances of the students were monitored. Accounts with merchants could only be opened with the permission of parents or guardians. Only items of utility or necessity could be purchased, and had to be under the direction of a teacher. Students attended classes in four one-hour sessions, and each morning, they were required to attend an opening exercise in which a passage from scripture was read, prayers offered, and hymns sung. Students received grades on their recitations and writing assignments daily. During the 1850s, several societies, the Philomathesian, the Erisophian, and the Adelpian Societies, were established for the purpose of holding weekly debates, lectures, and readings of essays. Outside of class, students attended revivals and church services, went on picnics and attended parties. Personal accounts tell of students playing "hot ball" with

⁶³ Murray, 379; For additional paintings by Harry A. McArdle, see Murray, 278-279.

⁶⁴ Murray, 314; *Baylor at Independence*, Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>.

⁶⁵ Murray, 67, 88, 108, 142, 183, 194-195, 240, 288, 291, 379; White, 15, 55-59; *Baylor at Independence*, Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>.

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President Burleson, sneaking out of the dormitory at night, stealing chickens, hiding the president's buggy, and visiting girls on Academy Hill.⁶⁶

The Male Department offered four tracks of study – a Bachelor of Arts degree, a Bachelor of Philosophy degree, a ministerial degree, and a law degree. The more common Bachelor of Arts degree was a four-year, classical liberal arts degree, modeled on the great schools of the northeast, with a focus on Greek and Latin and classic works in those languages, as well as classes in history and literature of the ancient world, Britain and America, philosophy, modern languages like French, Spanish and German, trigonometry, algebra, geometry, calculus, chemistry, geology, astronomy, the United States Constitution, and Elements of Criticism and Evidences of Christianity.

The Male Department also offered a scientific degree in which a student could receive a Bachelor of Philosophy. It was a three-year program with a primary focus on the study of the sciences, which included geology, chemistry, hydraulics, mineralogy, astronomy, botany, hygiene, as well as geometry, algebra, and calculus. Besides the sciences and mathematics, students were required to take modern and ancient history, logic, political economy, rhetoric, moral philosophy, Analogy of Religion and Nature, Evidences of Christianity, and physical fitness classes.⁶⁷ The majority of the faculty taught a number of different courses each semester; for example, Thomas G. Edwards served as Professor of English Literature and as Tutor in the preparatory department.⁶⁸

After students had completed their course of study, they had to demonstrate their competency before a visiting examination board. After examinations, the names of students, recommended for graduation, were sent to the president, who would then send them to the Board of Trustees, who authorized the receiving of diplomas. The commencement exercise lasted most of the day, with prayers, reading of essays, and music. As part of the exercise, medals were awarded to students deserving special recognition, such as the President's Silver Medal for Best Scholar or Hiram Wood's Medal for Best Speaker, followed by the awarding of diplomas.⁶⁹

As Baptist historians have stated, ministerial education was the motivating force for the origin of 31 Baptist colleges in the United States from 1813 to 1835, and this was the case for Baylor University, as illustrated by the university's motto, "*Pro Ecclesia, Pro Texana.*"⁷⁰ The ministerial degree was the same as the Bachelor of Arts degree, but differed in the language requirement. Instead of the required modern languages, ministry students took Hebrew. Beginning in 1847, Reverend J.W.D. Creath spent most of his time as an agent of Baylor University, traveling the state preaching at Baptist churches for the purpose of arousing interest in education, seeking vocations to the ministry, and raising money for the university. The funds that he collected not only raised the university's endowment, but also paid tuition, room and board for ministry students. Creath also taught theology courses at Baylor. In 1872, Baylor University issued a circular stating that tuition would be free to all candidates for Gospel Ministry. The 1872-1873 Catalogue listed 81 students enrolled with 12 ministry students. By 1883, Baylor University had educated 49 men for the ministry; most were serving as pastors or evangelists, and others as missionaries.⁷¹

Baylor University was the first school in Texas to teach law. In 1849, both Judge R.E.B. Baylor and Judge Abner S. Lipscomb of the Supreme Court of the State of Texas began teaching classes in the "science of law." By 1857, the School of Law was formally organized and Judge Royall T. Wheeler, also a justice of the Texas Supreme Court, was appointed head of the law school. The first class consisted of 13 students who completed a two-year course of study in 1857. Sixteen students graduated the following year. Classes were suspended during the Civil War but resumed in

⁶⁶ White, 61-69; Murray, 121, 136-137, 156-159, 379; *Baylor at Independence*, Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>.

⁶⁷ White, 61-62.

⁶⁸ Murray, 367.

⁶⁹ White, 67-69.

⁷⁰ Murray, 8, 107, 315; White, 10, 62; Matthews, Chapter 13 "Texas Colleges Past and Present."

⁷¹ Murray, 71, 268, 274, 289, 291-292, 315; Carroll, 582-583.

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1866 and the last two law degrees were conferred in 1867, making a total of 31 law degrees awarded at Baylor University while at Independence. However, courses in law were offered intermittently. Law students attended special lectures in Brenham and six would have been graduated in June 1872 if the department had been in operation. The last year that law courses were taught was 1883, the same year that the School of Law at Texas University opened. The Baylor Law School was revived in 1919 on the Waco campus.⁷²

William Carey Crane Male and Female Colleges (1886-1888) and Holy Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Boys (1889-ca. 1920)

After the death of President Crane in 1885, an adherent advocate for keeping the university at Independence, the Baptist State Convention voted to merge Baylor University with Waco University, which occurred in 1886. The Union Association acquired the property and opened William Carey Crane Male and Female Colleges. Enrollment remained low and the separate schools could not be maintained. In 1888, they were consolidated on the site of the former women's college, and renamed Binford University which folded a year later. To cover unsettled debts left unresolved by Baylor University, local citizen T.C. Clay bought the Windmill Hill campus but quickly sold it to Francis Martin Huhn, a Catholic clergyman.⁷³

Huhn (1850-1915) emigrated from Prussia to Missouri in 1852 with this family and siblings.⁷⁴ After becoming a member of the Catholic clergy, Huhn dedicated himself to missionary work for African American children in Leavenworth, Kansas. In the mid-1880s, he founded and ran an orphanage outside of the city until 1888 when Huhn and 35 children in his care boarded a box car for Galveston.⁷⁵ In 1889, he purchased the former Baylor University Male Department, a 37-acre property, from Clay where Huhn opened Guardian Angels Orphanage.⁷⁶ The large property accommodated Huhn's plans for it to a self-sustaining farm where the children, ages 7 to 15, would raise livestock, pick and process cotton, and grow fruit in addition to receiving religious instruction and industrial training. Huhn also used the premises for his German Catholic periodical, *Das heimathlose Negerkind (The Homeless Negro Child)*, which was confirmed by the recovery of German typeset during excavations of Tryon Hall. Some Washington County citizens welcomed the orphanage to Independence while others (including Baylor Trustees) were vehemently opposed to the Catholic enterprise.⁷⁷

Historical records imply the children held there received little to no education. Rather, Huhn exploited and abused the African American children for his personal profit. The only information that documents the history of Guardian Angels Orphanage and the property under Huhn's ownership is in newspapers, particularly the *Brenham Weekly Banner*. In 1891, under the headline, "A Priest's Cruelty: An Orphan Home Worse Than a Convict Camp," the journalist reported allegations of abuse that spread to news outlets back in Kansas:

⁷² "History of Baylor Law School," Baylor Law, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/law/index.php?id=930137> (accessed June 1, 2019); Joseph W. McKnight, "Law Schools," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/khl01> (accessed April 18, 2019); Murray, 169, 272, 380-382.

⁷³ Murray, 294-295, 308-310; R.C. Crane, "William Carey Crane College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbw18> (accessed November 7, 2019); Belew, 1989, 160, 166.

⁷⁴ *Germany, Births and Baptisms, 1558-1898*. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013; *Selected Passenger and Crew Lists and Manifests*. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁷⁵ "Father Huhn's Trouble," *Leavenworth Standard*, August 20, 1891.

⁷⁶ Washington County Deed Book Vol. 27: 452. Brenham, Texas.

⁷⁷ *Brenham Weekly Banner*, April 24, 1890, July 17, 1890, July 30, 1891, August 20, 1891, August 27, 1891, September 3, 1891, May 5, 1893, May 30, 1893, September 22, 1893, October 12, 1893, October 7, 1894, and *Galveston Daily News*, August 23, 1891 (Newspapers by Ancestry); Eugene P. Willging and Herta Hatzfeld, "Catholic Serials of the Nineteenth Century Kansas," *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia*, Volume 74 (American Catholic Historical Society, 1963), 242; Belew, 1986.

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They had been whipped with cow-hides and wire, and the scars on their backs were mute but eloquent testimonials of their suffering. . . . The children presented an emaciated appearance. . . . when dinner was given them. . . . it consisted of spoilt meat and hard corn boiled on the ear. . . . Their sleeping apartments smelled so bad that it almost turned the officers stomachs.⁷⁸

Testimony from the children also revealed deplorable working conditions. Overseen by an older boy named Joe, Huhn expected them to pick 40-100 pounds of cotton per day. When small children failed to run while carrying armloads of sugar cane from the field to the mill; Joe whipped them.⁷⁹ One child, John Look, said Huhn convinced his mother in Minnesota to send John to Texas for an education, but that they rarely received any school lessons. Huhn accused journalists of being anti-Catholic and criticized them for sensationalizing false charges.⁸⁰ Following a brief trial, the judge ruled in Huhn's favor stating that because the boys were not apprentices under the laws of the state, all that he could do was fine Huhn \$1,000. For several years, however, boys continued to escape the orphanage to seek refuge in Brenham's freedman communities. After 1894, all reports about Guardian Angels Orphanage, "the only place in the United States where emancipation did not free the slaves" disappeared.⁸¹

Houston Hall burned down in 1893 and its ruins were used as a barn by the orphanage. Only one orphan was enumerated in the 1900 federal population census, along with Huhn's older, widowed sister, Rosa, and a 42-year old white female servant from Missouri. In December 1901, Graves Hall burned down, leaving Tryon Hall as the only remaining Baylor-era structure on the property. The 1910 census listed only Rosa and her sister, Philomena, living with Huhn at this time. It is possible that Huhn did not allow the census worker to talk to the orphans. Following Huhn's death on February 1, 1915 at the age of 65, the orphanage declined, and his two sisters struggled to keep it open. It was reported in his obituary that he owned 175 acres of land. During this time, local citizens reported that the fenced grave plot of Judge Baylor was being used as a pig sty. In 1917, the remains of Judge Baylor were exhumed and reinterred on the Baylor Female College campus (now the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor) in Belton. In 1927, Minnie and Henry Huhn (another brother) sold the entire property to the Klatt Family.⁸²

Post-1920 History and Archaeology

Following its conveyance, Charles Klatt incorporated the nominated property into the family's farming operations. They moved a shot-gun style structure, a former doctor's office in Independence, onto the property, and began leasing the farm to tenant families. At that time, Tryon Hall was the only structure still standing. In 1934, Esther Klatt had Tryon Hall demolished because she did not want her grazing animals to be injured or killed by falling stones from the building. The building was demolished by Walter Lueckemeyer and the stones were used to build a number of buildings in Independence (Lueckemeyer Store, Lueckemeyer Cotton Gin, the bell tower at the Independence Baptist

⁷⁸ "A Priest's Cruelty: An Orphan Home Worse Than a Convict Camp," *Brenham Weekly Banner*, July 30, 1891.

⁷⁹ "One of Father Huhn's Pupils Tells His Story," *Galveston Daily News*, August 23, 1891.

⁸⁰ "Reports of Cruelty," *The Catholic Tribune*, September 5, 1891.

⁸¹ "He Released the Boy," *Brenham Daily Banner*, October 12, 1893.

⁸² *Brenham Banner Press*, March 30, 1928. Belew, 1989, 136-156; Twelfth Census of the United States, Population, 1900, United States Bureau of the Census, Bearcat Online System, Baylor University Libraries, Waco, <http://heritagequestonline.com>; Thirteenth Census of the United States, Population, 1910, United States Bureau of the Census, Bearcat Online System, Baylor University Libraries, Waco, <http://heritagequestonline.com>; *Brenham Weekly Banner* February 1, 1915 (Newspapers by Ancestry); "Father Martin Huhn," Texas Collection Blogs, <https://blogs.baylor.edu/texascollection/category/father-martin-huhn/>, posted October 9, 2013; Royston C. Crane Sr., undated document in scrapbook (Accession #0069, Box 17, Scrapbook, The Texas Collection, Baylor University); Baylor Arts and Sciences, "R.E.B. Baylor's wandering gravesite," <https://blogs.baylor.edu/artsandsciences/2012/05/07/this-week-in-baylor-history-r-e-b-baylors-gravesite/>, posted May 7, 2012.

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Church, and the two entrance gates on Academy Hill). In 1936, a Texas Centennial marker was erected on the property.⁸³

In 1978, the Klattes leased their land to Baylor University for the purpose of conducting a four-year archaeological investigation by James S. Belew of Blue Jay Archaeological Services. Over 150,000 artifacts were recovered and some were displayed in a centennial exhibit at the Strecker Museum on Baylor campus in 1986. These artifacts are presently housed in the Mayborn Museum. An archaeological report was written in 1989, but it has not been published, nor have all of the artifacts been analyzed. In 2000, Vice President Harold R. Cunningham began negotiations with three owners of parts of the original campus for the purpose of acquiring their properties to develop into a public park, to be called Baylor Park on Windmill Hill. In 2001, Karen Kaye Klatte, Herbert Klatte, Jr., and David S. and Mary Wolff, donated parcels of land which encompassed the archaeological footprints of Houston and Tryon Halls, the well, and Judge Baylor's cenotaph, to Baylor University. Wolff provided an additional .085 acres for a parking lot, located to the east of the property. Belew conducted more archaeological work at the site in preparation for the creation of a park in 2001-2002. The artifacts recovered from the 2001-2002 excavations are currently being stored on his property near McGregor, Texas. In 2005-2006, additional archaeological work was conducted in order to protect the foundations of Tryon and Houston Halls. Eight underground conduits were installed to prevent damage of standing water to the foundations of the two buildings. On March 25, 2006, Baylor University President, Dr. John M. Lilley dedicated Baylor Park on Windmill Hill (**Map 10**). In 2010, the Independence Visitor Center was opened and staffed and Baylor freshman began their annual visit to the site each year.⁸⁴

Commemoration and Baylor University at Independence

*Centennial Historical Markers*⁸⁵

In May 1936, Governor James Allred signed into law a \$3 million appropriation "for creating and conducting celebrations commemorating" one hundred years of Texas history and progress.⁸⁶ This legislation created the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, the decision-making authority for expending millions of state funds for historical projects across Texas and at the Dallas fairgrounds. A proponent of the 1936 Texas Centennial since the mid-1920s, Baylor President Pat M. Neff was one of nine men appointed to that body. The new law also created a three-member Advisory Board of Texas Historians to recommend subjects and sites to commemorate with historical markers, monuments, and statues.⁸⁷

Centennial funds, released during the Great Depression, inspired Texans from every region to become interested in local and state history. Politicians, businessmen, and boosters understood that historical projects—like monuments and markers—could drive heritage tourism from the Central Exposition in Dallas across Texas. In addition to the economic incentive for marking historic sites, the state-sanctioned Centennial properties also legitimized the role a local community or institution played within the larger history of Texas progress and success. Consequently, Texans

⁸³ Belew, 1989, 136-156, 168, 184, 192-193, 256, 261, 274; Belew, 2002b.

⁸⁴ Belew, 1989, 145, 168-169, 214-220; Gift deed from David S. and Mary Wolff to Baylor University: Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 984, P. 603, March 2, 2001; Belew, 2002b; "History of Baylor at Independence," Old Baylor at Independence, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/independence/index.php?id=83295> (accessed February 27, 2020).

⁸⁵ Adapted from "Commemorative Properties of the Texas Centennial, 1935-1938," in *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial MPS*, 10-21.

⁸⁶ "Appropriation for Celebration of Texas Centennial, H.B.11," *General and Special Laws of Texas, Forty-Fourth Legislature, Regular Session, January 8, 1935 to May 11, 1935*; 1:427-37.

⁸⁷ The Centennial Act gave the Commission of Control authority to expend \$575,000 on centenary "celebrations" of their choosing. "Celebration" covered a broad array of commemorative work: statue and monument building, marking historical sites, restoring old structures, staging pageants, and purchasing land for Centennial-related projects. Schoen, 9.

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competed to demonstrate to the Advisory Board of Historians and Commission of Control local sites of historical significance to receive a proportional cut of the Centennial allocation.

Most historical markers the Advisory Board of Historians recommended to the Commission of Control were proposed by local county delegates. During the marker production process, however, some projects were cancelled, and the Advisory Board of Historians would recommend a substitute subject for commemoration. By 1937, more than 400 historical markers were erected in nearly all of Texas' 254 counties; two years later there were 1100 markers, monuments, statues, and commemorative buildings completed. The complex and chaotic undertaking was carried out by state agencies, historians, county Centennial committees, artists, architects, monument makers, and builders. The Advisory Board of Historians and Lota M. Spell researched and wrote historical marker inscriptions with varying degrees of help from local historians. Austin architectural firm Page & Southerland's marker design called for gray granite markers on concrete bases with bronze relief or sandblasted inscriptions in Roman classic letters on an axe-finished surface. A bronze wreath and star applique decorated the monument apex. Employees of the Texas Board of Control coordinated the placement of markers with local authorities while monument makers, like Rodriguez Brothers of San Antonio, installed them.

"Baylor University Male Campus" 1936 Centennial Marker

The granite historical marker at Baylor University Male Department in Independence is a product of the Texas Centennial, the first statewide effort by Texans to commemorate its history and industry. Because the marker is a contributing resource to the archeological site, this nomination is part of the multiple property document form *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*. It is an identified property type, (Historical Marker, First Sub-type) under the associated historic context, "Monuments and Buildings Erected by the State of Texas to Commemorate the Texas Centennial, 1936-1939."⁸⁸

To nominate a Centennial historical marker under the MPD, there must be documentation of efforts to seek marker funding and show the marker content was approved through the State Centennial program. The nominated resource must retain sufficient historic integrity from the Texas Centennial period of significance to convey significant association, with primary importance of original outdoor location and setting, materials, retention of bronze appliques, and be free of any large attached supplemental markers that detract from their integrity of design. The MPD recommended it is appropriate that Centennial historical markers be evaluated in the context of their setting as contributing objects. Furthermore, markers may be considered contributing objects within historic districts that include significant properties that predate the Centennial era and are associated with other significant events.

In the mid-1930s, the Baptist Association of Texas and Baylor University were active contributors to "Making Texans Centennially Minded," an education drive to stimulate citizens' interest and participation in the centenary event. Lengthy features in major papers, like *Dallas Morning News*, and local periodicals passionately argued the university's significance to every epoch of Texas history and progress, touting, "Texas and Baylor Grew Up Together"—Let's think, talk, teach, preach, and write this slogan!⁸⁹ Authors linked heroes of Texas independence and founding fathers of the Republic of Texas, like Sam Houston and R.E.B. Baylor, to the institution. "Unostentatiously," they wrote, "Baylor men have taken the lead in many lines of development of the State."⁹⁰ Another hero of Texas progress, they

⁸⁸ National Register of Historic Places, *Monuments and Building of the Texas Centennial* MPS, Statewide, Texas, National Register #100002344, Section F-57.

⁸⁹ "Preserve Texas Landmarks Will Be Appeal of Baptists of State," *Brenham Banner-Press*, August 30, 1934; *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, 6.

⁹⁰ Nell Whitman Gurley, "Baylor University and the Texas Centennial...An Historical Triangle," *Dallas Morning News*, May 10, 1936.

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wrote, was former Governor and then-current Baylor University President Pat M. Neff (1871-1952), one of the most prominent supporters and organizers for the Texas Centennial.

Neff, a native of Coryell County, earned two degrees from Baylor University in 1894 and 1898 before launching a successful career in politics. As Governor of Texas between 1921 and 1925, he advocated for the Centennial, created a "Texas Historical Board" to preserve historical landmarks, and passed legislation creating the state parks system. Afterwards, the widely popular Neff held appointments on several other state and federal commissions. In 1932, he resigned the Railroad Commission to become president of Baylor University. As one of nine members appointed to the Commission of Control, Neff was well-positioned to secure state-sponsored historical markers and statues to commemorate Baylor University in Waco and Independence. His role in Centennial oversight expanded, too, when he headed the committee for the celebration's public art program.⁹¹

Unlike most Centennial markers, the Advisory Board of Historians did not receive an application for the nominated marker from the Washington County Centennial delegation. Instead, local efforts focused on improving the new state park at Washington-on-the-Brazos, where the Declaration of Independence for the Republic of Texas was signed.⁹² Contemporaneous critiques often noted how politics influenced Centennial appropriations.⁹³ It is likely, then, that commemoration for Baylor University and other Baptist landmarks originated within the ranks of Neff and the Commission of Control in partnership with the Advisory Board of Historians.

When the Commission of Control approved the Historians' recommendations in October 1935, the proposal included a small, \$60 historical marker at the "Ruins of Baylor University,"—it is not clear which campus, male or female, it was intended to mark.⁹⁴ One year later, the Commission of Control approved a larger, \$200 marker, which was the cost of the nominated resource.⁹⁵ The state-sponsored Centennial ultimately recognized Baylor University's significance to Texas history with \$14,600 in commemorative monuments, which included a \$13000 statue of R.E.B. Baylor at the university's Waco campus.⁹⁶

Available issues of the *Brenham Banner* and other known resources did not record specific details of the marker's production, but it likely followed the same process as hundreds of other Centennial markers. The Advisory Board of Historians likely wrote or vetted the inscription text, which is factually accurate. They submitted inscriptions to John Singleton with the State Board of Control, who coordinated with the county Centennial committees on placement. Records do show that Mrs. E.P. Anderson assisted in locating properties for the county's markers, but that issue predates the Commission of Control's approval of this marker.⁹⁷ The state agency would have needed the property owner, then the Klatt's, approval to erect it. There were several companies that manufactured the granite markers, but the most prolific was Rodriguez Brothers. Washington County celebrated the Texas Centennial in May 1936 with a

⁹¹ Referred by some as the "Neff Committee," this group helped commission artists to produce commemorative sculptures funded by the federal Texas Centennial appropriation. One such statue is that of R.E.B. Baylor on the Waco campus grounds. *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, 23.

⁹² "Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Board of Texas Historians," July 1, 1935. Louis W. Kemp Papers (unprocessed), Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

⁹³ *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, 14-16.

⁹⁴ Advisory Board of Historians, Majority Report, October 7, 1935. Louis W. Kemp Papers (unprocessed), Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

⁹⁵ Minutes of the Commission of Control, October 5, 1936. Pat M. Neff Collection, Accession #463, Series #3, Subseries#3, Boxes 33-35, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

⁹⁶ Approximate cost based on accounting in Harold Schoen, *Monuments Erected by the State of Texas to Commemorate the Centenary of Texas Independence. The Report of the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations*. Austin: Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, 1938.

⁹⁷ "Markers Will Be Placed at Historic Spots," *Brenham Banner-Press*, February 11, 1936.

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driving tour of historic sites, including Baylor at Independence, culminating in a public celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park.

The Baylor University Male Campus marker is a representative example of the 441 historical markers erected for the Texas Centennial between 1936 and 1939. Designed by Austin architectural firm Page & Southerland, the 5-foot-tall gray granite markers on concrete bases featured sandblasted inscriptions in Roman classic letters on an axe-finished surface with a bronze wreath and star applique set under the monument apex. Markers, like this one, are recognized as eligible under Criterion A in the area of Social History at the state level of significance and meet Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) as products of the statewide effort to commemorate historic persons, places, and events in the 1930s. It is at its original location at the site of Baylor University's Male campus:

ON THIS SITE
STOOD ONE OF THE EARLY BUILDINGS
OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
ERECTED FOR BOYS IN 1851 AND
TORN DOWN IN 1934
THE INSTITUTION WAS INCORPORATED
FEBRUARY 1, 1845
UNDER THE LAWS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
NAMED FOR
ROBERT EMMETT BLEDSOE BAYLOR
WHO WITH REVEREND WILLIAM M. TRYON
SECURED THE CHARTER
HENRY L. GRAVES
WAS ELECTED FIRST PRESIDENT
JANUARY 12, 1846
CONSOLIDATED WITH WACO UNIVERSITY
IN 1886 AND MOVED TO WACO
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
THE OLDEST EXISTING EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION IN TEXAS CONTINUES IN
UNSELFISH SERVICE
"PRO ECCLESIA, PRO TEXANA"

Criterion D: Archaeology

Integrity

Despite the fact that the property at Windmill Hill is now a commemorative park with an interpretive pavilion; crushed granite walking trails encircling the footprints of Tryon and Houston Halls; underground conduits installed to drain standing water; and landscape bedding; Belew's excavation reports stated that Windmill Hill still holds intact deposits worthy of additional research. Areas of potential research mentioned in his report include locating the privies which he believed should be found either to the east or west of the campus buildings. He also noted that the college street, which ran north-south through the center of the campus should yield additional material remains of life on the campus, since this street was teeming with horses, wagons, and persons trekking to and from the village (attending church, shopping, using Sam Houston's library) to the Burleson Domicile. He also stated that the location of the gymnasium had not been found. The 1989 report provides a detailed description of the stratigraphy of the deposits encountered within each excavation block. At each locale, he identified *in situ* deposits associated with compacted soils dating to Baylor, the orphanage, and the tenant farm periods. An orphanage-era shed and kitchen midden and the footprints of a tenant

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house, barn and additional archaeological features were found through testing, but were not excavated. Belew made note in his report that the sediments and the foundations of the Tyron and Houston Halls were very well preserved and that they still held great research potential. Belew also suggested that if there were any structures that pre-date Baylor's occupation of the property, they should be located very close to the well, since it was erected prior to Baylor's acquisition of the property.⁹⁸ Based on Belew's recommendations, the property known as Baylor University at Windmill Hill holds high archaeological integrity, especially for addressing questions proposed below concerning the orphanage and the tenant farm.

Research Design

The research design presented here is a synthesis of historical information and archival research with non-invasive archaeological investigations. The objective of this synthesis is to elicit new questions about the people who once occupied the Windmill Hill property. The research design is organized into three distinct time periods. The first period is represented by Baylor University's tenure from 1851 to 1886; the second, by the Holy Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys from 1889 to circa 1920; and the third, by tenant farming operations from 1927 through the 1950s. The first section of the framework presented here provides suggestions for historical and archival research for each occupational period. The second section offers suggestions for non-invasive archaeological actions that have the potential to generate additional research questions. The final section presents a sampling of research questions and hypotheses for consideration.

Historical and Archival Research

Baylor University

- Review James S. Belew's 1989, 2002, and 2006 archaeological reports. Belew's 1989 report, *Windmill Hill: An Archaeological Study of the Main Campus of Baylor University, Independence, Texas*, provides not only information about the archaeological work that he conducted at the site, but also, a well-documented historical review of each occupational period.
- Take into consideration how the antebellum period (1851-1961), the Civil War (1861-65), and the late Victorian Period-Gilded Age (1866-1900) impacted the acquisition and consumption of material objects by the professors and students of the university. By reviewing archaeological reports of contemporaneous sites (Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, Anson Jones Homestead, Fanthrop Inn State Historic Site, the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, the Abner Jackson Plantation site, and the sites of Velasco and Quintana) can place the economic evolution of Windmill Hill within the context of the development of the Brazos River valley during the second half of the 19th century.⁹⁹

Holy Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys

⁹⁸ Belew, 1989, 120, 146, 170; Belew, 2002a, 43, 51; Belew, 2006, 13, 20, 25-26; "Strategic Planning Proposal, Baylor at Independence Advisory Committee Report, December 10, 2000" (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 5, Folders 29-30, The Texas Collection, Baylor University).

⁹⁹ Marianne Marek, *Historical and Archaeological Investigations at San Felipe de Austin (41AU2): 2002-2006*, Prepared for the Texas Historical Commission, 2011; Shawn Bonath Carlson (editor), *The Anson Jones Plantation: Archaeological and Historical Investigations at 41WT5 and 41WT6, Washington County, Texas* (College Station: Center for Environmental Archaeology, Texas A&M University, 1995); J. David Ing and John Hart, *Archeological Investigations at Fanthrop Inn State Historical Site (41GM79) Grimes County, Texas, Spring and Fall 1982* (Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Historic Sites and Restoration Branch, 1987); Joan Few, *Sugar, Slaves, and Convicts* (Gold Hill, Colorado: Few Publications, 2006); Amy C. Earls and Marybeth S. F. Tomka, *Historic and Prehistoric Archeological Excavations at Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park, Brazoria County* (Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Public Lands Division, Cultural Resources Program, 1994); The archaeological collections, field notes, and reports on excavations at Velasco (41BO125) and Quintana (41BO135) in Brazoria County are curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas.

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- Conduct historical research on African American orphanages that were in operation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries across the nation and the state for the purpose of learning if these institutions were philanthropic schools or if they were farming entities that took advantage of free labor as Huhn's orphanage did.
- Locate documents in state and county archives as well as those held by the Catholic Church and other religious groups that operated African American orphanages, including the Holy Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys. The Washington County property tax records may also provide information on the property holdings of Father Francis Martin Huhn from the 1890s through the 1920s.
- Since the orphanage was run as a cotton farm, a review of *From Can See to Can't: Texas Cotton Farmers on the Southern Prairies* by Thad Sitton and Dan K. Utley, may provide insights into the daily lives of the orphans. The authors trace a year in the lives of cotton farmers in Washington and neighboring counties during the 1910s-1920s. They describe the daily tasks performed by farm families, from planting, cultivating, and harvesting cotton and sugarcane, to raising hogs and chickens.¹⁰⁰
- Locate and translate *Das heimathlose Negerkind*, written and printed at Tryon Hall by Huhn. This document may reveal the racist theories of the era from a Catholic perspective, as well as, explain the reasons why Huhn ran the orphanage as he did.

Klatte Tenant Farm

- Two Washington County histories¹⁰¹ published in the mid-20th century, may offer information as to how its residents were impacted by the Great Depression and World War II. Additionally, local newspapers may provide tangible examples of the social and economic upheavals of this time period.
- The evolution of farming during the first half of the 20th century is well documented, but what is not, are the effects that these changes had on the built environment and the standard of living of farm families. By examining archaeological reports¹⁰² of early to mid-20th-century farmsteads in central Texas, additional information applicable to the Klatte tenant farm may be revealed. Moreover, comparisons of these sites' features and artifact assemblages to that at the tenant farm may provide new insights and interpretations.
- County property tax records may provide information on the economic status of the Klatte family's property holdings from the late 1920s through the 1950s.
- Conduct oral histories with Klatte family members about their property. Inquire if they have any photographs or farm documents of this time period.
- Examine the federal population censuses of 1930, 1940, and 1950 in order to identify the tenant families who occupied the Klatte tenant farm. These names could then be searched in digital newspaper archives accessible

¹⁰⁰ Thad Sitton and Dan K. Utley, *From Can See to Can't: Texas Cotton Farmers on the Southern Prairies* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997).

¹⁰¹ W. O. Dietrich, *The Blazing Story of Washington County* (Brenham, Texas: Banner Press, 1950; rev. ed., Wichita Falls: Nortex, 1973); Charles F. Schmidt, *History of Washington County* (San Antonio: Naylor, 1949).

¹⁰² Shawn Bonath Carlson, The Persistence of Traditional Lifeways in Central Texas, *Historical Archaeology*, 24(4), 1990; David H. Jurney, Susan A. Lebo, and Melissa Green, *Historic Farming on the Hogwallow Prairies, Ethnoarchaeological Investigations of the Mountain Creek Area, North Central Texas*, Joe Pool Lake Archaeological Project, Volume II (Southern Methodist University: Archaeological Research Program, Institute for the Study of Earth and Man, 1988); Cristin Embree, *Archeological Investigations at the Williams-Buck Site (41WM272), a Mid-1800s to Early 1900s Settlement in Williamson County, Texas*, Special Publications No. 7, (Texas Archeological Society, 2021).

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through the *Portal to Texas History* website for the purpose of learning of their involvements in local community institutions and events.

Non-invasive Archaeology

- **Process and Analyze Previously Recovered Artifacts:**
Process and analyze artifacts recovered in 1978-1982, 2001-2002, and 2005-2006, presently housed at the Mayborn Museum on Baylor's campus and at Belew's residence. Architectural artifacts were analyzed in the 1989 archaeological report and kitchen-related artifacts were cleaned, refitted and numbered. A select number of artifacts associated with each of the buildings were displayed in the Baylor University's 1986 centennial exhibit at the Strecker Museum. These artifacts are now curated at the Mayborn Museum on Baylor's campus. However, a number of artifacts have not yet been cleaned, analyzed, or accessioned into the collection.
- **Geophysical Surveys:**
Integrated Environmental Solutions, a Texas-based cultural resource management firm, recommended the use of three geophysical survey methods to locate subsurface archaeological features on the Academy Hill (Female Department) property, jointly owned by Baylor University and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.¹⁰³ This recommendation took into account the geological characteristics and soil types that were specific to that site. The geology and soils of Windmill Hill are similar. The geophysical survey methods included magnetic gradiometry, ground penetrating radar, and electromagnetic induction. These methods could be employed to locate subsurface ferrous artifacts, concentrations of artifacts, and architectural features (i.e., privies, structure foundations, post molds, dumps, and refuse sheet middens). The surveys can also define areas of soil disturbance, which can be used to define activity areas and to assess the contextual integrity of the site.
- **Create a Site Map:**
It is suggested that an ArcGIS project be created using a UTM NAD 83 high resolution aerial image and a metric grid layer as a base map to which the geophysical survey results and Belew's excavation maps are georeferenced. This map would prove helpful in formulating research questions as well as determining where future subsurface testing should take place.

Sample Research Questions and Hypotheses

Baylor University (1851-1886)

- For 35 years, the nominated property was part of Baylor University's campus. On this portion of the campus, two academic buildings once stood. Houston Hall was completed in 1859 and construction on Tryon Hall began in 1860 and finished in the early 1880s. The rooms in Houston Hall were used for science classrooms and laboratories, natural history collections, a lecture hall, a reading room, a printing press, and a library. Later, when Tryon Hall was habitable, its rooms were used as administrative offices and lecture halls. Its third floor was used as a chapel and an auditorium. Archaeological investigations within the footprints of these buildings may recover school-related artifacts such as slate fragments, pencil lead, parts of fountain pens, ink wells, chalk, oil lamp parts and globe glass. The recovery of artifacts associated with Houston Hall's laboratories such as chemistry apparatus, fragments of biology specimen jars, parts of survey equipment (civil engineering courses), and geological samples (mineralogy courses) may spark an interest to learn more about the curriculum and academic experiences of boys and young men of the 19th century.
- As thorough as Belew's testing was; he was unable to locate supporting structures such as privies. Privy matrix often contains large numbers of discarded objects and personal items which, if found, could stimulate questions as to why certain objects were disposed of in the secret confines of a privy.

¹⁰³ Integrated Environmental Solutions, "Cost Proposal for Geophysical Survey of Academy Hill in the Town of Independence, Washington County, Texas," February 12, 2019, Texas Collection, Baylor University.

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- Belew's research revealed that Burleson built a gymnasium on the campus in the 1850s. Nothing is known of its configuration or where it was located. Popular at the time were games using bean bags, hoops, rings, and a four-foot pole that were used in 68 different exercises.¹⁰⁴ If any of these items are recovered, they could become the focus of 19th-century college fitness and sports research.
- The use of the campus changed during the Civil War with Confederate trainees occupying all of the campus buildings except for Houston Hall. Since Houston Hall was the only building used by the university at this time, were some of the rooms converted into living spaces, or did students reside off campus? Recovering household- and food- related artifacts in and around this academic building may answer this question. If Houston Hall was used as a residence, where was the kitchen? Did one of the rooms with a fireplace serve as the kitchen, or was a make-shift structure built nearby? If students were indeed residing in Houston Hall, were they adhering to formal dining protocols of the era? If so, tableware fragments dating to the mid-19th century could address this question.
- After the Civil War, transportation networks developed, and everyone participated in commercialization brought forth through the proliferation of mass-produced goods such as proprietary medicines, personal hygiene products, and alcohol. Students were not allowed to purchase items from local stores without the written permission of their parents and the consent of the faculty. Did they adhere to these regulations or did they not?
- The recovery of personal items such as buttons and cuff links, parts of reading glasses and pocket watches, fragments of stick pins and ceramic pipes could elicit questions regarding male fashion and the personal wealth of the university's faculty and student body.

Guardian Angels Orphanage (1889-c. 1920)

- After Houston and Graves Halls (both used as residential spaces) burned down in 1893 and 1901, respectively; it is hypothesized that Tryon Hall became the residence of Father Huhn, his sister, and the orphans. Household and personal items dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries found within the footprint of this building should support this hypothesis.
- The orphanage was not so much a school, but a working farm; one which employed the labors of the orphans. Belew found that the ruins of Houston Hall were used as a barn. Is there any evidence that Huhn reroofed what was still standing? Recovering additional farm-related artifacts within this 1,700 square-foot space could shed light on the types of activities that took place here. For example, was part of it used to house livestock or chickens? Was an area sectioned off as a corn crib? Did Huhn use this space to bale and weigh cotton, and make molasses and butter? What types of farming equipment did he have? Is there any evidence that he stored and performed maintenance on his car, wagons, and equipment in the barn?
- Belew's research found that during the orphanage period, a long attached shed was built on the north side of Tryon Hall and faced a large stock pen (see **Map 8a**). What types of farm-related activities took place in this shaded area of the property? Is there any evidence that chucking corn for animal feed, processing cotton or sugarcane, sharpening shovels, hoes, and post-hole diggers may have taken place here?

¹⁰⁴ Thomas J. Schlereth, *Victorian America, Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876-1915* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1991), 217.

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- Cooking and dining were most likely segregated activities. Did Huhn, his sister, and their servant cook and eat their meals in one of the rooms of Tryon Hall? What kinds of meat cuts did they consume? What types of tablewares did they use? Did they drink tea or alcohol? Did Huhn purchase canned foods or bottled condiments for their use?
- Newspaper accounts stated that the orphans were emaciated and ate spoiled meat and corn from slop buckets. Belew recovered freshwater mussel shell from a midden associated with an outdoor kitchen located near Houston Hall. This suggests that the orphans may have been supplementing their meals with wild foods that they themselves had to obtain. What other types of wild animal protein did they consume? If they were provided beef or pork, what types of meat cuts were they given? It is hypothesized that most of their meals consisted of stews. Finding fragments of bowls (or slop buckets) and spoons would support this hypothesis. Did Huhn purchase canned food or condiments for the orphans? If so, fragments of cans and food bottles and jars should be recovered from the orphans' kitchen midden.
- Archaeological investigations often reveal more about the health and hygiene of a site's occupants than do historical accounts. Recovering fragments of proprietary medicine bottles and personal care products in deposits associated with the orphanage period can offer a glimpse into the health of Huhn, his sister, as well as that of the orphans.
- What types of toys, if any, did the orphans have? Is it possible that the orphans had a bicycle?
- What types of clothing were given to the orphans? Historic sites often yield a large number of buttons; would a paucity of buttons in the archaeological deposits associated with the orphanage suggest that the orphans were reusing old buttons to mend their clothing?

Klatte Tenant Farm (1927-1950s)

- Belew identified the location of a house and barn (see **Map 8a**), a new wind mill, a pipeline connecting the well to an area used as a slaughterhouse, and multiple fence-post molds. Did the farm include a root cellar, a smokehouse, hog pens, and chicken coops? If so, where were these structures, what were their dimensions, and what types of materials were used in their construction?
- It is unknown when the ruins of Houston Hall (aka orphanage-period barn) were dismantled and removed from the property. It is hypothesized that when the Klattes acquired the property, they did so. It is also possible that they may have reused some of the building stones on improvements made to the property.
- Tryon Hall fell into ruin in the early 1930s. The Klatte family had the building dismantled in 1934 and its building stones were used in construction projects in Independence. After this 6,000 square-foot space was cleared, how was it used?
- What types of activities took place in the barn? Did the farmers section it off into areas where animal feed and tools were stored? Were they still using mule or horse drawn plows or did they have tractors?
- During the 1920s and 1930s, farmers of Washington County diversified their operations by planting fruit trees and hay, and raising more sheep.¹⁰⁵ Belew identified fruit trees on the property as well as three areas that were

¹⁰⁵ James L. Hailey and John Leffler, "Washington County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/washington-county> (accessed February 18, 2023).

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possibly used as sheep barns (A-6, A-7, A-8 on **Map 7b**). If verified, this may support the fact that the Klattes or their tenants participated in the farming trends of the time period.

- Where was the kitchen garden located? Did they own milk cows and make butter? Did they grow corn to feed their animals? Did they grow sugarcane to make molasses?
- Locating the “dump” where the tenant families disposed of their trash could address a number of questions concerning subsistence. With the recovery of faunal remains, metal cans, condiment, beer, and alcohol bottles, may provide clues as to how they fared during the years of the Great Depression. Is there any archaeological evidence that the women and girls participated in county extension programs such as food preservation workshops? Finding a large number of canning jar fragments could address this question.
- Archaeologically, small farms typically exhibit sheet refuse middens around the farmhouse yard.¹⁰⁶ Testing within the yard could produce a large quantity of artifacts that could address questions concerning the standard of living of the residents. Did they make their own clothes? Is there any evidence that these families “made-due” with what they had by repurposing or recycling material objects? Or, did they have enough disposable income to purchase items such as perfume, skin products, jewelry, matching tablewares, and decorative objects for their homes?
- During the late 19th century, Washington County saw an influx of German, Czech, Polish, and Irish immigrants. The recovery of lost or broken personal and decorative objects manufactured in these countries may reveal that these families were the descendants of these immigrants.
- Archaeological investigations often reveal more about the health and hygiene of a site’s occupants than do historical accounts. Recovering fragments of medicine bottles, jars, and tins can offer a glimpse into the health concerns of the farm families.
- In 1936, the Rural Electrification Act was created to bring electricity to farms. At that time, only 10% of farms in the country had electricity. Since the farmstead was located just south of the downtown area of Independence, it would suggest that it may have been one of the first farms to be electrified. Ceramic insulators, wire, and fragments of light bulbs found in sheet midden refuse could address this question. If these families had electricity, did they invest in electrical appliances?
- Will the archaeological deposits provide any evidence that the tenant families participated in expanding food production during World War II with the purchase of new farm machinery or the construction of new farm structures?

Conclusion

The Baylor University Male Department in Independence, Washington County is significant for its association with the earliest development of education in Texas. The Union Association of Baptist Church established Baylor University in 1845 and the nominated property opened in 1851 as the male campus of that institution. As the only known archaeological sites of its type in Texas, Baylor University Male and Female Department have the potential to yield important information about 19th-century higher education in Texas. *In situ* deposits from the orphanage period (1889-c. 1920) may also yield important information about all persons and descendants of Guardian Angels Orphanage and Industrial School for Negro Boys, providing a comparative foil to preceding institutions and as a stand-alone

¹⁰⁶ Jurney et al., 1988:9.

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component. The property is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the statewide level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Education and Social History and Criterion D in the area of Archaeology: Historic/Non-aboriginal. The period of significance 1851-c.1920 represents the year the campus opened for instruction and ends c. 1920, the approximate closure date for Holy Angels Orphanage. Established by the Union Association and currently owned by Baylor University, the nominated property meets Criteria Consideration A (Religious Properties) because it is evaluated for its historical and archaeological significance. In the late-1930s, the State of Texas, Baylor University, and alumni placed a commemorative Centennial marker on the site. The nomination recognizes its significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History and a second period of significance, 1936. The marker meets registration requirements outlined the *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial MPS* and represents an effort by the state to recognize Baylor University's founding satisfying Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties).

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Maps

Map 1: Washington County, Texas.

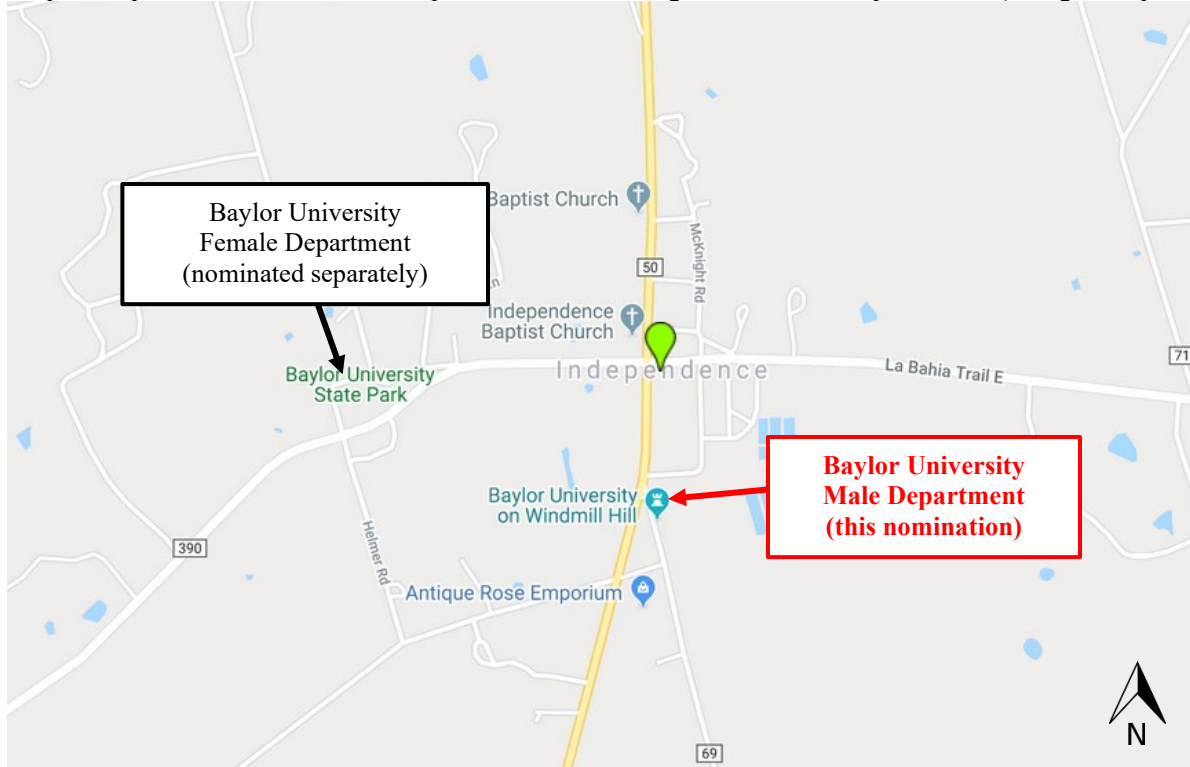


Map 2: Independence, Washington County. (Google Maps, January 9, 2020.)

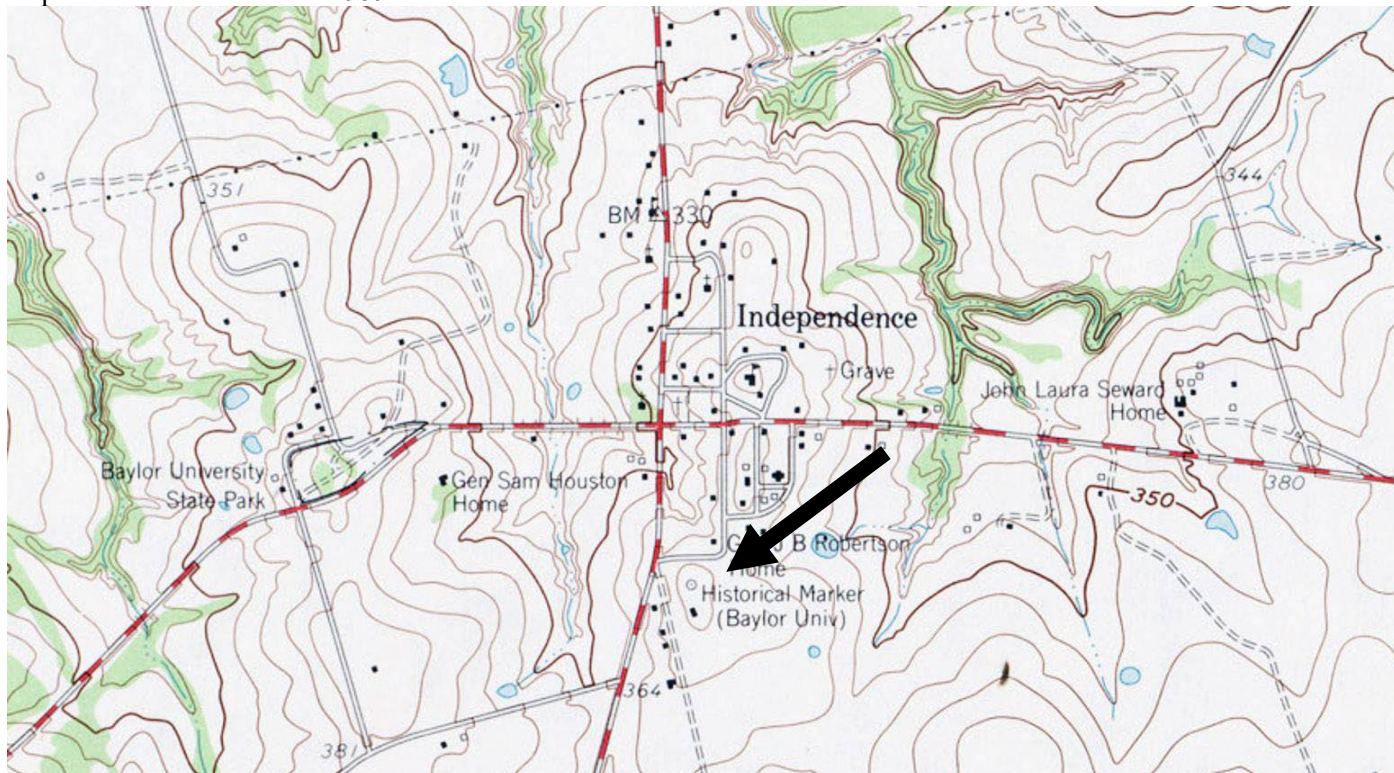


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Map 3: Baylor Male and Female Departments archaeological sites at Independence. (Google Maps, October 13, 2020.)

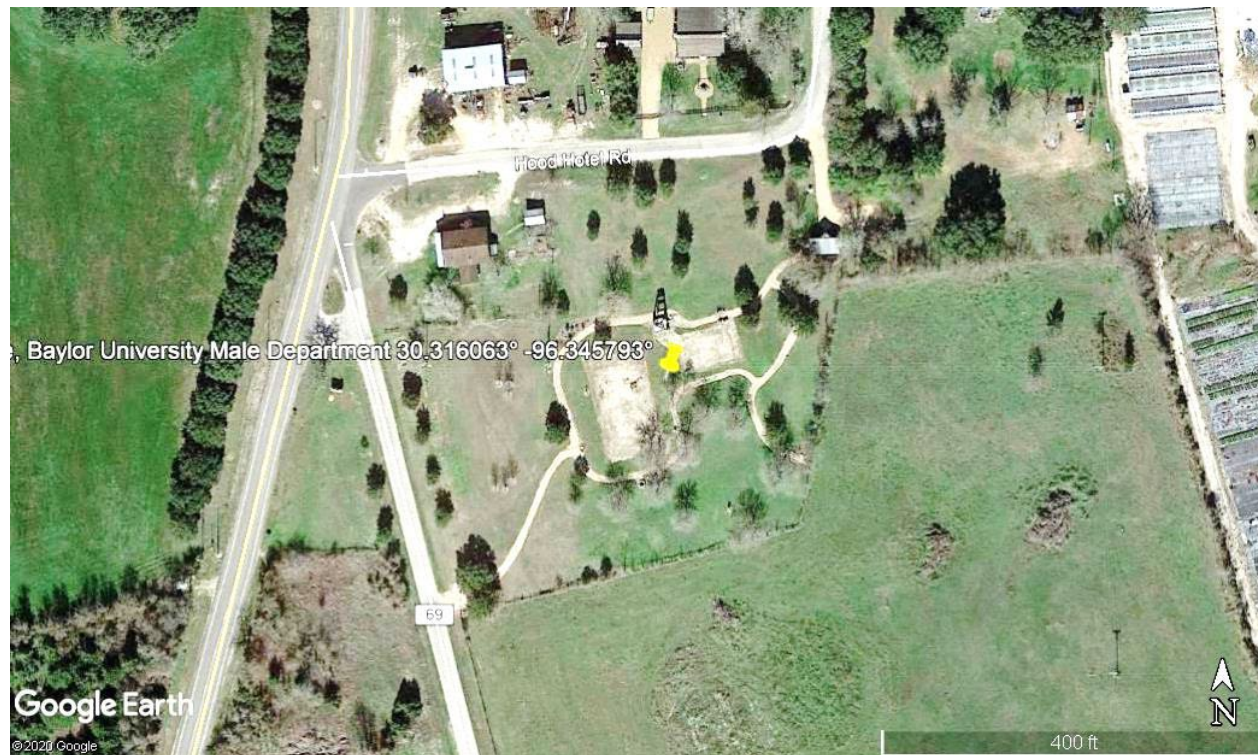


Map 4: United States Geological Survey. *Independence Quadrangle Texas*. Map. Series V882. Reston, VA: U.S. Department of the Interior. 1959.

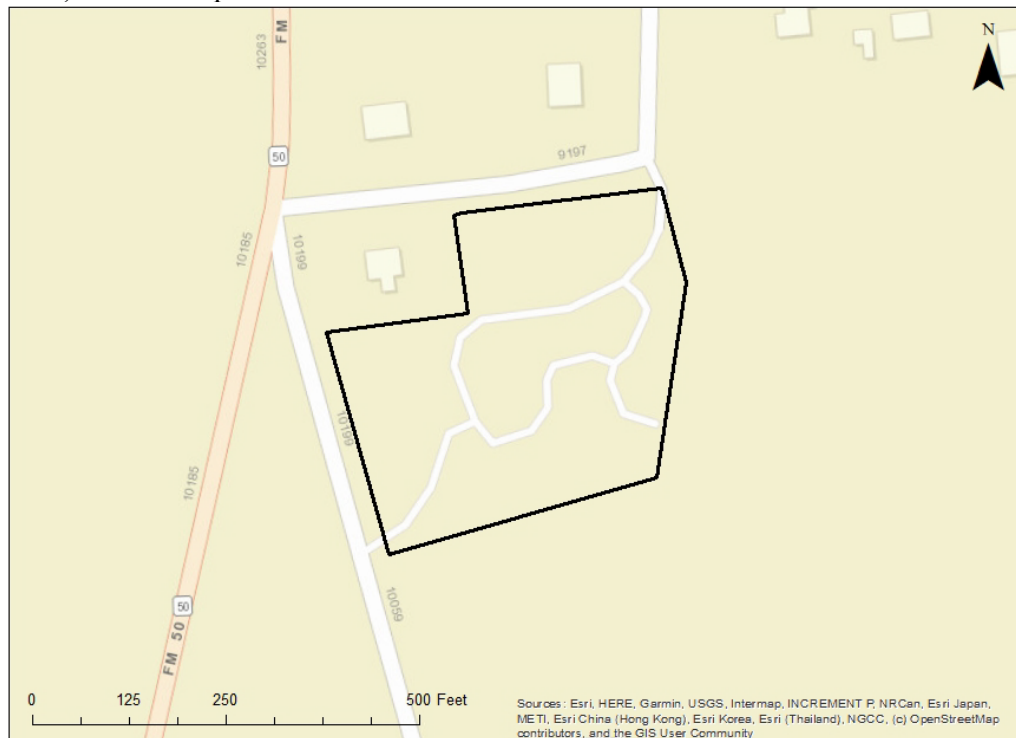


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Map 5: Independence, Baylor University Male Department 30.316063° -96.345793°. (Google Maps, October 13, 2020.)

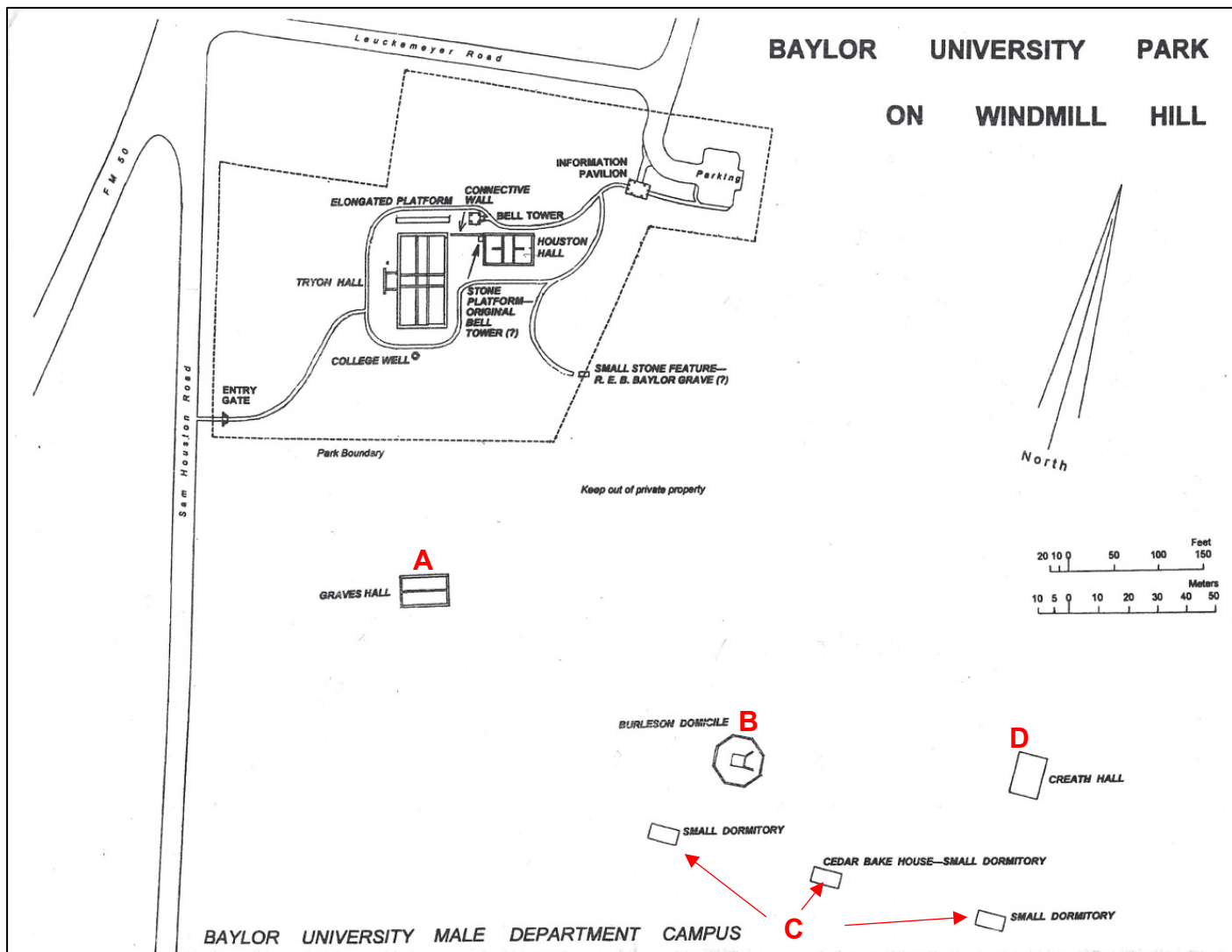


Map 6: The nominated boundary is the current legal parcel (Property ID# R57070). (Washington CAD, October 13, 2020) and ArcMap.



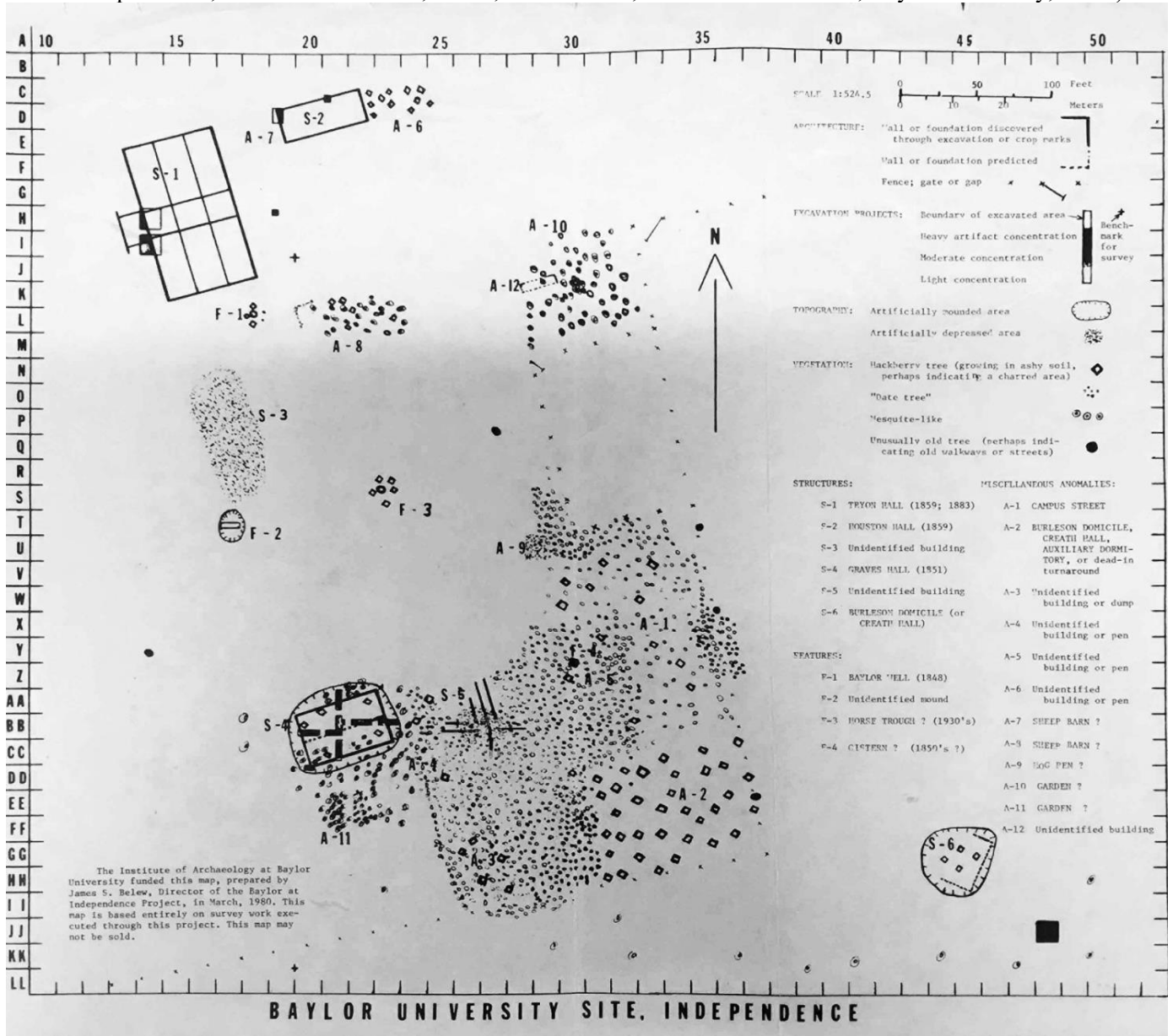
Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Map 7a: The nominated boundary (dashed black line) is a portion of the known site, which measures approximately 30 acres. Locations of features identified outside of the nominated boundary include: A) Graves Hall; B) octagonal-shaped Burleson Domicile; C) dormitories; D) Creath Hall. (James S. Belew, Map from walking tour brochure "Baylor Male College Grounds Archaeological Site," March 24, 2006, BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 5, Folder 4, General 2005-2006.)



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Map 7b: Baylor University Male Department Site. (James S. Belew, March 1980, in BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 3, Folders 5-29, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, 1989.)



Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Map 8a: Archaeological Features (1A – 1G), Contributing Object (2), and Non-Contributing Resources (3-4).

Resource	Property Type	Year Built	Contributing Status	Photo Nos.
1	Site (with Features A-G)		Contributing	
1A	<i>Tryon Hall Subsurface Foundation</i>	1860		1
1B	<i>Houston Hall Subsurface Foundation</i>	1859		2
1C	<i>Well</i>	ca. 1840s		3
1D	<i>Connective Wall Subsurface Foundation</i>	ca. 1880s		
1E	<i>Walkway Subsurface Foundation</i>	ca. 1890s-1920s		
1F	<i>Bell Pole Subsurface Foundation</i>	1882		4
1G	<i>Tenant House Footprint</i>	ca. 1930s		
2	Object – Texas Centennial Marker	1936	Contributing	5
3	Structure – Pavilion	2002	Non-Contributing	6
4	Structure – Bell Tower	2002	Non-Contributing	7



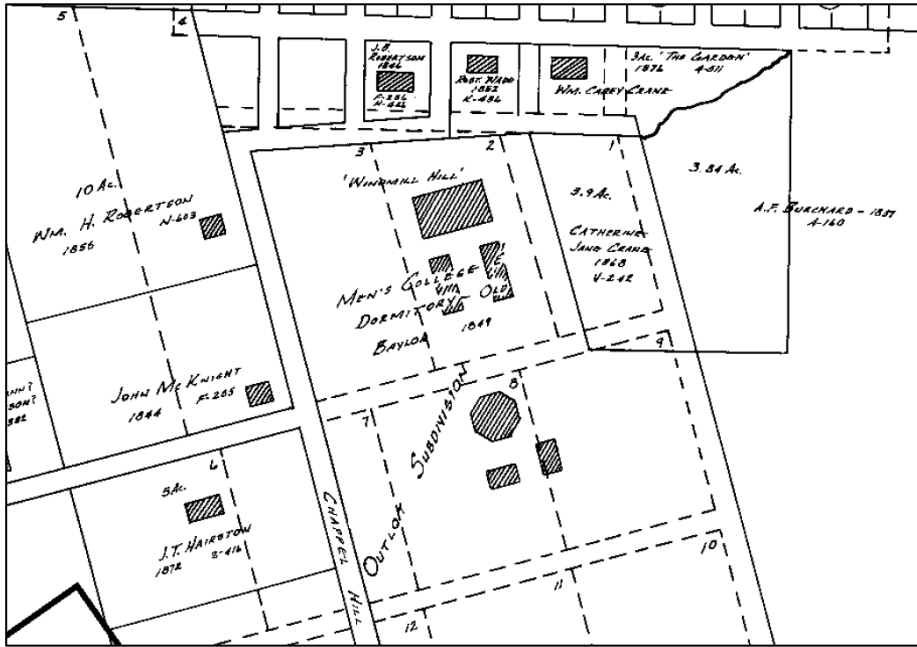
Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Map 8b: Archaeological Features (1A – 1G), Contributing Object (2), and Non-Contributing Resources (3-4) on Google Earth map.



Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Map 9: The map shows the historic campus boundaries of Baylor University Male Department in relation to the community, ca. 1870. **Building footprints are not accurate.** (Dana Morris, "A Map of Independence, Washington County," Published 1974, <http://24.173.220.131/Washington/HomePage.aspx>, accessed October 10, 2020.)



Map 10: Site map (*About the Village*, Independence Preservation Trust brochure, Summer 2002.)



Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Map 11: The historic 1886 Baylor University Male Department property line was re-created using historic deed records and current property lines. The nominated portion is outlined in red.

1886 Baylor University Male Department Campus



Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Figures

Figure 1: Sketch of the foundations of Tryon Hall (Contributing Resource 1A), the connective wall (Contributing Resource 1D), and the walkway (Resource 1E), from James S. Belew (1989).

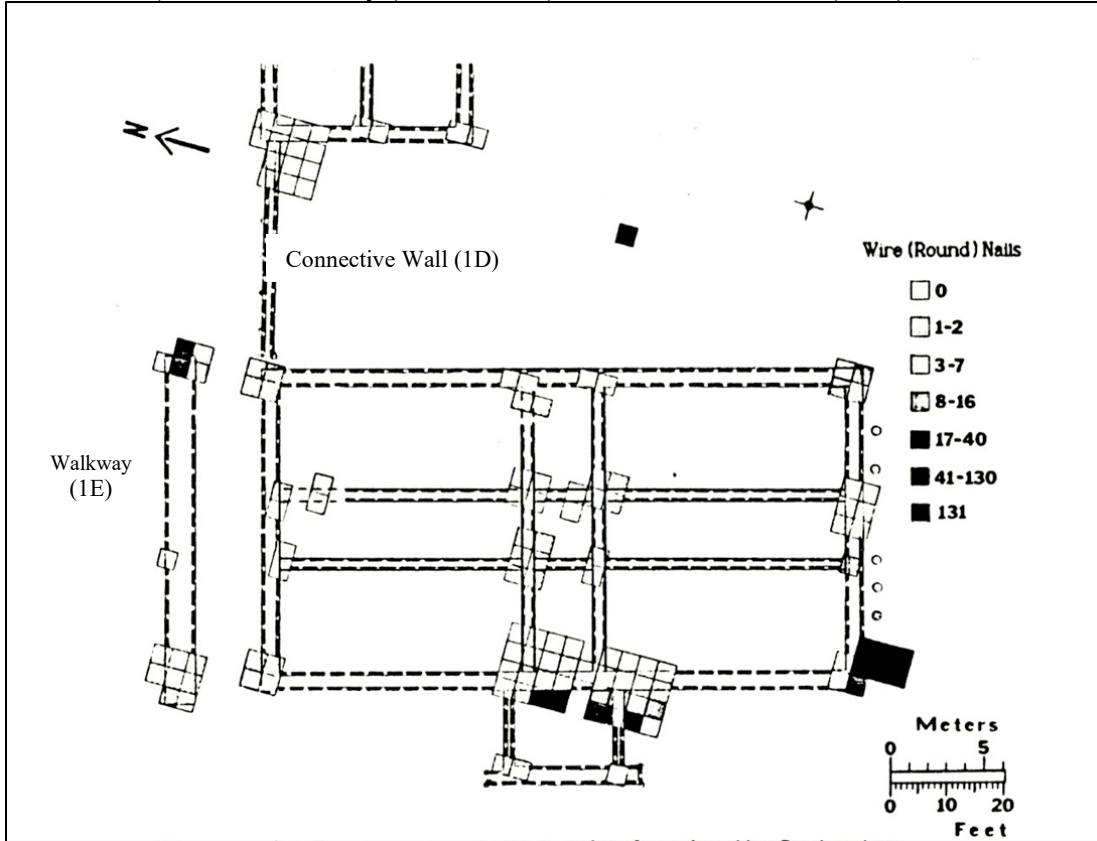
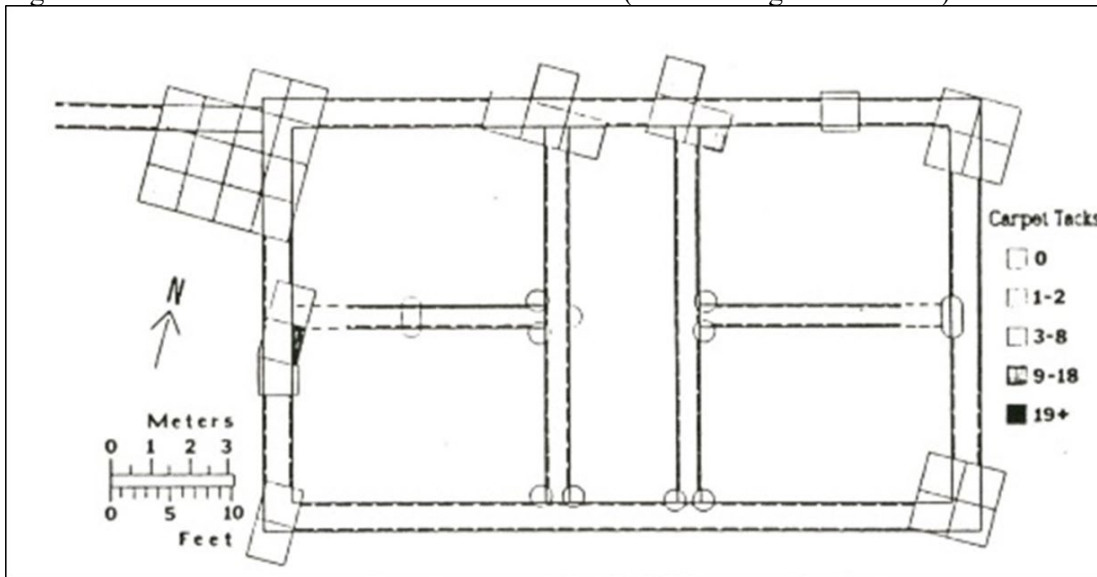


Figure 2. Sketch of the foundations of Houston Hall (Contributing Resource 1B) from James S. Belew (1989).

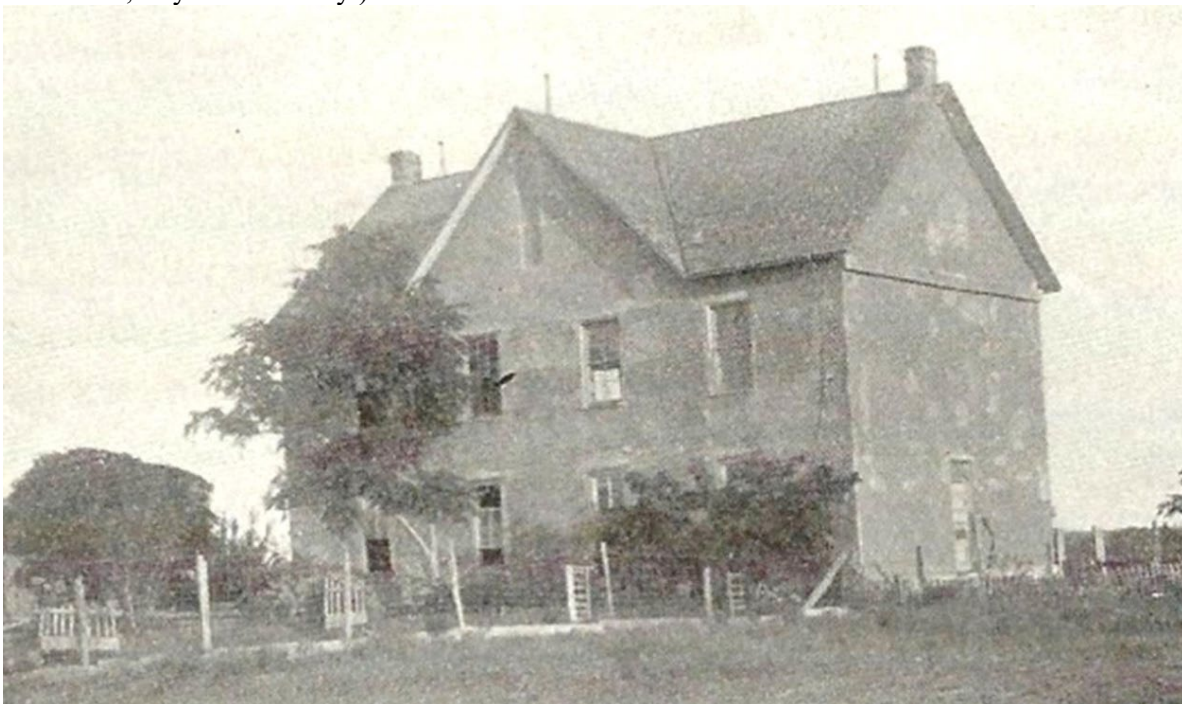


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Figure 3: Early 1930s photograph of the well (Contributing Resource 1C), with Tryon Hall depicted on the left and the porch of the tenant shot-gun house depicted on the right. (Digital Collections, Baylor at Independence, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



Figure 4: Early 20th-century photograph of Graves Hall. (Digital Collections, Baylor at Independence, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



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Figure 5: ca.1920s photograph of Tryon Hall (Contributing Resource 1A), facing east. (Digital Collections, Baylor at Independence, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)

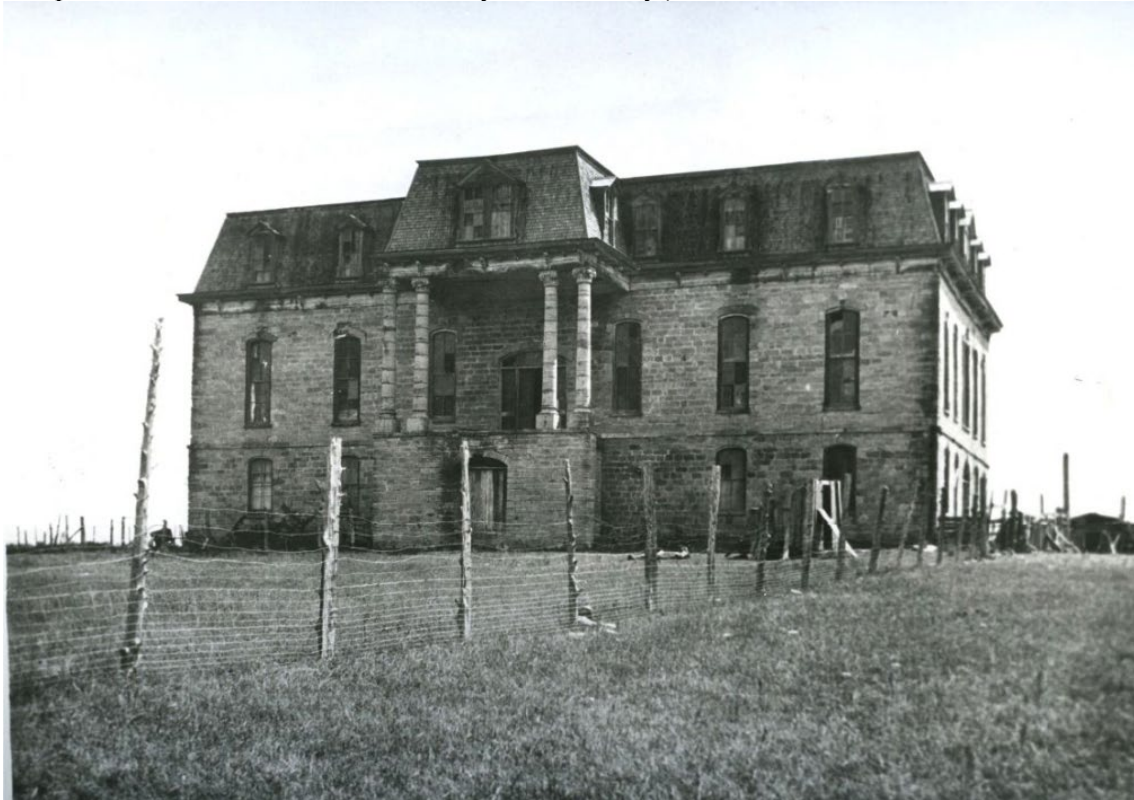


Figure 6: Tryon Hall, ca. 1920, showing rear outbuildings and tenant farmer house. (Digital Collections, Baylor at Independence, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



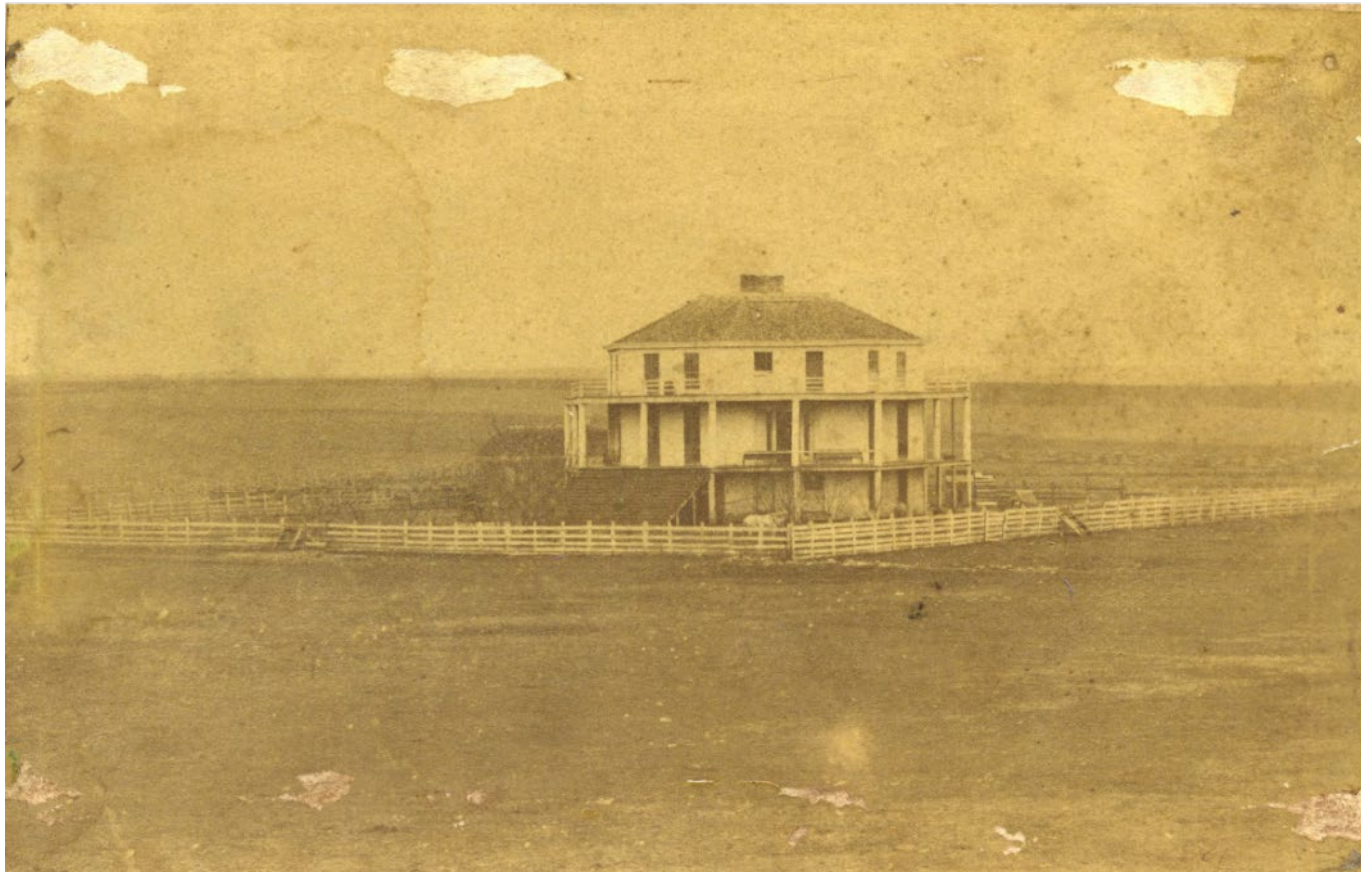
Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Figure 7: "Unfinished Sketch," (1883) Henry McArdle lithograph Baylor University Male Department. From left to right: Tryon Hall, Houston Hall, Graves Hall, the Burleson Domicile, dormitory, Creath Hall. (Digital Collections, Baylor at Independence, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



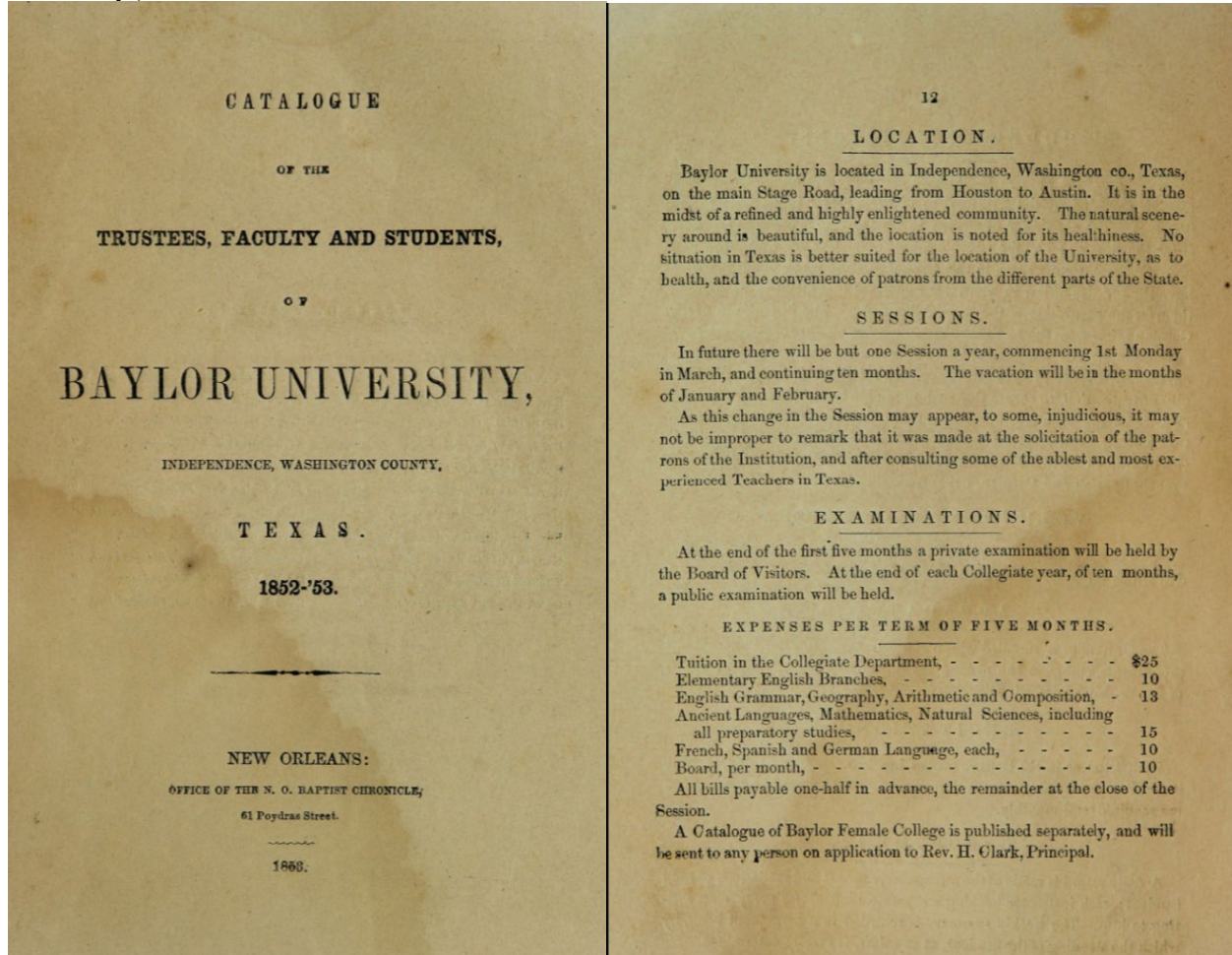
Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Figure 8: Burleson Domicile, ca. 1870. The site of this building is now on private property that is not part of the nominated boundary. (Digital Collections, Baylor at Independence, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



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Figure 9: Baylor University published annual catalogs for the male and female departments that advertised the region's healthful climate, locational convenience, expenses, schedules, curriculum, faculty, and students. Source: Baylor University Male Department Annual Catalog, 1852-53. (*Catalogue of Trustees, Faculty and Students of Baylor University 1852-53 (Male Department)*, Digital Collections, University Catalogs, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photographs

Name of Property: Baylor University Male Department

Location: Independence, Washington County, Texas

Name of Photographer: Carol Macaulay-Jameson

Date of Photography: February 1, 2019.

The photos shown accurately show its current appearance in 2021.

Photo 1: 2019 photograph of the archaeological footprint, covered with crushed granite, of Tryon Hall (Contributing Resource 1A), looking east.



Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 2: 2019 photograph of the archaeological footprint, covered with crushed granite, of Houston Hall (Contributing Resource 1B), looking southeast.



Photo 3: 2019 photograph of the college well on Windmill Hill (Contributing Resource 1C), facing north, with the footprint of Tryon Hall in the background.

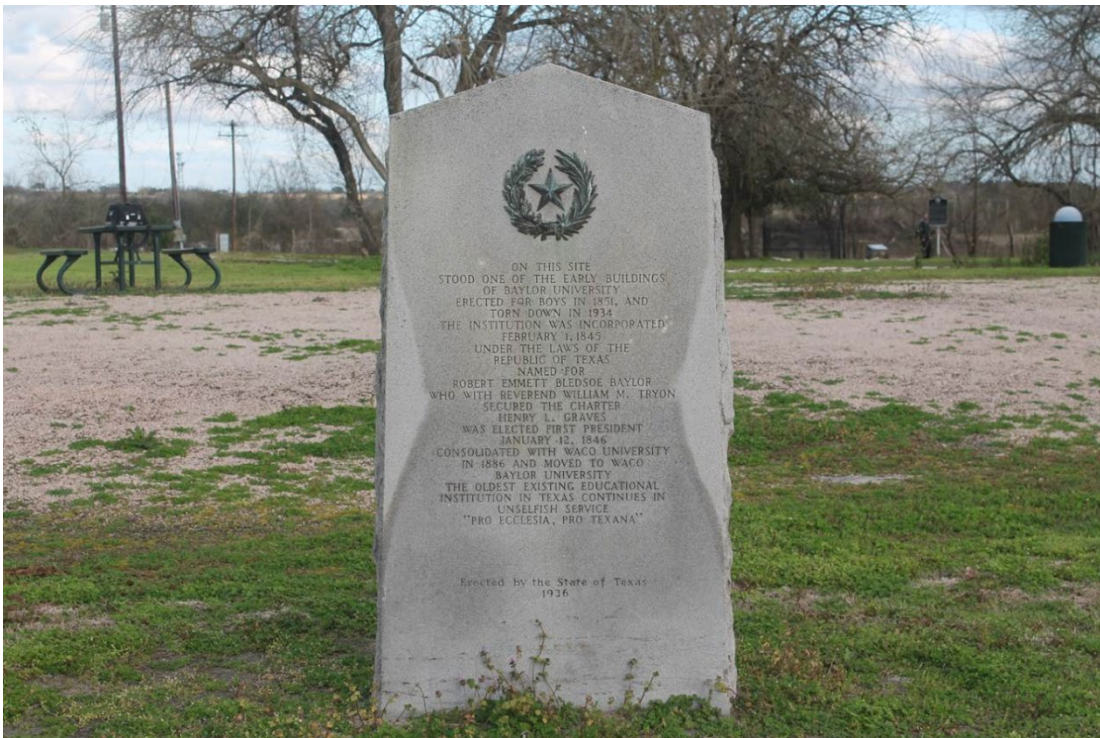


Baylor University Male Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 4: Photograph of the exposed limestone platform of the bell pole, constructed in 1882 (Contributing Resource 1F).



Photo 5: 2019 photograph of the 1936 Texas Centennial Marker (Contributing Resource 2), facing east, with the footprint of Tryon Hall in the background.



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Photo 6: 2019 photograph of the pavilion (Non-contributing Resource 3), constructed in 2002, looking south.



Photo 7: 2019 photograph of the bell tower (Non-contributing Resource 4), erected in 2002, facing north.

